

7 June 1970

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Dear Arnie:

I don't know as you remember me by name, but I was in SDS in Ann Arbor for a while, a student of Abe Kaplan's, and we worked on the Teach-In together.

Anyway, I wonder if you could help me out a little. I have been working on a full-dress history of SDS for Little, Brown, for the past year and a half and am now in the process of pulling it together. I have a couple of questions about events I hope you can add some flavor and depth to:

1) Dick Flacks told me that you were at Port Huron and gave and evening-long discussion on "Appropriate Political Postures." Do you remember what you said? Or its direction. And I wonder if you could recall much of that Convention, of the arguments over seating the PYO observer, Jim Hawley; of Harrington and Don Sleighman's tirads against criticism either of unions or the Cold War? The other question there is what was your own response to two things: the criticism the kids made of the Cold War (which was subsequently toned down for print), and secondly, participatory democracy. From the discussions and in your own mind, what did you think the latter might mean?

2) I still don't have straight either how the Teach-In got going or SDS's relationship to it. I vaguely remember that there was a group of professors, yourself included, who were upset about the war and wanted a day-long strike. It seems to me that the merry Legislature hit the roof, threatened to can everyone, that Bill Haber refused to allow the building to be used, and it was only because a number of tenured professors threatened to hold classes there at night anyway, that the place was opened up. Does that sound right? The other feeling I had was that some individual SDS people like Al Haber and Carl Oglesby were interested in the Teach-In, but the cahper as a whole was soured on things, and caught up with the South, and felt it was already co-optation.

I would really appreciate a quick response to these questions and since I would like to quote from whatever you write, please keep that in mind, or bracket out what you wouldn't like printed.

Yours, George White

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