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JUL 28 1964

JULY 22

STUDENTS FOR A
DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

BEDFORD

The Bedford scene continues to progress remarkably. Chairman of Selectmen Stevens will not endorse us until he is sure that we would not require of the Bedford committee on conversion a plank on the socialization of industry. We intend to assure that we are willing to cooperate in a united front with organizations less progressive than ERAP. Reverend Whitaker is now completely with us -- he has the go-ahead from the Episcopal Diocese. The nominating secretary of the Bedford Fellowship for Social Action (membership of 1600) is waiting for our statement on socialization. He is prepared to nominate Rev. Whitaker to take the presidency of the organization and to make conversion its primary interest in the fall. We will insist on a full employment plank.

It is clear that we have had significant enough impact on the community to ensure that a community organization take up the conversion issue, either through an ad hoc committee or through existing social action groups. It is also clear, however, that our presence is absolutely essential if we are to avoid having a completely business-oriented program.

We are walking a tight rope. It is clear that we must bend toward "corporate liberalism" in order to win the community. At the same time, we will have lost our function if we do not constantly pull to the left. A tense but hopeful picture.

LEXINGTON

There has been much pressure from Bedford contacts to move into Lexington. In order to deal effectively with the problem of Hanscom Air Force Base, we must apply pressure or work through the community council which deals with the base. Representatives from Bedford, Lexington, Concord and Lincoln serve on the council. It is clear that Bedford is not the leader community in the council, while Lexington probably is. We have a list of approximately 150 contacts in Lexington, and Bob Magill, and Bob Scalettar have completed the research on the town prerequisite to community organization. They and Mike Gallantz will begin contact work this week.

Lexington is a noted liberal community. The chances of further left organization than in Bedford are much greater. Lexington is a large university community, and organization in the town will provide us with an effective tool for further work in Bedford. We will then be able to introduce ideas through community people.

SURVEY

Pilot interviews of the survey on political attitudes and attitudes toward conversion have now been completed. (In the pilot work, we have finally found a bona-fide right-winger.) Judy Thibeau and Bob Magill have developed the survey, with Nat Riley consulting. We will use 50 family random sampling in Bedford. Interviews are scheduled for Thursday night and Saturday all day. Further into the summer, a similar survey is planned for Lexington.

ERAP-64-6

The first issue of Conversion Report will come out next week, and is aimed at Bedford and Lexington contacts. It will include interviews with Congressional candidates in the Fifth District and their comments on conversion, interviews by Gallantz with Bloch (PAX endorsed in the Democratic primary), Benson (Democratic organization candidate), and a written report from Morse (Republican incumbent). Morse telephoned his interview to his office in Washington from the San Francisco convention! In addition, Morse, in congressional testimony, advocated community organization to deal with the problems of conversion. He is a noted copycat, for he had received a letter from us some weeks ago. Co-opted!

We will not know until this evening who got enough signatures to run in the Democratic primary. There is a high likelihood that Bloch was the only one, and if so, this is very good. Benson is an absolute schmuck. Bloch was interviewed and his candidacy keeps the SDS position right on the line all the time.

Other articles in the newsletter are: Paul Booth -- Politics of Cutbacks; Herb Gintis -- a review article on the economics of conversion; an interview with Don Liss -- his frustrations as a migrant engineer; an introduction to Boston FREP; and Sam Friedman -- conversion in another city.

The people in Bedford are starving for something to read on the conversion problem, so the newsletter will be a major product of the summer's work.

MISCELLANEOUS

Lamphier, the Governor's advisor, urged us, off the record, to go into Waltham where Raytheon has laid off 1500 IUE members. We should tell Bob Ross to gird himself for blue-collar organizing in the fall. And the Brandeis chapter should handle that. It is extremely important to set up a Waltham JOIN, for it will make all the difference in the world if we can bring a JOIN group into contact with Bedford and Lexington committees.

Needed: for the fall, a full time organizer in Electronics Land. It is too damn dangerous for us to pull out of the suburbs unless we can have a full-time guy there who will coordinate chapter activity and keep the white-collar groups clean. They will organize -- the question is whether we will be there when the Republicans really move in on the organization. There is a lot of work to do out there...

Cleveland Report July 23 before this

LOUISVILLE 1538 S. 9TH ALLEY

JULY 22

At a guidance meeting last night Jess and I were able to map out more work to do with the committee's approval. We are really busy. We hope to even have a West End Artsy-craft fair by September -- you know, an example of integrated community life. Dr. George Kimbrough, who is on that committee, is gung-ho and thinks we can make it succeed.

The project researchers are probing into real estate tactics in rapidly changing neighborhoods and will probably, if they come up with something juicy, release it to the WECC. Meanwhile, three of the guidance committee members and Jess and I will visit Dorcas Ruthenburg this week to talk about open occupancy and get into specifics since she is a real estate agent directly concerned with helping us along.

I have a dinner meeting with Mrs. Love tonight (she is the wife of Rev. Love who is co-chairman of WECC) to talk about people in her changing neighborhood who would be responsive to a block club of some kind, around issues concerning the area such as real estate activity, recreation, etc. We already have a list of many in the area who indicated interest when surveyors interviewed them in the June and July surveys. They are both white and Negro; some of them ministers.

No telling if it is going to prove fertile ground or not but it will be our first attempt. These things take such time since it's a real selling proposition without of course having the appearance of being overly anxious to sell the idea at first. The council has a couple of affiliated clubs, including the River-view Neighborhood Club where one co-chairman and one vice co-chairman both live. It's several blocks from Virginia Avenue. Negro families predominate there, but many whites have joined and are determined to stay. They are middle-class, well-to-do, for the most part, although some are lower-middle-class.

Meanwhile we are beginning to get some support, though meager. There are promises of funds, here and there. We picketed in an integrated line Monday night with members of the local 496 Clothing Workers who are protesting the discrimination in hiring, unfair practices in general, and the lack of union shops in 5 southern (Tennessee) H.I.S. clothing factories. They are good people and want to help us as we have helped them. We intend to continue picketing. (You should have seen Williams and Freeland out there with burlap bags on and signs saying I'd rather wear burlap than H.I.S.!) The ladies who work in the local shirt factory and the local president are going to prove helpful support. Already the Labor Council has taken careful note of us and is quite approving. At last students in Louisville have shown that not all students are bastard strike-breakers.

What do you people think of the day nursery idea as a possibility for us to set up one for them to use as a bargaining demand? They sure need one.