

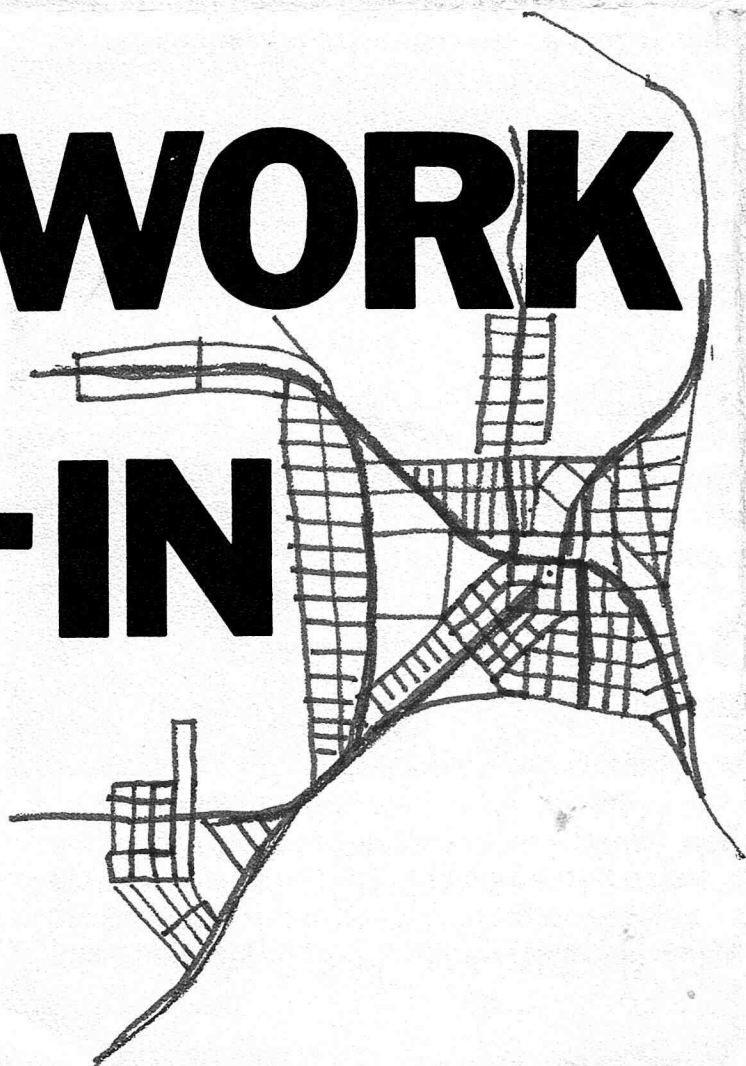
THE VIET NAM WORK -IN

A Revolutionary Step Forward

For Radicals With A Cause

But Without A Base

The VIETNAM WORK-IN will organize thousands of students who will be working this summer, to bring the ideas, the politics and the urgency of the anti-Vietnam war movement, among the workers on their jobs.



The Vietnam Work-In

Only two weeks after half a million marched in protest, many wonder if Johnson's escalations aren't deliberately timed to demoralize the war opposition. The movement, exalted on Saturday, stops dead in its tracks Sunday to ponder the latest atrocity as well as its own frustration.

What do we do now? What's holding us back? Important questions but there's a war going on and a summer approaching. "Not enough time to talk or think; we've got to act." So again, frustration reaps a whirlwind of proposals: Escalate our opposition. Reach more people. Grass roots community action. Good! Petition your congressman; write letters to the editor. Not so good. And then some old relics, brought in as hot new items: Elect delegates to the party conventions; capture the primaries; join the Democratic party. Bad! A weegee board of confusing answers, some better than others, but all somehow missing the mark.

The N.Y. and San Fransisco marchers reflect the movement's base and also the quicksand that underlies its apparent strength. Who marched? In N.Y., students, professional people and their friends, intellectuals, artists, social workers, teachers, hippies and pacifists, black people, radicals and others. In San Fransisco the groups were even less defined—perhaps ninety percent of the marchers came alone. Who didn't march? In N.Y., 250,000 garment workers were not represented. Two hundred thousand teamsters had no delegation. Seven pie-cards carried a lone banner for thousands of S.F. longshoremen. What could it mean? Do these and seventy million other American workers support the war? Hardly. Witness the polls, referendums and pitifully small Loyalty Day turn out of war supporters.

Yet, the movement remains aloof. Students, professionals and radicals busy themselves to broaden their following, but restrict their efforts, planning and thinking, almost by instinct, to people like themselves, ignoring the coldest fact of political life: Isolation. Seventy million, who work for wages every day — stand aside — for them the movement is as far away as Vietnam and for most, as fearsome.

We must move now

Great opportunities and dangers confront the people this summer. Workers are the decisive force in the country and they are in motion now. Sold out and silenced for years by labor traitors whose job has been to deliver them to administration war-makers, they are rebelling against corrupt leadership, inadequate contracts and government suppression. The administration, on the one hand fighting a war we don't want, on the other passing anti-strike legislation, extending injunctions and



Airline workers vs. the "national interest"

jailing militant leaders, is afraid that workers will begin to see that both hands belong to the bosses' body.

The war makers are not idle to stop them. A campaign has been launched to set off a race war this summer. The national media are whipping it up with terror tales of riots, looting, arson, national guards, etc. In Cleveland, Chicago, L.A. and other cities white workers are being urged to arm and fight the Blacks. The slogans are ominous: "Shoot to kill on sight." It is a desperate attempt to crush by force the militant opposition of Black people to the war, the draft and oppressive conditions at home, and to thwart the increasing war opposition and job demands of the whites, by sweeping all aside in a fury of deliberately provoked racist violence and outbreaks.

There are other dangers. Like Rev. King, lavishly financed by Kennedy fund raisers, reading speeches written by Kennedy writers, posing as The Peace Leader, and fighting to impose the false and administration line of "Negotiations now" (or "Get out" (much) later) and skirt the movement behind respectable Democratic coat-tails.

The VIETNAM WORK-IN is a vital element of the movement's will to combat these dangers and grow stronger in the process building around the demand:
U.S. GET OUT OF VIETNAM NOW!

The Work-In proposal

To mobilize the political power of sharecroppers, students flooded the southern Delta. To organize the poor they moved into the urban wasteland. To be with, to move and move with American workers, we've got to go to work. On the job, the day to day contact, the shared hatred of the boss, the daily grievances, the fight for better pay and conditions—here we can work, listen and learn what the issues are that will move working people. We will learn how to present our political views in a clear and straightforward manner. We will learn from our many mistakes. And most of all, if we work hard, and with a simple objective, we will go back to school (some might stay on the job) in the fall with two or three working friends.

That means thousands of working friends and contacts across the country, thousands of avenues opened for further organizing work. Thousands of workers who will hear and see the marches through our eyes, know our facts and ideas on the war and understand our campus struggles and protests. And we will begin to learn how to relate the job issues, the bread and butter demands, the spreading strikes, to the movement. We will begin to find the links of mutual support that are needed to unite us and put an end to isolation.

We propose to begin now. The plan is simple: call a meeting to organize the VIETNAM WORK-IN at your campus or community. Spend a week studying the economic activity of the region. Then go out and get jobs, preferably in large industries or in places that employ lots of people that live in the area. Work there for the summer. (Of course, you can join the WORK-IN if you already have a job or a summer job).

Remember, most likely, you're a part time worker. Others have been there for years. Work hard and LISTEN, don't preach. Workers often resent students at first as smart alics, but they also respect them and want their own children to go to college. Concentrate on making friends and learning from them. Present your political views and ideas, but don't get into heated arguments. If you are confident of your political conviction, be patient. It will take a long time for people

to have confidence in you and to take your ideas seriously. Take your time. Try to keep the job. Organizing is a long, tough haul.

(The VIETNAM WORK-IN is preparing an organizers' manual for wide distribution with suggestions on:

1. How to research the job situation in your area.
2. What jobs to look for.
3. How to get a job.
4. What to expect on the job.
5. Coordination and follow-up.)

The WORK-IN will publish a national bulletin during the summer for exchange of ideas, evaluations and plans. Local groups will be in touch with the center and can correspond with each other through the bulletin.

The VIETNAM WORK-IN will bring thousands of radicals into closest contact with the real but unorganized strength and power of the movement. It is a first step toward the America that stands back. It is a call to break out of isolation, self-imposed restraints and middle class timidity. It is the recognition that we can't overcome till we organize the active and angry support of American workers, whose lives and vital interests, like our own, are opposed to this war and the system that made it.

Join up!

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JOIN UP!