

HAWAII'S REVOLUTIONARY CHALLENGE



The delegates to Youth Congress II, 1974, resolve in a spirit of unity and determination, and in remembering our heritage and looking forward to future and present challenges, to do the following things:

- 1) Support the people of Molokai in their struggles against the runaway shop and plantation closures; help the Ewa people
- 2) Support the Student Rights Committee's campaign against the subminimum wage for students.
- 3) Organize on our campuses to make education serve the people; and
- 4) Link up our efforts, in Waiahole-Waikane, Ota Camp, Chinatown, Molokai, Lanai, Kauai, Old Vineyard, Ewa, etc. Share our experiences and resources and exchange information. Restructure Youth Congress to do these things, and involve more students in the planning and running of these conferences and workshops.

Discussion Group Reports

Group 1: We see the following as the problems that face us: 1) the system is contradictory; 2) government serves the interest of the big corporations, witness Watergate, pollution, deception and lies; 3) school often serves to misinform us rather than prepare us to face these problems; 4) people not informed and not organized to deal with problems; and 5) evictions, threat to ag lands runaway tourism. For solutions: 1) get involved and get organized; 2) inform and educate others, using examples that touch base with them; 3) study survival techniques, agriculture, hunting, etc.; 4) research other areas of self-subsistence and self-defense. As students we can inform others, set up an information system, make ties with other schools and communities, and help circulate petitions backing up other people's struggles. Criticisms: the conference should be longer and last about a week; it should be run by students; and debates should be arranged on controversial items.

Group 2: On history, we feel survival issues should be taught in school. We're not getting the right kind of education that we need. What about taxes, or real Hawaiian history. We can learn much from the communities and our own relatives. We should be part of the fight for land for the people. The schools distort our history, and make it just cultural, or Hawaiiana, and it doesn't tell us the role of the bosses or of working people. We don't have enough freedom to think for ourselves. We want things in school that we can use. We must break down myths that are taught to us that tell us Indians are bad and that non-whites are inferior. We should make education serve our people. Concerning jobs and Molokai, we should support the struggle against Dole's phase-out, and check out the alternatives. We shouldn't sacrifice human needs for monkey business. Condominiums won't make that many jobs. In resort work, good jobs go to mainlanders, lower-paying jobs to locals, and family problems result from different shifts of work; people get greedy for tips and become more like servants; treated like slaves they often may take it out on their own families. We don't want another Honolulu (a Molokai woman gave this part of the report)—we want to keep our friendliness and open space. Diversified agriculture is a better alternative than tourism; we can grow food for our own subsistence, and get government aid for our cooperatives. What happens anyway to tourism profits? We must say that people come before profits, and fight for Molokai and link our fight up with other efforts.



Group 3: On Hawaiian history: we need mandatory ethnic studies programs, new standards for texts, and courses, we must fight tracking and racism in our schools. On jobs: we must preserve our agriculture, stop runaway shops, and be able to stay on our own islands. Tourism spoils our natural resources, hunting and fishing, and increases the cost of land, land taxes and our whole cost of living, while paying low wages. WHAT CAN WE DO: 1) support the petition campaign against runaway shops and Dole closures, and the subminimum wages for youth; 2) call for diversified agriculture, and become more self-sufficient; 3) support each other's struggles and share our resources; 4) unionize our workplaces; 5) organize our students on our campuses; and 6) evict evicters.



Group 4: the conference should be more student-run, and should not be boring and repetitive. We should invite the other side to speak also on controversial issues. Have more breaks and recreation. We need to learn how to struggle, organize, fight and keep the faith. We have to save communities like Molokai, one of the last true island paradises.

Group 5 & 6 Conclusions: 1) our political and economic system does not serve the people; 2) capitalist system must be changed or it will be overthrown; 3) people should have a major voice in rezoning decisions; 4) people should have the right to determine the development question; and 5) hotel workers should get a bigger share of tourism profits.

Group 7: We agreed with the other group reports. Cathy Gerth: "I learned more than I did in school, so much more about current events. Conferences like these build unity, and that's just really good."

Group 8: Conclusions: 1) in order to win, we have to fight; we cannot wait; 2) communities so far unaffected by development need to be alerted and educated by those who are facing problems and evictions now. We must also remember that older urban communities like Chinatown and Old Vineyard are also under attack; 3) central issues—jobs (we have to organize within the schools to raise the issues of what kinds of jobs there are and who gets them, and what is happening to our agriculture) and education—schools don't serve our purposes;

they must be changed. Recommendations: provide a longer time for the conference; concentrate on just one or two topics; develop use of slide shows more. "We learned a lot that we can talk to each other and expect to get support. The unity was great!"

These are good ideas for the future. A planning committee with several Oahu students is meeting weekly (Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m.) on these and other ideas and plans. Neighbor island people are urged to select people to keep in touch with us—and to complete the evaluation form enclosed. Molokai youth are reportedly considering a spring conference on their island. We'll keep you posted on all these developments.

NOT ONLY STUDY HISTORY,



MAKE IT!