

27 October 1967

Letters To The Editor

SDS, YAF Joint Effort

TO THE EDITOR: Campus political organizations seem to be failing in their efforts to involve large numbers of students in political issues. Participants in SDS meetings have expressed concern with the political apathy of many Penn State students and sought means of involving more students in the activities of the SDS.

At the recent teach-in, sponsored by the SDS, members voiced the awareness that the vast majority of students attending were already members of the group or to some extent in accord with its ideology. In the same respect, the YAF has shown no visible success in involving large numbers of students in its activities. Functions which are attended almost exclusively by members of the sponsoring group obviously do little to influence as yet politically undecided students.

We share the opinion that students should develop awareness of political issues and philosophies. We also feel that many students who are ignorant of issues or undecided about their opinions are reluctant to attend individual meetings of established groups on campus as a means of obtaining information. To attract these students, a different approach is needed.

Therefore, we suggest that political groups, such as SDS and YAF jointly organize programs which would provide elementary background information about issues confronting us and elucidate the organizations' respective positions.

The aim of such a program would be one shared by all political groups—that of informing students, interesting them in current issues, and encouraging political involvement.

A continuing cooperative program between groups might be established to accomplish this common aim. We

believe that many apparently apathetic students would welcome the opportunity to learn about current problems and clarify views which they can support.

Jeanno Fineberg, grad student

Christopher Schonwalder, grad student

Letter Cut

Giving the CIA Its Due

TO THE EDITOR: For the past week I have been lectured by the SDS concerning the activities of the CIA, in conspiracy with United Fruit, Gulf Oil, and other U.S. business firms.

I am by no means in favor of fascist dictatorships. However, the nationalization of foreign industries is often merely an excuse for an ungrateful country to seize other people's property without paying for it.

So, if the people of these countries are really suffering because of American interests, I would say to United Fruit and Gulf, "Get out, but before you leave, dismantle your oil wells, abandon your plantations, and cut up your refineries for scrap. Then we'll see what these ingrates can do without us."

Need I remind the SDS that many of our early business ventures such as the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, were made possible by foreign investments, and that a Japanese firm recently opened a plant in Hazleton, Pennsylvania?

If these countries mentioned above did not have our market, to whom could they sell? To Russia? Perhaps, but the Egyptians have little to show for it, except the Aswan Dam, which, as yet, has done very little, if anything for the common Egyptian laborer.

The activities of United Fruit have provided the nations of Central America with an important industry which could not have been built without the use of American capital. In return for this, is a profit too much to ask?

Letter Cut

Donald E. Shultz, '71

~~SCHULTZ~~, DONALD E.

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