

NSA Congress Discusses Its Role

Editor's Note: This is the last in a series of four articles on the 19th national congress of the National Student Association held on the Campus of the University of Illinois this summer. This is an analysis of the congress.

By PHIL SEMAS
Emerald Editor

The major issue of the National Student Association's 19th annual national congress wasn't Viet Nam, the draft, civil rights, or educational reform.

It was the congress itself. When it was first started the NSA congress was intended to be primarily a legislative meeting where student government leaders from all over the United States would gather to take stands on the major issues of the day and, almost incidentally, to dis-

cuss common problems.

This was what the delegates came for.

Valuable Resource

But NSA's value as a resource has become a major selling point on many campuses including the University, and many delegates who go back to the congress are now much more interested in NSA—the information source—than NSA—the voice of U.S. student opinion.

Thus there was a great deal of dissatisfaction at the most recent congress where half the time was taken up with legislative committees and plenaries.

Many delegates said they wanted more time spent discussing common issues and problems and less on legislation or "political games" as they called it.

Delegates Dislike Politics

The ASUO delegation was almost unanimous in disliking the political aspects of the congress and left before the plenaries legislative committees started. Many other delegations did the same thing.

There was apparent dissatisfaction from the outset of the congress.

In the first couple of days there was a procedural fight over the credential of Gene Groves, a candidate for NSA president (he was later elected), and the congress' Conservation Caucus changed its name to the "Moderate caucus."

Delegates Interviewed

And Andrew Cagen of New York University's Washington

Square Journal went around and interviewed a number of delegates and then wrote in the Congress News, the daily newspaper published during the congress:

"NSA is in a bind."

"While interest on the national executive level centers around national issues, most delegates are concerned with improving their own student organizations. At the same time, a small but active minority believes that NSA should take more militant stands on the draft and civil rights."

NSA Faces Loss

"NSA is thus faced with the prospect of losing its most aggressive members unless it increases national activity. But it also risks losing large conservative blocks if strong stands are taken."

During the remainder of the congress there were a number of demonstrations that students were dissatisfied with the political activity of the congress.

A group formed the "little people's caucus" which held a number of sessions where delegates aired complaints about the congress.

And finally the discontent reached right into the center of congress' political activity, the Liberal Caucus.

Caucus Informal

The Liberal Caucus was an informal group that was sometimes as large as 300 or as small as 50. It met every night at midnight during the early days of the congress and its purpose was to see that congress passed liberal legislation.

The year before it had won liberal positions on Viet Nam, Berkeley, and civil rights.

It started out the same way at the 19th congress. But it ran aground on the fact that some of its members were more liberal than its leaders and that many of those radicals disliked the parliamentary machinery they

had to go through to get their ideas across.

The radicals were led by David Harris, Stanford's tall, blond-haired, bearded student body president. Harris and his radicals finally got fed up with the politics of the caucus and walked out of it.

But there were also signs that the congress might change.

Near the end of the congress a group of NSA leaders, led by Groves and Liberal Caucus leader Ed Schwartz, who are now president and national affairs vice president respectively, formed the Ad Hoc Committee for New Directions (ACND).

Group Tries

The group held a meeting in which they tried to develop ways of making the legislation on major issues—Viet Nam, the draft, educational reform, and student power—more meaningful to cam-

pus programs, mainly through coordination of demonstrations and similar efforts on various campuses.

That Schwartz and Groves, who will set the format for the 20th congress, were interested in that sort of effort seemed to anger well for the congress.

Most encouraging perhaps was a talk the ASUO delegation had with outgoing NSA President Phil Sherburne, 1967-68 ASUO president.

Sherburne said he had had to fight hard to get as many seminars and workshops on the program as he did. He told the ASUO delegates that this was the first congress where he had most delegates preferring workshops and seminars to politics and legislation.

And he added that he expected the congress to go further down that road.

Today's Events

8:00—Rosen Galleries Exhibition, Wesley Foundation
10:00—Print Sale—SU Arts Comm., Taylor Lounge
11:45—Faculty Interdisciplinary Seminar, Fac. Club
Noon—Spanish Language Table, 18U
Beta Alpha Psi, 108SU
Baha'i Fellowship Meeting, 108SU
Bureau of Mun. Res., 110SU
Hebrew Class, 318SU
4:00—Peace Corps Committee, 108SU
SU Games Committee, 308SU
SU Executive Coun., 308SU
5:00—Bally Board, 318SU
Women's PE Staff, 112SU
6:00—Homecoming Queen Interviews, 108SU
7:00—Los Amigos, Organizational Meeting, 101SU
Orides Meeting, Orides Lounge
Orides Fledgling, Alumni Hall
Folk Dancing, Gerl. Annex
Theta Sigma Phi, 207 Allen
Alpha Kappa Psi, 238 Comm.
7:30—Marxist Seminar Organizational Meeting, 113SU
Latin American Students, 112SU
8:00—Upward Bound Group #1, 158U
Louis Halle Assembly, Ballroom
9:00—Friars, 101SU

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Draft Boards Require Forms

Selective Service rules require that forms verifying full term enrollment must be at the local draft boards within 30-45 days after the beginning of classes, according to Margaret Blago, University associate registrar. Those students who wish verification of enrollment sent to their draft boards should fill out forms 100 or 100A in the registrar's office immediately, so that the information may be sent.

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Campus Briefs

Announcements for Campus Briefs must be turned in by 5 p.m. the day before publication. Because of space limitations no announcements will be run more than twice.

Theta Sigma Phi will hold a brief meeting at 7 p.m. today in 307 Allen.

The Recorded Classics Room, 202 SU, will hold regular listening hours beginning today.

Baha'i Campus Fellowship members will meet in the SU at noon today.

The petition deadline for chairmanship of the SU Movie and Personnel Committees has been extended until 5 p.m. Tuesday. Those petitioning will be contacted about times for interviews to be held Wednesday.

Phi Kappa will meet at 9 p.m. today in the SU.

Business and economics majors plan to attend the Alpha Kappa Psi information meeting at 7:30 p.m. today in 238 Comm. Alpha Kappa Psi is the professional fraternity in business and economics.

Open tryouts for the University Theatre's production of "In White America" and "Spoon River Anthology" will be held at 7:30 p.m. today in Villard Hall, room 104. No drama prerequisites required.

Students are needed as recording secretaries, typists and office staff workers during the Association of College Unions Conference to be held October 20, 21 and 22. Interested students should call Judy Hyton or Carol Cogswell at ext. 1751 or 1752.

The IEC Peace Corps Committee will meet to discuss its work this year at 4 p.m. today in the SU. Room to be posted.

Model UN will meet at 7 p.m. today in 237 Comm.

Interesting, maturing, broadening, and rewarding community development opportunities available through Los Amigos. Spend next summer in Southern Mexico. Attend Los Amigos orientation meeting today at 7:30 p.m. in SU.

The Cosmo Club will sponsor an informal get together for foreign students and any other interested students at 8 p.m. today at the Wesley Foundation. Several foreign students will perform for the group and refreshments will follow the meeting.

Kuno Eppe will lecture in German on the contemporary German theater at 4 p.m. Tuesday in 106 Lawrence. Eppe, the dramatic producer for the Bavarian State Theater, is a member of Die Brucke (The Bridge), the group which is performing "Nathan the Wise" at the University Theater.

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Watch for the result of the draw in the Homecoming edition of the Emerald.

Please pick up last year's Oregana now.