SUMMER CONFERENCE URGES ACTION

The second annual URPE National Conference was held at Camp Wakitatina in Western Pennsylvania from August 27 to 31. Although no theme had been set for the conference, discussions centered particularly around involving radical economists in movement action. This focus became evident at the first meeting of the conference which took up the question of "What is URPE?" The discussion began with a brief history of the organization, and then, avoiding the ideological arguments which characterized the first summer conference, went on to describe URPE not in terms of what its members believe, but in terms of what they do. For example, URPE members of the State University of New York at Buffalo are beginning a project entitled "what do we replace it with?" which will attempt to construct not simply a radical economics paradigm, but an entire social-economic-political system, a practical utopia, to be implemented by the coming revolution. Another report, by John Bradley, described the formation of a cooperative in Pittsburg. More detailed accounts of these and other activities by URPE groups will be carried in future Newsletters.

A report by the URPE collective at the American University provided the basis of a discussion of on-campus radical activity. The experience of this collective should help us to understand the difficulties facing URPE members in attempting to gain control of economics departments. Although radicals and so-called liberals constitute two-thirds of the American University economics department, progress during the past year has been impeded by lack of agreement on three crucial issues:

If you want knowledge, you must take part in the practice of changing reality. If you want to know the taste of a pear, you must change the pear by eating it yourself. If you want to know the theory and methods of revolution, you must take part in revolution.

Mao
The Indo-China war and its impact on the economy

The first substantial discussion of the conference was based

on each of these issues the radiant portion of which was unable to

with political economy as an optional specialization.

2. Questions of style, form of courses, ways of presenting

1. The desirability of radical political action

2. "Metric Paper". The cost of the wool to the American people considered.

3. The cost of the fibres from the wool is that which was

4. "Metric Paper". What is the cost of the wool to the American people considered.

The Indo-China war. Where and the impact on the economy.

The Indo-China war: What has happened? A final thesis was the poverty may have

aggregate income level remaining stable, and that in fact appears to

increase in the proportion of the total labor force, with the

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women, blacks, and young persons have been added to the labor force.

The paper asserts. During the current war large numbers of

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benefited initially, but that they will be hurt in the long run, as they are the first to suffer from structural change in the economy. Further research is necessary to determine which of these hypotheses is correct.

The discussion then went on to the issue of organizing labor, especially blue collar labor, against the war. Various members of URPE related their experiences in working with labor unions and in rapping with on-the-job construction workers about the war. Members generally felt their efforts were mildly successful. "We were invited back to rap some more," typifies the experience of many. Some members with experience in contacting blue collar workers emphasized the importance of up-frontedness. They found workers were interested in and willing to engage in discussion about various working conditions in the US as opposed to particular conditions in Cuba. These members felt that while workers would reject anything which was abstractly presented as socialism, they had no difficulty in engaging in discussions on particular aspects of life and work in socialist countries. They felt this was a more effective approach to labor than appeals to how the war affects their weekly wages.

Also emphasized was the importance of placing self-interest arguments in a larger context. Rather than arguing against capitalism in terms of an individual's wages, it is more effective to discuss the effect of capitalism on one's entire environment—in terms of pollution, the level and distribution of public services, the alienation in our society. Alienation as an issue for young workers was considered to be particularly important, especially since labor unions do not appear to be responsive to the young, or to this issue. In general, it was felt that the war itself was not a fruitful issue in relating to working men.

Men's Liberation

On Friday afternoon, women and men met separately to discuss their individual liberation struggles. The men formed three discussion groups. One considered problems of racism and sexism, particularly the extent to which women's liberation was an upper middle class phenomenon, and the extent to which movement people in relating to other classes in society encounter different problems in male-female relationships. A second group discussed part-time employment, particularly as it related to couples dividing up the tasks of earning the bread and performing the household chores. Larry Sawyers of American University economics department is beginning research on this question, and anyone who is interested in the question or who has ideas or knows of data useful for research should contact him. A third group discussed personal problems and experiences in relating to women's liberation and in securing their own liberation from sexist attitudes and conduct.

One man with courage makes a majority.

Andrew Jackson,
U.S. President
Women's heart until she bows down to it no longer

In education, in marriage, in everything. Disappointment is the lot of woman.

From doing so.

Agreed to coordinate the responses.

Marie Stevenson (59yr, 2nd Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103), has

agreed to confer on the conference, and will be made to others.

The questionnaires have been drawn up, a given to as many

provided. The questionnaires were general and

at the business meeting, these questionnaires were generally ap-

graduate students, and faculty members.

strategies on women, black, and total understanding as possible to obtain

we also asked that URFM funds be used to send questionnaires

women have been better able to obtain employment.

exclusion of economics in lower prestige titles of work where

make-donated areas of university economics departments, to the

until now, URFM has reached only economists in the present,

nounced teachers, and toward high school and junior college, etc.

organizing activities toward high school and junior college, etc.

After the meeting, several of us who were personally involved

we learned from each other.

we expressed them, our conversation wandered, but perhaps

with abstract common interests and commitments. We had our dinner-

like the men, we were not a group

who were URFM members. Unlike the men, we were not American

in retrospect, our diversity of opinion seems very natural.

interested in childbirth.

whether or not we had kids, we were supposed to be immature in

those areas. Others of us resonated the importance that as woman,

with children, their own, and we focused discussion on

the right connection, not ours. Some of us were deeply concerned

any opposition to become involved in what was our business or boy-

members of URFM, and were concerned with coordination both in

members of URFM, and were concerned with coordination both in

we had a general level of interest and support. Some of us were at

some intermediate level of interest and support. A few of us were at

a frustrating experience. It quickly became clear that our heads

For me, and probably for most of us, the woman's meeting was

Peggy Howard

Women's Liberation
Imperialism

The Ann Arbor collective which has focused its efforts this past year on a workshop on imperialism led the discussion. Barry Bluestone emphasized Magdoff's conclusion at the end of his Age of Imperialism that American imperialism is not a necessary aspect of capitalism, as in Lenin's thesis, but rather that it is a natural outcome, a way of life under capitalism. The workshop found the determination of the domestic gains of imperialism to be the most difficult aspect of its study, and may have to conclude that these cannot be defined at the present time. The workshop believes that foreign aid could be helpful to the economic growth of poor countries, but that the particular forms of American foreign aid are destructive of their economic development. The workshop believes that its study will enable it to explain the particular form of US intervention in various poor countries, from Peace Corps contingents to paramilitary aid to all out war in support of local oligarchies.

The concept of the multi-national corporation was rejected. While companies may make use of international financing or draw labor from various countries, the so-called multinational corporation is invariably characterized by its top management being exclusively American. Consistent with this observation is the view that American imperialism is an attempt to extend monopolistic and monopsonistic elements to the entire world. This approach accurately describes American ownership of the world's extractive industries. Thus the essence of imperialism may be characterized as the attempt to extend and secure American monopolies.

The workshop also discussed the possibility that the Leninist thesis of excess capital accumulation may explain the international conduct of particular firms, even though it may not be characteristic of American capitalism as a whole. Imperialism was also described as a system of class exploitation. A three-class model of American capitalists, poor country's ruling class and poor country's peasantry is powerful in analysing the operation of American imperialism, and in understanding the distribution of gains and losses within the recipient country. The primary beneficiary of American imperialism may well be the ruling oligarchy of the poor country. Finally, the role of ideology was mentioned. Anti-communism is consistent with, not an opposing thesis, to that of economic exploitation.

Community Organizing

A workshop on community development, advocacy economics and building alternative institutions enabled members to exchange ideas and experiences.

The following persons participated in the workshop, and will be preparing accounts of their experiences for future issues of the Newsletter:
is always possible.

First, the steps in a declarative process are never necessary.

We are making some significant, the operation of declarations, however,

have been considered an example, the following points, however,

the discussion focused on defining what is a contradiction. Although

3. What is the principle contradiction?

2. How do we identify the contradiction?

1. How many contradictions are there?

To answer in any general situation:

Mike stated these questions, however, which he was unable

in the world, the relationship of working classes and the third

between the capitalists and the working classes in the United

example, American Impressionism may be characterized by contradiction.

and explained in terms of the contradictions it contained. For

by my understanding that any formal situation could be understood

a discussion of declarations made by Mike Zweig of the State

Declarations

or the Newsletter,

2nd Place, Pa 16802

St. 203, Human Development Building, University

Box 8479, Austin, Texas 78712

301 Westwood Ave, An Arbor, Michigan 48102

Box 3777, Aspen, Colorado 81611

25241 Main Street, San Jose, California 95110

219 Berkshire Drive, Pittsburgh, N. Y. 14226

call me 9177715

Dept. of Economics

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Park, Pa.

University

2571

5718

Peter Mayer

Eric Helt

Don Eshun

Kathlyn DIX

Jim Crotty

Norths' Clement

John Bradney

Ray Good

Howard Ayersworth

Jay Allen

Cons of New York at Stuyvesant Avenue of New York at Stuyvesant Avenue of New York at Stuyvesant Avenue of New York at Stuyvesant Avenue of New York at Stuyvesant Avenue of New York at Stuyvesant
Workshops

On Sunday, workshops were held on the following topics:

1. A new graduate level course at the American University on methodology and problems in modern political economics. The course will attempt to construct the various radical paradigms and to test their usefulness in analysing diverse problems of American capitalism.

2. The political economy of medical care. Anyone interested in research in this area should contact Sandy Kelman, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

3. The Political Economy of Black Liberation. The discussion was led by Jim Weaver of American University who has a paper available on this subject.

4. Alternatives to technology. Interested persons contact Ray Boddy, Department of Economics, State University of New York, Buffalo, New York.

Political Action on Campus

A discussion of political action on campus produced two opposing points of view. First was an argument for greater off-campus activity. Barry Bluestone emphasized that URPE members needed to become involved in economics oriented movement activity, and that this activity had to move off-campus. URPE members have skills needed by other movement groups, and members should offer their services to these groups. The suggestion was made that the National Office make up a list of movement organizations and contact these organizations to determine their needs for economic assistance. Since the national organization does not have the means of carrying cut obligations on a massive level, it was felt that the contacting of movement groups to offer assistance should be done by local URPE chapters. The discussion emphasized, however, that URPE and its members must be in the movement themselves, not simply an appendage to the movement acting in an advisory capacity.

The opposing point of view emphasized the need for every person to come to grips with his own environment. There is no scarcity of targets for movement activity by URPE members on the campus. Also mentioned was the threat of blacklisting of students and professors by universities, and the need for URPE organization to combat this.

Members of community colleges felt that the debate between off-campus and on-campus activity was irrelevant to them. These colleges are an integral part of the community in which they are located, and any movement activity, wherever it takes place, will have its impact on the community.
A new National Steering Committee was elected at the UPRP.

**National Steering Committee Elected**

If you have additional ideas for the AA convention, send them to the national office.

Raise maximum amount of UPRP possible, be outlined in advance to prepare for these contributors.

Contact UPRP for an educational program to meet with the black caucus.

If possible, draft a study of the degree of discrimination against these groups.

Truth squads will draft an educational program to meet with the black caucus.

If possible, UPRP demands that the AAA conduct a study of the degree of discrimination against these groups.

The convention to disrupt that.

The convention of those taken off the Affiliated Social Sciences Program at the AAA was in the interest of the sponsoring organizations as it was in the long run. The AAA and UPRP is not to be made to disassociate UPRP from the AAA and UPRP is to be last year, the summer conference decided. Every effort will be made to disrupt that. AAA convention meeting in December, but will not stage a

**The A/E Convention**

Council of Economic Advisers?