

March 6, 1967

Report on the Student Mobilization Committee -- G. Horowitz

The Student Mobilization Committee has been able to maintain its united front character including the CP and a greater involvement of SDS than before.

The CP, as was reported previously, had initiated the conference which resulted in the formation of the Student Mobilization Committee. They had hoped to set up a popular-front type of student organization which they would essentially control. We prevented this from occurring and forced them to accept a united front type of set-up. They were never happy with this, of course, and tried to work towards reversing the organizational form of the Student Committee at the January 28th continuations committee. This too failed.

After the continuations committee meeting, the CP requested a meeting between their national youth director, their staff member on the Student Mobilization Committee and Lew and myself. At this meeting they expressed their view that the meeting was weighted too heavily toward the radical youth groups and the militant antiwar committees. They indicated that they wished the meeting had been "broader" involving greater participation from NSA, ADA, and other liberal campus organizations.

We agreed with the desirability of broadening the participation in the committee but indicated that we are not willing to do this by watering down the committee's program or orientation. We pointed out that the independent committees and the radical youth groups with their program of immediate withdrawal are the backbone of the campus antiwar movement and that unity with the new antiwar forces on the campus should be on this basis.

The fact that such a meeting took place set a good precedent for joint work in the Student Mobilization Committee. Since then the CP has thrown some forces into the Student Committee, the Parade Committee, and the Spring Committee.

SDS nationally had been quite hostile to the April 15th Mobilization and some local reports in their newspaper, New Left Notes, still show signs of this attitude. However, there are indications of a change in the position of the leadership of SDS. A regional meeting in Illinois decided to work with the Chicago demonstration on March 25th and many SDSers expressed willingness to help build April 15th. Jane Adams, former national secretary of SDS, and now a campus traveler for their national office, has agreed to publicize the Mobilization. In addition many of the individual SDS chapters will be supporting the Mobilization.

The call that has just been printed includes a broad spectrum of sponsors, including the YSA, the SWP, the CP, SDS leaders,

CEWV leaders, Stokely Carmichael, Floyd McKissick, and student body presidents, college editors, and even some members of fraternities.

The actual preparations for the spring actions have been proceeding very well on the campuses. The mail that the Student Mobilization office receives indicates that there will be a good response.

The Student Mobilization Committee office has just printed its basic literature. Fifty thousand copies of the call were printed, and within 10 days they were all gone; 50,000 more will be ready soon. There were 25,000 copies of issue No. 2 of the Student Mobilizer printed, and in less than one week they were all distributed. A new press run of 25,000 more is in the works. Some 40,000 of 50,000 pledge cards have also been sent out; the office now receives about 5 a day in the mail -- these include \$1.00 contributions. Some 6,000 buttons have also just come off the press. In addition the Parade Committee has mimeographed many thousands of a leaflet announcing time, date, and place for the demonstration and these have been distributed by many students. The Parade Committee office has been functioning as a central distribution point for the printed material and many young people come in every day to help out or to pick up material for distribution.

The New York City aspect of student involvement also shows real potential. There have been three high school meetings, organized by high school students, to coordinate their city-wide activities. These meetings have been attended by about 50 high school students at each -- from about 25 high schools. There have also been 3 New York area college meetings of 50-75 people, also representing some 25 campuses. This is more than ever before. Three public meetings at high schools have already been organized and had an attendance of 100-300.

A special international call has been sent out -- to our co-thinkers, to various antiwar groups, and to various CP organizations. The international mailing includes the U.S. call with the explicit listing of the SWP and CP as sponsors.

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