

Ed Heisler c/o  
SWP  
428 S. Wabash Ave. 5th floor  
Chicago, Ill. 60606  
February 21, 1974

Fred Feldman  
New York City

Dear Fred:

The following is a report on the DSOC conference:

1. About 200 people registered for the conference. A majority of people in attendance were young although a considerable number of middle aged and older people were in attendance. I had the impression that many of those in attendance were not members of the DSOC but had attended the gathering on the basis of the flyer used to publicize the conf. I passed out the enclosed SWP campaign flyer to everyone at the conference. Many individuals wished me "good luck" in the campaign which indicated a lack of knowledge over the political difference between the SWP and the Harrington group. The same thing occurred at a party organized by DSOC on Saturday evening. I went around to talk to people about our campaign and ~~on~~ one was openly hostile. In fact, a number of people told me they were "glad to see a socialist running in the election" Harrington attended the party and was visibly shocked by the friendly response of "their" contacts to our election campaign. I made one very good contact at the party. He is ~~the~~ a young man who is the research director for a international union who had some contact with the SWP in 1968-69 prior to becoming active in the labor movement. We will be meeting soon to discuss our election campaign, PRDF, the union movement, etc.,
2. Harrington opened the conf. with a talk on the energy crisis. He gave a general talk on the fraudulent nature of the crisis and called for the formation of a broad citizen's committee on public energy which would essentially lobby for the passage of legislation that would set-up a government energy corporation to compete with the oil trusts. He indicated that Stevenson's bill is a step in the right direction. In order to promote such legislation he stated it was necessary to build a mass left-wing in the Democratic Party. That is a major objective of the DSOC. He indicated the DSOC will soon publish a pamphlet on the energy crisis and socialism.
3. Later that day a panel discussion on Watergate was organized. Linda T. passed out copies of the PRDF brochure. During the discussion Allard Lowenstein, one of the panelists, encouraged people to support the PRDF suit and said it was one of the most important suits to develop out of the Watergate revelations. During the party that evening I overheard Harrington tell a number of people that the suit is one of the "good things" the SWP has done in the radical movement.

4. The last session concerned organizing the unorganized workers. Brendan Sexton kicked off the discussion with primarily a statistical report pointing out the failure of the labor movement to carry out a serious campaign to organize the unorganized. He indicated that some real opportunities now exist to organize the unorganized particularly among women workers.

Liz McPike, a national board member of DSOC, an activist in CLUW and a member of the AFSCME political action staff criticized the failure of the union leadership to organize working women. She said the existing union leadership has not had any organizing focus and expressed the hope that CLUW could fill that vacuum of leadership. She thinks CLUW has a representative structure and believes CLUW can only be successful if that remains the case. She is not sure what form the CLUW organization will take in the long run but hopes the national structure and apparatus will remain "low-key" and the emphasis should be on organizing viable local units of CLUW. After strong local affiliates have been organized then a strong national apparatus and structure should be established. "otherwise it will be seen as a threat (to the union bureaucracy) and it (CLUW) will be smashed." She said a major objective of CLUW will be to put pressure on the union bureaucracy to commit money and personnel to organizing projects.

Day Creamer, a staff member of Women Employed a local Chicago org. spoke on some of the activities of that organization. She indicated it will be 2 or 3 years before WE CAN BEGIN A SERIOUS CAMPAIGN TO organize women workers in the Loop. She said WE will "shop around for the best deal as far as union organization" when the women are ripe for unionization in the Loop. WE now has 300 members and their major activity is filing law suits against individual employers regarding discrimination in employment and promotion.

Heather Booth, Director of the Midwest Academy (enclosure) said the main weakness in the women's liberation movement today is the lack of concrete projects. She said the main 3 tasks of socialists in the women's movement today should be: 1. Win concrete reforms such as was done in the fight to legalize abortions. 2. Give women a sense of their power by organizing them into unions, groups like W.E. etc., and 3. Alter the relations of power and discuss the restructuring of society. She said the struggle for ideas in the women's liberation movement is important but that concrete actions are most important.

Fraternally,

*Ed Heisler*

Ed Heisler