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Over the past few months many of us have come to the position that a new organization must be formed. Many people have given up their radical activities because they could not find such an organization. Others have joined the Bay Area Revolutionary Union (RU), despite initial political difference, because "it was the only game in town."

Hopefully a new organization will begin tonight. It will be radical or revolutionary, anti-imperialist, multi-issue, etc. It will work--to start with--on and off campuses in the mid-peninsula.

I've been thinking about this for a long time, so I thought I'd lay out some fundamental ideas and questions as a starting point for discussion.

A. The new organization, by necessity, will be exclusively. To start with, this will mean for personal reasons, as well as political, but we must be prepared to work with all leftists when organizing, fighting, etc. Exclusion is important for two reasons. In evaluating practical questions we must have access to a group with fundamental agreement--or we will have to argue everything. And since "united fronts" will put us in a position where we may be "competing" with disciplined caucuses or give us primary responsibility to groups which are secondary to others, we must form collectives of organizers as our primary responsibility.

B. The structure of the new organization must not be authoritarian. Individuals should not be under absolute discipline of the group. Members should not fear disagreement with leaders ~~XXXXXXX~~ or "party line" in public--indeed, we should feel obligated to speak our mind.

In defining some form of "coherent politics," I wish to distinguish my (our?) political position from groups such as RU, PL, etc.

I. Revolution does not mean the seizure of central state power. It will be necessary to defeat the State, and we may need to establish form of federal cooperation and coordination, but revolution must be seen primarily as the seizure of local control of institutions. Only in this way can democratic control be established.

II. Our analysis--especially our class analysis--must be based on a thoroughgoing understanding of contemporary corporate monopoly capitalism. Many "revolutionaries" vulgarize Marx by forgetting his methods but parroting some of his specific ~~XXXXXXX~~ conclusions. Working class participation is important in any revolutionary movement, but we must consider exactly who that working class is--today.

III. Our style of organizing must reflect our ideals. Clearly we cannot make a revolution merely by being "beautiful people." But to attract and deserve support we must demonstrate our humanity, humor, etc. We should not guilt people into activity. Rather (even at Stanford), we should approach constituencies as real people whose liberation must be tied to that of blacks, Vietnamese, workers, etc. (not subordinated).



I see this new organization as an alternative to the RU. Many of us have developed antagonism to much of the RU's local work on the campuses. We must not forget, however, that the work of the RU is basically good, especially in factories etc. We should expect to work with the RU (and PL) on many projects and campaigns. And we should be careful not to let sectarian division cloud the real nature of our struggle. Furthermore, we should be careful not to take an opportunistic position--recruiting liberal support in differences with the RU. Historically our position is too the LEFT of the RU.

On the practical level, it will not be easy to form a new organization. Past attempts have failed. Let me suggest ~~XXXXXX~~ therefore that any attempt to develop a "statement of principles" be done in the context of active organizing, which can be broken down into four areas.

1. Preparation for fall student organizing--preparing booklets, departmental caucuses, etc. (Stanford, Foothill, etc.)
2. Workplace organizing--many people with our politics need jobs.. Perhaps if they concentrated on Stanford they could work with us while organizing with workers.
3. Developing counterinstitutions-Free U., Full Circle, PSC, Medical Clinic~~SC~~, Law Commune, and maybe eventually people's automechanics. These must succeed if the movement is to grow.
4. Summer organizing--anti-Dillingham, Tenants' Union, ~~XXXXXX~~ guerilla theater, etc. are all possibilities for summer work in Palo Alto (GI support can be done from here, too.) To develop as an organization we must begin to relate to active constituencies now.

These are ~~just~~ a few of many ideas I hope will stimulate discussion. The task is monumental. The time, I hope, is not too late.