

# AN ECHO, NOT A CHOICE

## McCarthy's "Peace" Candidacy

The Democratic Party is one of the two (?) major parties in the United States. Like the Republican Party, it is controlled by members of the corporate elite. (See Domhoff Who Rules America?) Senator Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota is a loyal Democrat running for the presidential nomination of the Democratic Party against President Johnson. McCarthy is a liberal and a "dove." He favors a bombing pause and negotiations in Vietnam. His position on Vietnam is one of mild dissent, and his decision to run for president indicates that there exists a disagreement over Vietnam within America's power structure. It, however, does not indicate any basic change in the imperialist orientation of this power structure. In the speech launching his "peace" campaign McCarthy made this very clear. He said:

"I am not for peace at any price but for an honorable, rational, and political solution to this war; a solution which I believe will enhance our world position, encourage the respect of our allies and potential adversaries, which will permit us to give necessary attention to our other commitments abroad—both military and nonmilitary."

McCarthy is a typical liberal "dove." He disagrees with the present administration on the best way to preserve the U.S.'s world hegemony. However, he refuses to support a just solution to the war; he opposes withdrawal from Vietnam; and he offers no plan for the resolution of the major internal problems facing the nation; racism and poverty. McCarthy being a loyal Democrat and a member of the "loyal opposition," has stated that he will support President Johnson if he is renominated. (Johnson will be renominated if he wants to be.) McCarthy will not lead an independent slate if he is defeated inside the Democratic Party. In fact, his campaign is designed to keep the anti-war movement within the Democratic Party thus preventing it from becoming a threat to the system. McCarthy is quite candid about this:

".../ My campaign/ may counter the growing sense of alienation from politics which is currently reflected in a tendency to withdraw in either frustration or cynicism, to talk of non-participation and to make threats of support for a third party or fourth party of other irregular political movements."

Given facts, the Stanford Community of the Left has decided to only endorse and support candidates of the Peace and Freedom Party and to condemn the Republican, Democratic and American Independent parties for the warlike, racist and imperialist policies. However, we realize that many people who are conscientiously opposed to the war have still made no decision pro or con concerning Senator McCarthy and his "peace" candidacy. Therefore, we suggest that the following questions should be asked Senator McCarthy in order to clarify his position.

- 1) How can Senator McCarthy be opposed to the war and still support President Johnson?
- 2) Why won't Senator McCarthy lead an independent peace slate?
- 3) Why is Senator McCarthy opposed to withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam?
- 4) Why does Senator McCarthy think it will take five years for the U.S. to leave Vietnam after the war is settled while President Johnson said he would leave in six months?
- 5) Does Senator McCarthy support the draft resisters?
- 6) Does Senator McCarthy support Black Power?