

Radical group factionalism noticeable at leftist meeting

By RICK FITCH
College Press Service

TORONTO — The factionalism among U.S. White radicals that divided the SDS national convention last June and caused bitter verbal infighting during demonstrations in Chicago Oct. 8-11 was much in evidence at the recent "Year of the Barricade" conference attended by some 500 leftist students here.

Foreign delegates

Conference delegates from Canada, Great Britain, France, Italy and Germany had an opportunity to learn first-hand why the American radical protest movement had fragmented into a bevy of splinter-groups (SDS Weathermen, Revolutionary Youth Movement II, Progressive Labor Party, etc.), each claiming to have a corner on the revolutionary market.

Most vocal of the U.S. provocateurs was Mike Klonsky, leader of the Revolutionary Youth Movement (RYM) II. A former national secretary of SDS who speaks in a clipped, staccato style, Klonsky attacked the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) as revisionist, counter-revolutionary, nationalistic and racist.

PLP was the protagonist in conflicts that beset the last convention of the "old" SDS. Comprising a majority of the delegates, PLP members pushed through resolutions supporting the concept that the class struggle of the proletariat must be the foremost concern of young revolutionaries,

with all else, including Black, women's and Third World liberation, relegated to a second role.

This caused a walkout by regular SDS members, who, possessing less faith in the ability of workers to wage a class struggle, believed that the "secondary" issues named above should receive primary emphasis.

According to Klonsky, the most difficult obstacle to surmount in a revolutionary movement is "chauvinism"—blind devotion to a particular purpose—and PLP is guilty of chauvinism "in the worst way" because it condemns Black power and does not accord enough importance to struggles by undeveloped countries to defeat U.S. imperialism.

Weathermen attacked

"In one publication," Klonsky said, "They took a photograph of pickets carrying a sign saying 'Black Workers Power' and substituted 'Organize' for 'power.'"

The Weathermen drew Klonsky's criticism, because, he said, they have ignored the workers altogether. Originally, the Weathermen and RYM II were one in the same. But after the convention, Mark Rudd, former Columbia University SDS leader, formed the Weathermen faction, splitting from Klonsky's group, which Rudd contended put too much stress on radicalizing the workers.

Rudd aimed to pattern the Weathermen somewhat after the Black Panthers, as a vanguard of Whites who would confront the

police regularly. The actions of the Weathermen in Chicago Oct. 8-11 polarized Rudd's and Klonsky's groups into opposing camps. While the Weathermen were engaged in militant, guerrilla-like strikes against the Chicago downtown area and police, RYM II held peaceful counter-rallies.

Troops called

National Guard troops were called out because of the Weathermen, and police cracked down severely, arresting over 200 of the 350 members of the faction who showed up. This proves that the Weathermen are masochists who engage in "Custeristic" actions, according to Klonsky.

He said that although the common view of workers has them "watching a football game guzzling beer," they can be made to recognize they are "wage slaves exploited in a hundred ways."

He called the Weathermen "an extreme faction of PLP" (drawing boos from the audience), and said their attitude about the proletariat, i.e., that workers have been bought off by the capitalist system, is too negative and defeatist. "Capitalism isn't in the best interest of workers," he said.

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Seale may defend self at conspiracy retrial

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Black Panther leader Bobby Seale says he might act as his own attorney again at his retrial on conspiracy charges in Chicago even though his lawyer is now well and able to defend him.

"There is a point to be made," Seale told newsmen at San Francisco's Hall of Justice. I might try to defend myself to make an example of what a Black man is up against with the power structure."

Seale was flown from Chicago Monday by commercial airliner under guard of three Black federal marshals to await extradition on a Connecticut murder conspiracy indictment.

He was sentenced last week to four years in prison for contempt of court by U.S. Dist. Court Judge Julius Hoffman who had earlier ordered him bound and gagged for his outbursts while trying to act as his own attorney in the conspiracy trial of Seale and seven others. The judge declared a mistrial for Seale and set retrial for April 23. Trial of the other seven charged with conspiring to incite riots during the 1968 Democratic National Convention continues.

Charles Garry, the White attorney who could not defend Seale because of an operation, met him at the jail with a warm embrace and a Black Panther handshake and said:

"Whatever he wants to do, I will assist him. All a lawyer does is assist anyway."

Neatly dressed in cuffless black slacks and a casual blue sweater, Seale was soft-spoken and assured in a news conference in a jail cell.

"They slickly sent me back with three Black marshals," Seale said. "They didn't bother me, other than to maintain an unjust incarceration." He said he was handcuffed and chained during auto trips at both ends of the flight, but was not shackled in any way aboard the plane.

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