

Sociologist sees possible U.S. socialism

The American political left, says UCLA professor of sociology Maurice Zeitlin, "has to learn how to bring the U.S. to a just and decent rather than an exploitative society."

Zeitlin spoke Friday on "Allende's Chile: What We Can Learn" before a large and interested crowd at the University. The talk was sponsored by the New American Movement.

Zeitlin used two examples of socialist countries, Allende's Chile and Cuba, to point out the possibilities — and dangers — of socialism in America.

"What the Chileans attempted to do will be a contribution to socialism," said Zeitlin. He cited the Chilean effort to usher in a socialist government by legal elections as "the most extraordinary achievement in socialism in the Western hemisphere."

Zeitlin visited Chile during the Allende administration, and also visited Cuba — a visit made possible by a letter of recommendation from Che Guevarra.

Zeitlin used Cuba as an example of a violent revolution which was successful, and Chile as an example of a peaceful revolution which failed. One major difference

between the two, said Zeitlin, was that the Cuban people had experienced "mass insurrection" and occupation, and were therefore better prepared to fight for a socialist society. He said it was as "natural for them to think of violence as it was for the Chileans to think of parliamentary procedure."

By TOM JACKSON
Of the Emerald

Zeitlin said Cuba, unlike Chile, did not have a clear dominant class. "The Cuban ruling class

went to Miami," he said, "and it wasn't necessary to confront the ruling class." He said Chile had a "dominant class with proud roots," that had "nowhere to go."

"History," said Zeitlin, "had taught the Chileans it was possible to make a revolution through the ballot box."

Zeitlin said the Chilean left "never understood the reality of their own society; they had to deal with a tough ruling class." The left leaders, said Zeitlin, came to power "legally, gradually, con-

stitutionally — and they were shot."

Zeitlin said this problem of converting "theory into strategy" may be a problem in America if a socialist government assumed command either through the elective process or by violent revolution.

"It's easy enough to talk about the necessity of smashing a government, but how do you go about it? That seems precisely the issue to me," he said.

Zeitlin also said if this country elected a socialist president and a socialist congress, there would be a strong possibility of military and CIA attempts to destroy it.

"I've seen my FBI files," said Zeitlin, "and they're scary." He said he had "no doubt" the CIA would try to prevent a socialist government. "These people are prepared to do away with us physically if we threaten the dominant interests in this country."

"We don't know what we are really up against," said Zeitlin. "We are not prepared for that." Zeitlin added, however, that he hasn't the "slightest idea of how to prepare for that eventuality."

"When the crunch comes we will have to face the possibility that values will not have changed enough in those who are being threatened."

In an earlier meeting sponsored by several University departments, Zeitlin discussed large corporations and class and managerial views of corporations.

Zeitlin said "it is one of the peculiarities of economists to ignore the large corporation as if it didn't exist." He said classes in America are considered something "which may have existed once in the U.S., but not today."

Zeitlin said the managerial view of the corporation is that the corporation is no longer interested in profits because in today's society no central figures are in obvious control. This view, he said, also says no exploitation exists since "technocrats" are not interested in profits.



Photo by Ken Shin

Sociologist Maurice Zeitlin cites Chile's effort to introduce socialist government by legal elections during his talk Friday at the University.

"I think that's absurd," said Zeitlin.

Zeitlin said managers "usurped control from the owners because of their technical knowledge. He said managers are "answerable to no one but themselves."

"The corporation," he said, "is an oligarchy, perpetuating itself." Zeitlin said he is now working on a theory asking this question: is there or is there not an exploitative

nature inherent in this system?

Zeitlin said evidence indicates there is. He pointed to the fact that "the 300 largest corporations control political economy, and also consist of a minuscule segment of the population."

"Exploitation occurs in ways which are not visible," said Zeitlin, adding that since corporations are larger, "it is more difficult to find out who controls them. But that doesn't mean they are not there."

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Gateway to a Great Way of Life

For bicycles, pedestrians

Public approves bridge plan

By JOCK HATFIELD
Of the Emerald

The proposed Valley River Bicycle-Pedestrian bridge crossed over troubled waters Thursday at a Bicycle Committee meeting when public visitors rejected three proposals before voicing approval of a girder bridge design.

This design calls for a bridge similar to the one located near Autzen Stadium. The planned bridge would be 538 feet long, 12 feet wide and supported by four concrete piers. Total cost would be \$357,000, said bridge designer Lou Pierce.

The bridge location would be one-half mile downstream from the Washington-Jefferson street bridge, and would connect the Valley River Shopping Center with the Polk Street area. "We have checked out this location and are reasonably certain we will be able to sink pillars," said Pierce. He added that the bridge has been approved by the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Other bridge designs presented at the meeting included two suspension bridges: one held up by a center pole with numerous wires radiating out for a cost of \$488,000, and a second, similar in appearance to the Golden Gate for a cost of \$740,000.

"The problem with the suspension bridges," said Pierce, "is that any vandal could come out with a hacksaw, cut the cables, and send them down the river." It was also pointed out that cost for both bridges is well beyond the project's \$363,000 budget.

A fourth proposal for an addition to the Washington-Jefferson Bridge also met with disapproval. The plan suggests a bike path be built on the

underside of the bridge, using existing pillars, at a cost of \$290,000. This project, because of its undesirable connections to other bicycle paths and destinations, would receive no federal funds. The bridge's appearance also was questioned. Said one committee member after seeing the design, "I think it looks terrible."

Last October the Bicycle Committee received a \$288,000 grant under the Bikeway Demonstration Act. The grant will be supplemented by \$75,000 from the city budget. According to Ruth Bascom, Bicycle Committee chairer, Eugene was selected from among hundreds of Oregon cities as an experiment to test the effect increased bicycle roadways has on bicycle use.

Asked whether the Valley River bridge might not become a parking extension to Valley River Shopping center, Bascom replied, "We are not building this bridge to help out Valley River Shopping Center. We will have to make sure motorists don't take over the bridge."

Bascom said the bridge will provide easy access to the opposite side of the river to more than 25,000 regular pedestrians and cyclists. The nearest pedestrian-cyclist bridge is now more than two miles upstream at Autzen Stadium.

After considering public reaction, the committee will make their final decision on the bridge at their next meeting. Once the design is selected, said Diane Bishop, city bicycle coordinator, further details will require several months. Construction would begin this summer.

The next meeting will be held Thursday at 7:30 a.m. in City Hall II, 858 Pearl St.