

BULLETIN

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DEMOCRATIC
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Community conf. creates unity

by GLORIA RANSOM
(Gloria Ransom is a member of Citizens United for Adequate Welfare, an organization of welfare mothers in Cleveland.)

A two-day conference was held in Cleveland, Ohio February 20-21. This conference was the first of its kind held in this country, possibly in the world.

When we think of a conference of any kind, where several cities unite, the first thing that usually comes to mind is that they are people of class, or shall I say people with money. This time it was different. It was the poor people's conference. The SDS staff (Cleveland, Ohio) played a great part in producing the Community People's Conference. This group of young students strongly believes that the poor man's voice should be heard. They thought that the best way of doing this was to help them to unite... their voices were heard.

The conference was designed to bring together poor and low-income community people who have organized to make a better society. Some were from urban areas, others from Appalachia and rural areas of the South. Each of these organizations which were formed to fight poverty met in Cleveland to discuss the problems of their own communities. We discussed

at is being done, what is not
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MARCH ON WASHINGTON TO PROTEST

Crisis in Vietnam

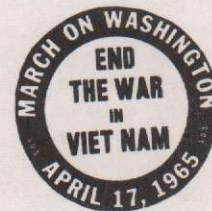
by PAUL BOOTH, Coordinator, SDS Peace Research and Education Project

We are in the midst of a crisis. The Johnson administration has escalated the war in Vietnam to the point where the possibility of full-scale war with China looms larger every day. And the level of conflict within South Vietnam increases simultaneously, with atrocity heaped upon atrocity, and the hypocrisy of our involvement becoming evident as support for our puppet regimes withers away.

US finance in South Africa hit

by MIKE DAVIS

Very few times in recent years has the fight for change in this country been carried into the centers of power themselves; the White House has long rested secure behind its iron gates, and Wall Street has always been proud of its immunity from shouting students or civil rights demonstrators. The real fight has been in the small towns of the South, the local banks or businesses of the North; against the immediate and local extensions of the power structure rather than the central headquarters of the decision-makers, those who could bring change if they wanted to. While it is obviously necessary to build strength from below on the community level, it is equally important to expose and dramatize corporate-military-political elites at the top, to address portests to the Johnsons and the Rockefellers while dealing with the Wallaces and the Jim Clarks. The civil rights movement has already challenged the top levels of power at Atlan-
(cont on p 9)



The response to this crisis has been the rebirth of the American peace movement. Led at first by voices of dissent within the Senate, and then expanding to include militant student groups on literally hundreds of campuses, this opposition remains significant despite the concerted attempts of our bipartisan foreign policy leadership to stifle and turn back its call for peace.

The threat of war that is looming before us is a war that will mean misery and murder. This one will be a testimony to the potential of war for the perversion of man's hopes and ideals—in the name of democracy we are warring on the people of South and North Vietnam, and we may stamp out a movement in our own society towards democracy.

(cont on p 11)

PREP PLANS SPRING PROGRAM

Meeting in Ann Arbor, Michigan toward the beginning of March, the SDS Peace Research and Education Project Executive Committee reached the consensus that the action to expose American economic interests in South African apartheid has the potential within it to create a student movement to confront America's role in the Third World.

The South Africa question is a crystal-clear case of an international fact: the involvement of U.S. capital buttresses conservative and oligarchic regimes throughout the underdeveloped world. Behind the official rhetoric that the affairs of American businesses are not the concern of our diplomats is a solid commitment to protect these businesses and the regimes they work with.

This commitment to protect conservative regimes, to "counter insurgency," lies behind the heavy military emphasis in our aid programs, and the public support for military regimes. As opposition to our allies in these countries swells throughout the Third World, America will be involved in more and more military confrontations with insurgent left movements.

Growing numbers of students are conscious of these facts, and of the fact that such involvement forecloses the possibility of domestic social change by diverting resources and turning the national attention away from the domestic problems that it has been forced to begin the look at during the past three years.

PREP's job will be to direct the anger of these students, of poor people who have begun to mobilize in their own interest and who see the war in Vietnam as an immediate threat to the possibility for domestic change, and of other Americans, to the job of exposing and mobilizing against American interventionism. New tactical approaches, like the bank sit-in, will need to be discovered. The skeleton of a follow-up program developed at the Ann Arbor meeting included:

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The next issue of the Bulletin will appear in early May and will be the last issue before the SDS convention. Deadline is April 20.

1. Continued action against American partners in Apartheid.

The most important program here will be for campus groups to focus attention on their own colleges and universities. Swarthmore has already mounted a campaign to get its administration to sell the stock it holds in Chase Manhattan. Where the institutions own stock or hold deposits in any of the banks which are involved in lending operations to South Africa (Chase, First National City, Morgan Guaranty, Chemical Bank, Bank of America, Bankers' Trust, Irving Trust, Manufacturers Hanover Trust, Continental of Illinois, First National of Chicago, etc.), such a campaign should be mounted.

As well, pressure against the directors of these banks, and other prominent stockholders, should also be applied; the PREP office in Ann Arbor will be producing suggestions for such action.

Finally, more direct action against the corporations and banks, or perhaps against Chase Manhattan alone, is being planned for after the Vietnam demonstration.

2. Summer projects.

The exact form of summer projects was not nailed down, but several suggestions were seriously put forward, including a project with a direct action campaign following up on the March 19th demonstrations, a research program aimed at uncovering further links between partners in Apartheid and conservative domestic interests, a national campaign against university participation in Project Camelot (the Defense Department's monster-scale research program to sophisticate its strategy for putting down insurgent movements), research and action programs taking off from the South Africa situation to expose our involvement in other Third World countries.

PREP aims to set up a correspondence group among local people who worked on the South Africa action (and any other interested parties) to further develop the summer program.

Finally, as the energies of the organization turn to the Vietnam demonstration, it becomes very important that the great energies and movement mobilized in response to international crisis be met with a program that offers promise of real movement around issues of foreign policy.

The PREP group felt very strongly that a petition campaign, lobbying, or any of the other kinds of action which the peace movement has employed in the recent past would neither excite the thousands of students who are participating in the national March, nor would they outlast the current crisis.

An ongoing program developing out of the South Africa action might be attractive to these students; the commitment has been made to push very hard to create a movement around the issues of American involvement, and it seems to offer the greatest promise of any recent proposal within PREP.

ERAP staff to make summer plans

by RENNIE DAVIS, Director, SDS Economic Research and Action Project

The full ERAP field staff, augmented with community people from all of the projects, will meet this week around questions deeply affecting ERAP and the summer organizing program: what problems can be expected as hundreds of new staff members are integrated into an on-going community operation? What kind of summer organizing force can be assimilated and supported? How will the activities differ from those of last summer? Where do we want the summer push to take us?

In many ways, the questions raised by the summer program penetrate the heart of ERAP problems. A year ago similar questions would have seemed less perplexing than now. When there was little knowledge of the problems in a selected poor neighborhood, the need for caution was not so felt. We could surround a 15 block slum area with a band of "outsiders" and begin almost immediately to tell people they should get together to change things. Today there is a deeper sense of the problems people in poverty must mount and a fuller appreciation of what it means to tell people to "get together."

A year of organizing has produced real political communities among poor Negroes and poor whites. Local organizations working for city change are increasingly motivated by the links they feel to other movements in Northern and Southern cities. New summer staff will go into areas where people have already gotten together—lots of them. And many of these people will know more about organizing, more about street talking, more about the neighborhood and the city and the politicians downtown who screw the poor than the students can hope to learn before they will depart for the fall semester.

Community organization raises many problems for ERAP. A central office in Ann Arbor, for example, which raises money and recruits staff for local movements cannot be set apart from those movements. Decisions about where to put money and staff deeply affect the people with whom the ERAP staff works. Ways must be found for these people to share in the decisions and eventually run their own movement. One possible outcome of the staff-community meeting this week may be to abolish the central office and replace it with regional, project-based coordinating offices out of which community people run the central operations, visit the foundations, speak on the campuses, and turn the mimeograph machines which carry information about their activities to a wide audience.

Perhaps no one is certain of how to apply this kind of thinking to the ERAP summer program. All of the problems latent in the community-summer staff relationships are unpredictable. Some obvious questions, however, suggest the range of problems.

How will hundreds of new staff people be allocated to meet the needs of local people? How will "special projects" be made democratic? For example, will the development of a new project such as a community newspaper be seen by a summer staff person as primarily a personal writing task or will it be seen as a way to encourage neighborhood contacts to write themselves—about their problems and what their organizations are fighting for? Will a summer theater project be made operative by volunteers who want to see results more than they want local people actually to develop some new tools for self-expression? Will decisions to open offices or expand organizing to new blocks or other areas of the ward or city be limited to the staffs? Or will summer people see that it may be more important to let poor people make these decisions than to move fast?

These questions should be viewed as the first part of a discussion that will take shape for new staff at the June orientation session and continue throughout the summer. The difficulty of answering the questions now will mean that the summer program itself will be shaped slowly. The June orientation sessions are likely to provide the first opportunity for people to talk specifically about individual jobs and responsibilities for the summer period. And even these decisions will be overturned as the new staff gets settled in a community and uncovers problems which were unexpected.

What, then, can be said about the ERAP staff needs at this time? Though specific assignments may not be made for some while, it is estimated that about 250 people can be placed through ERAP this summer. Areas include Roxbury (Mass), Newark, New Brunswick, Hudson County (NJ), parts of Southern New Jersey (with migrant and farm laborers), Chester, Baltimore, San Francisco, Hazard, Cleveland, Chicago, Cairo (Ill.) and parts of Southern Illinois (with migrant and farm laborers). Because of the number of applicants that ERAP anticipates, people are strongly urged to apply now. Summer project staffs will be selected on the basis of applications, personal interviews, and meetings with full-time staffs and active community people. Nearly all the projects will schedule one weekend conference in April or May for anyone interested in summer organizing. New Jersey, Baltimore, and possibly Chicago will hold meetings for prospective staff members at their Spring regional conferences.

Applications can be gotten from the SDS National Office or the ERAP office (1100 E Washington St, Ann Arbor, Michigan). Plans should be made now to join the staff. People are needed to find ways to put power in the hands of the poor. That will remain central to our summer work.

SDS experiments with regions

by HELEN GARVY

SDS is now evolving a system of regional organization that will probably be very important in the future of the organization. We will soon reach the point where regions will have to play a larger role within the national organization.

The system of regional organization began this fall with the selection of certain "regional organizers", people who would take responsibility for various facets of SDS activity in their areas. They were to be central contacts who could in turn reach the chapters and members in their area, they were to coordinate any SDS regional activity that might occur in their area and they were encouraged to plan such activity, and they were to promote the growth of SDS in their area.

At first the regions were units in name only, but soon some of them began to think of themselves as regions and plan regional activity.

The Boston area has developed a system to coordinate the activities of the 6 chapters and 2 projects existing in the immediate area. This system of coordination grew as SDS grew in Boston. Last year there was only an at-large chapter for the whole Boston area. Beginning last spring, chapters were organized on campuses of the major schools in the city. The Boston Area Coordinating Committee began because the combined talents and resources of all the chapters made it possible to do things that none of the chapters could have done alone. The BACC, while not precluding chapter programming in any way, has had the effect of encouraging a division of labor among the Boston schools and making more activity possible. In addition to working with the Boston Peace Research and Education Project and the community action centers, students are involved in action over US involvement in South Africa, the war in Vietnam, several university reform issues, and the Selma.

The situation in the "Minnesota-Dakotas" region (which also includes Nebraska and Iowa) is very different. When George Brosi began as regional organizer, there were no chapters at all in the region, and few SDS members. George's job was primarily to recruit members, tell people about the existence of SDS, and suggest programs for the schools at which he made contacts. There are now 3 chapters in the region, a regional newsletter that goes out periodically to contacts at most of the campuses in the five-state area, and activity at many of the campuses on Vietnam, US involvement in South Africa, university reform, and Selma.

The Texas region is similar to Minnesota-Dakotas, although it had the advantage of a large and active chapter located in the heart of Texas. The Austin chapter, and now Bob Pardun working full-time in

the Texas-Oklahoma region, began contacting other campuses in the state and began visiting them. Bob has taken several long trips to various parts of the state and there is now a new chapter at North Texas State and a series of chapters being formed. Plans for the region include a regional conference this spring and perhaps a march on the LBJ ranch in conjunction with the April 17 March on Washington.

With 52 chapters now, and probably 70-80 by the convention, SDS must now think about regional organization more seriously. We must think of what the role and function of the regions will be. Will the regions be just a central point in a communications network? How much responsibility will they have for SDS programs throughout the region, both on the chapter and the regional level? Will they formulate integrated regional programs and work to build the region? Will they take major responsibility and initiative or will they merely follow the lead of the national office?

Will there be regional offices with full-time staffs? If so, where will the offices be and who will staff them? Who will the staff be selected by and to whom will they be responsible?

There are also structural questions to consider in relation to the national organization. How do you get maximum participation and democracy with 52 or 80 or 100 chapters? How do you maintain close communication and dialogue among so many people? How do you build a movement out of the parts?

These are questions we cannot simply sit down at the convention and make a hasty decision about. We need to think about the problems created by growth—and more important, we must experiment with regions.

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Chapter Reports

VIETNAM, UNIVERSITY REFORM ARE MAJOR CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

U OF MISSOURI

Since its formation a few weeks ago the University of Missouri chapter of SDS has been very active on the issues of university reform (which we call the Student Rights Movement) and agitation for Peace in Vietnam.

About a week after this student rights movement began, Johnson bombed North Vietnam. The first student reaction came a few days later when a group of Steven's (girls) College students started a local Fast for Peace sparked by the student's Fast at George Washington University. Great enthusiasm was generated and on February 17 they held a spontaneous march down mainstreet, which got them a lot of publicity.

However since the Steven's protest group had to meet more or less covertly in their college chapel they were not well organized and were fuzzy on the issues at stake in Vietnam. SDS stepped in at this point and proposed a joint demonstration Sat. Feb. 20. We had the demonstration that Sat. morning.

Meanwhile a group of graduate students set up a Student Rights Movement Committee in which SDS has representation. The SRM Committee has issued a Manifesto of Principles demanding a wide range of student rights as well as the original issue of a liberal speakers policy.

Through this and other activity our new SDS chapter is lively and growing. — from Jim Hamilton

BROWN/PEMBROKE

We have been working very hard doing research on why the college bookstore is not a cooperative, with tentative plans to set up a second hand book exchange for the beginning of next term.

A Fair Housing Bill will be coming soon here so that some of us will be talking to ministers in the Negro community to see if we can find out their interest and commitment to it. Then, we have been talking about going into the Negro neighborhoods to leaflet and talk.

The U.S. raids on North Vietnam occurred shortly after we organized so we joined an SPU and CNVA demonstration in front of the Federal Building in downtown Providence to protest these raids, and to protest U.S. policy in general. Students from peace groups at Providence College and the Rhode Island School of Design joined with us. — from Amy Merrill and Carlyle Thayer

U OF WASHINGTON

Much activity has begun on the issue of university reform. Beginning around the issue of making membership in the student government voluntary because it no longer filled any needs of the students, SDS is now calling for the formation of a student political party to run reform candidates for the spring election.

Since the bombing of N Vietnam, there have been demonstrations downtown every Saturday, drawing over 100 people, which is very good for Seattle.
—from Joyce Bennett

BALTIMORE

Thanks in large part to President Johnson, Mr. McNamara, et al., Baltimore SDS activity reached new heights in February. The main thrust of this activity was related to Vietnam. Beginning with a series of educational meetings, and a mass distribution of literature on the campuses, the chapter mobilized a hunger strike for the week preceding the march in Washington on Feb. 20. About 20 Hopkins and Goucher students participated in two 3-day fasts, and Vietnam became the number one issue on campus. In spite of counter-insurgency tactics of some YAF people who blocked the campus exit on the morning of the march and a few who jumped on the hoods of some of those cars that broke the blockade, over 100 Goucher and Hopkins students participated in the Washington demonstration on Feb. 20.

As a follow-up to these activities, we held several educational of the general foreign policy implications of Vietnam and America's relation to the Third World, involving professors and students. The Vietnam committee has established a faculty committee of Hopkins and Goucher professors who support SDS's position on Vietnam and will work for the April 17 March. We are co-ordinating plans for Senator Morse's address the 16th of March. We will also be picketing McGeorge Bundy who will speak on April 5th.

Efforts are underway to establish a closer working relationship between the chapter and Baltimore U-JOIN. U-JOIN people and chapter members are working together for plans on an educational series on community organizing and our crisis economy. Increasingly more students are working part-time for the project in organizing, research, etc. One project that is arousing much interest in both the neighborhoods and on the campuses is the community theatre project involving neighborhood people and "progressive theatre people." — from Charles Capper

U OF MICHIGAN (VOICE)

On February 10, VOICE in cooperation with Ann Arbor Women for Peace, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Independent Socialist Club and YSA, sponsored a Demonstration on the Diag. Over 500 people showed up to protest the bombings of North Vietnam and U.S. involvement there. Boulding and Bergmann spoke, representing the faculty while Gitlin spoke for us students. The rally turned into a debate since several fascists showed up. We are planning a debate to follow the demonstration shortly.

Paul Goodman spoke on the 18th of February on SDS and the role of the University.

Lillian Craig, a member of CUFAP (Citizens United for Adequate Welfare) in Cleveland, came up for the Poverty program put on by the Michigan Union. The people who are trying to start on a community organizing project in Ypsilanti talked with her at length and were enthusiastic with the discussion and felt picked-up. They went into YPSI (before Lillian came up) and went knocking on doors to see what their response would be. They found that the people were mostly older and that they were very unhappy with the state of welfare and the society. Many of them even criticized the war in Vietnam saying that we had no right to be there, especially when so many people here needed help.

We are working on an ERAP-SDS week in March to raise money. We would like to set up a panel discussion with community people, a folk concert, and an art program. — from Dick Shortt

BERGEN COUNTY (N.J.)

On February 9 the election of three members to the Teaneck Board of Education was held. Three men ran opposing the newly instituted central sixth grade school that was established to desegregate Teaneck's elementary schools; and three ran favoring it. The former group, supported officially by the Lower Taxes League and the John Birch Society, emphasized the cost and inconvenience of bussing and accused the superintendent of schools, members of the Board of Education and the opposing candidates of dishonesty. Consequently, the election became very heated and significant to the degree that reports were made on the election on television, radio, and in New York papers.

Bergen SDS organized and accomplished the canvassing of one district of sixteen. We also provided babysitting services, etc. the day of the election. In total, about 40 of us worked in the election.

The integrationists won with a 7 to 5 majority in an election in which more votes were cast than in the recent presidential election. — from Dan Gladstone

(The Bergen County chapter is a high school chapter and is interested in hearing about the activities of other high school groups.)

VANDERBILT (Nashville, Tenn.)

Vanderbilt now has an SDS chapter. We are planning on getting out a newsletter, probably weekly or bi-monthly. There is a good chance that we will do something around the housing situation and/or the poverty program in the Nashville area. Some of the group wants to do some work for the MFDP (petitioning, etc.). — from Roy Money

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY (Uptown)

Activity in the second semester has fallen and will fall into three general categories: South Bronx, The Referendum, and education.

At present we have tutoring projects at about four different places in the city, particularly in the Bronx. We have had other programs in that neighborhood this year, mostly centered around leafletting and other traditional pressure group tactics to get more schools for the area.

The Referendum is a presentation to the campus on the student government ballot of a proposal that the student government be obligated to appropriate 50¢ per semester per student to NYU students involved in civil rights activity. Since the student government will have a major role in administering what is over \$2,000 if it goes through, we find it necessary to become a campus political party and will be running a slate of candidates both to support the referendum and see that it is administered best. We hope also that this issue, the only one of the campaign as yet, will present an excellent opportunity for reaching the campus and forcing candidates to take positions on off campus issues.

Our regular educational programs have grown this semester. We have a program of lectures on foreign affairs and have instituted a regular Friday lunchtime discussion group to which we invite guest speakers. We also have responded to special events with a packed meeting on Vietnam and a vigil the day after. We also had a delegation of five at various pickets concerning Vietnam. — from Ken Hirsh and John Roberts

U OF MINNESOTA

The first thing we did on Vietnam was hold a demonstration against the escalation and the war in general. Approximately 300 students showed up, about half for us and half against. In addition we brought thirty pickets from Carleton. The discussion was good and we held the crowd for a full hour in at least 10 below weather. We also held a fifty-hour vigil in front of the Federal building. We have published loads of material on Vietnam. Right now we have three people talking on Vietnam at any place in the state and we are thinking of forming some kind of state Committee for a Democratic Foreign Policy. And of course we send telegrams to Humphrey every time we get a new group's support. — from Phil Raup, Jr

ADELPHI (Garden City, N.Y.)

The Adelphi University chapter of SDS grew out of Adelphi's Free Student Movement, which was formed as a result of the firing of Dr. Allen Krebs, as associate professor of sociology, who is an avowed Marxist-Socialist. Several students felt that the University administration was totally unjustified in this action and launched together to form the FSM in order to protest Krebs' firing. In time we realized that the Krebs case was but a minute aspect of a larger problem and we began looking for a way to resolve as much of the problem as possible.

We discovered that the goals and purposes of SDS parallel ours, and in addition, SDS action projects were of a type on which we wanted to work. We thus decided that the most effective way in which we could work would be to become a part of SDS. Once the chapter was established, we continued work on the Krebs case, for example, we initiated a free lecture series guided by Dr. Krebs; we presented a petition from students, faculty and employees of the U of Calif-Berkeley campus which claimed that the firing of Krebs was an abridgement of academic freedom, to Dr. Brown, Pres. of Adelphi University, and we also began discussing the case with the faculty in order to gain their support. In addition, we began working with Hempstead CORE in their voter registration drive.

We will be working on the demonstration at the Chase Manhattan Bank as well as on the March on Washington on April 17, to end the war in Vietnam. — from Jule Colangelo

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY (Downtown)

Students for Democratic Reform, the SDS affiliate at NYU Washington Square, has initiated an "issues education" program for the NYU campus, which is traditionally a fraternity-oriented school. Our first program consisted of a forum on the "Economics of Equality." Tom Kahn was the speaker and we packed the room. — from Claudia Dreifus

STANFORD

Paul Booth has written in connection with the South Africa demonstrations and we are organizing this in conjunction with the people at Berkeley. We're also organizing a Vietnam demonstration in cooperation with SNCC, CORE and some church groups at Moffett Field, near Stanford (an Air Force base and germ warfare research center).

Our big project, however, has to do with the creation of a free university. We are beginning by considering ways of creating community projects which are combined with study. The creation of a department of Social Thought combined with possibilities for social action plus group living (community) experiments is in the building stage. — from Ira Arlook

U OF ILLINOIS

The primary activity for our chapter this semester will be a seminar on "Marxist Thought and the Free Society." There will be eight sessions, the first two on humanistic and philosophical Marxism, the third and fourth on capitalism and imperialism, the fifth and sixth on Veblen and Mills, and the last two on current conditions, analyses, and programs (from Johnson's War on Poverty to ERAP). The seminar will, for the most part, be student-led; participants will be given suggested reading lists ranging from 10pp. for the hurried to a couple of books per session for the eager.

Two other activities will complete the spring semester. The first is planning and research for a student employee's union organizing campaign next fall. The second is organizing ADC mothers in Champaign County. — from Norm Potter



On campus Simmons SDS, in conjunction with another campus organization, is sponsoring a film series on poverty. These films will be shown one evening a week and will be "climaxed" by one or more speakers.

On Vietnam we are starting student discussions and are planning for both faculty and outside speakers. One fairly successful way we have raised interest in Vietnam was by having Harvard SDS members attend our weekly teas and start discussions with any students who are at all curious. We have participated in several of the area marches.

We now have about 9 or so people working in the Dudley and Washington Street Action Centers.

We have also established (in conjunction with Boston-area SDS chapters) a PREP committee, trying to unite Peace and Poverty issues. Although this is one of our most theoretical areas, it has generated a proportionally high degree of interest. We are also working with the Boston committee for the Chase-Manhattan sit-in. At the present time we are planning to picket several of the larger involved local businesses. The project, like Vietnam, has brought several new people in to work for SDS. We hope to use some of these students to help with our work for MFDP. — from Jenny Green

WILLIAMS (Williamstown, Mass.)

At the present time there are over 50 members in the chapter, 40 of whom are members of national SDS. We have set up study-research groups in Economics, Education, Religion, International Affairs, Politics and Social Change, and Campus Reform. In addition to self-education, these groups will attempt to produce papers at the end of the semester which will be made available to the entire college community. To the extent possible, they will try to use local communities as areas for testing theories and discovering the possibility for community action. The chapter has tentatively decided to hold a demonstration at the General Electric plant in Pittsfield on March 19th to coincide with the nationwide demonstrations against US partnership in South African apartheid. Finally, we hope to encourage as many of our members as is possible to work in ERAP projects this summer. — from Steve Block

U OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

There is considerable protest here against the government's policy in Vietnam. For once, we did something ahead of the rest of the country. There was a demonstration at the downtown Federal Building on February 13. Between 300 and 400 people were present and marched 10 blocks through the downtown area. Representatives from several civil rights and peace groups were present. I spoke at the rally representing SDS, attempting to introduce the organization to the people who were unfamiliar with us and announcing the planned march for the 17th.

We are also involved in University reform activity. The policy has been to allow only two political organizations, Young Democrats and Young Republicans. A few of us have been yelling in the student newspaper about this for the last two years with little effect. It now looks as if we may be getting somewhere. — from Margaret Thorpe

CORNELL (Ithaca, N.Y.)

Although formal chapter organization at Cornell is greatly weakened, members are playing an important part in campus political activity. This is centered at the moment on Vietnam. Several large information and protest meetings, petitions, and a march of 75 to downtown Ithaca have been a part of this effort. Planning and publicity are already in progress in relation to the April 17 SDS March on Washington, and it appears that there will be a good number of people going including some professors. — from Lincoln Bergman

U OF CHICAGO

SDS activity, as usual around here, is terribly diffuse. The Tuesday night discussion group is still meeting. We have deviated from our original topic of the City to discuss just about everything, and it is this group that is handling U of C activity on Viet Nam. We also helped to organize the Chicago demonstration on Viet Nam and we are trying to get people to go on the Washington March. Public opinion, at least on this campus, is still much amazed at the whole prospect. People can't figure out why we're doing it.

The group, which is going to Fayette County, Tenn. over spring vacation is still moving dynamically forward. I haven't seen any project receive so much attention since I got here. I suspect this is because of both the a-political and dramatic nature of the project, as well as because it's over interim.

Besides these two things, activity, as I said, is diffuse. A small group of us (from SDS and SNCC) are working at the SNCC Freedom Center here doing community organizing and research, and a smaller group is working with JOIN. — from Sarah Murphy

U OF LOUISVILLE

Plans are underway now for an anti-war in Vietnam demonstration next week in front of the post office. We hope to arrange a jazz concert to raise money for transportation to the March on Washington April 17 and we are contacting people on other local campuses about the march.

Members of the U.L. chapter participated in a work project at Plymouth Settlement House. — from Bruce Westbrook

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

We are running a radical candidate for Student Body President on issues like student minimum wage, bill of rights, abolishment of approved housing, academic freedom, etc. We'll be harrassing hell out of the administration and the student politicians, and be beginning the groundwork for future student protests through the educational effect of the campaign.

Vietnam— We had a successful demonstration with something like 50 people taking part. We brought out many new people and this was the largest demonstration in Austin since a year ago. The response around the state is very good for a march on the LBJ ranch at Easter on the Vietnam issue. —from Jeff, Shero.

U OF MARYLAND

Activity on the Vietnam issue began with a demonstration in front of the White House in nearby Washington. Several days later 13 students began a "Fast for Peace" in conjunction with the students at George Washington University. A table was set up and literature was distributed by the fasting students. Although most of the reactions were definitely hostile several other students joined the fast. — from Tom Albrecht

VASSAR

Over one hundred (102) people marched in Poughkeepsie this Saturday to protest our (US) intervention in Vietnam. This included 6 Vassar students. The meeting Tuesday night however was attended by 350 students, professors, and local residents and others were turned away.

Some of us may be able to get into NYC for the March 19 South Africa Demonstration. — from Susan Finnel

WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE (Bowling Green, Ky.)

Attempts to organize a Student Government Association are meeting with much resistance due primarily to the opposition of the Inter-fraternity Council (which is afraid that the SGA would take away some of its power) and to fear of and harassment from the administration. — from Azle Beckner

South Africa

(cont from p 1)

tic City, and now the peace movement must realize that their programs will be largely ineffective, unless the rude realities of protest are brought into the very offices of those actually responsible. This is why the March 19 demonstration at the Chase Manhattan Bank is particularly significant. The terms of our action are not defined simplistically as the good and bad (i.e. traditional demonstrations at South African missions) but as the powerful and irresponsible. We are trying to expose the roles of those men so far removed from democratic control, that they can support apartheid and sponsor philanthropies simultaneously with equal peace of mind.

By the time this article is in print, hundreds of people in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Ann Arbor, Denver, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland; and New York will have demonstrated against the corporations and banks involved in South Africa. Thousands more will have learned that exploitation and oppression abroad are American problems, and that behind the pretenses of democracy's defense lie the corporate billions. In New York, we've tried to bring these facts to students as directly as possible through a series of meetings and conferences, culminating in a large rally on the Wednesday before the demonstration. A large group of students from

the Pan African Student Organization have donated their time to speak about the real meaning of apartheid, while SNCC, CORE, and other civil rights groups are emphasizing the relation between problems of foreign policy and those of the community. The National Student Christian Federation has been singularly radical among religious groups in its commitment to direct action and in their willingness to cooperate with us in expanding the apartheid project upon broader grounds. One of the most important results of the demonstration would be future participation of civil rights, peace, and foreign student organizations around issues of mutual relevance and concern. Because the institutions which silently condone discrimination in Mississippi also help maintain oppression in South Africa, I can with a little imagination see the day when students in Kenya, Mexico, or Japan will be demonstrating at nearby branches of American corporations, while students sit-in in the offices of these same companies in New York and Atlanta.

No less interesting will be the Bank's reaction on the 19th and their sensitivity to picketing and civil disobedience. The crystal ball foresees somewhere between 500-1,000 people picketing the Bank from 12:00 to 5:30. Over a hundred people, surreptitiously descending from their waiting places and sitting-in. Excited bank guards; nervous N.Y. police; frustrated bank officials; arrests and evictions; the inhabitants of Wall Street asking each other why we picked on such a reputable and respected member of the business community.

Besides playing Cassandra, however, I can think of several other answers which the demonstration may provide: (1) Can the concern of students and other people about moral issues like apartheid be transformed into anger and outrage at the undemocratic abuse of power by financial and corporate behemoths? (2) Will programs and actions of this kind provoke campus and community groups to really the structures and interconnections of leadership which make the most important decisions in our lives (and those of others)? (3) What will be the influence of our demonstrations upon the direction of other organizations' programs in the field of international affairs and foreign policy? (4) Can we effectively transmit the idea that Vietnam and South Africa to similar manifestations of similar American interests and policies? (5) Can we organize students around issues like this? And consequentially, can we build a viable peace program around such ambitious ideas?

Welcome to new chapters at Stanford, University of Missouri, University of Southern California, Vanderbilt University (Nashville, Tenn), Adelphi (New York), Wayne State University (Detroit), University of Virginia, University of Minnesota, Kenyon College (Ohio), North Texas State.

Cleveland Conference (cont from p 1)

being done, and what can be done concerning these problems, such as adequate welfare, enough jobs, better housing, better urban renewal programs, better schools, and better anti-poverty programs. Through unity and free discussion on these various problems we were able to project clearer viewpoints and possible solutions to some of our problems.

During our general assembly our speakers were Alonzo Brown from Chicago. His topic was general problems poor people face with the government or people who have power. We also had Jesse Allen of Newark. His topic was what the future can be if the poor people organize. Our Cleveland speaker was Lillian Craig who spoke about the need for interracial and interfaith organization of the poor. There were also various other speakers.

The total number of people at the conference was about 125, from the following cities: Boston; Newark and New Brunswick, N.J.; Baltimore; Chester and Pittsburgh, Pa.; Chicago; Detroit; Hazard, Ky.; San Francisco and Los Angeles, California; New York City; Cleveland; several Mississippi communities.

After our general assembly the entire group was sectioned into the following workshops: housing, education, urban renewal, employment, education, war-on-poverty. The most valuable result of these workshops was that people were able to freely discuss their problems. With all of our ideas projected, many of us were able to draw constructive plans and conclusions.

Another exciting part of our conference was the "poverty march." We marched from one of Cleveland's west side bridges into downtown Cleveland, singing songs and carrying signs asking an end to poverty.

Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer was our featured guest, a marvelous, dynamic woman from Ruleville, Mississippi. Of course when we hear the name Fannie Lou Hamer we think of civil rights and the problems Negroes face in the South. Being a woman of her kind (she's great), a victim of physical and mental abuse, naturally wherever Mrs. Hamer goes she will tell her story concerning the problems that some of the Negroes face. Naturally everyone is eager to hear her dramatic speeches, but at this conference we were delighted to know that four Mississippians found out that it was not entirely the Negroes who were outcasts from society, but the poor white people as well.

The purpose of this conference was not to bring the black and white together for a closer racial relationship, but to bring the poor people together (black or white) for a better society.

However, some of the people there got the idea that our Mississippi guests should be pitied, so they decided to take it upon themselves to start a collection of money for them which amounted to \$71. Unita Blackwell, a very courageous Mississippian, along with me, some SDS staff members, and some other community people, did not cater to this

idea. I hope that these sympathizers will some day learn that giving money isn't always the answer. It is usually a cover-up for guilt. I think that the best way to help those people and ourselves is through the power of unity.

Perhaps some people misinterpreted this conference by its interracial mixture and freedom songs as a civil rights group, and our march as a civil rights demonstration. Our freedom songs meant freedom from poverty. It is poverty that segregates the poor people from the rich. Poverty does not choose its colors....No, this was not a civil rights group or demonstration, it was something stronger and better... it was the poor people's conference.

Newark Harassment

Ida Brown, Newark rent strike leader, was sentenced to 30 days in jail on a charge of assault and battery on her landlord. The sentence was then suspended and Mrs Brown was placed on probation for one year. The judge told her that she was being used as a tool by others to further their ends. Mrs Brown still faces charges of assault and battery resulting from knocking a policeman down a flight of stairs along with herself when she was shoved by a second policeman.

Several days later Clyde Wright was sentenced to 60 days in jail, given a suspended sentence, one year on probation, and a \$52 fine on a framed-up charge of shoplifting. The judge told Clyde that he was sure that Clyde "had been directed by other individuals to do this thing" and that "this is the best country in the world and if these other individuals don't like it, they can go to another country." The court took no action on Clyde's charges that he was beaten up by Klein's while he was being "questioned".

Tom Hayden will appear in court this week to answer charges of assaulting slumlord Mamie Hayes. The charge of threatening to kill has been dropped.

The Newark Community Union Project (NCUP), a grass-roots union of tenants and homeowners in Newark, has been plagued with harassment since its beginning last summer. In addition to arrests there have been other forms of harassment. Fake newsletters, claiming to be the regular NCUP newsletters but containing stories such as "Clyde Wright admits guilt", were sent out to the whole NCUP mailing list. The following day three railroad spikes were thrown through the large windows of the NCUP office.

In memoriam

Jimmie Lee Jackson

Rev. James Reeb

Vietnam (cont from p 1)

That is why students from the Freedom Schools in Mississippi are joining Students for a Democratic Society, and all those who agree that the war in Vietnam injures, perhaps irreparably, both Vietnamese and Americans, and must be halted.

There can be no movements to abolish poverty, to democratize universities, or to gain civil rights, if there is a large war in East Asia. On the contrary, the rhetoric of national unity will justify efforts to "cool off" all movement for domestic change, and the cry of appeasement will be used to throttle opposition.

We must take our stand. We must, while the opportunity is still open to us, take that stand in the most powerful way. Thousands of us must find our way to Washington to call for an end to that war in Vietnam.

Since February 9th, there has been an unprecedented upsurge in protest activity. The spontaneous response to the crisis has created new movement everywhere. We know that there were demonstrations in fifty localities, and we guess that in many others there were demonstrations that went unreported. The March on Washington is for the first time breaking down the isolation of these local movements, and with the reinforcing knowledge that students throughout the country are acting with a new vigor, these fifty local movements and the new ones springing up daily can be expected to make the April 17th demonstration the largest peace demonstration of the decade.

The student activity has intimidated faculty into open protest. Strongly worded ads have begun to appear in the New York Times and elsewhere with the names of hundreds of faculty members. The adult peace movement, almost invisible since the test ban debate, has begun to appear out of the woodwork, and is strongly supporting our April 17th March. And, most encouraging, there is a new internationalism appearing among the domestic movements for change. This spirit brings Cleveland welfare mothers to the leadership of that local movement against the war in Vietnam, it comes out in speeches by San Francisco CORE leaders and the commitment of SNCC and the indigeneous Mississippi civil rights activists to fight the drift toward war. It comes out in the support for SDS's South Africa action from civil rights groups; and it comes out in the recognition of university reform movements that the war in Vietnam can cancel all their recent gains.

The mounting tide of protest will make its most important and emphatic statement in the March on Washington.

It is somewhat mystifying that the adventurist strategy of Johnson, Bundy, and McNamara seems to be that for each new piece of evidence that our position in South Vietnam is untenable, we must convince the world that we will spare no effort to bring down the whole house in our frustration. It is a disastrous policy, saving face at the cost of innocent lives.

There is now a widespread admission that the recent bombings north of the 17th parallel had no military effect. But in the incredible logic which governs our actions in South East Asia, the implication that will be drawn from this discovery seems to be more bombings, and more bombings. This is the consequence of building a policy around a deliberate distortion of facts.

To explain our obvious loss of ground in Vietnam, the State and Defense Departments have been talking about North Vietnamese intruders for several years now. The first version of this myth was exploded when McNamara himself testified that captured Viet Cong weapons contained none from China, and only very antique Russian weapons. But, as the war deteriorated, and the Viet Cong have extended their hegemony to probably more than half the territory, the response has been to seek the scapegoat of blaming all on northern instigation. Is Johnson uncomfortable for having ordered the bombing of innocent and hapless villages to avoid telling America the truth?

The deliberate distortion of facts has now taken control of the war away from generals and strategists. It has developed a whole school of interpretation of political insurgency; the new theorists of guerrilla and counter-guerrilla war claim adamantly that no guerrilla movement, no matter how popular, can win without outside support or a sanctuary beyond some border. This is articulated in hundreds of volumes (and more to be turned out in the Defense Department's massive now Project Craelot which is pouring hundreds of millions into social science departments around the country). Over the coming years social science professors will be busy adding tactical sophistication to American police-force efforts in the underdeveloped world, while the thirs of their students for learning remains unquenched. It's not just that the U.S. is trying to save face. We are embarking on an effort to thwart revolutionary movements throughout the Third World, and resources in all sectors of America will be conscripted into the Great Effort.

The Johnson Administration's war in Vietnam is no laughing matter, but it remains true that its policy is ridiculous as well as outrageous. Not content with the usual "puppet" regime, the author of this tragic farce has given the puppets a life of their own, and enough string to hang each other every week.

During the earlier stages of the Cold War, the peace movement was always criticized for its inability to offer adequate schemes for carrying out arms control. This criticism is not present today—the war forces would be snowed under if it was the number of schemes that counted. We have proposals for withdrawal, for negotiation with Viet Cong or with Hanoi, or for reconvening the 14-nation Geneva conference, or for reunification through UN-sponsored elections, or through regional cooperation on the Mekong River Delta development project. The schemes are there, and LBJ could take his pick, if only he would.

But he won't, until we mount an overwhelming protest. We are called on now to mount a protest that will give him pause, and that will demonstrate

Vietnam (cont from p 11)

around the world that America has much more than pockets of dissent to its national policy.

We must mount such a protest, and do more. We must go back to our communities and build a stronger left, a left that will confront the problems most immediately felt and the question of war and peace.

America is in ferment, a ferment that a major war scare has not been able even to slow. We in SDS who see in this ferment the germination of a world free from war, a world in which democracy at last prevails, are called upon to carry to the door of the President the message that we angrily oppose his dirty war, and will not allow it to turn us 'round. Everyone I talk to is astounded and invigorated by the new evidence every day of movement on the campus and in the community. Let us meet in Washington to show each other and the world how serious we are.

MARCH ON WASHINGTON

TO END THE WAR IN VIETNAM

APRIL 17, 1965

STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

IN THE UNIVERSITY: SDS seeks to inject a new controversy into our stagnant educational system. Through a series of publications on university reform, SDS has long questioned the trend away from the community of scholars toward the "multiversity". SDS pioneered in the introduction of peace courses into college curricula; participated in the Berkeley Free Speech Movement and organized national support for the FSM; worked for the unionization of university employees; and constantly urges students to re-evaluate the purposes of education and the relevance of contemporary education to contemporary problems.

IN THE COMMUNITY: Believing as we do that social change can be brought to America only through the education and organization of people at the grass roots level, SDS directs much of its program to the organization of the poor and the dispossessed in American society. Through its Economic Research and Action Project (ERAP), SDS involves hundreds of students and other young people as organizers in radical community organization projects. Working principally in Northern areas, ERAP projects attempt to forge the inter-racial movements necessary to demand adequate housing, full-employment, human and humane welfare programs, and democratic government. While working from a basic core of full-time organizers, SDS summer projects afford the opportunity for hundreds of students to participate as front-line soldiers in a real war on poverty. SDS projects are currently located in seven cities, with associated projects in five more cities. The current projects entail a full-time staff of over 50.

IN THE SOCIETY AT LARGE: The SDS concern for peace is manifested through SDS's Peace Research and Education Project (PREP). PREP attempts to bring to the student and the public in general a concrete understanding of the obstacles to peace and disarmament, and attempts to point the way around these obstacles. Through PREP, SDS established the first periodical devoted to the problems of reconverting the defense economy to peace-time uses; carried out pilot attempts to organize defense workers for reconversion; pointed to the role that vested American financial interests play in the formation of foreign policy; researched the role of current American operations in the underdeveloped world; and sponsored dramatic national protests against America's prosecution of the war in Vietnam.

SDS's concern for civil rights is carried out as an integral part of its total program to build a new and decent society. SDS members across the country are involved in the struggle for civil rights through direct action, publication, and support of SDS's fraternal organizations, SNCC, the Northern Student Movement, and the Southern Student Organizing Committee.

SDS's concern for progressive legislation, electoral politics, and insurgent political organization is expressed through SDS's associated organization, the Political Education Project (PEP). PEP produces analytical and case study papers on voting trends, current legislative proposals, and insurgent or coalition political developments such as the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, the Texas Coalition, and the Noel Day campaign in Boston.