

## PRECINCT POLITICS IN THE UNIVERSITY

Electoral politics is the opiate of American liberals. More elite than ever the power elite have efficiently used the mass media to obscure the absence of choice between the two parties. We can support only a new politics begun democratically from the grassroots, outside the twin-headed machine. "Peace" candidates within the system are not worthy of the support of anti-war workers; ten instant Fulbrights do not change the reality of the American corporate-military apparatus holding the Free World together, especially the former colonies.

In the age of consensus politics the precincts are nonentities. The only precincts that are now worth working like precincts are the non-precincts of the university populated by floating non-property owners. There now exists in America a definite student class. At Stanford there are over 10,000 redemptible from the mass media and passionately interested in the life of the university as a political unit.

These people must be reached, hopefully to begin a new power base to stop this war in Vietnam and future Vietnams.

The obvious approach is through the interest groups. Allies should constantly be used, especially SNCC and SDS with their national connections. Opponents in the YDs and YRs should be forced into debates; this should serve to move liberals, at least intellectually into firmer political positions.

Hardest to reach people is through where they are at, but if we are to develop a mass base and rouse the apathetic it must be done. For the time being, off-campus people need not be worried about, for they are the ones who eat at the Union and see our table, pick up pamphlets and come to rallies. Moreover they are mostly liberal grad students. Our main deficiency lies in the undergrad on-campus section particularly the fraternities.

SCPV members ~~must~~ in any one living unit ought to regard themselves as an active corps. This need not be elaborate. They can simply get together, at meals for instance, to keep in touch with the anti-war movement and with developments on the war. They can invite SCPV speakers to debate or discuss the war in their dorm or fraternity. They can distribute literature, post notices of meetings; they can seek out those ~~men~~ disturbed by the draft.

The anti-war movement still draws its dynamic from the vocal, informed committees in the universities. But after operating for over a year, some committees have decreased rather than increased in membership. This is not to say we should go out and pick up a lot of dead wood. But we must find a way to intensify action and radicalize thought while rooting our cause more widely among those around us.

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