

REPORT BY TIM WOHLFORTH ON NATIONAL TOUR - BAY AREA AND PORTLAND - Oct. 9, 1958

BAY AREA: Presently we are in very good shape in the Bay Area. Our comrades are functioning very well and the morale is very high. We have some 13 YS supporters here at present. It is generally conservatively estimated that we can bring this to a total of 20 by the time of the Conference. Our supporters are about equally divided between San Francisco and Berkeley. This gives us an edge over the Shachtmanites, who while they are stronger than us in Berkeley and on the CAL campus, have only one person on the Frisco side of the Bay.

The physical setup at present is very fine for functioning. In SF we have a whole floor of a house where 3 comrades live and where meetings can be held and which is fully equipped with a mimeo machine, etc. In Berkeley, some 5 comrades live in a single house which is near the campus and likewise suited for meetings and parties.

Presently our comrades are selling an average of 100 YS per month and getting a bundle of 500. They use all their papers and rarely have any spare ones around. They have four newspaper racks strategically placed near campuses and most of the sales come from these. They will be able to raise the \$1.00 per month average sustainer, keep up on their bundle payments, and complete the fund drive. They have already fulfilled their tour quota.

On organization, they are now attempting to set up good functioning YS supporter groups or caucuses on both sides of the Bay under the general direction of an area exec and occasional area conferences. This is a change from the present system of operating as a single area unit.

Berkeley: The primary arena for work in the East Bay is the CAL campus. Here we are limited as we have only 2 students on campus. However plans are being laid for putting some sort of group on campus so that we will have access to campus facilities. In addition, some sort of regular club activities will take place in Berkeley to reach people in the general area. We have also some contact with students at Oakland Junior College. A class is being conducted simultaneously on both sides of the bay on Baran's book. The major arena on campus is SLATE. I had an extremely friendly talk with Butch Mallinan who lives with "Sluggo" and "Kayo" and other pacifist types. If we follow this up it should be very beneficial.

We are also in the thick of the Vienna Youth Festival in the area as is the LA supporter group. This is something we should get in everywhere. I spoke to some 75 people at the debate with Denitch near the CAL campus. Most of them were CAL students. The debate went very well and was especially helpful in gaining contact with LYL-type kids. Old Clinton Jencks, well known movie actor who has a case named after him, was there also. The debate was useful in clarifying the differences between the two groups, in giving a clear choice to new people, and in destroying various mythology utilized by the social democrats.

San Francisco: Our main arena in SF is the Mark Twain Club. About a year ago we entered this club which was initiated by CP kids. At the meeting I spoke to (some 16 were present) the last of the stalinist kids pulled out, leaving their club to us. The CP youth have formed an exclusive underground club in SF. The club still seems to be viable and have people around it. The comrades feel it will generally evolve in the direction of the YS supporter club in the near future. It now has about 20 members, 2/3 of which support the YS. Average attendance at meetings is around 15. In addition to the LTC we have important influence at SF State. Rose M. is going there and there is a nucleus of some 8 socialist youth who are generally YS supporters. There is some Political Union formation which we work through. We also have contact at SF City College.

Other Campuses: I spoke at the University of Santa Clara to some 125 students. The school is a catholic Jesuit institution. We made some friends for the YS there and may even get some subs out of it. It was an interesting experience in any event. We have friends at Stanford U. who function in the Political Union there. Due to a number of circumstantial factors and the earliness in the school year of my visit there was not time to get me on SF State or Stanford. Also a meeting at Cal had to be cancelled due to a conflict in dates. The comrades there have urged me to return on the way to Denver and are raising the extra money this will cost. It looks as if this will be done and I will speak at the three above named places next week.

The Inventive Spirit: As our youth groups have been operating on their own, certain techniques have been developed in areas I have visited that could be utilized elsewhere. La has perfected a simple silk screen process which produces a fine professional looking poster cheaply. In addition, the equipment needed is slight. Jack Arnold, who developed it, has promised to send out a fact sheet on it to all the area groups. The Bay Area has perfected the newstand. They now produce a professional stand which is designed just for the YS and which is very durable under varying weather conditions. They have promised to produce them for other areas for about \$15 postpaid. Average sales off such a stand are around 30-40 a month, and to have them in front of leading campuses around the country would be great. I hope that the comrades elsewhere will take this up and write Jim Robertson about it.

PORTLAND: The Portland situation is really very fine for us. The center is the Reed College campus. On this campus is the FOCUS club which was started as a YPA club some 10 years ago. The head of it is Mark Shaffer who is reasonably friendly to us and favors working with us. However he is the closest to the CP of anyone in the club. The other kids are close to the National Guardian approach to things. They are generally very enthusiastic about the United Socialist ticket. They to one degree or another have some Deutcherite views on the USSR, they all like the YS, etc. Erica Munk has agreed to write an article for the YS on Bertold Brecht which should be pretty good. A number of them are playing around with the idea of a US version of Universities and Left Review. They seem to have access to quantities of money and are interested in working with us on the project. I tentitively was rather enthusiastic about the deal but we will have to see what comes of it.

Close to 100 students out of 600 attended my talk at Reed. Following the talk we had a special supper and more discussion. Following this we retreated to a lodge or something and diseussed even more. If both Seattle and SF work on it we can develop a strong group of supporters in this area. The social democrats are in bad grace here because they attempted to form a rival to FOCUS. The CP is playing around though and we will have to watch this. It certainly demands action on our part.

Portland State: In addition I spoke to some 40 students at Portland State, a new college with almost no political life. I was sponsored by a Social Sciences club which seems to be run by liberal Democrats. However we got two very good contacts out of it and there is a good possibility of making headway there too.

Dave Heatley from Seattle came down and helped out a lot on the whole Portland affair. We stayed over at Reuel Amdur's place. He is an anarchist type and reasonably friendly to us. He may write something for the YS.

I will send in a report on Seattle, Vancouver, and Denver, probably from the Twin Cities.

Y. S. A. NEWSLETTER

Due to the great welter of opportunities for progressive action facing socialist youth in this immediate period, the YSA is initiating this Newsletter to keep its friends up to date on the facts and the facts presented within a coherent perspective. Of special importance in this first Newsletter, however, is the personal data form at the bottom. Please fill it out in full and return by mail. We want to start a new kind of YSA schedule of activities, oriented to the high school or college campus, and to do this effectively we need your opinions.

Saturday Morning, 7:00 AM sharp, Oct. 25: YSA cars leave YSA Hall, 144 2nd Av., for Youth March for Integration in Washington. Anyone too poor to ride chartered buses, share gas expenses with us. Contact Barbara Dorrity, CA 8-2006, during this week, or call YSA Hq., GR 5-7920.

Saturday Night: Youth Marchers from YSA attending Young Socialist Club social in Baltimore -- everyone invited. Get details from YSA Hq. in advance, or see leaflet distributed on March during day. Guitars, Banjo and like that.

Sunday, Oct. 26th: YSA class, YSA Hq., 2:00 sharp. 4th in series. Title: the inevitability of a reawakening of the American working class. Discussion leader: Jim Lambrecht, YSA Chairman.

Thursday, Oct. 30th: I-SP is on the ballot!! Victory over Tammany Hall!! Come to big election rally at 8:30, 306 W. 52nd St., Palm Gardens. Auspices: Independent Socialist Party. Celebration par excellence!

Friday, Oct. 31st: Evaluation of March on Wash. by Art Rosen, CCNY student, and another participant in the March. YSA Hq., 8:30.

Saturday afternoon, Nov. 1st: YSA business meeting, 12:30. Everyone invited if you're interested in straight politics and/or straight political work.

Saturday night: Big I-SP Halloween Party - another celebration par excellence, extended over from the Thursday rally. They're really happy about this ballot thing.

SPECIAL IMPORTANCE: should be attached to Fri., Nov. 7 - the 41st anniversary of the Russian Revolution, when the YSA will sponsor two feature films, in its headquarters - one of which has already been obtained: Ten Days That Shook the World, by Serge Eisenstein, plus another still to be determined. Hold that there date!

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(Please fill out this form, and return to YSA)

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ CAMPUS _____ I BELONG TO THE FOL-

LOWING CAMPUS CLUBS _____ TO ATTRACT STUDENTS TO POLITICAL IDEAS, I THINK THE YSA SHOULD FEATURE THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES _____ (use reverse side)