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YSA
2338 Market Street
San Francisco, California 94114
July 10, 1968

YSA National Office
P.O. Box 471, Cooper Station
New York, New York 10003

Dear Comrades,

We just held our first business meeting after the recent events in Berkeley. The executive committee met the night before, heard a report from a San Francisco comrade who had attended the Berkeley meeting where Pete C. made several comments on the meaning of their new situation with membership, and assessed the S.F. situation and planned the business meeting.

The S.F. local has a list of 18 people who have signed up to join the YSA either at our table in Berkeley on Thursday, July 4th or at State College on Friday, Monday and Tuesday. We expected 8 people to show up at the meeting - we had talked to at least 8 of these 18 people.

We made several interesting alterations in the conduct of the business meeting, taking Berkeley's lead. The agenda consisted of 6 points: (1) Minutes; (2) Huey Newton Demonstration; (3) Telegraph Ave. Report; (4) Anti-War Report; (5) Executive Committee Report; (6) Plenum Reports. We decided at the exec. not to explain anything to the new people; rather we conducted the meeting as normal -- in no way making the new people think that there was anything exceptional taking place. The reporters were clued in on the length of the reports (short and to the point) and the general tone of the meeting. We particularly avoided lecturing, trying instead to make short political points. The main object was to create a business meeting closer to what the exec. members thought would be expected by the new people -- recruited as they were on the basis of action. The content of the reports emphasized actions: the Huey P. Newton demonstration, the Aug. 3-10 antiwar actions, the G.I. summer project initiated by Berkeley, etc.

Sales were mentioned in the executive committee report--- what was done last week, what needs to be done this week. An announcement in the Executive Committee report was made to the effect that people should pay their dues to the treasurer, as well as their sustainers. The treasurer made the same announcement at the end of the meeting. We made no big lecture about how people should be conscious about money, etc.

7 people wanting to join came to the meeting. 6 joined, 4 bought subs, and several people paid their dues. Executive Committee members fanned out after the meeting and talked to 6 people, explaining (1) how YSA works organizationally; (2) when we meet; (3) that new members should buy a sub; and (4) that dues are \$1.00 a month. Each new member was given a short explanation of what a sustainer is, why its needed, and each new member was asked to think about making a regular contribution. (We plan more exec. discussion on this point, and more preparation for the next wave at the next business meeting.)

The fact that we had had an open meeting several weeks before to which 10 people came, helped us relate to the needs of this new situation. Actually, the whole local, without too much formal discussion, took the lead of the Executive Committee and the reporters and the meeting went very smoothly.

However, we expect more mass applications which is going to change the local considerably. We will have to think this out carefully and have further discussions. What is said in YSA meetings, for example, will tend to get out into the movement more rapidly, thus care must be taken on this count. Sectarian cracks about our opponents, long lectures, or harangues, and carelessly formulated concepts have to be minimized.

It's really a fascinating process, and I'm very proud of our collective ability in dealing with it. Again, this situation emphasizes the value of team work and collective decision making.

Comradely,

/s/ Jim Kendrick
Acting Organizer