

Report on Spring Mobilization by Gus, March 20, 1967

The traditional sections of the "peace" movement and some trade union officials and representatives of Martin Luther King's organization joining in the mobilization are trying to push the character of the mobilization to the right. The first indication was when they attempted to include a demand for negotiations in the call -- which was defeated at a working committee meeting of the Spring Mobilization Committee.

But since then they have been more successful, although they have not achieved what they wanted in full. What is happening is that the tenor of the mobilization is tending to conform more accurately to the strength of the various forces involved.

The slogans to be carried on the signs at the march have been decided, including three withdrawal- self-determination slogans and one saying, "Cease Fire Now--Negotiate With The NLF." A disclaimer will be added explaining that not all of the participants agree with all of the slogans. We sought originally to get agreement on all signs not contradicting self-determination, but has to accede to the demand for non-exclusion in the signs along with the disclaimer.

There is a big tug of war over speakers. The right wing proposed to the working committee of the spring mobilization that the speakers be picked with the idea of implying a theme for beyond the demonstration. The few speakers would be-- Dr. Spock chairing, Bevel, a Senator, and M.L. King giving the major address. A sharp struggle developed and we insisted that the speakers list be more representative of the antiwar movement and argued that the coalition could not adopt a "theme" which would be agreeable to all. The matter was referred to an enlarged program committee to settle the issue.

The program committee dropped the original proposal for what was really a non-representative rally and adopted a compromise list of speakers.

Co-chairing the meeting will be Spock and Dellinger. Stokely Carmichael will also speak along with King. There will be a labor speaker, possibly a Senator, Bevel, and a "new politics" speaker. We proposed that Linda Dannenberg speak for the Student Mobilization Committee. This was not accepted, but there is to be an SDS speaker introduced by Dannenberg. That is the way the speakers list stands at present, although, like all previous decisions, it is subject to further efforts at revision. The Student Mobilization Committee will still try to get a speaker of its own. King may try to water down the speakers list by adding more right wing speakers. But so far the speakers to be invited stand as above.

These latest developments conform to the analysis we had originally laid out--that with the addition of the more conservative forces, which we sought in order to build the largest

possible demonstration, there would also be a tendency for the tenor of the demonstration to be pushed to the right. This only underscores the necessity of strengthening the withdrawal section of the movement, especially the Student Mobilization Committee, as a means of countering any rightward trends. The demonstration as a whole, however, still remains more radical than the relative strength of the the forces involved.