



DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

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SDS did not have a special~~ly~~ role in relation to the teach-ins when they started. Your memory is accurate about Al Haber and Carl Oglesby. They participated vigorously. Of course, at the time, Carl was not as identified with SDS as he was later to become. He was still working in the public relations department of Bendix Corporation when the escalation started - and had, for some months prior, been working on the monograph on Vietnam that he eventually published. Thus he was a main source of information and analysis about Vietnam. ~~Thru~~ Through those early days he played a valuable and constructive role. I had many discussions with him that made plain our ~~polit~~ political differences. But we agreed to disagree, and act in concert when we could~~x~~ - which was most of the time. Two incidents stand out in my mind. I remember Carl coming over to me after the National Teach-In, embracing and congratulating me for the part I had played in bringing that off. He certainly, to that point, did not regard the effort as an exercise in cooptation. Quite the reverse, he made it clear that he thought what we had done was immensely significant.

The other, ironical incident, was Carl's strong~~urging~~ that Irving Howe be ~~as~~ Haber was surely one of the ~~polit~~ people who worked hardest in organizing the National Teach-in. As he was not a faculty member he ~~polit~~ played a very subordinate role in organizing the first teach-in. He was, for example, not at the general meeting of moratorium-signers who decided to switch to the teach-in. While Al was indefatigable, he was also unreliable. I think his wife (I hear they were recently divorced - is that right?) Barbara, played a rather bad role in that regard. ~~Those~~ Those of us who were ~~polit~~, in effect, the steering committee for the National Teach-in would sit down with Al, hammer out an agreement~~x~~ in situations in which Al was ~~polit~~ reasonable and responsive. Then he would return to his "constituency", and before long would be back explaining why what we had agreed upon was not a good idea, ~~polit~~ and making alternative demands. Still, ~~polit~~ on the whole, he was an enormously ~~polit~~ able and effective person - and played an absolutely critical role in organizing the ~~polit~~ symposia held at the National Teach-in.

As for the internal fights that SDS suffered~~x~~ during the relevant period, I know nothing. No doubt there were those who viewed anything done by anyone over 30 as cooptative. But as I had ~~polit~~ no special relationship to the University's SDS chapter by this~~x~~ time, ~~polit~~ and was completely absorbed in ~~polit~~ performing the functions I had accepted, I just knew nothing about those squabbles, and, except as they affected the effectiveness of the teach-ins, cared less. ~~polit~~ I hate sectarianism in all its ugly ~~polit~~ forms - whether it be sectarianism of the Old or the New Left. I suppose that is partly why I continue to identify myself as a liberal - it insulates me from the sectarian fights of the "socialism" Left.

The other thing I enclose is a piece on the Meaning of the National Teach-in that I wrote. It was intended for distribution at that~~x~~ event, but was mostly suppressed - as far as I could gather - by SDS militants, who, working with Al Haber, had by then come to dominate our internal communications - due mainly, no doubt, that by then ~~the faculty had decided~~

asked to participate in the Bundy television confrontation after the teach-in national level - u. - a name - C. H. H. was selected by