

the CAPITOL LIST

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
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D.C./MD./VA. LOCALS
JANUARY 1, 1979

HOME FROM MEMPHIS

DEMOCRATIC AGENDA OFFERS LEADERSHIP, IDEAS TO MEMPHIS CONFERENCE

"DSOC AND IT'S ALLIES WON A RESPECTED PLACE IN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY WITH THE LEADERSHIP AND IDEAS IT PROVIDED," REPORTS DSOC NATIONAL VICE-CHAIR RUTH JORDAN AFTER RETURNING FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY MID-TERM CONFERENCE IN MEMPHIS LAST MONTH.

JORDAN SAID THE DEMOCRATIC AGENDA, WHICH INCLUDES DSOC AND ITS ALLIES IN THE LIBERAL AND LABOR COMMUNITY, HELPED UNITE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS WHILE GIVING VOICE TO DISCONTENT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S REPUBLICAN-LEANING POLICIES.

"FROM THE START OF THE CONFERENCE, DEMOCRATIC AGENDA AND THE DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE PROVIDED A CENTER AROUND WHICH LABOR PEOPLE, COMMUNITY ACTION GROUPS AND DEMOCRATIC PARTY REGULARS COULD COALESCE," SHE SAID. (DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE, OF WHICH DSOC IS ALSO A MEMBER, CONCENTRATED ITS EFFORTS ON DEMOCRATISING CONFERENCE RULES.)

A SURPRISE CAME WHEN A BUDGET RESOLUTION, WHICH CAME OUT OF THE JOINT D.A./D.C. CAUCUS, RECEIVED THE NECESSARY SIGNATURES DURING THE CONFERENCE TO GET IT ON THE FLOOR. OTHER RESOLUTIONS HAD ALSO RECEIVED SUPPORT. ON AGENDA RESOLUTIONS SUCH AS NATIONAL HEALTH CARE, ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISES WERE REACHED WITH THE WHITE HOUSE ON WORDING, BUT IT TOOK THE TOUGHEST KIND OF POLITICKING BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO DEFEAT THE OTHER RESOLUTIONS.

D.C. DELEGATES WHO WANTED TO VOTE FOR THE MINORITY BUDGET RESOLUTION WERE WARNED "IT WOULD TIE THE PRESIDENT'S HANDS" AND THAT THE "PRESIDENT REALLY WANTED D.C. SUPPORT." WHITE HOUSE AID HAM JORDON TOLD THE D.C. CAUCUS THE WHITE HOUSE HAD BEEN "VERY SUPPORTIVE" OF VOTING RIGHTS FOR D.C. AND THAT THE PRESIDENT REALLY WANTED THIS VOTE.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TUES. - JAN. 9	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING. 8:00 P.M. 6TH FLOOR CONFERENCE RM.
TUES. JAN. 23	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 8:00 P.M. ROOM 713
TUES. - FEB. 6	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING. 8:00 P.M. 6TH FLOOR CONFERENCE RM.
FEBRUARY 17-19	BIENNIAL NATIONAL DSOC CONFERENCE, HOUSTON

HERLING DINNER STRENGTHENS TIES WITH LABOR

TO HONOR LABOR REPORTER JOHN HERLING, MORE THAN 400 PERSONS CAME TO THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB BANQUET ROOM ON NOVEMBER 14TH TO ATTEND THE FIRST DEBS-THOMAS AWARD DINNER, GIVEN BY THE D.C.-MARYLAND LOCAL OF DSOC.

FOLLOWING BRIEF, BUT VERY WARM, TESTIMONIALS BY SOME THIRTEEN FRIENDS, HERLING ACCEPTED THE AWARD BY SAYING WRYLY THAT IF ONE-TENTH OF WHAT WAS SAID OF HIM WERE TRUE, HE WOULD SAY 'THANKS' AND SIT DOWN.

INSTEAD, HE READ A MOVING TRIBUTE TO NORMAN THOMAS, WHOM HERLING REMEMBERS FOR HAVING EMBODIED AND CONVEYED THE MESSAGE THAT WE MAKE CHOICES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE — THAT ALTERNATIVES TO PRESENT INSTITUTIONS ARE WORTH CONSTRUCTING AND WORTH WORKING TO EFFECT.

3) THAT A MODEST MEDIA ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN WITH LOCAL NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO STATIONS BE STARTED WITH ADS ABOUT OUR ACTIVITIES. WE SHOULD ALSO OBTAIN MORE PRESS COVERAGE OF DSOC.

4) THAT WE PRODUCE A SMALL PAMPHLET SUMMARIZING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DC/MARYLAND LOCAL FOR USE IN RECRUITING.

5) THAT WE EXTEND OUR OUTREACH TO THE CITY BY FORMING LIAISONS WITH COMPATIBLE ORGANIZATIONS BY OPERATING LITERATURE TABLES AND BY PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNITY EVENTS.

6) THAT AT LEAST 40% OF THE ORGANIZERS TIME BE SPENT IN OUTREACH AND RECRUITING.

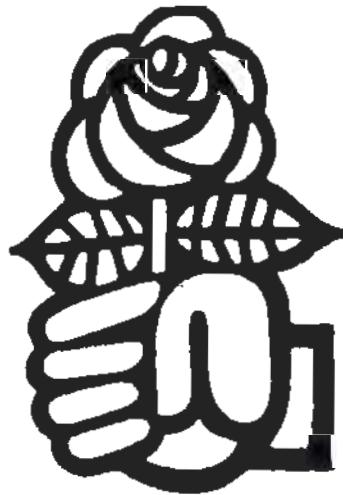
7) THAT FUNDS BE ALLOCATED FOR STARTING CAMPUS CHAPTERS AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. THIS WOULD ENABLE US TO BEGIN OUTREACH TO THE BLACK COMMUNITY.

8) THAT WE HOLD A LABOR CONFERENCE IN BALTIMORE IN THE SPRING.

9) THAT WE CONTRIBUTE 50¢ PER MEMBER TO THE REGIONAL TREASURY.

THERE IS SO MUCH THAT WE CAN DO IF WE EXPAND THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LOCAL CHAPTER. WE HAVE A RECOGNIZED POLITICAL PRESENCE IN THE CITY THROUGH THE ELECTION CAMPAIGNS OF THE SUMMER AND FALL AND ARE THUS IN A STRONG POSITION TO EXTEND OUR INFLUENCE IN THE LIFE OF D.C. POLITICS. ALL OF THIS REQUIRES A HIGH LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT OF BOTH TIME AND MONEY. WE NEED YOU!

— JIM WALLACE
LOCAL CHAIRMAN



DSOC'S DELLUMS AT GEORGETOWN

IT IS QUITE AN EXPERIENCE TO HEAR A CONGRESSMAN BEGIN A SPEECH BY SAYING THAT HE IS A DSOC MEMBER AS RONALD DELLUMS (D - CALIFORNIA), A DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST DID LAST MONTH AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY. DELLUMS SPOKE ON THE POLITICS OF THE 1980'S AT AN EVENT SPONSORED BY THE GU BLACK STUDENT ALLIANCE.

DELLUMS ATTACKED THE CURRENT RIGHTWARD DRIFT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY. DURING THE LAST ELECTION, "I FELT RATHER LONELY ON THE LEFT BECAUSE ALL THE MODERATE LIBERALS WERE SCURRYING FOR COVER," HE SAID. "THE RIGHT WING HAS US (THE LEFT) OUT-FINANCED, OUT-ORGANIZED AND OUT-NUMBERED." DELLUMS THEN SPOKE OF THE "BALKANIZED" NATURE OF AMERICAN POLITICS. INSTEAD OF ACTING AS COMPETING INTERESTS WE SHOULD BE SHREWD, LIKE THE RIGHT, AND SEE THAT MOST OF US ARE VICTIMS OF THE SAME SYSTEM, HE SAID.

"THE POLITICS OF THE SEVENTIES WERE THE POLITICS WHERE THE GOVERNMENT HAS A PROGRAM WHICH OPENS TEN JOBS AND TEN THOUSAND PEOPLE SHOW UP FOR INTERVIEWS. FIVE OF THE JOBS MUST GO TO WOMEN, THREE TO BLACKS, TWO TO HISPANICS, AND THE REMAINDER TO EVERYONE ELSE. THE POLITICS OF THE EIGHTIES SHOULD BE CONCERNED WITH WHAT HAPPENS TO THE OTHER 9990 PEOPLE."

HE SAID THAT SOME OF HIS COMRADES ON THE LEFT ARE ADVOCATING THAT WE WAIT UNTIL THE PENDULUM SWINGS BACK OUR WAY. BUT PENDULUM SWINGS MUST BE CREATED, AND HE INSISTED THAT WE MUST ACT NOW TO CHANNEL THE PUBLIC DISTRUST OF GOVERNMENT IN OUR DIRECTION. "IF YOU BELIEVE THAT PENDULUM SWINGS ARE NATURAL YOU MAY AS WELL BELIEVE IN VOOODOO OR SUPERSTITION," HE WENT ON. "FOR INSTANCE, TAX REFORM IS OUR ISSUE, AND THE RIGHT STEALS IT FROM US."

DELLUMS IS THE SECRETARY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS AND ADVOCATES THAT IT BECOME A MAJOR FORCE IN AMERICAN POLITICS. HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE CAUCUS AS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE MAKING OF FOREIGN POLICY AND RELATIONS WITH THE THIRD WORLD. HE MENTIONED THAT HE WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH FIDEL CASTRO WHOM HE RECENTLY HAD MET WITH IN CUBA. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE U.S. AND CUBA COULD NORMALIZE RELATIONS SOON.

FROM THE LEFT SIDE OF THE HILL:
STRAWS IN THE DEMOCRATIC WIND

THE NEWLY ELECTED 96TH CONGRESS, WHICH WILL BE SWORN IN JANUARY 15, WILL HAVE A NEARLY 2 TO 1 DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. WITH ONE SEAT LEFT VACANT BY THE MURDER OF CONGRESSMAN LEO J. RYAN IN GUYANA AND ONE SEAT STILL UNDECIDED IN A RECOUNT, THE DEMOCRATS HOLD 275 SEATS TO 158 FOR THE GOP.

BUT IT WILL BE A CONGRESS VERY UNRESPONSIVE TO CRIES FOR SOCIAL PROGRAMS OR ECONOMIC REFORM. INSTEAD, THE LEGISLATURE IS LIKELY TO HUNKER DOWN FOR TWO YEARS OF BUDGET-CUTTING ALMOST EVERYWHERE EXCEPT THE PENTAGON AND VETERANS PROGRAMS. IT IS NOT A HAPPY PROSPECT.

MUCH INITIAL ENERGY WILL BE SPENT CLEANING HOUSE. IN EARLY DECEMBER, THE HOUSE DEMOCRATS, INCLUDING NOVEMBER'S CROP OF NEW FRESHMEN, GATHERED TO VOTE ON PROCEDURAL ISSUES SUCH AS RULES CHANGES FOR DISCIPLINING ERRANT MEMBERS.

WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARED AFTER THREE DAYS OF DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS DEBATE, THE FORCES OF "REFORM" HAD BEEN SOUNDLY DEFEATED. HOUSE DEMOCRATS REVIEWED THE RESULTS OF PREVIOUS ROUNDS OF POST-WATERGATE PROCEDURAL REFORM AND SIGNALLED THAT ENOUGH WAS ENOUGH.

FOUR YEARS AGO, THE LARGE CLASS OF "WATERGATE FRESHMEN" STAGED A MINI-COUP THAT PUT A CRIMP IN THE SENIORITY SYSTEM, OVERTHREW 3 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED THE POWER OF ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN. POWER ONCE HOARDED BY FULL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN WAS SPREAD AROUND. MORE POWERFUL SUBCOMMITTEES -- NOW NUMBERING ABOUT 150 -- WERE THE RESULT.

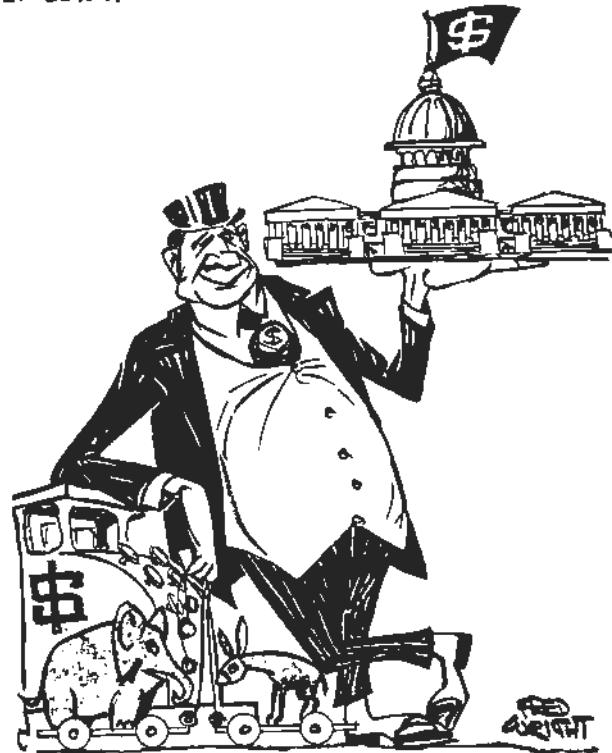
THIS YEAR, SOME OF THE NEWER MEMBERS THOUGHT THE PENDULUM OF REFORM HAD NOW SWUNG TOO FAR. OTHERS PRESSED FOR THE DIFFUSION OF POWER TO BE SPREAD FURTHER STILL.

THE MAIN BATTLE WAS FOUGHT LAST MONTH OVER THE VOLATILE ETHICS ISSUE IN THE WAKE OF THE "KOREAGATE" INFLUENCE-BUYING SCANDAL. MOST HOUSE MEMBERS -- EVEN SOME OF THE NEWEST ONES WHO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON AS UNFAMILIAR WITH TONGSON PARK AS WITH ROCK CREEK PARK -- VIEW THE PLOT BY THE KOREAN CIA TO BUY VOTES IN CONGRESS AS OVER AND DONE WITH.

THUS, IN A CLOSED-DOOR DEBATE THAT SEVERAL MEMBERS SAID FOCUSED ON PERSONALITIES MORE THAN ETHICS PRINCIPLES, DEMOCRATS REJECTED LANGUAGE THAT COULD HAVE TAKEN AWAY SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIPS HELD BY TWO MEMBERS SUBJECT TO CHARGES OF ACCEPTING CASH FROM KOREAN AGENTS.

IN RECENT YEARS, THE CAUCUS HAS VOTED TO OPEN ALMOST ALL OF ITS MEETINGS TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC, AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN REVISING HOUSE RULES TO FORCE VIRTUALLY ALL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES TO MEET IN OPEN SESSION. BUT LAST MONTH, MAJORITY LEADER JIM WRIGHT MOVED TO KEEP THE CAUCUS CLOSED DURING THE ETHICS DEBATE AND AFTER THE MOTION PASSED, TOLD REPORTERS, "MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE PUBLIC ARE DOING THE PUBLIC'S BUSINESS." THEN HE SHAPPED, "I'M NOT AWARE THAT ANYONE ELECTED YOU."

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS DEMOCRATS IN ONE KEY BALLOT REJECTED 161 TO 73 A MOVE TO REQUIRE CAUCUS VOTES ON SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIPS SOUGHT BY PERSONS REPRIMANDED BY THE HOUSE. THEY ALSO VOTED NOT TO FORCE CONVICTED OR INDICTED CHAIRMEN TO STEP DOWN.



IN ONE ACTION, HOWEVER, THE CAUCUS CONSENTED TO A PROPOSAL TO REQUIRE THE CAUCUS TO DECIDE WHETHER CONVICTED OR CENSURED SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMEN SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO KEEP THEIR POSTS. (SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, EXCEPT ON THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, ARE NOW ELECTED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS, RATHER THAN BY THE CAUCUS OF ALL DEMOCRATS.) BY THIS STEP, THE CAUCUS ENSURED THAT A VOTE WILL COME IN JANUARY WHICH COULD STRIP CONVICTED REP. CHARLES DIGGS OF HIS CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE AFRICAN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE. THE VOTE ON DIGGS WILL COME ONLY IF THE INTERNATIONAL

STUDY/ACTION GROUPS TO EXPLORE HOUSING

THE DISTRICT'S SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEM WILL BE THE SUBJECT FOR THE LOCAL'S FIRST "STUDY/ACTION GROUP" (SAG) MEETING JANUARY 22.

SAG IS INTENDED TO COMBINE STUDY AND DISCUSSION WITH POLITICAL ACTION AND EACH SERIES OF FOUR OR FIVE MEETINGS SHOULD PRODUCE A PAPER OUTLINING A DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST APPROACH TO ANY ISSUE WHILE PROPOSING SPECIFIC POLITICAL ACTION PRIMARILY FOR THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENT. THE HOUSING SAG ORGANIZERS ANTICIPATE THEIR PAPER WILL BE PRESENTED TO A GENERAL MEMBERSHIP FOR DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION.

MARK LOONEY, DIRECTOR OF STRONGFORCE, WILL BEGIN THE SERIES WITH AN INTRODUCTION TO THE DISTRICT'S HOUSING PROBLEMS. MR. LOONEY IS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY-WIDE HOUSING COALITION AND IS ALSO CHAIRPERSON OF AREA NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3B, AND RECEIVED THE D.C./MD. LOCAL'S ENDORSEMENT FOR CITY COUNCILMEMBER FROM WARD THREE IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTION.

FUTURE SAGS ARE EXPECTED ON THE CONVENTION CENTER, YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT, CRIME, AND OTHER TOPICS AND THE FORMAT IS AN OPEN ONE THAT CAN BE USED BY ANYONE IN THE LOCAL.

JANE MIDGELY WILL BE ACTING AS MODERATOR FOR THE HOUSING SAG. SHE IS STILL GATHERING NAMES FOR SPEAKERS FOR THE SUCCEEDING MEETINGS SO PEOPLE WITH SUGGESTIONS ARE URGED TO CALL HER AT 234-2000, OR THE D.C./MD. LOCAL OFFICE (296-7693). THE GROUP STILL NEEDS A "REPORTER" OR REPORTERS TO TAKE NOTES AND SUMMARIZE THE MEETINGS. ANYONE INTERESTED SHOULD CALL RICHARD MOUNTS (293-7580 OR 244-2605).

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 7:30 P.M. ON THE 6TH FLOOR IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DUPONT CIRCLE BUILDING LOCATED AT 1346 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

OCCUPATION _____ SCHOOL OR UNION _____



DATE _____ TELEPHONE _____

signature _____

- I want to join. Enclosed are my dues (dues include \$5 for a subscription to the *Newsletter of the Democratic Left*):
 - \$50 sustaining \$15 regular
 - \$8 student/limited income
- I do not want to join now but I will subscribe to *Newsletter of the Democratic Left* \$10 sustaining \$5 regular \$2.50 student
- Please send me more information about the DSOC.
- Enclosed is a contribution of _____ to further your work.

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