

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING No. 42, October 21, 1977

Present: Barnes, Blackstock, Clark, Garza, Hawkins, Horowitz, Jaquith, D. Jenness, L. Jenness, Jones, Kramer, LaMont, Landau, Lovell, Miah, Petrin, Seigle, Stapleton, Waters, White

Guests: Britton, Morell

Chair: L. Jenness

AGENDA: 1. 'Bakke' Decision Protests
2. Antiracist Work Perspectives
3. National Committee Plenum
4. Oregon Disclosure Suit
5. Socialist Labor Party
6. Membership

1. 'BAKKE' DECISION PROTESTS

(Harris, Mailhot and Sedwick invited for this point.)

Miah reported on meeting with leaders of the National Coalition to Overturn the Bakke Decision and perspectives for 'Bakke' work. (See attached.)

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

2. ANTIRACIST WORK PERSPECTIVES

(Harris, Mailhot and Sedwick invited for this point.)

Harris reported.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

3. NATIONAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

(Sedwick invited for this point.)

Barnes reported on proposal to hold a plenum of the National Committee February 23-26, 1978 in New York City, and opened discussion on possible agenda points.

Discussion

(over)

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

4. OREGON DISCLOSURE SUIT
(S. Seigle invited for this point.)

S. Seigle reported.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

5. SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY (SLP)
(Maggi, Rudenstein and Winston invited for this point.)

Stapleton reported. (See attached.)

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

6. MEMBERSHIP

Miah reported on the proposal to readmit E.L. to the Party as an at-large member in Tucson, Arizona.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

Miah reported on the recommendation by Dan Fein, the Phoenix organizer, that S.H. and R.P. be admitted as provisional members at-large in Tucson, Arizona.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Perspectives for Anti-Bakke Work

by Malik Miah, October 21, 1977

Since the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the Bakke "reverse discrimination" case, opposition to Bakke has grown significantly across the country. A very broad spectrum of groups in the Black, Chicano, and Asian-American communities, in the student and women's movement, and even in a few trade unions have come out for the defeat of Bakke. A real potential exists to build a viable nationwide united front coalition to overturn the Bakke decision.

It should be noted, however, that these broad forces do not agree on one of the central political issues raised by the Bakke case--quotas. There are groups and individuals opposed to Bakke who are also opposed to affirmative action quotas. This includes the Carter administration whose friend of the court brief, which opposes the California Supreme Court Bakke decision also implicitly rejects affirmative action quotas as the way to guarantee "special admissions" for minorities. Many liberals in the anti-Bakke movement hold a similar position. It is our view that affirmative action programs, to be fully effective whether in education or industry, requires firm guidelines or quotas. Otherwise steps can and will be taken to roll back such programs.

We have a great deal of work to do to deepen understanding on this question and convince people that dumping quotas means gutting affirmative action. The best way to do this is by organized broad-based educational activities to win support for overturning the Bakke decision. This means involving people confused on the issue of quotas in local anti-Bakke coalitions. In the context of common anti-Bakke work the key issues can be debated out. At this stage, our central aim is to build a national united front coalition to overturn Bakke. At the same time, in our socialist propaganda we want to clearly defend the need for quotas as the only way to enforce affirmative action.

October protests

The October 3-8 protests initiated by the National Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision (NCOBD) and the Black American Law Students Association (BALSA) were significant despite their modest size. The objective of the organizers of these protests was to get the endorsement and participation of the widest range of groups and individuals possible. The October 8 actions in Washington, D.C. and Oakland, for example, received the endorsement of several labor unions (e.g., the AFT), Black, Chicano and Asian groups and women's organizations. The organizers consciously sought to reach out to groups other than those on the left.

This approach was in contrast to the activities initiated by Maoist led coalitions. The Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) especially has organized anti-Bakke protests along sectarian lines. For example, the Maoist-led MECHAS in California and the RCP-led groups on the East Coast did not support the NCOBD call and instead build their own anti-Bakke protests on October 15. The Medical Committee for Human Rights,

which the RCP politically controls, and the Lawyers for the People, are organizing a national anti-Bakke conference for November 19-20 at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

The only other opponent that has been involved in a few recent protests is the Communist Party. In Seattle, for instance, the CP actively participated in the October 8 protest.

Our perspectives

In the communities of the oppressed nationalities and among minority students in particular, there is strong sentiment against the Bakke ruling. Oppressed minority students tend to understand quite well what a victory for Bakke would mean for their futures. This is why minority students--Blacks, Chicanos, and Asians--have been in the forefront of the anti-Bakke protests.

What is needed to place the maximum pressure on the government to think twice before upholding Bakke is a broad national united front coalition that organizes massive protests, including a march on Washington. Presently, a coalition of this type does not exist. Neither the NAACP nor any organization feels obliged to initiate a call for action or to organize the kind of political educational campaign needed to defeat Bakke. As with other attacks by the government on the working class in the present period--abortion rights, the ERA, busing, etc.--the major organizations representing working people have defaulted in their responsibility.

We, of course, cannot substitute for this vacuum of political leadership. Nor can an organization like NSCAR do so. SCAR can initiate local activities in a number of areas and can play the role of educating the broader social forces and others on what needs to be done to build a movement to defeat Bakke.

At this point the only group that appears to have the potential to lead to the formation of a viable national coalition is the NCOBD. (Attached are two pieces of literature distributed by the NCOBD. One is a fact sheet on Bakke and the second outlines their initial proposal for post-October protests.) At the present time the NCOBD is not really a national organization. It has seven chapters--four on the West Coast and three in the East Coast, none in the Midwest or Southwest. Its perspective is to become a national organization by building new affiliates.

The strong point of the NCOBD is its general political perspective. They see Bakke as the key civil rights issue of today. They also think the way to defeat Bakke is through building a broad-based movement. Their central leader, Ray Otake, explained to us that their aim is to work with groups like the NAACP to build this movement.

The main demands of the NCOBD are also quite good. They focus on the issue of Bakke alone--demanding its overturn. This is in contrast to the Maoists who tend to raise other issues as well.

Despite these strengths, the main weakness of the NCOBD is the leadership's political inexperience, and reluctance to broaden the

NCOBD by holding a national conference or some other meeting where all opponents of Bakke could meet to discuss strategy and be involved in decision making.

From the information we have, the main leaders of the NCOBD on the West Coast, at least, are supporters or members of the KDP (a Filipino organization that is quasi-Maoist and strongly opposed to the Marcos dictatorship in the Phillipines). The KDP was the driving force behind the October 8 protests in several West Coast cities. (The KDP has also been the main political group organizing support for the two Fillipino nurses recently framed-up in Michigan.)

On the East Coast, it appears the main leaders are some individual Blacks and people around the People's Alliance, the former July 4 Coalition.

It is clear, however, that the main force behind the NCOBD are the people in California around Ray Otake. This is where the national office is based and where all the literature is produced.

The leaders of the NCOBD are presently discussing their future perspectives (a summary of their initial thinking is in the attached Newsletter). A decision is not expected for a few more weeks. But from all indications, it is likely that they will project the January dates for educational activities, referred to in the Newsletter, and call for an April march on Washington.

How they will implement this perspective, particularly the East Coast March, is not clear to us yet we are presently seeking more discussions with leaders of the NCOBD to push this perspective forward.

Since the NCOBD, along with the Black law students who tend to work with them, is the only national formation that seems to be going in the direction we think is necessary to build a viable anti-Bakke coalition, we suggest that branches and YSA chapters work with the NCOBD in their areas. Where a local unit doesn't exist, we suggest that branches try to get anti-Bakke campus or citywide coalitions started. These can affiliate with the NCOBD. Otake has informed us that they want chapters established in as many places as possible and that the leadership of the NCOBD is willing to send literature, including the Newsletter, and give forums or participate in debates across the country.

The Supreme Court is not expected to rule on the Bakke case before January and probably not until June. Branches and YSA chapters should begin to organize educational activities right away. We shouldn't wait for the NCOBD. This includes campus and citywide meetings, forums, debates, teach-ins, etc. Because this is an important national political issue, branches should also consider ways to take this issue to unions to try and get resolutions passed against Bakke and to support local educational activities. We should also consider involving women's liberation groups like NOW and Asian-American organizations as well. (It is significant to note that Asian-American groups are playing a leading role in anti-Bakke activity on the West Coast.)

By taking these steps we can most effectively carry out an educa-

tional campaign against Bakke, and possibly help lay the basis for the formation of a national anti-Bakke coalition.

NSCAR perspectives

NSCAR has made the anti-Bakke protests its major campaign for the next several months (along with southern Africa and deportations). To help advance the work it has already done on this issue, NSCAR has decided to hold its next national steering committee meeting in Washington, D.C., on December 3. This meeting will assess the state of the anti-Bakke campaign and how NSCAR can help build a national coalition and national protests against Bakke. Other campaigns of NSCAR will also be taken up.

Thousands to Rally Oct. 8

Momentum is running high this week, as anti-Bakke groups finalize plans for the National Day of Protest, and numerous press conferences, pickets and educationals.

Over 10,000 people are expected to join in the National Day of Protest activities throughout the country. This event, in major cities, has been preceded by the Oct. 3 Day of National Student Protest, largely organized by the Black American Law Students Assn. (BALSA), with the NCOBD and other student groups in several cities. A national press conference is being staged for Oct. 6 in Washington, D.C., to include various national legal, legislative and educational figures, including Grantland Johnson of Sacramento, and who is a member of the National Coordinating Committee of the NCOBD. Johnson is presently in D.C. to represent the NCOBD national during these events.

The NCOBD is sponsoring, or working with other groups in coalitions in most of

the areas where there are Oct. 8 activities. In addition, the NCOBD will be speaking in many areas, and stressing the fact that the anti-Bakke, anti-racist work will not end after October. There are even more ambitious and significant tasks in the months ahead to maintain increased pressure on the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the decision. (See p. 2 for article on future plans)

Most areas will also be utilizing the Saturday mobilization to call for participation in pickets at federal buildings on Oct. 12, the day of the hearing. The main focus of these will be Washington, D.C., at the U.S. Supreme Court, where an overnight vigil will precede the picket there. Hundreds of people are expected to stand in line all night at the Supreme Court, in order to witness the hearing.

See listing of nationwide activities on pages 3 and 4.

U.C.'s VIP Admissions Exposed

A recent article by Tim Nesbitt in the East Bay Voice has revealed that "Allan Bakke...may not have been the victim of an underprivileged minority after all - but of an overprivileged elite".

Based on research by former medical student, George Sutherland, and substantiated by the infamous former assistant dean at U.C. Davis, Peter Storandt, the article exposes the fact that the dean of the U.C. Davis medical school intervened to admit at least five white applicants (per year), from influential families. These students normally would not have been admitted to U.C. Davis.

"In one instance in 1973," the article continued, "the Dean intervened to admit a student who had not even filed an application. The student was the son of an influential state assemblyman." In 1975 the dean directed his assistant to add six points to a student's interview rating of an applicant -- just enough to qualify the applicant for admission. According to former assistant dean, Storandt, "There's a better than even chance that Bakke would have been admitted, had it not been for the Dean's appointments."

These mere facts illustrate some important points in our struggle against racism

(continued on back page)

NCOBD *Airs Future Plans*

By studying and assessing our past and current situation, a proposed plan for the future work of the National Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision has been developed. The proposal itself is divided into a political strategy and an organizational plan.

The plan is based on the opinion that our only realistic alternative for "justice" in this case is mass political pressure--which calls for continued educational work. Although exposure of the case has grown, it has been distorted by the media and pro-Bakke forces. Consequently, the NCOBD must intensify its educational activities to counteract this misinformation.

The end of our first major period of work is the October protests. This will mark a qualitatively new period for the scope of our organizing. Another consideration for our plans is that the decision is unlikely to be made before January, 1978. An educated projection is that the decision will be rendered between April and June, 1978.

PROPOSED POLITICAL PLAN

We should continue to develop our strategy of building public controversy and pressure to help forge an active, anti-racist movement and to move the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the decision.

Stage I - October 12-January, 1978

We should expand the bounds of our outreach, with chapters targetting untapped sectors of the population (labor, church, certain geographic areas). To consolidate our chapters and fulfill this task, chapters should call a summation/orientation meeting soon after the October 12 events, to invite people to join the NCOBD.

A. Building unity with the Anti-Bakke Movement

The national Bakke movement has had little coordination. The work of groups like the NAACP, Congressional Black Caucus, MALDEF, etc., should be coordinated. Thus, our plans would call for discussions with other anti-Bakke forces as soon as possible. At that time, the NCOBD could share with these forces our experiences in organizing, and our proposals for future work.

B. National Week of Education on Racism and the Bakke Case

To give our educational and outreach work some concrete and tactical focus, one ambitious proposal is to organize a National Week of Education, January 22-28, 1978.

The main target of the National Week will be not only minority communities, but working people as a whole. The work would involve local chapters planning for forums and rallies, getting extensive media coverage, planning activities for all school levels, etc.

C. Building International Pressure on the U.S. Supreme Court

We would plan to examine the role of international pressure, by possibly spotlighting the U.S. on the question of racism. One avenue may be to pressure the U.S. ambassador to the U.N., Andrew Young, to raise the issue before the U.N.

Stage II - January 28-April 8, 1978

A. Build-up Period for April 8, National Protest to Overturn the Bakke Decision
We would intensify outreach to recapture the momentum of the movement from previous periods, by focusing on mobilization for April 8.

B. April 8 National Protests
These would be the final and biggest show of force against the U.S. Supreme Court. Although a concrete target date is hard to determine, an educated guess for the protest is April 8, which we project would be before the decision is made.

The main site of the protest would be Washington D.C. with an East Coast mobilization. Other areas of the country would have regional-type demonstrations.

ORGANIZATIONAL PLAN

The NCOBD must be flexible enough to organize itself to handle the increasing national character of the work, as well as the increasing quantity.

Aside from strengthening and consolidating local chapters, we would need to increase the national staff (which is only 3 or 4 people at present). Each staff component--finance, communications, research, etc.--needs development.

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'REVERSE DISCRIMINATION': THE FACTS

"Reverse discrimination" has been coined by Pro-Bakke forces because it is such an emotionally charged term. It elicits concern and even sympathy from the American people. There is a tendency to associate the word discrimination with unfairness and the withholding of opportunity. Consequently, Pro-Bakke forces seek to reap the benefits of this social concept, despite the fact

that white males overwhelmingly dominate the job market, professional and trade schools, etc. Affirmative Action and minority admissions programs are only beginning to rectify the results of the 400 years of racism and gross discrimination visited upon minorities in this country.

The following selected statistics are from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

<u>Employment Statistics 1940 - 1970</u>			
Occupation (Male)	White (%)	Blacks (%)	Other races (%)
<u>1940</u>			
Civil Engineers	80,008 (99.8%)	95 (0.1%)	68 (0.1%)
Electrical engineers	52,991 (99.8%)	79 (0.1%)	33 (0.1%)
Architects	19,793 (99.5%)	80 (0.4%)	26 (0.1%)
Lawyers & judges	172,329(99.4%)	1,013 (0.6%)	14 (0.0%)
Physicians/Surgeons	153,388(97.7%)	3,395 (2.2%)	258 (0.2%)
Dentists	67,470 (97.7%)	1,463 (2.1%)	141 (0.2%)
<u>1970</u>			
Civil Engineers	166,636(97.09%)	2,266 (1.30%)	7,690 (4.43%)
Electrical Engineers	270,377(96.41%)	3,843 (1.37%)	9,339 (3.33%)
Architects	51,541 (95.10%)	1,120 (2.06%)	2,250 (4.15%)
Lawyers & Judges	258,839(98.22%)	3,309 (1.25%)	3,573 (1.36%)
Physicians/Surgeons	239,839(93.85%)	5,216 (2.04%)	17,072 (6.70%)
Dentists	86,252 (96.04%)	2,218 (2.46%)	2,204 (2.45%)

All professions listed are overwhelmingly dominated by white males -- 90 percentiles across the board. Pro-Bakke advocates claim minorities have made "sufficient gains", and therefore, special admissions programs have lost their legitimacy. Note the percentages of black doctors in 1940 vs. 1970 (2.2% vs. 2.04%, respectively). The

ratio has gone down! As a sector, it is clear that white males are not being discriminate against while minorities and women are still trying to elevate their economic and social conditions in this country. Readers, beware! "Reverse discrimination" is a misleading, trick term!

(continued from front page)

Washington, D.C.

- Oct. 6 - National press conference
- 8 - send off rally at Lafayette Park at 10:30 a.m., march to U.S. Supreme Court-rally 1 p.m.
- 12 - vigil beginning midnight of the 11th, sposed by BALSAs, NCOBD morning picket at the Supreme Court.

New York

- Oct. 8 - rally at Harlem State Building from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Newark, N.J.

- Oct. 8 - rally at Military Park at 12:30 p.m.

New Haven, Conn.

- Oct. 8 - mass distribution of leaflets
- 22 - conference at Yale U. sponsored by BALSAs

Seattle

- Oct. 5 - noon forum/debate on Bakke at University of Washington, 3 p.m. law school forum
- 8 - rally

Sacramento

- Oct. 6 - forum sponsored by Del Paso No. Sacto Elem. School District

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PLANS... (continued from front page)

Additionally, we might develop a NY-based communications center responsible for day-to-day communications, reproduction and distribution of materials for the Eastern U.S.

These proposals for future plans are being discussed in each NCOBD chapter and will soon be finalized with necessary alterations. Comments and criticisms are strongly encouraged.

VIP's... (continued from front page)

and Bakke. In periods of sharp competition for limited job and educational opportunities, minorities have been scapegoated for problems which have more deep-seated roots. This is even though minorities are the hardest hit by the economic recession. This scapegoating has taken the "heat off" the rich and influential, who can maintain their special privileges without challenge.

In Bakke, almost 4,000 applicants competed for 100 positions in each of the two years when he applied. On the average, one out of three applicants to U.S. medical schools is admitted. However, most medical school applicants, and many who have been discouraged to apply are qualified for admission. But due to the economic interests of the American Medical Association (see Rayak's Political Power and American Medicine), the supply of doctors are kept low, to maximize income for the few doctors available. All of this is despite the desperate need for committed, skilled doctors to help stem the rising cost of medical care, to serve in underserved areas, and to provide quality health care to all working people. The worst affected, of course, are minority communities. The ratio of white doctors to white population is about 1/700; the ratio of Latino doctors to Latino population is about 1/30,000. The infant mortality rate, usually used as an indic-

ator of the general health of people, is nearly double for minorities than for whites.

Allan Bakke does not challenge the privilege of the American Medical Assn. to limit its medical school admissions despite the pressing need for doctors. Why should there be only 100 slots for medical school when our needs for skilled and committed doctors are so great? Nor does Bakke attack the longstanding privileges of the corporate, professional, and political elite as a whole, who, with their "connections" with the corrupt University of California, can slip their sons and daughters into the Davis medical school and suspending all usual procedures. Tests and "bothersome" application forms need not be taken or filled out; nor does commitment to serve society or compassion for other human beings need to be assessed for their admission.

To the contrary, Bakke blames his rejection on a minority admissions program; a program designed to minutely "chip away" at the historic racial exclusion in the medical profession and three centuries of racial injustice in America. Bakke, as with groups and individuals many times in American history, is scapegoating minorities, instead of targetting the real enemy, the wealthy and powerful few who maintain special privileges at the expense of all of us.

ACTIVITIES... (continued from p. 3)

- 8 - march at 11 a.m. from 16th & I street to 7th and I streets downtown. Rally at Gen'l. Services Bldg at 12 noon.
- 12 - picket at federal courthouse at noon.

San Francisco Bay Area

- Oct. 8 - march at 11 a.m. from Sanborn Park in Fruitvale to San Antonio Park. Rally 1 - 3 p.m.
- 12 - picket at federal building in San Francisco at noon.

Los Angeles

- Oct. 8 - march from Pico-Union Community Park at 10 a.m., to MacArthur. Rally at noon.
- 12 - picket at federal bldg at noon

National Committee to
OVERTURN THE BAKKE DECISION
P.O. Box 3026, South Berkeley Station,
Berkeley, CA 94703

(415) 549-3297

What is the Bakke Decision?

Who is Allan Bakke?

In 1973 and 1974, Allan Bakke, a 34 year old white engineer, applied for admission to the University of California at Davis Medical School. In both years he was denied admission to Davis and the 13 other medical schools to which he applied.

What is Bakke's Case?

Bakke filed suit against U.C., contending that minority students less qualified than him were admitted under the special admissions program solely because of their race. He claimed that he was a victim of 'reverse racial discrimination,' and that the special program was therefore unconstitutional.

What is Special Admissions?

Racial minorities have been excluded from higher education by the racism that permeates U.S. society. Special admissions programs to insure minority access were constructed by colleges in response to the powerful challenge to racism that was mounted in the 1960's. Criteria such as race, income and commitment to work in minority communities are used in such programs. At Davis, 16 of the total 100 slots each year were reserved for 'disadvantaged' students.

Were Minorities 'Less Qualified'?

Bakke's suit rests upon the assertion that he was more qualified than minorities who were admitted. This position assumes that grades and the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) accurately predict the performance of future medical students and doctors. But even the corporation that runs MCAT has admitted that the test lacks such predictive value and that it is biased racially, culturally, and by income.

What Was UC's Role In The Case?

A UC official was a prime motivator and supporter of Bakke's suit. UC has also failed to hire minority counsel or to heed the advice of experienced civil rights law organizations such as the NAACP and MALDEF. And finally, UC has presented a poor defense of special admis-

sions. Evidence of past discrimination by UC, which would have legally justified the program, was entirely omitted.

What is The Current Status Of The Case?

The case is now on appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court which is expected to hear it in October and make a decision late this year or early next. This Court is dominated by Nixon and Ford appointees who have demonstrated great hostility to minority rights. Most recently, the Court has struck down housing desegregation attempts and has upheld discriminatory job seniority policies.

Why Is The Bakke Case So Important?

Now that Bakke is in the lap of the U.S. Supreme Court the concept of 'reverse discrimination' could become the law of the land. This would apply great pressure on institutions and employers across the nation to eliminate their affirmative action programs.

Special admissions, minority student services, racially-based community social services, and preferential hiring programs are all threatened by the Bakke decision. Employers with voluntary affirmative action programs would drop them rather face legal suits similar to Bakke's. Already a number of similar cases have followed the Bakke precedent. In November 1976, the New Jersey State Supreme Court ruled that state and local governments could not pass over whites who scored higher on "objective" employment tests in order to hire Blacks for jobs from which they had been excluded in the past. The court said this would constitute "reverse discrimination."

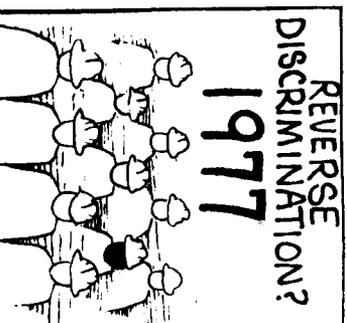
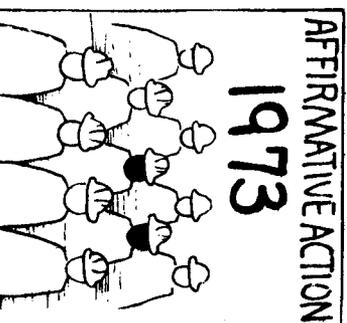
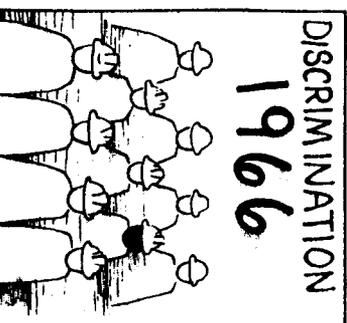
Is Affirmative Action "Reverse Discrimination?"

Affirmative Action programs, an outgrowth of the Civil Rights movement, mean that institutions and companies must counter past discriminatory policies by making special attempts to admit, hire, promote, or pay equal wages to qualified minority and women applicants.

But have special programs for minorities now gone too far—to the point of reverse discrimination? Those who claim this ignore the discriminatory conditions which minorities still face today. The median income of minorities is about 60% of white income—the same as 20 years ago; infant mortality rates are twice as high; unemployment is double that of whites. In reality, special efforts to counter racial discrimination have scarcely made a dent in racial inequalities. Programs which seek to end these inequalities need to be strengthened, not eliminated.

Why Are These Gains Under Attack Now?

The current economic recession has resulted in bitter competition for jobs and admissions. Racism is promoted as minorities and whites are pitted against each other for a shrinking number of positions. Minorities are being blamed for problems which have more basic economic causes. For example, Bakke blames a minority admissions program of 16 positions for his non-admission to U.C. Davis Medical School instead of asking why there were so few admissions openings (100) in the first place. Over 3700 students applied for those 100 openings in 1974.



Building A National Campaign

It's going to take the united efforts of people of all colors, ages, and occupations to struggle against racial inequality and injustice. It is this kind of effort which will be necessary to force the US Supreme Court to overturn the Bakke decision.

A number of groups around the country are working against the Bakke decision. The National Committee to Overturn the Bakke decision (NCOBD) was formed in April, 1977 and is organizing in communities, schools and workplaces as part of this effort. The campaign includes holding house meetings and forums on the Bakke case, working with the media, circulating a petition asking Congress to oppose the decision and organizing actions.

The NCOBD has established committees in communities, schools, and the labor sector in several metropolitan areas throughout the country. We are also building a support network of groups and individuals who can assist the work of the NCOBD in various ways but cannot participate in the committees themselves.

What you can do:

1. Talk to your friends about the Bakke issue and the national campaign.
2. Sign our petition.
3. Contact a regional or local committee in your area to join the support network.
4. Attend and support our events, particularly the national days of protest.
5. Tax deductible contributions can be made through the National Lawyers Guild. Any financial help is greatly needed.
6. Distribute our petition and brochures.
7. Join our local or regional committees.

Join us in our demands to:

- OVERTURN THE BAKKE DECISION
- IMPLEMENT, MAINTAIN AND EXPAND SPECIAL ADMISSIONS AND OTHER ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR MINORITY STUDENTS AT UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE SCHOOLS
- IMPLEMENT, MAINTAIN AND EXPAND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS IN EMPLOYMENT.

PROTEST THE BAKKE DECISION IN OCTOBER

The NCOBD, Balsa (Black American Law Students Association) and the People's Alliance have issued a joint call for national days of protest in October, when the U.S. Supreme Court is expected to hear the Bakke case.

- October 3 (Monday) DAY OF STUDENT PROTEST — nationwide student demonstrations.
- October 8 (Saturday) NATIONAL DAY OF PROTEST — marches and rallies in major cities throughout the country.

S.F. Bay Area Events

October 12th (Wednesday) 11a.m. Day of the US Supreme Court hearing of the Bakke case - PICKET DEMONSTRATION : S.F. Federal Court Bldg. 450 Golden Gate Ave., S.F.

October 14th (Friday) 7:30pm -1:00am Fundraiser for the October 8th Coalition : Special Dinner/ Educational Program / Disco with KDIA DJ Bob Jones Tentatively Glide Memorial Church in S.F. Contact the Bakke Office for more details and confirmation.

November 5th (Saturday) 11am- 1pm ORIENTATION MEETING FOR THE NCOBD- Discussion of NCOBD & future plans to pressure the Court's decision. Unitas House, 2700 Bancroft Way Berkeley 549-3297

National Office:

National Committee to OVERTURN THE BAKKE DECISION P.O. Box 3026, South Berkeley Station, Berkeley, CA 94703 Phone: 415/549-3297



Above, thousands demonstrated April 15 to protest massive cutbacks in New York City's social services.

Overturn the Bakke Decision FIGHT RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Report on Meeting with the Socialist Labor Party Leadership

by Syd Stapleton

On October 7 Nat Weinstein and I met with the National Secretary of the SLP, Nathan Karp, at the SLP's national headquarters in Palo Alto, California. The meeting was organized at our request. It included two key staff writers for the Weekly People, one of whom, Stan Karp, is Nathan Karp's son.

Nathan Karp and Stan Karp seem to be the central political and administrative figures in the SLP. Stan Karp, we have been told, spent some time in or around Progressive Labor, left PL in the early '70's, and has since had a great influence on the changes in SLP perspective that have been reflected in the Weekly People.

We told the SLPers that we had been following the Weekly People with interest and had observed a number of areas of converging views between the SWP and the SLP on such questions as the ERA, affirmative action, nuclear power, the Sadlowski campaign and gay rights. We said we were interested in discussing these and other major political questions, and proposed that we engage in some form of direct communication and collaboration in areas of work in which we share common goals.

We also said that in view of the increasing contact between SWP and SLP members, we felt it was important to reassure them that we were not engaged in a raiding operation against their membership, but that we wanted serious discussions on a party-to-party basis.

We indicated to them that we thought the discussion could clarify and possibly narrow the areas of disagreement, perhaps to the point where it would be appropriate to discuss a fusion.

They were clearly shocked by our proposals. They replied that although they had been attempting to break down some of the old sectarian barriers erected by the SLP, they had never considered anything like what we were projecting. While Nathan Karp said that they could give us no formal response until they had discussed it in their leadership, the attitude of all three was friendly and their questions indicated considerable interest in the SWP. Nathan Karp told us he would be in New York toward the end of November and could give us a response at that time.

They said they had read the Militant article on the RMC fusion carefully, and asked what the reaction had been to the mention of the SLP in Larry Seigle's report at the convention. They seemed surprised that there hadn't been hostility to the SLP expressed at the convention. They also asked several questions about the details of the RMC fusion and how it had taken place.

They were interested in our relation to the Fourth International, and wanted to know more about the LTF, the IMT, Murry and Myra Weiss, Milton Zaslow, etc.

They asked us to send them some copies of "Prospects for Socialism"

They asked us to send them some copies of "Prospects for Socialism" and indicated they would like to have a set of the Trotsky "Writings" series.

After the "formal" part of the meeting Stan Karp gave us a tour of their national headquarters. We got a friendly reception from their national staff of a dozen or so. Except for Nathan Karp and one other person, all are in their early thirties or younger. Their offices seemed fairly professional and well organized. Printing and typesetting for the Weekly People and their other publications are done commercially.

The circulation of the Weekly People, which has been declining, averages around 10,000 a week. Their membership is slightly over 650, with a significant proportion of their membership no longer active.

After the tour Stan Karp and the other Weekly People staff members wanted to talk some more. Stan Karp asked if we agreed with the United Secretariat statement on "Socialist Democracy and the Dictatorship of the Proletariat," (see the July 25, 1977 Intercontinental Press) and said he thought it was an excellent statement. They asked us some more questions about the SWP and talked a little about their views on Portugal, school desegregation, and how to fight fascism. It was clear that they haven't thought out their positions on any of these questions to the end.

There have been a number of developments in our contact with SLP members since the October 7 meeting. The SLP had a contingent of 20 or 30 people in the October 8 Bakke demonstration in Oakland, and they went out of their way to introduce themselves to Militant salespeople. An SLPer spoke at a Newark forum on gay rights, drawing several older members of the SLP to the forum. At the first Chicago SLP function attended by an SWP member, the comrade attending the meeting met an SLPer who is friendly to our ideas. When George Novack spoke at Kent State University recently three older SLPers from the area told him that they agreed with his speech and wanted to know how to get in touch with the Cleveland SWP.

In Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, comrades have attended SLP functions and met SLPers interested in our ideas. In Philadelphia, one of these SLPers has already spoken at a Militant forum on the Bakke case.

(Comrades should keep the SLP in mind when preparing Militant articles on local activities. Noting SLP participation in such events as the Bakke demonstrations can help inform SWP and SLP members around the country of common activities.)

In Boston, Maceo Dixon and three other comrades attended an SLP picnic and got what seems like a pretty typical response from the SLPers there. One SLPer was hostile, but the rest of the 35 to 40 people there were quite open to talking about a whole range of things, from politics to their own organizational problems. The comrades sold five Militant subs, and have developed a friendly relationship with one of the principal leaders of the Boston SLP.

In New York, the number of SLPers who agree with many of the basic political views of the SWP has continued to grow.

Since the October 7 meeting in Palo Alto, the SLP's National Executive Committee has had one of its semi-annual meetings. This 10 member body is made up of representatives of the SLP's 10 regions, and seems to generally endorse the positions and actions taken by the SLP national office.

Unfortunately, we have not yet received a direct report on the decisions of this meeting. However, the NEC apparently voted not to restrict the relations of individual SLP members with any other group. This important decision seems to mean that SLP members can talk to SWPers, read our material, come to SWP classes, campaign meetings and forums without risking disciplinary action.

The NEC apparently did not take favorable action on our proposal to engage in party-to-party discussions of major political questions-- on the grounds that political differences were too great. We don't know what if any political differences were cited as the basis for this decision.

We expect that these and other decisions of the NEC will be reflected in articles in the Weekly People. If such articles do appear, particularly on the "differences" with the SWP, the Militant will take them up. Such exchanges could be useful in discussions with individual members of the SLP.

All these developments indicate that there will be increasing opportunities for comrades to discuss our ideas with members of the SLP. SLP functions provide a good opportunity to meet SLP members and sell Militant subs. Classes, forums and informal get-togethers all can help to acquaint the SLP members we meet with the basics of our program and perspectives. Such educational exchanges can play an important part in the expanding discussion within the SLP.