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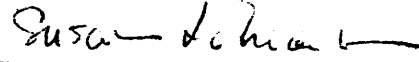
December 16, 1969

To All YSAers

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed are copies of articles which appeared in several newspapers around the country after the press conference which the national office staff held in Washington D.C. on December 10. Reports on local press conferences and copies of articles which appear in local press should be sent to the national office.

Comradely,

  
Susan LaMont  
YSA National Office

# Young Socialists Claim Gain At Expense of Splintered SDS

By Paul W. Valentine  
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Young Socialist Alliance, a strict, disciplined Marxist group, claimed yesterday that large numbers of radicals are defecting from the splintered Students for a Democratic Society to join YSA as the new standard bearer of "the revolution" among young Americans.

"YSA is now larger nationally and more effective than any of the SDS factions," said YSA national chairman Larry Seigle at a press conference.

He distributed a list of 15 former SDS leaders — mostly chapter and district chairmen throughout the country — who he said have now joined YSA.

"These are the leaders," he said. "There are hundreds of rank-and-file members, too."

A four-page statement signed by the 15 leaders outlined their reasons for quitting SDS.

"SDS has made a 180-degree turn away from its early humanist orientation and headed down the road of Stalinist bureaucracy," it said.

Seigle estimated YSA now has 5,000 to 10,000 members.

The upper age limit for membership is 29.

He announced that the organization will hold the largest convention of its 10-year existence in Minneapolis Dec. 27-30, with up to 1,000 persons expected.

## To Back Candidates

Besides electing its own leaders and drafting position papers on the Vietnam war, poverty and other issues, Seigle said, YSA plans to support congressional and gubernatorial candidates of the Socialist Workers Party in 22 to 25 states next year. Among them, he said, will be California, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Massachusetts, Georgia and Texas.

In contrast to the freewheeling, often flamboyant and chaotic character of SDS, the YSA appears to be a formal, almost austere organization.

Seigle and other YSA functionaries at yesterday's press conference wore "straight" clothes and short haircuts. Their public language was not laced with the obscenities associated with the young radical left.

## Economic Line

YSA opposes the use of drugs because, as Seigle put it,

"We don't want to give the ruling class a chance to attack (arrest) us."

But their differences with SDS go deeper. YSA follows a somewhat rigid Marxist-Leninist economic line, confident that historical forces ultimately lead to public control of basic industry.

But SDS is "hostile to Marxism and saturated with pragmatism," says the statement signed by the 15 who defected.

"The internal contradictions of SDS, its lack of a program for social change and the fallacies of new left ideology (have) resulted in the degeneration and collapse of the national organization and most local chapters," the statement added.

The statement is especially critical of the SDS practice of "participatory democracy"—the mass, free-form unstructured process of making decisions and policies without conventional parliamentary procedures.

"When you don't have a chairman or an agenda or any organizational forms," said Seigle, "the decisions are really made by personality cliques behind the scenes. That's what's happened in SDS."

# The Minneapolis Tribune

Vol. CIII—No. 204

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MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1969

## Minnesota Boy Is Coming Home —With 1,000 Revolutionaries

By **FRANK WRIGHT**  
Minneapolis Tribune  
Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Larry Seigle looks the way the Establishment is supposed to look — conservatively dressed, conservatively maned.

He talks the way the Establishment is supposed to talk — respectfully, with a lowered voice.

He does not stand out in a crowd.

From all appearances, he is the kind of young man who would make a wonderful government clerk.

Seigle was a clerk once, working for the state of Minnesota.

But he gave that up, and now — at the age of 24 — he is a full-time Marxist revolutionary bent on overthrowing the establishment and replacing capitalism with socialism in the United States.

He is coming home to Minnesota at the end of this month, and he hopes to bring 1,000 fellow revolutionaries with him for a four-day stay.

Seigle is national chairman of the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA). He will be in charge when the Alliance holds its annual national convention Dec. 27 to 30 at Coffman Memorial Union on the University of Minnesota campus.

Formed in 1960, the al-



**LARRY SEIGLE**

*Socialist group's chairman*

liance attracted little attention and few members until recently, when it emerged as one of the leaders in organizing this fall's October and November demonstrations against the Vietnam War.

It now claims 5,000 to 10,000 members and says it has chapters on all major college campuses and in all large cities in 38 states and the District of Columbia.

It is challenging Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) for prominence among New Left youth groups. A number of middle-echelon officers from SDS, which is riddled with factionalism and splintering badly, have defected al-

ready and swung over to the Alliance.

It says in its brochures that it hopes to attract more members by working in the forefront of causes that appeal to masses of young people—ending the war and the draft, ending “racial oppression,” ending “meaningless education” and promoting “women's liberation.”

The purpose of the convention is to decide on strategy and tactics for achieving these goals.

Seigle expresses optimism about the future.

At a press conference

## Socialist

Continued From Page One

held here last week to discuss the convention he said, "The opportunities facing a whole generation of young revolutionaries in the United States are greater than they have ever been.

"A new generation of revolutionary militants has emerged, and it has proven to be a dynamic, enthusiastic and determined force on the American political scene.

"Increasing numbers of our generation are coming to understand that it is capitalism itself — not its spokesmen such as Nixon — that is at the root of the problems in this society.

"They have come to understand that the war in Vietnam and the oppression of black people in the United States are not mere 'mistakes' that — once pointed out and clearly labeled — can be corrected, but that they are conscious policies and inevitable results of capitalism as a system," Seigle said.

He issued an appeal for all young people who "recognize the need for a revolutionary transformation of capitalist society" to converge on Minneapolis for the convention.

Asked if YSA believes in a violent overthrow, Seigle replied, "The responsibility

for violence in the black communities and on the campuses lies with the ruling class and the government, not with the black people or with the students.

"I would like to see a peaceful transformation, but that is just about impossible. The ruling class will use every weapon at its command, as it has done, for example, against the Black Panthers."

Asked if YSA has any connection with the Communist Party, Seigle replied that it does not.

The founders of the alliance, he said, included people from the Communist Party. In addition, he said, the alliance considers itself communistic in nature and lists Lenin and Trotsky among its revolutionary heroes.

But, he added YSA considers itself "far" to the left of today's Communists. The Communist Party, he said, has become "reformist" rather than revolutionary. As evidence of that, he said, the Communists have taken to supporting the candidates of capitalism's Democratic Party at election time. YSA on the other hand, he said, supports the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party.

Seigle's first contact with YSA was in 1965, when he was a student at Minnesota and chairman of the campus-centered

Minnesota Committee to End the War in Vietnam. He was impressed with YSA's ability to organize opposition to the war, he said, and joined up.

After graduating in June 1966 with a bachelor's degree in psychology, he went to work for the state.

That lasted until January 1967, when Seigle became the fulltime Minnesota organizer for YSA. A year later, in January 1968, he went to the national office in New York, N.Y., to edit "Young Socialist," YSA's monthly magazine.

At the end of 1968 he was elected national organizing secretary. His election as national chairman followed in September of this year.

Although he has been out of school for more than three years and has been classified 1A throughout that time, he has not come close to being drafted into the armed services.

This is the case with many other YSA members, he said.

"They do not seem to want anybody who seems to be subversive," he said.

A few YSA members have been drafted and have gone into the service willingly, in keeping with alliance policy.

"We think you can be more effective by going in and organizing soldiers against the war than you can by refusing induction

and going to jail," Seigle said.

The Army has discovered how effective YSA members can be. They have been so effective that the Army is trying to get rid of some of the more active ones. YSA is fighting back because the government wants to give them less-than-honorable discharges, even though they supposedly have been dutiful soldiers and have limited their antiwar activities to their off hours.

Seigle's draft board is in Philadelphia, Pa., where his parents still live. They do not agree with his current activities, he said, "but we still get along all right."

Seigle said he will be happy to return to Minneapolis because "Trotskyism" has "deep roots" there, and the city has an "impressive history of class struggle going back to the truck strikes in the 1930s."

This year is the 35th anniversary of those bloody strikes, which gave impetus to the Teamsters Union and all of organized labor in Minneapolis. The city has been known as a strong union town ever since.

Seigle wants to organize a convention demonstration in commemoration of the strike, and he intends to invite a number of the strike leaders.

"It is their children's children that we are trying to organize now," Seigle said.

DECEMBER 11, 1969

## Young Socialists Expect 1,000 At Convention

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Young Socialist Alliance, described as a revolutionary Communist youth group, announced yesterday that a convention of as many as 1,000 "young radicals from every state" will be held Dec. 27-30 in Minneapolis.

Larry Seigle, national chairman of the group, said the convention "will mark a new stage in the U. S. student movement in that the Young Socialist Alliance has been projected into the leadership of the left wing of the nation's student movement, replacing the badly split and weakened Students for a Democratic Society."

Seigle said the alliance is "a nationwide Communist revolutionary youth organization that has played a leading role in the anti-war movement."

The alliance, he said, plans to set up a national chain of "action committees" at high schools and colleges "to initiate, lead and support struggles for student control of the campuses to fight against the war, to fight for black liberation and to mount a fight to change the basic structure of the nation's school system."

The alliance, he said, also plans "mass intervention" in the 1970 election campaigns.

The Alliance Journal

Thursday, Dec. 11, 1969

## Socialists Seek to Fill SDS Spot

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Young Socialist Alliance, describing itself as a revolutionary Communist youth group, announced today a convention of up to 1,000 "young radicals from every state" will be held Dec. 27-30 in Minneapolis.

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**REVOLUTIONARY**—Larry Seigle, 24, national chairman of the Young Socialist Alliance announced yesterday a national convention will be held at the end of the month at the University of Minnesota to plan revolutionary attack against U.S. capitalism.

**Radical Youths Plan Parley**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10 (AP) —The Young Socialist Alliance, describing itself as a revolutionary Communist youth group, announced today that a convention of up to 1,000 young Americans will be held Dec. 27 to 30 in Minneapolis.



**A LEADER OF THE LEFT**—Larry Seigle, 24, national chairman of the Young Socialist Alliance, is pictured in his New York office Wednesday after announcing the alliance will hold a national convention in Minneapolis at the end of this month to plan a revolutionary attack on U.S. capitalism. (AP Wirephoto)