

# PARTY

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	<u>Page</u>
We Move Ahead by Joseph Hansen	1
Boston.....by Len	2
Denver.....by Norman and Tom	2
Twin Cities.....by Helen Scheer	3
Chicago.....by Howard Mayhew	5
St. Louis.....by S.T.	8
Detroit.....by Sarah Lovell	9
Ohio.....by Jean Simon	11
San Francisco.....by R. Martin	13
New York.....by Paul Williams	16

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## WE MOVE AHEAD

By Joseph Hansen

This issue of the Campaigner marks the close of the first phase of the 1960 election campaign. As can be seen from the reports, in addition to the ones that appeared in the previous issue, our first results are quite encouraging. Despite the changes in regulations and the further ones pending in Congress to deprive minority parties of equal TV time, experience indicates that it is still possible to obtain considerable local time. In certain instances where the comrades were particularly persistent, even more time has been obtained than in previous campaigns. Also the press appears to be somewhat less difficult to crack than in previous years. This may be partly due to the public interest in the Cuban and sit-in issues.

The sub campaign was successful but uneven. In some branches it appears that the bulk of the work was done by a small core of the most active comrades. However, they report that sub-getting is considerably easier than in the last campaign and that the percentage of encouraging and even inspiring experiences is higher. Some of the comrades believe the political atmosphere has definitely changed. As a New York comrade put it, after reporting some experiences in getting subs, "The water is fine; I wish more comrades would come on in." We hope the invitation will be accepted and that in the next phase of the campaign we can take full advantage of the rise in political interest to add the maximum number of new readers.

Among the outstanding achievements, we would like to call special attention to George Lavan's work in Utah. With just a few promising leads, he went out to the Rocky Mountain state at his own expense to see what could be done about getting Dobbs and Weiss on the ballot. The leads proved good and after hard preliminary work, a convention was held in accordance with the legal requirements. The Denver comrades joined in the effort, sending Norman to help out in the arduous leg work.

The SWP gained favorable publicity in the Salt Lake press, promising contacts were established in several areas, new friends joined in the effort and the chances appear excellent that we will be on the ballot in Utah, although further work is required.

At the regional conferences to be held in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, we will try to put in sharper focus what has been accomplished and project the work for the next stage.

We have some difficult obstacles to overcome, such as putting the party on the ballot in New York and Wisconsin. These will require strenuous effort by those directly involved and the cooperation of the party as a whole. But to gauge from the successes of the past months, the obstacles will not prove insuperable. The determination, energy and self-sacrifice already displayed indicate that 1960 will prove to be a banner year for the Socialist Workers party and a milepost in the struggle for socialism.

BOSTON REPORTS "IMPROVED POLITICAL CLIMATE"

By Len

Following is a brief report on our work in the campaign thus far. We have experienced a much improved political climate over the presidential year of 1956. Particularly gratifying was the willingness of local broadcasters to give Comrade Dobbs air time. While in previous years our requests for time were met with hostility or indifference, this time we met with some success.

Our presidential candidate was given a fifteen-minute interview on WGBH-TV, on FM, the educational station, and a film spot on a local news telecast. This suggests that there is a possibility of reaching people via radio and TV despite the new law restricting equal time.

The public meeting which we ran for Comrade Dobbs at our own hall attracted a "standing room only" audience. (We have a small hall -- perhaps 50 to 60 in attendance). Leaflets had been sent to people on our mailing list, but we feel that most decisive were personal contact and distributing leaflets in certain areas; e.g., around the universities.

Achieving our Militant sub quota was not as easy as we thought it would be. But our best results came from the most economically depressed Negro neighborhoods; people aware of the southern Negro struggle and the Cuban Revolution. This particular section is under the influence of Elijah Muhammad (Moslem Black Nationalists, etc.) Islam has helped to make these people conscious but not to the extent that they reject whites outright.

The YSA has made our campaign work easier. In fact, their participation is essential to us. The YSA attended a CP meeting at which Hy Lumer spoke, telling the audience to put pressure on Stevenson by supporting him. The contrast between this CP hack and our candidates has served to move nonparty YSAers closer to us.

OPPORTUNITIES OPEN IN DENVER

By Norman & Tom

Denver got some real socialist thought -- bracing to many -- for three days last week as the SWP presidential nominee brought his campaign into the West.

Farrell Dobbs' forecast of an independent labor party within the 1960's ripped through a "newspaper curtain" that consistently filters out any political views left of Adlai Stevenson. In addition to the newspaper breach, he also decisioned a hostile KLZ-TV interviewer for a half-hour program taped for broadcast Sunday night; was interviewed on a Spanish American radio station and discussed the Cuban Revolution at a public meeting Wednesday night. He shook hands with many local people at a social afterward.

Dobbs flew into Denver from New York City on Monday and

left Thursday night to continue his campaign in Minneapolis.

Dobbs' talk on the Cuban Revolution, highlight of the Denver trip, got an interested hearing that ended in a long, probing question-and-answer session. He was well received at the Denver Labor Center.

Dobbs' Denver itinerary started with a news conference Tuesday morning. The Denver Post, Denver's "liberal" paper, sent a reporter who at first seemed hostile, then grew interested and finally wrote a good, straightforward account of Dobbs' views on domestic politics. The other daily, a Scripps-Howard paper, ignored the SWP candidate's visit.

Max Goldberg, a Denver brand of Mike Wallace, tried to harass Dobbs with the usual line of questioning these TV interviewers take. Dobbs held his own so effectively and interestingly that a fascinated technical crew failed to notice their recording devices had run out of tape. The last part of the interview had to be redone, after the technicians reloaded their recorders.

### OFF TO A GOOD START IN TWIN CITIES

By Helen Scheer

The Dobbs meeting was held at the headquarters; the attendance was 75-80. Thirty-five comrades were present and 40-50 contacts. Six of the contacts came from the CP milieu as a result of regroupment work. They were obviously elated with the speech, the headquarters, the whole action. From being somewhat sceptic observers, they conducted themselves as enthusiastic supporters. They contributed \$35 to the collection, participated in the discussion period and social afterward.

Although we had an ad in the University paper, very few students came because it was exam week. Probably half of the contacts were "old-timers" who knew Farrell personally. Others were young workers connected with the YS or SWP. At least three completely new middle-aged people came, probably from the Guardian. Our after-the-meeting contact work was not organized, which makes this a fairly sketchy report. We have made up "interest cards" and will be on the job from here on, you can be sure!

Efforts to get Dobbs before other organizations were unsuccessful. The University campus was bogged down in exams and graduation. In the NAACP Youth and the local Latin American organizations, there were no individuals who could or would line up a meeting.

### Newspaper Publicity

The Minneapolis Morning Tribune reporter interviewed Farrell at the headquarters. Story-clipping enclosed.

The St. Paul Dispatch carried substantially the same story,

perhaps by agreement with the Tribune. Story mailed in by Winnie.

### Radio Publicity

Radio listeners throughout the state heard news of the Dobbs campaign for president on the SWP ticket and his support of the Cuban Revolution through local stations, which quoted a news release sent out from the Campaign Headquarters in Minneapolis (release enclosed).

WCCO Radio Program Director, Jim Bormann, taped a fifteen-minute interview with Farrell for his program "Editorial Roundup" heard on Sunday and Tuesday nights.

### TV Publicity

The major network TV stations, WCCO-TV, KSTP-TV and WTCN-TV in Minneapolis attended a news conference to question Farrell Dobbs about "the truth about Cuba," the "Summit fiasco," the Khrushchev-Eisenhower relations, "corruption and bossism" in the unions and the SWP election campaign.

The news conference was held in the newly opened Socialist Campaign headquarters in midtown Minneapolis, 704 Hennepin Ave.

The TV interviews with Dobbs were carried throughout the state Friday, on the noon, dinner-time and 10 p.m. news.

### Preparations for Myra Tanner Weiss Visit

Preparations for Myra's tour are well under way. The three major TV stations have said they will attend a news conference on Sunday afternoon. They were well impressed with their interview with Farrell and responded enthusiastically toward an interview with Myra. Tickets for the meeting are out and we have some possibilities of getting her on or around the Minnesota campus and possibly to speak to Negro youth.

### Carl Feingold, SWP Candidate For U.S. Senate from Minnesota

Following the Dobbs tour, we opened up on the Minnesota Senatorial Campaign; Feingold "to seek Humphrey's seat," as the St. Paul Pioneer Press headlined the story!

On June 25 Carl spoke at a meeting at our hall on "Eisenhower's Trip to Japan." Enclosed is the leaflet sent to our contact list. This was the second meeting of the campaign, following Farrell's, and the first speech by the Senatorial candidate.

News releases were sent to the Minneapolis and St. Paul daily papers and to about 40 papers out in the state. All the metropolitan papers gave us publicity (release and clippings enclosed). We are going to look into the cost of a

clipping service for the duration of the campaign throughout the state.

As a means of organizing state-wide support for the Minnesota SWP ticket -- Dobbs-Weiss-Feingold -- we sent out a state-wide mailing to 600 people (former Progressive Party members, Guardian readers, Defense and YS contacts). We are particularly anxious to make some contact up on the Range and in the Duluth area, which has a radical tradition under the old CF leadership.

The mailing consisted of the senatorial news release, announcement of a taped radio interview with Farrell on WCCO (the most popular radio station in the state), and a propaganda appeal for support (material enclosed).

Result to date: In this morning's mail, a check for \$10 from Detroit Lakes, accompanied by the following note:

"Dear Sir: We must stop those damned war criminals in our seat of government, either by the ballot or by other means that may be found necessary. Sincerely,"

A second reply to our state-wide mailing was a letter from Mora, Minn., expressing solidarity for socialism and for peace, and wanting to know why all the Socialists don't get together so they can elect someone, and the writer requested an answer to this specific question. I will send you a copy of this letter and the answer, which we think would be good for publishing in the Militant. First, however, we will get permission from the writer to print the letter. They raised the question, by the way, of whether some of those who "profess" to be Socialists are really "stooges for the Democrats and Republicans." More responses may come in...we have just got started!

Our Election Campaign Committee has been set up; it consists of Paul C, Winnie C, Carl, Sally (YSA rep.) with myself as chairman.

### CHICAGO NOTES GAINS

By Howard Mayhew

In Chicago the 1958 United Socialist Campaign for Rev. King had reached the high point of putting a socialist on the ballot for Congress. Lack of forces made a ballot project impossible in 1960. We had to settle for a "write-in" campaign and added a local state-wide candidate for U.S. Senate to our national ticket.

In this campaign we can say categorically that we have not lost a single key person who supported us in 1958. We have even gained some new ones. How our top three supporters responded has some interest.

First, Rev. King has continued as president of the Washington Park Forum. He continues to command respect for the role he played despite the existence of a substantial following in the Forum influenced by the CP. Key CP leaders, including Claude Lightfoot, have spoken in the context of the technological advances of the USSR, the Khrushchev visit, the activities of the Chicago League of Negro Voters (a CP-supported nationalist-type movement within the two parties). Despite the opposition, King remains staunchly and openly in support of the 1960 SWP ticket.

Secondly, we have the support of a prominent Negro trade unionist with years of experience in various organizations. He responded to our Campaign Fund letter immediately with a \$10 contribution. He came to our headquarters to discuss what he could do. He welcomed the Dobbs visit to Chicago as an opportunity to pitch in and help. He took leaflets to interest his friends. He even seriously considered prospects for holding a meeting with his contacts in his own neighborhood.

Thirdly, we have the support of Rev. William T. Baird, an important King supporter in 1958. At the outset of 1960, he had told us that he planned to "sit this election out." However, with the pressure of objective events, coupled with the clear way our campaign geared in with the events in the South, in Cuba, etc., he made a quick turn around. He renewed his sub to the Militant and ISR. He spoke at our Dobbs meeting. His speech amounted to a report of his own tortuous rethinking and declaration of support to the 1960 SWP ticket. (Baird was in 1948 and 1953 a Progressive Party leader, during the Korean war the leader of a peace committee, currently and for some years he has been chairman of the CP-led Midwest Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born).

#### Television Breakthrough in Chicago

Chicago scored a TV breakthrough with the Dobbs visit. We were on twice, once at 6 p.m. in a three-minute showing on a hard-hitting news broadcast (WBBM-CBS, Faye Flynn). The second was on "At Random" Saturday night from 12:50 till 4 a.m. Sunday.

This TV break is without precedent in Chicago and came after weeks of effort. As soon as we had the Chicago dates for Dobbs, a comrade was assigned. She systematically worked the TV and radio field with phone calls and letters but the response was generally -- "sounds good, send us a letter on it."

At one point, TV interviewer Marty Faye, who runs a program similar to L.A.'s Tom Duggan, agreed to put Dobbs on. But in a day or two he cancelled it on the grounds that this would open the door to Lar Daley. Daley is a clown on the fringe of rightist political circles who pushes on to TV programs dressed in an Uncle Sam suit. Faye had got stuck with him once before and found that his audience rating had dropped disastrously.

Up to a few days before Dobbs' arrival, we had nothing. Refusing to accept defeat, we started a second round of phone calls as if we had done nothing before. That did it. We got Kupcinet on the phone in person and he accepted Dobbs as one of "At Random's" panelists. With Dobbs for the three-hour discussion was Jackie Robinson, actress and Chessman supporter Phyllis Kirk and "philosopher" Mortimer Adler.

After this, another station, WBBM-CBS, called our headquarters and asked if they could bring their equipment to Dobbs to record news questions and his responses on tapes. They did this for some thirty minutes of recording, out of which was broadcast a very effective three-minute interview on the Japanese events.

We can attribute the second TV acquisition partly from the publicity from the first (the panelists were publicized in Irv Kupcinet's column Saturday morning in the Sun-Times), and partly from the press releases sent out from our office to all newspapers and TV and radio stations.

As soon as we heard of the breakthrough, we sent out a News Flash Campaign Bulletin to our mailing list to be sure they would listen. We have a right to conclude that as a consequence of the TV breakthrough, our campaign in Chicago is making itself felt. Kupcinet informed us a few days after the broadcast that the mail was heavier than average, that "the comments referring to Dobbs were almost entirely complimentary," and "your candidate did all right for himself."

#### Sub-Campaign

As of June 17, Chicago has obtained 45 new subs and 20 renewals. Six of these renewals were sent in by subscribers on their own and do not appear on the scoreboard to Chicago's credit. These subs were obtained in the following ways:

First, door to door. During the steel strike, comrades made weekend sales in a steel neighborhood shopping center. During one of these street-corner Militant sales, purchasers were informed that for a quarter extra, or if they desired it, the Militant would be mailed to them every week on a trial basis. Of eleven who agreed, nine purchased 50-cent subs when we began our drive. As reported in the last issue of the Party Campaigner, the paper sold itself.

Following Farrell's visit June 12, one comrade went out door to door in his neighborhood, covered two apartment buildings, 12 flats in all, and obtained two subscriptions. The Saturday of that week, two comrades and one sympathizer went out door to door. In about two hours, they sold nine subs and eight single copies. One comrade sold seven, the other two, and the sympathizer several single copies. During the remaining weeks of the drive, we plan to continue door-to-door work and have more comrades participate.

Farrell's public meeting brought in three subs. The renewals have been obtained by phone calls and personal visits.

A breakdown of the rest of the new subs and renewals is as follows: Washington Park Forum, about six; Sobell Committee, five; steel workers, four; the chairman of the American Soviet Friendship Council; the chairman of the Midwest Committee for the Protection of Foreign Born; American Friends SP-SDF, one; comrades, four; renewals on own, six; co-workers, friends and relatives of comrades and sympathizers, about thirteen; business manager of Southern Newsletter; and one from a new member of the YSA.

### Regular Bundle Sales

Each Sunday at Washington Park Forum, free speech forum on Chicago's South Side: between six and ten sold each week primarily by one comrade.

Each Monday evening at a North Side shopping center, two to four are sold by one comrade.

Bookstore at headquarters, sale of three to five each week to comrades who wish additional copies, and an occasional visitor to the headquarters.

In April: distribution of 1,000 old copies to Hoffa meeting.

In May: committee meeting of Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers Union, six sold. Rev. Shuttlesworth meeting, four sold. SANE, on implications of U-2, twelve sold, three distributed.

In June: Dobbs meeting, ten sold. Sub mobilization, eight single copies sold, nine given with new subs sold.

Bundle: for April-May, 25 a week; for June, 30 a week.

### DOBBS MEETING IN ST. LOUIS

By S. T.

Farrell Dobbs' recent visit to St. Louis attracted a small but highly enthusiastic audience. The group enjoyed his discussion regarding his recent trip to Cuba and it was refreshing indeed to hear some honest facts from an on-the-scene observer.

The two capitalist papers in St. Louis have undertaken a joint crusade to humiliate and condemn the Cuban Revolution. Dobbs' report provoked a long question-and-answer period regarding some of these false allegations.

We in St. Louis are not a large branch, but our enthusiasm runs high and we are active the year round. Comrade Farrell's visits are always an inspiration and we look forward

to his return. It is our intention to make his next visit more eventful and we are laying the groundwork well in advance.

### SUCCESSFUL DOBBS-WEISS VISITS IN DETROIT

By Sarah Lovell

The Michigan election campaign was launched at our May Day dinner, when several of the candidates spoke. (The slate is made up of nine candidates, including the two top national candidates). Press releases were sent out and some financial contributions made by friends.

We felt the best way to conduct the campaign in this early period was to relate it to the Militant subscription drive and that getting subs was electioneering. We put out a special leaflet: "Introducing a Party for Working People," a copy of which is enclosed. This aided both in getting subs and publicizing the election campaign. Results were good; we have well over 100 new subscribers.

The national tours were a high point, with the tour of Myra Tanner Weiss being followed two weeks later by that of Farrell Dobbs. We received more publicity and had better meetings than in previous campaigns. Here's the rundown on them

Press conferences were held. Letters announcing the press conference were sent to the daily papers, news services, the weeklies and radio and TV. Telephone calls were made to the papers on the morning of the conference itself. Two of the three dailies covered the Weiss conference. All three were at Dobbs' and all the papers represented carried stories. The weekly papers did not send any reporters. However, one carried a report based on our press release and in the case of another, the Detroit Courier, interviews were arranged later and stories printed.

Results in radio were much less. There was just about a complete survey made of all possibilities, to secure coverage of the press conference and to get through on any type program. The one positive result was that a major station, although not in attendance, did carry reports on the Dobbs press conference.

One FM station, on which we have had several combative "interviews" with our national candidates and local candidate, Rita Shaw, had been contacted by Rita through rather chance circumstances (at a Beat coffee house from which the program was being broadcast at the time), and will probably be open to us in the fall. Otherwise, we did succeed in arranging a couple of radio interviews; tapes were made but they weren't played.

The meetings we had, though not sensational, were better than the ones we had before. There were 45 present at the

first, 50 at the second, and nine subscriptions to the Militant were sold. The collection at each was about \$30, and this, plus other income from the meetings, made a big dent in the total expenses involved in the tours. The actual expense of each tour was about \$30.

There were some other activities. Farrell spoke at two union meetings, Myra at youth meetings. A meeting was arranged at the home of comrades in the area where we had about 60 new subscribers to meet Myra in informal meeting. But only one person came and it didn't really pan out. However, all in all, the tours were enjoyed by the comrades here and we felt that they were successful.

### Publicity for Michigan Candidates

There has also been publicity for the Michigan candidates. In public hearings conducted by the City Council on the imposition of an income tax, our candidate for Governor, Bob Himmell, spoke against the proposed tax and this was carried on the radio. In another hearing by a state agency on the passing of a ruling against discrimination in housing, Bob appeared to speak for it and this was reported in two of the daily papers. There was an interview with our candidate for Senator in the weekly, the Detroit Courier, which was granted just for the asking on the basis of interviews of the capitalist candidates. Larry Dolinski has kept after a weekly paper published in his neighborhood and succeeded in getting through. Some of the press releases sent to other papers have been picked up.

### Plans for the Future

I am going to include in this report plans for the future because, in part, they result from our experiences so far.

On literature: We have mimeographed two leaflets on the campaign and two more are on the way; a general leaflet in question and answer form and a reprint of the May Day speech "What Socialists Want."

We hope to put out other leaflets on special subjects: free medical care, Negro struggle, Labor Party, etc., and have a printed leaflet in August. We also plan to mimeograph material that would be primarily for our own members as well as the candidates; material of a factual nature on the standard of living, the income of the American workers, concentration and profits of industry, etc. These are things we know generally, but would be helpful to have in a more comprehensive and accessible form.

We want to have our campaign car on the road this summer, with signs and sound equipment, to be used in conjunction with other activities such as sales at factories and street meetings. We also want to try a modified form of trailblazing, going to cities where we did our petitioning, to sell subs and literature, distribute leaflets, get some newspaper publicity and make some contacts.

For the financial end of these activities, the branch will raise a \$200 election fund. In addition, we are going to send out a mailing with a request for contributions for the election campaign. As to whether we can do all the various things we plan, that will depend on the time and people who are available. But it is what we aim to do.

### CAMPAIGN STIMULATES OHIO BRANCH ACTIVITY

By Jean Simon

Comrade Dobbs concluded his visit here with a report at the Cleveland-Akron branch meeting June 27, and provided the occasion for a summary report by the organizer of the first phase of the party election campaign as it has affected our branch. The tangible results of Comrade Dobbs' visit here are:

Publicity for the SWP which exceeded anything we have been able to achieve since the last presidential campaign.

In Cleveland, Dobbs appeared in two live TV interviews on Friday, June 24. Each of the two Cleveland daily papers printed part of our press release. They were small but well-placed items which, we were informed, brought some of the entirely new contacts to the public meeting at the Tudor Arms Hotel. The Cleveland Plain Dealer sent a reporter to the press conference scheduled before the meeting and printed a sizable and unusually objective report the next day.

In Akron, radio station WAKR called Comrade Dobbs for a telephone interview which they taped. They included several minutes of this in their hourly news broadcasts throughout the day.

Leaflet distributions, which have not been conducted locally for some time, were resumed. In Cleveland 600 copies of an attractive printed leaflet (copy enclosed) were distributed; at Western Reserve University, Fenn College, at a Sobell meeting the night before our public meeting, and at an anti-censorship meeting. In Akron, leaflets were distributed at the local college campus, among other places.

Two successful meetings and a house party were held. The Cleveland meeting Friday night was attended by thirty persons, of whom only six were members. The Akron meeting Sunday attracted twenty-nine to the first public meeting of the party held there in several years. The house party Saturday night was attended by thirty persons, including four who had not attended the meeting.

A number of new contacts were made. At the Cleveland meeting a young Cuban doctor participated in the discussion period to explain the background of the Havana newspapers taken over by the workers. He also bought a copy of the ISR with an article on Cuba, and a copy of "America's Road to Socialism," and asked to be notified of other meetings.

About four members of the YPSL also were present and two of them bought subs to the Militant and asked to be notified of meetings. Another student present bought a copy of the Young Socialist. An office worker who came and brought an older union ironworker also asked to be notified of future meetings, bought a copy of the Militant and ordered a copy of the ISR on Cuba. Asked to buy a sub to the Militant, she said, "I'll just buy this copy first. I've never heard socialist ideas explained before and it will take me a little while to absorb all this. I came here tonight because I am intensely interested in Cuba."

In the Akron audience were one SLPer, several SP-SDFers, a group of students from the campus distribution, and the chairman of a neighboring county Democratic party organization and his wife.

Groundwork was laid for socialist speakers at other organizations. Comrade Dobbs spoke to about a dozen people Sunday afternoon on invitation of the social action committee of the Unitarian Society of Cleveland. Here he spoke not only on Cuba, but on the SWP, primarily, and the presidential election.

In addition, we had sent letters to the pastors of three large local Negro churches which conduct regular forums; to the Council on World Affairs, Cleveland's main bourgeois discussion group; the local chapter of the Negro Labor Council and a number of language group organizations.

In the follow-up, we received a friendly reaction from the three Negro churches but they, like the other organizations, either were already booked for the next forum or needed more time than was available to organize a meeting. In each case we thanked them and indicated that we would give them more notice in the future. The director of one of the forums wrote to us explaining the forum that Sunday was already set, hoping SWP members would attend and stating that he felt certain they could use socialist speakers in the future.

### General Observations

Our general observations about the campaign at this stage:

1. The early start was an advantage. Radio and television people do not yet feel the pressure of the Democrats and Republicans against granting socialists time. One station manager questioned whether the new FCC rulings would complicate matters for him but looked into the matter and decided in our favor.

2. The timeliness and public interest in the issue, Cuba, made it easy to get a hearing and definitely attracted new people, as well as giving us an entry to Spanish-speaking people.

3. Comrades and contacts stepped up their own activity in helping on mailings, leaflet distributions and talking to contacts.

4. The positive achievements of the campaign activity encourage greater efforts in the next phase of the campaign and the experience in trying to get our speaker before other groups has taught us the importance of getting off to a faster start.

Plans for the next step, activities around Myra's visit at the end of July are under way.

Attached are copies of some of the material which proved useful in connection with the Dobbs visit.

We like the first issue of the Party Campaigner very much. Inspiring examples from the other branches and information we should circulate.

### MYRA WEISS TOUR IN SAN FRANCISCO

By Ralph Martin

Myra Tanner Weiss arrived on Tuesday, June 21. A number of friends gathered in a home to give her a picture of recent stirring events in the Bay Area and to prepare her for the press conference the following morning. Due to the early morning start scheduled for Wednesday, this broke up at 10 p.m.

Wednesday: Again, as in the case of Dobbs, the Chronicle sent a reporter and a photographer and the Examiner sent a reporter. Each reporter asked questions for about an hour. Both papers carried about ten inches, the Chronicle using the worst picture taken out of six.

As a comment on our getting publicity: In San Francisco I am sure the reason for the success of the conference was the fact that it was held in Hallinan's office. He has recently been allowed to practice law again. He made it quite clear at both conferences and to each reporter, when they asked, that he did not agree with the SWP on many points, was not a member, but as these were the only socialist candidates in the field he had no other choice than to support them. In California, Hallinan is news to the press.

On Wednesday evening there was a joint meeting of campaign workers, with an unusually large turnout. A number of invited visitors attended. The size was partially due to the fact that this was also a memorial meeting for the loss of a very dear friend the previous week. A good discussion took place.

Thursday had been set aside for youth meetings but due to summer vacation these did not develop, so Myra had a free evening. The telephones were kept busy by campaigners reminding people of the Friday meeting.

Friday: The public meeting was held in the new Longshore Hall. About 80 were present, two-thirds of them visitors, with many new faces. There was a number of young people;

more than fifty per cent of the attendance.

Vincent Hallinan chaired the meeting. Two days before the meeting, Vincent called and said his son, Kayo, would like to participate in the meeting. By agreement, Vincent spoke, introduced Kayo as a young independent socialist, who then spoke five to ten minutes and introduced Myra. We grossed \$160 at this meeting, plus \$39.55 in literature and sub sales.

Saturday: At the Saturday reception, the place was jumping. About fifteen students grouped themselves together, others participating from time to time, and carried on a discussion throughout the evening. A number of adults new to us came out. Several subs were obtained.

Sunday: About 1600 people were at the National Guardian Picnic at the Ross estate of the Hallinan's. Harry Bridges was the speaker, arranged before we knew of Myra's tour. Because of this arrangement, we could not get her on as a speaker, nor introduce her over the mike. However, she was at the picnic about four hours, meeting and talking with a number of people.

The tour was quite successful. Steve, our state-wide campaign director, came up with Myra and he has been extremely helpful to us in our work.

#### Suggestions for Organizing a National Tour

Call an SWP meeting of executive members upon first notification of the tour. Set up the following committees:

Publicity: Sub-divisions; leaflets, press announcements, conference advertisements, mailings.

Public meeting: Arrange for hall, tickets, ushers, collection, speakers (chairman, collection, etc.), literature table, title, auspices.

Social: If no permanent social committee, appoint a special one for this occasion. Place, time, announcements... Food, entertainment.

Other meetings: If colleges are in session and a youth group in the area, this should be arranged through them. Every effort should be made to get on-campus organizations to sponsor such meetings. Here, the above suggestions on public meetings can very well apply also.

Someone other than the SWP organizer should be in overall charge of the tour. The organizer will have final responsibility, but others should bear the main brunt of the work. I do not believe that an organizer should ever have the job of the details of a big project like a tour, an election campaign, or even money-raising affairs. The organizer has enough responsibility to oversee the regular work of the branch.

## Publicity

At press conferences, have cuts available in case the papers do not send photographers. Type out or mimeograph a sheet with a short biography of the speaker, a statement on the tour (why), announcement of meetings, other pertinent information relating to events of the day or of the particular area. Announcements should be sent to all daily and weekly papers several days in advance. A call the morning of the conference to the City Desk will help as a reminder. The place of the conference should be chosen for its attractiveness to the press. The office of a local newsworthy individual (from their standpoint) makes a good place.

Whether to take out ads (National Guardian, Negro press) depends on the speaker and the subject. My impression is that these ads do not bring out people in this period although, over a period of time with more or less regular advertising, they might pay off. Each tour and each meeting should be discussed from this viewpoint.

Press releases: deadline dates should be established and carefully noted for date of release. Date should be established so that dailies and weeklies will be able to publish at about the same time. Neither wants "old" news.

## Public Meeting

Organization of public meeting: tickets for distribution and advance sale are inadvisable unless there is at least a six-weeks period prior to the time of the meeting in which to get them printed, distributed and sold.

A good, well-drawn leaflet, used for mailings and distributions at as many meetings as possible; plant gates and suitable residential areas, is a must for well-attended meetings. Distributions at colleges and youth demonstrations are also good.

At the meeting itself, interest cards should be circulated. Subscription getters should circulate, wearing sub blanks as identification. An announcement from the platform for joining in the fight for socialism should be made.

The question of a non member acting as chairman should be discussed carefully for each meeting. It presents certain difficulties, but has its points on some occasions. Too many speakers on the platform detract from the interest.

A varied but select display of literature gives an excellent chance to interest people in the many aspects of socialism and is necessary at all good socialist meetings. Time of starting the meeting will be determined by the day of the week, local precedent and other activities.

Notes for chairman or chairwoman: Make up a chart for the days of the tour into a.m., lunch, p.m., dinner, evening. Copies should be given to chairman, speaker, publicity director

and other parties directly involved in the tour. This shows at a glance what is doing and what is vacant. Set up the main events -- public meeting, party or reception, joint meeting, youth, college. When these are established, fill in the remaining time with rest periods, group and private conferences. If necessary in the area, with trade unionists, organizers, NC members, exec meetings, etc. The main thing is not so much to fill in the time of the person on tour, but to select what will benefit the work in the area.

A letter should be sent to the person on tour at the previous city, giving an outline of what has been planned, when the person is expected to arrive, arrangements for housing, clippings of recent events -- anything which may help to prepare that person for the visit. All this is subject to changes which may occur.

New areas are opening for us all the time. Local people should be alert all the time for these opportunities. Notes should be made and when tours are announced, these should be reviewed for possible utilization. We never know until we try, whether we can get in places or not. Alertness toward these opportunities will result in more active branches, add to our periphery and give us more publicity.

### STREET CORNER MEETINGS IN NEW YORK

By Paul Williams

The Executive Committee of the New York Local planned our campaign activities well in advance. Dovetailing with the wrapping up of our Sub Drive, we decided to utilize the good weather of June and July to embark on a program of open-air meetings.

We were confronted with the fact that in this election campaign we would not have available local candidates running for city or state offices to feature as speakers. Also, the likelihood that our national candidates would receive less TV time this year was a factor of concern. We decided to try to turn the problem to advantage through street corner meetings.

In New York, to hold a street corner meeting with a sound apparatus you require a permit, ok'd in advance at the cost of \$5 per meeting. When we discovered our sound apparatus to be inoperative, we decided to run the meetings in the traditional soap-boxing manner...mounting the platform and sounding off. Thus, we did not require a permit. We found this to be an advantage. We were able to carry our speakers stand around trying out various corners. While no permit was required, we did phone the police precinct in the given area in advance to notify them where and when we would speak.

As far as speakers were concerned, our main emphasis was not to take advantage of the already overburdened experienced comrades who had done this sort of work before but rather to

develop the newer comrades. Public speaking is not necessarily a technique that you are born with...and street-corner speaking offers an invaluable training ground for learning. The advantage of a street-corner meeting (as the old-time radical understood very well) is that you go out to find your own audience. Instead of them coming to you, you go out to them. Given a well-organized, well-run meeting on a good corner, you get a good audience.

A class on public speaking was organized to provide the comrades with a few pointers and ideas. Only three to four comrades attended sessions of this class but it proved helpful to those who did.

Our first meeting was launched in the Village at Eighth Street and McDougal. We had five speakers at this meeting; Bernie, Bob F, Leo, George and Paul. Leo and George had spoken at youth meetings before but still required a bit of polishing. Bob F. had never spoken before. Bernie, the pro, was used to build and hold the crowd when needed. The audience reached upward of 200 and we considered the meeting to be a fine opening to our campaign.

Running the meeting has to be quite flexible. The more experienced comrades were utilized to help build the audience-- and then we would put up a comrade less versed in the technique. Some comrades were very hesitant to take the platform, fearful of making mistakes in formulation or just too nervous to face an audience. We backed them up, letting them know that at any time they wanted to, they could wrap it up and we would then put on another speaker. One comrade said, "I'm afraid to speak for fear I'd make a fool of myself." It was pointed out that a revolutionary socialist, armed with our program and a serious intent and purpose would not in any way be made a fool of. This proved to be quite true, for the audience, sensing our seriousness and determination -- although not necessarily agreeing with us, showed considerable respect for our effort.

The following week, after trying out a corner on the East Side (it was good long ago but was a poor spot today), we moved back to the Village. Our corner at Eighth and McDougal was occupied by the Village SANE Committee, so we moved to Eighth and Sixth Ave. and set up shop there. Within a few minutes we had a good-sized meeting going. Bernie once again was the strong speaker, teaching the newer comrades the old tricks. In addition, Bob F, Nat, Leo and Paul spoke. After an hour we had to stop for a thunder shower. Most of the comrades then went home, a few stayed around and when the rain ended about 45 minutes later we started up again.

Bernie, Leo, Mary Lou, Rona and Paul were the only ones left but we figured that we had an audience waiting so we began a new meeting where the other one left off. Our main subject of discussion was the projected visit to N.Y. of the Fascist Rockwell. As the meeting progressed we were subjected to considerable heckling by some American Legion type char-

acter in the audience who, possessive of a loud, booming voice and boisterous manner, started gathering around him many of the teenagers who were out walking the streets of the Village in quest of something to do. The heckling grew in volume and seriousness, reaching a point where the meeting was taken out of our control for about 25 minutes. We were pelted with tomatoes and eggs and the threat of violence was latent. Our numerical weakness was apparent.

It was a fine thing the way the comrades stood by Bernie who was on the platform, protecting him and determined to continue our meeting. The cops were watching but stayed neutral while the Legionnaire gathered more and more steam. Two people came out of the audience to offer us their help. I asked them to stand by the speakers stand. Then Bob D. and Corny showed up and they also stood by.

We finally ended the meeting, informing the audience of over 200 that we would be back. We retreated in good order with the young scoundrels yelling threats and what-not at us. The whole business was a remarkable demonstration of how a clever heckler, such as the Legionnaire, can get a crowd of youth to vent their anger against capitalist society on us socialists.

The experience was discussed in the Committee and we decided to return to the same corner the following week, this time with proper organization and support. This we did quite effectively. As with the previous meeting, the hecklers began again. This time they formed around a huge Man Mountain Dean type.

When one of the comrades was trying to silence a particularly annoying heckler ("I started out at nine cents an hour and worked my way up to my own business" type), threatening to evict this heckler from the meeting unless he stopped trying to outshout the speaker, Man Mountain moved in from the rear, sidled up to the comrade (Nat) and, towering above him said, "Who's going to throw who out?" Immediately, seven comrades moved in to back up Nat who turned to Man Mountain and said, "I'm going to throw you out." Man Mountain then shrunk a bit. For the duration of the meeting he stayed around in the center of the audience. Periodically he attempted to whip up something (there were lots of the angry youth types around.) By patrolling the meeting and maintaining order we kept a good meeting going with an audience of 200 and adjourned in style...with little groups standing around and discussing.

The cops had played a neutral role all this time, but at the end of the meeting they moved in and started harassing some of the Negro speakers. Bob F. and Clarence had spoken, both doing a very fine job. One of the cops started pushing Bob around and when we told him to stop, the Sergeant came ambling along asking us in a whiny voice to leave now that the meeting was over, complaining that they had "given us good coverage" and what more did we want?

A little later, three of the Negro comrades who had spoken were picked up by a patrol car occupied by three cops, one

of whom was the cop who had given them a hard time after the meeting. The Militant story details the arrest and our subsequent launching of a civil-liberties fight. One thing we learned out of this -- when the meeting is over, adjourn and go home; the area is not the most friendly one.

The following week we went to Harlem to try out a corner there and ran into difficulties with the Nationalists, finding it difficult to speak in that particular area. The week after, we returned to the Village. There is a lot of ferment there today; fights between the so-called native residents and the "beatniks," antagonisms between white and Negro and Puerto Rican; a situation that speaks of the miserable housing and general declining social conditions of this great city.

Once again we returned in force with twenty comrades participating. The meeting was well organized with a battery of seven speakers: Bernie, Bob F., Clarence, Nat, Dee, Dan R. and Paul. Our comrades patrolled the meeting, moving discreetly into the groups of teenagers that formed and maintaining order. By now, we had the whole technique well worked out. When the kids started gathering and threatening, "Hey, let's go get some eggs and tomatoes" we broke them up by moving into their midst, gently arguing or forcefully demanding, as the situation required. The meeting lasted two and a half hours. It was a good, long, serious discussion. By now the newer comrades had blossomed out to very capable speakers; Bob F. and Clarence holding their audience very well.

We ended the meeting formally, inviting all and every one to come to 116 if they wanted further information. Then we found that by getting up on the platform at the end of the meeting and hawking our literature, we were able to sell a few dollars worth in a few minutes. We distribute the paper throughout the meeting and circulate interest cards.

This last meeting was the best of the lot for by then we had accumulated considerable experience and were almost able to write a handbook on how to hold successful street-corner meetings. The comrades who had mounted the platform for the first time at the first meeting by now were capable and developed speakers, able to address the audience with skill and dexterity, and to present their ideas with flow and appeal. This was a fine thing and we all felt quite satisfied with the results.

In the beginning, the problem was to get the comrades to mount the platform. Now the problem seems to be to pull them off to make way for the next speaker. Comrades, responding to the attentiveness and interest of the audience, dislike breaking off after 15-20 minutes; but we follow the policy of trying to give as many comrades as possible an opportunity to participate in this training.

Audience participation at these meetings has been most interesting. The last time we drew such crowds was back in the 30's and the postwar 40's. People stand around listening with considerable interest and at the conclusion of the meeting, most

of us have to break away in order to get home to bed. We open the meetings with a strong speaker; once we have a crowd (five to ten minutes), we start putting up the less experienced speakers. If the crowd starts getting out of hand, we put in a strong speaker to restore parliamentary order, etc.

All comrades attending the meeting are assigned various tasks. In the beginning, we found that the comrades themselves would stand around and watch the speaker in fascination, sometimes forgetting that they were assigned to distribute, or take care of some other assignment.

The meetings ended about 10:30 p.m. on a high note, when the audience reached its maximum.