

PARTY BUILDER

Issue

SWP Organizational Discussion Bulletin

Vol. VI No. 3

July 1970

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
CALIFORNIA CAMPAIGN BALANCE SHEET AND PROJECTIONS by Sharon Cabaniss, Co-director State Campaign	3
PROFESSIONALISM IN REVOLUTIONARY POLITICS by Richard Crawford	7
DOING REGIONAL WORK FROM A SMALL CENTER by John Votava, Ilona Stanton, Caroline Fowlkes	11
REPORT ON PHILADELPHIA'S WOMEN'S LIBERATION CENTER by Mareen Jasin	13
SUGGESTIONS FOR GETTING OUR PRESS INTO STORES AND NEWSSTANDS by Mareen Jasin	15

20 cents

Published by

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

873 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10003

- 2 -

blank page

CALIFORNIA CAMPAIGN BALANCE SHEET AND PROJECTIONS

by Sharon Cabaniss, Co-director State Campaign

July 1, 1970

On May 31 the SWP California State Campaign Committee met in Los Angeles to discuss the progress of the campaign and to project plans for the summer period. The meeting was held there as a show of statewide solidarity and strength after the attack on the local campaign offices by counter-revolutionary Cuban exiles.

The State Campaign Committee consists of three elected representatives from each SWP branch in California and the state staff and candidates. The May meeting was expanded to include observers from the new YSA locals in Fullerton and Riverside and from the Hayward, Berkeley, San Francisco, San Diego and Los Angeles YSAs. The meeting was held in the Social Services Union hall because of the damaged condition of the campaign offices. That the hall was available is an indication of the broad response of solidarity in the face of the LA attack.

The California campaign has grown considerably since the last State Campaign Committee meeting on March 22. The campaign has been in the forefront of third world, women's liberation, antiwar and campus struggles.

The third world candidates and campaign supporters played a leading role at the Chicano Youth Conference held in Denver in late March and at the Black Youth Conference held at Stanford May 1-3. Antonio Camejo spent considerable time in Texas with the organizers of the Texas La Raza Unida Party. Froben Lozada is the co-chairman of the Northern California Chicano Moratorium Committee and helped build the Moratorium demonstration in San Francisco May 30. Herman Fagg and Andrew Pulley helped organize a demonstration on Malcolm X's birthday, May 19, to protest the war in Southeast Asia and the murders at Augusta and Jackson.

The campaign also successfully intervened in the April 22 ecology teach-ins and in mobilizing campaign supporters in defense of the postal strike and to sell the special Militants in May.

With the massive upsurge around the invasion of Cambodia, campaign activists were able to take a leadership role in helping organize antiwar universities and mass actions throughout the state. During the first week in May the candidates spoke to at least 87,500 people.

A good indication of the increase in support for the campaign is that the numbers of endorsers jumped from 600 to 900 during April and May. More significant-

ly, 33% of them now subscribe to The Militant as compared to 16% during the first five months of the campaign.

The California campaign is supported by contributions, honorariums, sales of materials and the monthly \$1 pledges from each YSAer and SWPer in the state. For the eight months ending May 20, the campaign had raised \$15,000. The enclosed balance sheets show the monthly increase and major areas of income and expenditures. Over one-third of the total income, \$5,000 was raised from direct contributions.

Sales of materials have also expanded. Button sales are the most successful, bringing in \$1,600. The campaign has now produced 18,000 buttons, 9,000 posters, 62,500 brochures, 60,000 stickers and tens of thousands of reprints and special leaflets. These materials have been distributed at nearly 300 mass meetings, conferences, and demonstrations where candidates have spoken, as well as at many campuses and high schools visited by regional travelers and teams.

A good indication of the growth of campaign support is the continued recruitment of YSAers and the establishment of new YSA locals in Fullerton and Riverside.

This growth is a direct reflection of the expanding and deepening radicalization in this country. To take maximum advantage of this potential, the campaign must prepare itself to respond to new developments, while it continues to reach out to the new layers already affected by the May upsurge.

In just the last four weeks since the State Campaign Committee meeting, the campaign has been involved in several major projects and interventions. Four candidates from California attended the antiwar conference in Cleveland and were active in supporting the resolutions for mass actions August 6-8 and October 31. The California campaign table made almost \$200 in sales and contributions. Herman Fagg participated in a national SWP campaign press conference there along with SWP candidates from eleven other states. He is now in Detroit from June 26 to July 5 for the National Black Student Conference.

One of the most ambitious projects this summer is the international tours. These tours not only graphically illustrate the international character of the

SWP's program but also help build international support for the struggle of third world people to control their own lives. The candidates will bring back information from these tours to hundreds of thousands of Californians.

On June 18 Antonio Camejo and Froben Lozada began a tour of Aztlan, that section of the Southwest which was stolen from Mexico by the U.S. The purpose of this tour is to publicize and build support for the independent Chicano parties in Colorado and Texas and for the National Chicano Moratorium in Los Angeles August 29. In Texas they will be joined by Mariana Hernandez, SWP candidate for governor of that state.

Andrew Pulley left on June 20 for a tour of the Far East. The main focus of this tour is to build the international antiwar movement and to speak on the recent upsurge which occurred in this country, publicizing the decisions of the Cleveland conference. The first tour stops were Bombay, Calcutta and Cochin in India. Speaking engagements have been arranged in all the countries along the route. In New Zealand, for example, Pulley will participate in antiwar demonstrations. He hopes to speak to American GIs in many of these countries, like South Vietnam, Japan and Okinawa. Patricia Iiyama will join him in Japan where they are official delegates to the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Day demonstrations and will visit military bases in Okinawa.

This tour is one of the biggest projects that the California campaign has launched. When they return in late August, the candidates will tour California to explain the development of the antiwar movement in the countries they have visited.

Two more international tours are projected for late summer and early fall. The campaign hopes to send Dianne Feeley to Cuba for a few weeks. When she returns she will be able to speak about the progress of the Revolution, the status of women in Cuba and educational advances there. This tour has additional significance because of the attack on the LA campaign offices last month by Cuban counter-revolutionaries. Her tour will be a concrete example of the SWP's determination to continue to support and defend the Cuban Revolution in the face of these assaults.

The final international tour is tentatively scheduled for September. Dave Frankel and Herman Fagg hope to tour the Mideast. They would be visiting cities and refugee camps, to get eye-witness reports on developments in the Arab revolution. Their subsequent tour in the U.S. would help build support for the Arab struggle and present the true facts

on the situation there.

The remainder of the summer will see increased and continued activity of the campaign within California. Campaign activists will participate in building the protest demonstrations August 6-8 for the 25th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They will continue to build the Chicano Moratorium with new materials and increased publicity.

A major aspect of the summer campaign will be to involve the new campaign supporters in the various activities, while continuing to reach out for new endorsers, Militant subscribers and building Young Socialist Campaigner groups. While the campaign will continue to make its biggest gains on the campuses among the newly radicalized layers, it will also attempt to reach out more into the community. The campaign can intervene in such things as public hearings, appearances of other candidates, antiwar coalitions and referendums, and youth and third world community centers. The campaign will continue to work on the LA defense committee and rebuilding fund, the Committee for a Fair Ballot and the Socialist Summer Schools. These are ongoing projects which can draw in many of the new campaign supporters.

Another major task this summer is increased publicity. The campaign can now push for equal time on the media and in newspapers. Better use of The Militant is also projected with increased sales, subscriptions and campaign articles. The Militant is the backbone of information on campaign activity, and anyone interested in endorsing or supporting the campaign should read it. The percentage of subscriber/endorsers should go from 33% to 100%.

Another side of increased publicity is postering and mass distribution of campaign materials. Many new materials will be out this summer, such as a women's liberation brochure, a Chicano self-determination button and poster, the platform brochure and a new antiwar poster.

One of the most important aspects of campaign work is systematic well-planned fund raising. Fund raising activities must be planned well in advance as an integral part of overall campaign activity. The campaign hopes to increase collections at literature tables and meetings, along with developing a substantial periphery of people with money or names that can raise money. The signers of the last campaign fund letter and the LA rebuilding fund letter are good examples of the kind

of support the campaign can expect.

The Socialist Activists and Educational Conference in Oberlin August 8-15 is a big focal point for summer campaign activity. The next State Campaign Committee meeting will

be held there to map out plans for the big fall push. A campaign meeting for all Californians is also scheduled. This meeting will be very important to prepare the entire California SWP and YSA for the last and biggest stage of the campaign.

* * * * *

TOTAL BALANCE SHEET OCTOBER 1969 TO MAY 20, 1970

INCOME

1. Donations	4994.69
2. \$1/month pledge	2073.25
3. Buttons	1622.17
4. Honorariums	2014.99
5. Loans	3510.00
6. Posters	247.80
7. Miscellaneous materials	155.36
8. Stickers	96.44
9. Brochures	146.86
10. Stationery	24.25
11. Mini platform	86.80
	<u>15010.41</u>

EXPENSES

1. Buttons	1509.46
2. Travel	3514.16
3. Petty cash	88.00
4. Candidate expenses	4874.79
5. Bank charge	36.43
6. Printing	1333.67
7. Office supplies	250.78
8. Postage	242.69
9. Photo	33.00
10. Office equipment	25.32
11. Miscellaneous	92.88
12. Phone	732.52
13. Rent	225.00
14. Research	8.35
15. Loan repay	1111.00
16. CFBC	15.75
17. Choice '70	60.75
	<u>14154.55</u>

TOTAL INCOME	15010.41
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>14154.55</u>
	855.86 Net Surplus

Accounts Receivable	2034.82
Net Surplus	855.86
	<u>2890.68</u> Total Assets

Accounts payable	470.13
Loans payable	2500.00
	<u>2970.13</u> Total Liabilities

TOTAL LIABILITIES	2970.13
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>2890.68</u>
	79.45 DEFICIT

INCOME RECEIVED FROM CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES THROUGH MAY 27, 1970

	<u>Honor-</u> <u>ariums</u>	<u>Loans</u>	<u>\$1/mo.</u>	<u>Contri-</u> <u>butions</u>	<u>Mate-</u> <u>rials</u>	<u>Total</u>
Los Angeles	547.50		764.00	2700.00	506.35	4517.85
Oakland-Berkeley	75.00	2300.00	608.00	702.00	232.75	3917.75
San Francisco	65.41	1110.00	584.00	1843.69	251.09	3854.19
San Joaquin	200.00				15.75	215.75
San Diego	116.40		11.25		38.75	166.40
Hayward			74.00	30.00	42.35	146.85

BALANCE SHEET OF CALIFORNIA CAMPAIGN FINANCES THROUGH MAY 20, 1970

<u>INCOME</u>	Oct. 69	Nov. 69	Dec. 69	Jan. 70	Feb. 70	Mar. 70	Apr. 70	May 70
1. Donations	210.00	305.00	502.00	518.00	110.00	829.00	872.69	1648.00
2. \$1/month	155.00	234.00	307.25	273.00	363.00	194.00	376.00	171.00
3. Buttons		55.00	43.40	327.07	548.75	271.75	158.00	218.20
4. Honorariums		50.00	86.31	31.00	250.00	449.00	457.50	691.18
5. Loans			300.00	300.00	100.00	400.00	910.00	1500.00
6. Posters				10.00	123.45	82.20	27.15	5.00
7. Miscel. Material			17.33	1.70	70.05		45.15	21.13
8. Stickers					47.50	29.44	19.50	
9. Brochures					12.81	118.30	15.75	
10. Stationery					2.25	16.20	5.80	
11. Mini platform					66.60		40.00	18.00
	<u>365.00</u>	<u>644.00</u>	<u>1256.29</u>	<u>1460.77</u>	<u>1694.41</u>	<u>2389.99</u>	<u>2927.54</u>	<u>4272.51</u>

<u>EXPENSES</u>	Oct. 69	Nov. 69	Dec. 69	Jan. 70	Feb. 70	Mar. 70	Apr. 70	May 70
1. Buttons	99.17	93.68	60.00	268.26	262.64	352.20	117.48	256.03
2. Travel	47.75	181.20	239.22	251.10	870.05	414.26	630.43	880.15
3. Petty cash	50.00			33.00		5.00		
4. Candidate expenses	100.00	250.00	300.00	180.29	387.50	1101.00	1381.00	1175.00
5. Bank charge	6.25	1.71	3.45		2.97	7.11	9.40	5.54
6. Printing		71.99	203.75	154.39	150.55	292.74	115.00	345.25
7. Office supplies		13.45	28.45	54.07	28.84	73.78	11.61	40.58
8. Postage		26.05	10.00	65.00	46.03	28.40	34.40	32.81
9. Photo		10.00		23.00				
10. Office equipment			25.32					
11. Miscellaneous			33.45	6.00	53.43			
12. Phone				150.41		64.19	234.27	283.65
13. Rent				112.50		56.25	56.25	
14. Research				8.35				
15. Loan repay					100.00		410.00	601.00
16. CFBC						15.75		
17. Choice 70						15.00	45.75	
	<u>303.17</u>	<u>648.08</u>	<u>903.64</u>	<u>1306.37</u>	<u>1902.01</u>	<u>2425.68</u>	<u>3045.59</u>	<u>3620.01</u>

PROFESSIONALISM IN REVOLUTIONARY POLITICS

by Richard Crawford

July, 1970

When a person is recruited to our movement, one of the most important things they learn is that we are a party of professionals. We're not a weekend discussion group, or an academic debate group. We've set for ourselves the goal of leading the working class to victory in the struggle for state power in the United States, and in order to do that, we must be professionals.

But to say, "We're professional revolutionists" is not enough by itself. We have to be professionals in everything we do.

We don't just pick the concept of professionalism out of the heavens, or concentrate on recruiting and training professional cadre because the leaders of our movement happen to have a preference for professionalism. They do have that preference, but it flows from the objective reality in which we must conduct our work. We face the most highly centralized, powerful and professional ruling class in history. We have got to match them in centralization, power and professionalism if we want to succeed. Our enemies use every instance of sloppiness on our part to discredit us in the eyes of those we are appealing to for support. One important way of combating this is making sure that any conflict is on a political basis, and any other possible obstacles -- and the ruling class and our opponents are very conscientious in seeking and finding such obstacles -- are removed if possible. Conducting ourselves in a professional manner contributes significantly to that process.

* * *

One might ask, though, why we have to make a special point of professionalism. After all, isn't it something we take for granted? While in a certain sense that is true, we must also realize that because we are operating under extremely tense conditions, with never enough people to carry out the tasks we must perform, there is a constant pressure to "let it slide." And if we're not on guard against that pressure, the danger that we might "let it slide" too much, and thus damage the party, increases. So this isn't being presented for the pre-conference discussion just "for the record," so to speak. We're dealing with a very real problem, and we should take concrete steps to protect ourselves from external pressure to "let it slide."

There are three areas of our work in which it is of paramount importance to take a professional attitude: organization, education, and propaganda.

Every aspect of party organization is created with one central task in mind: to accomplish the tasks of the party in the most effective way possible. Just as the concept of democratic centralism flows from this task -- combining the necessity of centralized execution of tasks with collective thought and decision-making -- so does the need for professionalism in organization. Every post and assignment should be taken not the least bit lightly. When a comrade has been assigned to carry out a task, it is his or her responsibility to the party to see to it that it is carried out with the maximum efficiency and effectiveness.

Education seems to be a problem with many comrades. The complaint that because of ever increasing activity comrades don't have enough time to "educate" themselves is one which I'm sure is very familiar to us all. Of course, increasing educational opportunities for comrades is an important responsibility of the party leadership. The coming Socialist Activists and Educational Conference is an important step in this direction. But it is equally important that comrades who feel they don't have enough time to educate themselves do more than complain.

First, we should examine our concept of education. Education for us is not only the study of the programmatic and theoretical works of the Marxist movement. That is one important part of education, but only one half of the entire process. The other half, though it cannot be separated from the first part and is of equal if not greater importance, is education in the politics of our movement in action. This means participating wholeheartedly in one or another area of work of the party, and learning how to conduct ourselves. It means understanding our political position on the questions that arise in our work, learning how to deal with political opponents, selling the press, producing propaganda materials, etc. It means learning how to apply in a professional manner the programmatic and theoretical education each of us receives.

Propaganda is the single most important area where professionalism

is absolutely necessary. We characterize the activity of the party in the current period as propaganda. We're not even a party yet. We're the nucleus of what will soon become a party. We're a propaganda group. Our main activity is propaganda. That is why we attach such great importance to the sale and distribution of our press, for example.

But propaganda is not confined to our press. Everything we do, in the final analysis, is propaganda for our party. The way we conduct ourselves in mass work, the way we behave at public functions of the party, even the way we look, say something about the party to those we seek to influence. So when we say it is necessary to produce professional propaganda, we're not talking solely about our press, or a folded leaflet, or poster, or leaflet. We're in essence talking as well about every aspect of our public face -- what we present to the public for their judgment.

* * *

First and foremost in the preparation and production of printed and mimeographed materials is seeing to it that everything is produced with an eye to neat and attractive layout, organization and design. This applies to internal circulars as well as public or mass leaflets. When comrades receive a city letter which can barely be read, or which is filled with ink blots or spots (that is, when they're not put there for artistic or aesthetic value), confidence in the party will be lessened. And if it isn't, it should be. Any comrade who has worked in a bourgeois office knows that inter-office memos are produced with the same meticulousness as are the outside products of the office. To do otherwise would eventually undermine the already low morale of those working in the office.

But even in the party, because of outside pressure, we have to protect ourselves from the tendency to become demoralized. Perfection in technical as well as political production is an important part of that protection.

The production of propaganda consists of two main methods: printing and mimeographing. Only a few branches have ready access to a printing press, so I'll only say that it is important that those comrades working with plate production and press operation make sure they are trained in how to do it. Also, any "half-good" products should be automatically discarded. The political loss to the party created by the use of less than good propaganda outweighs the material savings in such instances.

The mimeograph machine is the backbone of our propaganda operation. The

machine itself is relatively inexpensive, both in original cost and maintenance and operation. And the product -- when produced in an efficient, neat and professional manner -- is usually more than adequate. Of course, it would be ridiculous to produce, say, 20,000 or 30,000 leaflets on a mimeograph machine. It is much cheaper and more efficient in such instances to have the work done professionally, that is, by a professional printer (who isn't necessarily a professional revolutionist). The mimeo is made for relatively limited mass production, in the range of 20 to roughly 10,000 pieces. Any more than that will often defeat the purpose, as stencils tend to disintegrate, together with tempers and the final product.

When using a mimeograph machine, it is extremely important to produce the stencil correctly. If you are using a fibre stencil (the kind you type directly onto), you should make sure that, if possible, you use a good electric typewriter with clean type, that you set the ribbon on stencil, or "no-ribbon" setting before beginning, and that, when making corrections, the stencil is lifted up from the backing so that it doesn't stick and then rip when the backing is removed. It also improves the stencil greatly if a clear plastic cover is used, so that letters don't cut holes in the stencil while it is being typed.

If the leaflet being reproduced requires an electro-stencil, there are several important things to keep in mind. First of all, don't use type that is so massive that it will not print evenly, and come out blotchy. Also, if you are using typewritten copy, it is important to use a carbon ribbon typewriter. This makes the type readable. Often a cloth ribbon typewriter produces type that is so uneven and "mushy" that it either can't be read or looks worse than a regular fibre stencil job.

Finally, in stencil production, proofreading is probably the most important task. If there is even one error, either typographical or otherwise, on a mimeographed leaflet, it might as well not be produced in the first place. If you have to type a stencil over, that is preferable to letting it go out if less than perfect.

Typing or producing layout for a leaflet is not something that we should take it for granted everyone knows instinctively. We should be careful to utilize those comrades who are most capable in this area when such work is done, as well as in the training of the other comrades in the work.

Equally if not more important in mimeograph production is use of the

machine. The most perfectly produced stencil in the hands of a machine operator who is "experimenting" with the machine, or who doesn't know anything about how to operate the machine, will produce disastrous results. There are two aspects to this problem. One is how to operate the machine. The other is what approach we take toward organizing machine operation in the branch.

A few guidelines in machine operation are:

- * make sure the stencil is on the drum or screen without wrinkles. These eventually becomes lines, and make the product dirty.
- * DO NOT OVER-INK THE MACHINE. This is the "sin of sins" in mimeographing. The leaflets get dirty, the machine gets sluggish and dirty, and eventually ceases functioning, and the whole thing develops into one big mess. It's better to waste a little paper and make sure the machine is inked evenly rather than over-inking to try to save on scrap.
- * learn how to load the paper properly. Jog (separate) the paper before loading, make sure you don't overload the paper tray, and be sure the feeding mechanism is operating properly.
- * don't be afraid of the machine. Know where everything is on the machine, and learn how to react to emergencies without destroying the machine.

Again, the second aspect of mimeograph machine operation is the approach we take toward organizing this area of work. There are three basic approaches, two of which are acceptable, depending on the specific uses of the machine, the staff it serves, etc. One approach, however, is absolutely impermissible, and must not be allowed to creep into our work unnoticed. That is the "catch-as-catch-can" method of finding an operator. Mimeograph operation, as simple as it usually is, requires training, and it would be politically miseducating our party to talk about professionalism, but not act efficiently and professionally.

The other two approaches are: 1) training one person to be responsible for all mimeograph production, and 2) training a team which can be either permanent or rotating in nature, somewhat similar to a headquarters maintenance committee.

The first, one-person, method is most suitable for an office or department of work which does little mimeographing, in which such an assignment would not be

a full-time job, and where training other members of the staff would be too time-consuming to be productive.

The second, team, method is the best in most situations. On the one hand, most departments or branch institutions do too much mimeographing for one person to be responsible for all of it and at the same time do anything but stand in front of the machine 16 hours a day. On the other hand, to leave mimeographing "to the gods," that is, just haphazardly grabbing whomever happens to be standing or sitting around at the time and assigning them to the job, produces leaflets, in most cases, which are unacceptable for a party of professionals. The best way to resolve the problem is to train specific comrades to operate the machine, produce stencils, and be responsible for the technical quality of what goes out of the office. This can either be a permanent team of comrades, or can be a rotating assignment, which all comrades are expected to take seriously.

No one is incapable of operating a mimeo machine. If they think they are, or if some comrades consider the task "below" them (which should not be much of a problem in our movement), then the problem is one of educating the comrades in the political importance of education and professionalism in addition to the mechanics of mimeograph production.

* * *

Another important practice -- and this applies to all of our work, especially organization of propaganda production and office work -- is that things (materials and files, etc.) must be kept in order, and it should be made clear to the comrades that the only people to use or move these things are those who are assigned to do so. A sloppy office, or dirty work-area tends to produce sloppy and dirty materials.

* * *

If you're tempted to view this article lightly, or to assign less importance to it than, say, a programmatic document or such, it is important to remember that, as stated previously, there is a constant pressure from outside our party to "let it slide," and we have to protect ourselves from a tendency to submit to the pressure. Some comrades might not think it is much of a problem (and it might not be in their branch). But even if it weren't a problem, it would then be something worth noting, and something to be proud of. That in itself would justify, even demand an article. However, viewing a sampling of leaflets, both internal and public, from the branches around the country, it is unfortunately quite a serious problem

in most branches.

In addition to the guidelines I've set down above, I would propose that, in addition to sending leaflets and circulars to the national office, the branches begin to exchange leaflets on a regular basis. Each branch should have all the other branches on their mailing list, both for internal and public mailings. In addition to providing more national coordination

and collaboration, this would provide graphics design examples for branch use, and would also tend to raise the level of excellence on a national scale -- something which is very important, and should not be taken lightly.

We are a party of professional revolutionists. Let's do it right -- the first time!

DOING REGIONAL WORK FROM A SMALL CENTER

by John Votava, Ilona Stanton, Caroline Fowlkes

June 30, 1970

This report differs from regional reports made in the past by Chicago and Cleveland. It centers around things that a small branch -- or a small local -- can do with respect to regional work, even though it cannot afford a full-time regional traveler or a weekly regional trip.

At the time of the last Tasks and Perspectives in January, there was only one other local in the Southeast, along with a good-sized list of contacts gained from inquiries to the YSA N.O., Robin Maisel's summer tour, and from the trips we had made from Atlanta in December. However, these contacts were scattered from Florida to Kentucky, and from North Carolina to Arkansas, and even Louisiana. The Atlanta branch is responsible for regional work in nine states.

We attempted, of course, to keep in written communication with these people. But, as everyone is aware, merely writing regularly is not sufficient when thinking in terms of building a mass organization with local chapters in every campus town and in every major city in the area.

We faced other problems in taking advantage of the opportunities which we knew existed in the region. We had limited resources. The branch was only about six months old, with about fifteen members. Furthermore, we had not yet stabilized our finances.

Given this situation, Atlanta had to decide how it was going to organize its regional work. How could it best carry out the national perspective of putting such work as a top priority, taking advantage of growth potential, and still not over-extend its finances and the branch as a whole?

First of all, we decided upon our priorities within the region. In Florida, one local was already established in Gainesville, and on two campuses we had YSA members or sympathizers who were hard-working activists, well integrated into the local radical movement, and who were considered part of the radical student leadership. It was in Florida that we decided to concentrate our energies.

Since no team of YSAers could be sent out during the week, we concentrated on the weekends. These teams were made up of those who were free and who could carry out the specific tasks of the trips. All members were encouraged to take part in these trips and contribute to the teams that went out, and we did not

restrict trailblazers to experienced speakers, or executive committee members.

Every time there was a reason to go to areas in the region because of internal matters, important state-wide events, campaign speaking engagements, or classes given by Atlanta comrades, we took the opportunity of using the trip to build the region organizationally. Any opportunity to travel near an at-large area or a city where we had contacts was used as an organizational tour.

As a result of these tactics, in a four-month period, we made three trips to Gainesville, three to Tallahassee, and one to Tampa-Orlando, Florida.

The key to our regional work was that we encouraged YSAers and contacts in the area to come to Atlanta, the regional center. We geared some of our activities to draw in and involve at-largers and members of small locals. These activities were primarily the Southwide Socialist Summer School and the Southwide Socialist Conference, held in April. Before April, we encouraged everyone to come to the conference, and following the conference, we placed emphasis in all of our newsletters and trips to the region on the summer school.

The results of our work proved the correctness of our orientation. 120 people from seven states attended the 1970 Southwide Socialist Conference, sixty from outside of Atlanta. Eighteen of these said on the registration form that they wanted to join the YSA. By the end of the spring term, there were four locals in Florida. Membership in the region was larger than that in Atlanta. There were forty-four YSA members in the Southeast, and thirty in the regional center. Ten people came from three states to attend the Socialist Summer School, including the leadership of two locals.

Although we put emphasis on Florida, we did not ignore other parts of the region. During this period we traveled to Tennessee once, visiting three at-large areas; to Alabama three times, visiting three cities. We also visited cities in Georgia and near Atlanta frequently, including Athens three times.

Our conscious decisions to accent our work in Florida was based, on the one hand, on the need to do consistent

regional work and on the other, by the limitation of our resources. This perspective netted tremendous results. It also pointed out that no matter what the finances and manpower of a branch or local, the national perspective of doing regional work can be carried out, if done in a conscious, very well-planned manner. Even though on a limited scale, it can net outstanding results.

However, the results merely point

out the fact that there is no substitute for a full-time regional traveler and a large regional committee. With six or seven trips to Florida it was possible to establish four locals and lay the groundwork for a fifth. What will the Southeast region look like next fall when we have a full-time traveler, and the results found in Florida may be repeated in Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Georgia?

REPORT ON PHILADELPHIA'S WOMEN'S LIBERATION CENTER

by Mareen Jasin

July 7, 1970

A development in Philadelphia's women's liberation has been the establishment of a Women's Liberation Center (WLC). The center is "open to individuals and groups which deal with problems of women and their liberation;" basically, it reflects the women's liberation movement in Philadelphia and the surrounding area. Generally, the WLC seeks to coordinate activities, communicate information to the groups and other women; it can also endorse activities, actions and initiate projects.

The center functions through volunteers -- although a paid staff person(s) is being sought -- on the following committees:

Newsletter: a 12 page bi-monthly; subscriptions cost \$3.00 and 400 of the 850 mailing list are subscribers.

Literature: handles women's liberation publications and press (including Pathfinder)

Finances: keeps track of the groups' pledges, plans fund raising projects and events. Presently, a women's liberation silver pendant is being sold and a film/lecture series being held for the summer.

Speakers Bureau: to handle requests from radio, TV and organizations, etc.

Outreach: help women set up consciousness-raising (c-r) groups.

The following relate to the center by attending meetings, supporting the activities and through financing: NOW chapter in Philadelphia (has its own monthly meeting of about 30-50); Radical Women's Caucus, eight-ten women presently working on Joan Bird's defense; Sex and Racist Workshop, seven-nine red diaper, CP-educated women; Women United for Abortion Rights (WUAR), the radical, action-oriented wing of the abortion group which we initiated; Homophile Action League (HAL), 13 women homosexuals; and 13 c-r groups that meet weekly. The majority of the women are not affiliated with any organization, are skilled and unskilled working women, young, many married with children, and students. About 15 are supporters of liberal Democratic candidates.

Evolution of the WLC

In late February, about ten women from different c-r groups came up with the idea for a center and conference -- women of the Radical Caucus and Sex and Racist Workshop (SRW) primarily. Meetings were called to discuss these ideas and it was agreed that a conference would be the first stage in organizing Philadelphia's women's liberation and the establishment of a center would be stage II.

Five planning meetings were held with 20-25 women attending. The biggest fight was over the question of who the conference should be for either a broad open conference to involve women of every level or a conference directed to young radical women only (the latter being the position of the Weather Women, RYM II and their sympathizers -- at the conference they formed the Radical Women's Caucus). The former view won and for the sake of unity the majority made concessions to the ultralefts by letting them get New York speakers for the panel discussion.

The conference was fairly successful with 470 women registered despite the fact that little publicity was done -- 200 posters and 6,000 leaflets, no TV and news coverage (only mentioned in one daily). Our role was minimal in building it or in giving our organizational expertise to help build it. (We were petitioning to get on the ballot.) A number of workshops took place each around an issue or aspect of women's liberation. It was expected that each workshop would be the nucleus of an organization to carry out activity on that issue. The only one that was successful was the abortion workshop which now exists as WUAR.

After the conference, a meeting was called to evaluate it and call a meeting to plan a center. 45-70 women attended the all-day center planning meeting. The majority were independent women's liberationists, plus two to four YSA/SWPers and three SRWs. At the meeting subcommittees were formed to work on the following aspects of establishing a center: location, finances, speakers bureau, outreach, publicity, liaison and newsletter.

Each committee started to function and within two weeks, we had a location, fund raising project, newsletter and

new groups.

With the establishment of the center, many political questions arose, were discussed and a few remain to be resolved. One is the question of structure. How could it function; how would policy be made; who belonged to the center? Secondly, what would the center's politics be? Our position was to have the center as a coalition, open to all women, and to encourage each women's group to send representatives to report on their activity and communicate the information gained from the meetings to their women and that voting be done on a one woman-one vote basis. Furthermore the center would help organize the sentiment around each issue as it arose. The SRW group and many of the independents wanted a center that would be an organization: take stands and positions, endorse activities and develop "politics."

As it stands now, the center has aspects of being a coalition and also aspects of being an organization which takes stands on actions. The only action it supported, so far, is the May 30th antiwar demonstration. The reason for this dual nature is mainly due to the fact that many active individuals, who are unaffiliated to any women's liberation group or other organization, look to the center as the organization they belong to. These women who want to do something but don't know what, or that want to do something but don't know how to do it, have a fear of an organized group stacking meetings to win support of an unpopular action. Presently, the big question is "political direction" of the center, the Sex and Racist Workshop being the main force in initiating this discussion. The center meetings have been weekly to discuss the above questions. These meetings are actually steering committee meetings which carry out the decisions made.

The Role of the SWP

We play the role of keeping the thing together, non-exclusionary and democratic. We attempt to educate on the causes of women's oppression and that the way to organize women around the issues is through united action. We use the concrete example of WUAR to show how this organizing takes place.

We have one comrade on the speakers bureau and in finances. Through the bureau, she is able to make sure our comrades and candidates get opportunities to accommodate important requests. One or more attend regular center meetings. We sell at meetings and at least 20 women have subscriptions to the paper. Those who read the paper are influenced enough to supplement our comrades in the various political discussions that take place. Our participation in the center enables us to be in touch with all the developments that take place and to meet the women who are attracted to the name "women's liberation" and what it connotes.

In the course of our participation we have taught others something about the questions of leadership, organizing around issues and events, and the politics of capitalism. In turn we have learned from the women who have become women's liberationists.

With this new movement, it is important we learn to relate our politics to this new radicalizing layer of females. At the onset of the March conference, the Philadelphia SWP had little involvement in women's liberation. Now we are quite involved and have gained much respect from the movement as a whole for our ideas and perspective on women's problems and their liberation.

SUGGESTIONS FOR GETTING OUR PRESS INTO STORES AND NEWSSTANDS

by Mareen Jasin

July 3, 1970

We usually sell The Militant at campus lit tables, hawking on the streets, at large gatherings such as antiwar demonstrations, political meetings, be-ins, etc. In addition to the above, the Philadelphia branch has come across another method for sales: bookstores and newsstands.

Presently, we service 15 outlets (seven newsstands and eight stores) 12 within the last nine months. The average number of copies taken is ten (four sell five copies weekly and two sell up to 25 weekly). Out of our average bundle of 300 papers, 130 are sold at the stands.

How did we get the Militants at the stands?

Comrades in going about their business -- work, classes, etc. have taken notice of bookstands which handle a variety of publications -- liberal, progressive, underground papers and magazines, out-of-town papers -- and a good business trade that frequents the stand. After the initial observing takes place, next step is to approach the bookstand handler, asking him to take the papers, ten copies to start. It is important to assure him 1) he only pays for what he sells; 2) we do all the work and he has no problems with mail deliveries, wrecked packages, credit on unsold copies, etc. All he does is display the paper (we check regularly and make sure that paper is not hidden) and collect the money. Many of the vendors are fairly familiar with The Militant already due to our regular street sales and are receptive.

After two or three weeks, we see how papers are selling and either decrease or increase the consignment depending on how many are sold. The

bookstands in Center City are fairly well covered and now comrades are looking for more places around their homes that will take The Militant. Once the stands take Militants, we approach them with ISRs and possibly IPs. Two of the stands sell an average of eight IPs combined each week.

The Philadelphia branch has found that the bookstand servicing has snowballed into a big job. Usually four or five comrades handled the different outlets and a bit of sloppiness crept into our servicing. For example, two or three comrades would bring papers to one stand and no money or not enough money was collected. At times, comrades would not make the weekly delivery resulting in one issue being left on the stand for three or four weeks or without any for three or four weeks.

Our solution is to have one person follow a "propaganda route" keeping track of each stand's sales, deliveries, money collected, etc. This procedure will insure regularity and dependability.

The fact that our press -- Militant, ISR or IP is displayed and sold along side the capitalist daily dailies and weeklies gives us an opportunity to reach the public which we would not in the ordinary course of sales. Moreover, it gives the public an opportunity to become familiar with our press and ideas and analysis. And not least important, in the area of being in the public's eye, we have hegemony over our opponents' press -- Daily World, Bulletin, Challenge, Weekly People, etc. Militants are sold wherever they are sold plus in many more places with more to come!