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Constitution

Appendix A

Note: All resolutions marked by an asterisk (*) were either passed or amended by the 1957 Convention. All other resolutions have been introduced at and approved by the 1956 Convention. The proceedings of the Convention other than resolutions have already been covered in the Sept.-Oct. '57 issue of the SLID VOICE.

RESOLUTIONS ON ORGANIZATIONAL POLICY

SLID Policy

The fifty years since SLID was founded have seen a great institutional growth of the labor and democratic-Socialist movements. Many of the particular policies they historically advocated have become generally accepted and incorporated into the "welfare state." The general pattern of the "welfare state" has come to prevail in all the industrialized countries of the West, whether they be called "socialist" or "capitalist". Both these terms, in fact have tended to lose their historical meaning and connotations at least as generally applied to discussions of the American political scene.

Notwithstanding the widespread adoption of its particular policies in these fifty years, SLID and those who share our basic viewpoint cannot feel satisfied, let alone complacent. A frank evaluation must acknowledge that the movement has to date failed in its basic objective, which is an actively democratic, egalitarian society, not a kennelled state. While inequality of income has been ameliorated, inequality in ownership of capital-producing wealth has scarcely been touched, and new threats to social equality have emerged in the hierarchial structures cast up by the so-called "managerial revolution"--and the growth of the welfare state.

Democratic Socialist and American liberal thought is in danger of failing to meet the challenge of changed circumstances. It is continuing to fight the battles of the past, or becoming preoccupied in the day-to-day political controversies or administrative details of the present welfare state, to the neglect of any broad program or orientation for the future.

We of SLID recognize the imperative need for a total reassessment of the liberal and democratic-socialist position, in order to make its basic ideals realizable in the context of an economy and society that has ceased to be "capitalist" in the classic sense, but has become "managerial" rather than "socialist". The solution we seek does not lie in any juggling of political terms or slogans. It lies in a sober examination of the institutional patterns of the contemporary welfare state and a recognition that (whatever their many advantages) they are not essentially the fulfillment of the ideas for which SLID has stood. To build upon them and transform them so as to achieve a genuine "democracy in our economic, political and cultural life," requires us to begin our second half-century by making as fundamental a break with all outworn conventions of political thought as that with which our forebears had the conviction and intellectual integrity to begin the first.

United Action

SLID reiterates its previously stated position of willingness to work with all democratic groups in projects favoring the extension of democracy in economic, political and social life. We will continue to work in the closest harmony with democratic liberal, labor, cooperative, socialist and similar groups here and throughout the world.

However, we shall continue to refuse to cooperate with any groups whose aims or methods contradict such a commitment to democracy. Hence, we will not work with any representatives of non-democratic or totalitarian beliefs in any field--economic, political or social; and we will not cooperate with any organization linked in action or structure with such groups.

In these days of shifting party lines, it is important to note that a policy of "anti-Stalinism" is meaningless. Stalinists, as well as Leninists, Bolsheviks, Fascists, Falangists, Trotskyites and other exponents or apologists for anti-democratic goals and methods, are now "anti-stalinist."

We herewith restate our continued opposition to any group, whatever its current slogan, whose policy is based on a philosophy which refuses, in theory or practice, to guarantee primary democratic rights to all.

In administrative matters the National Executive Committee should apply this policy to mean, among other things, non-cooperation with organizations or individuals whose actions and/or programs would bar them from membership in SLID (see membership clause in Constitution).

Servicing of Study Groups

SLID should vigorously promote study group activity within its chapters by distributing to all chapters outlines on how such groups can best be run, and a list of suggested pamphlets for such discussion.

Research Projects

The Convention voted to emphasize the following four topics in national programming and chapter discussion groups: Inflation, Campaign Contributions, the problem of corruption in labor unions, and Integration. The National Office is to send out reading materials and bibliographies on these subjects. Chapters and individuals are to be encouraged to mail in essays or discussion meeting reports which should either be compiled into separate research papers or published individually in the Monitor, SLID's magazine.

PREFACE

The following program is not meant to be the basis of any one's election platform or be a blueprint for the future. It represents ideas of possible development, concerns which merit extensive research and investigation. The aim of these proposals is to call attention to needs which we feel must be discussed and to the direction in which we feel the solution lies.

In deciding this direction, the approach which we suggest should be taken in viewing these problems, we have followed the basic ethical values which have motivated SLID.

Since its inception SLID has sought to bridge the gap between the general ethical foundation to which all pay lip service and to actual political practices put into effect.

In view of these social questions we have sought solutions in keeping with our faith in the potential inherent in each and every individual and his right to develop this potential to its fullest, so long as no one is harmed thereby.

We have sought and stressed the need for cooperation and education to supplant competition, that freedom can better flourish under democratic planning than under the anarchy of laissez-faire. We have emphasized the fact that power already exists, that plans are made, wealth controlled, and that the real question is whether this power will be exercised democratically with guarantees to each individual of his human right or through a continuation of economic oligarchy.

Finally, viewing the dichotomy between the enormous wealth and resources at our disposal and the poverty which characterizes all too often much of our nation and the world, we have tried to remind our fellow-citizens that production need not be for private profit alone, that democracy need not be limited to the ballot box and that, in view of the enormous potential now at our disposal, we need no longer accept hunger and material suffering as necessary evils beyond our control.

RESOLUTIONS ON DOMESTIC MATTERS

Racketeering in Labor

Organized labor has risen to great power in the United States. The steady growth of labor's strength makes it increasingly important that this strength be used honestly, not corruptly; for the public good, not private gain. Labor must destroy the racketeering elements which have infested a few unions and have undermined the good reputation of the entire labor movement.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

1. The Ethical Practices Committee of the AFL-CIO should be given the power and money to make a thorough investigation of existing conditions, using its own staff.
2. Unions should welcome assistance from District Attorneys and cooperate with legitimate legislative investigations seeking the formulation of constructive laws. These investigations should be encouraged to use the subpoena power

to investigate improper practices and to bring to justice union officials guilty of racketeering.

3. Some labor affairs (union, management and joint undertakings ought to be put under statutory control; welfare and similar records should be subject to periodic outside audit; union elections by secret ballot should be held at regular and frequent intervals established by the unions; aggrieved members of trade unions should have recourse before the NLRB for abuses of democratic procedure.

Electoral Reform

Under the present system of the Electoral College constructive competition between parties is discouraged by the practice of awarding the entire electoral vote of a state to the party receiving a plurality of its votes. In our many one-party states, this leads to the stagnation of defeatism for the minority party and to the equally enervating stagnation of complacency for the majority party.

Therefore, to promote democracy and increase the dynamism of American political life, be it resolved that a constitutional amendment should be passed which would cause the total electoral vote to be allotted to each party in direct proportion to its percentage of the total popular vote, each state being assured a minimum of two electoral votes.

Party Structure

Many of America's political ills can be traced to the faulty structure of its political parties. The parties obscure rather than clarify the real alternatives open to the voter. They are overly dependent on their campaign contributors. Our system inadequately coordinates the legislative and executive branches of government; and within Congress, control of our national destiny is given to ancient, withered patriarchs.

The following proposals advocate a sweeping revision of our party system, similar to that advocated by the American Political Science Association.

A. The Party in Congress:

1. Committee assignments and chairmanships should be made by the party caucus in secret ballot. Ability, not seniority, should control the selections.
2. The steering committee elected by the caucus should be empowered to decide when a party vote is required.

B. The National Party:

1. Each national party should establish a party strategy council to co-ordinate state and local organizations on matters affecting the entire party.
2. The chairman of this strategy council should be the President if the party controls the administration, or a man elected biennially by the national committee if it is not in power.
3. Two-thirds of the national committee should have the power to prohibit the use of the party name to any state or local organization.

C. Local and State Politics:

1. The California method of nominating party candidates should be extended to the rest of the nation. Under this system, an association of local party clubs holds a preliminary convention whose candidate is then accepted or rejected in the primary which is

- open to all interested registered voters.
2. Local clubs should be made a part of the party structure, and should be asked to pay per capita dues to the state organization, thus assuring a predictable income, and helping emancipate the party from big campaign contributors.

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS*

The tremendous rise in the cost of conducting political campaigns has created a major threat to the democratic process. The dependence of candidates for office on large individual campaign contributions has seriously jeopardized the political independence of candidates, making them subservient to the interests of large contributors. Moreover, recent events have served to dramatize the longstanding abuse involved in the virtual purchase of ambassadorships by campaign contributors.

We condemn such existing laws regulating campaign contributions which have proven to be totally inadequate as is demonstrated by the long, published lists of contributions in excess of the statutory maximum of \$5000.

Therefore, SLID strongly urges consideration of the proposal of Senator Neuberger to the effect that campaign funds for each party participating in a national election be appropriated by Congress, the appropriation for each party to be proportionate to the vote it received in the last previous national election.

In lieu of the adoption of Senator Neuberger's proposal, the existing laws should be substantially strengthened. The present laws provide that an individual may contribute up to \$5000 to each of any number of campaign organizations. This should be modified to provide that no more than \$5000 may be contributed for the use of any one candidate.

City Planning

The problems of urban life must be treated for what they are: an interlocking set of disorganized situations concerning real communities of people; and this means that metropolitan and regional planning authorities with funds, foresight, and strong regulated powers should be established. Much can be and should be learned from the study of similar authorities and their accomplishments and errors in other countries, such as those for London, Copenhagen, and Toronto. Federal aid to planning, at the very least in the form of publications, conferences, research, and direct financial support of regional projects, is the only possible way in which all planning authorities can have the knowledge and support to plan and carry into effect the far-reaching solutions needed to repair and prevent disorganization.

It should be stressed that the tyranny of unplanned anarchy can often be as malevolent as that of overplanning. Much can be learned from the mistakes which European planners have made--we are familiar already with the damage that can be caused when cities grow according to the whims of real estate speculators and to chance. Urban living can be planned not only to make life more pleasant physically and aesthetically, but to break down the anonymity and strangeness which so often accompany life in a large metropolis. In this respect, greater attempts should be made to divide large cities into smaller administrative districts with the aim of providing the urban citizen with some opportunities of participating in his own government. The experiments in Vienna, Paris and London would bear close study. Likewise, the embryonic attempts recently made in New York should be encouraged in the hope that one day some ele-

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part of direct democracy may be introduced into urban life, even if it only relates to the minor aspects of everyday life on a city block, a school district or a neighborhood planning board.

Public Utilities

Being by their very nature monopolistic and therefore providing none of the advantages of competition, frequently benefitting from government charters and subsidies and providing no service that is specifically enhanced by private ownership, should not be developed for private ownership.

We therefore recommend that such utilities should be transferred to non-private ownership and management. Wherever possible, transference should be made to cooperative ownership. Otherwise, ownership should be given to an appropriate local or federal body or to a newly created public corporation in which the public interest is safeguarded by giving controlling power to representatives of the consumers, employees, et al. This should be read to include not only municipal gas, water, steam, electricity, etc., but such national, non-competitive utilities as telephone, telegraph and air, rail and sea lines.

Regulatory Commissions

Mention has frequently been made in these pages to the importance of public regulatory commissions. Surely their present state demands extensive revision. Textbooks on government are presently able to predict, with remarkable accuracy the number of years that state commissions can remain independent of the industries that they are supposed to control.

Every effort should be made to correct that farcical state into which so many of these commissions have fallen. Among these reforms should be an assurance of majority representation for the public interest through the appointment of unimpeachable representatives of such groups as unions, co-ops, civic and other groups to terms sufficiently long to be unaffected by the cyclical change of elections. Safeguards of the integrity of the commissions, similar to those now maintained for the judiciary, should be developed. The power of inspection and control should not only be rigidly maintained but should have enforcement facilities.

Such commissions should assure appropriate planning, pricing and productions. They should control profits to a reasonable level so that areas in which neither risk nor competition are greatly involved receive profits close to the dividends now paid on government and similar bonds. They should make sure that profit-making companies do not require subsidies. If corporations do require these or otherwise render service inferior to that which might be provided by non-profit public corporations, then the commissions should investigate the advisability of transferring ownership in the area to be controlled to appropriate non-profit bodies, proper compensation being assured.

Natural Resources

Natural resources are by their very nature the possession of all the people of this country. The give-away of these resources has been one of the mostagrant attacks on the material heritage of our citizenry. Wherever possible, the lost resources must be reclaimed and further attempts at such give-aways prevented.

Conservation should be supervised and controlled by federal conservation-ists, and this power should be released to the states only when their conser-

vation programs have safeguards equal to those in the federal programs.

We urge the transfer of ownership of mineral resources to the federal and local governments to insure that they will be developed in the interest of all the citizens. Compensation should be made to the legitimate owners of the resources thus transferred.

In other fields of natural resources, we urge the maintenance of strict controls to assure planned development and limited profits. Wherever such controls appear impossible, then consideration should be given to transferring these resources into public hands as well.

Atomic Power

Atomic power having been developed at public expense, with billions of dollars of public funds, rightfully belongs to the people of the United States and must not, under any circumstances, be given to those who would exploit it for private power. Publicly-owned plants, under appropriate federal supervision, should develop this enormous potential not only in the interest of all Americans but of all the peoples of the world.

River Development

River development such as TVA have shown themselves to be the best available method of providing hydro-electricity while aiding in flood control, irrigation and other regional development plans. They should be developed wherever technically possible. Their control by representatives of the public interest as well as of workers employed in the project should be expanded to cover as many aspects of the development as possible. In the distribution of power, preference should continue to be given to public and cooperative users.

We deplore recent attacks on the TVA and on the idea of such public power and call on the President and others to act in a manner consistent with the high praise which they have heaped on TVA.

Academic Freedom

We reiterate our oft-stated belief that political affiliation, past or present, is not to be considered as criteria for hiring or maintaining teachers. Academic competence and intellectual integrity are both suitable and sufficient grounds for decisions of this nature.

Congressional Investigations

Recent decades have shown that Congressional investigating committees have assumed much of the power if not the form of judicial bodies. Since considerable damage can be done to an individual's reputation by such committees, we urge that they adopt all safeguards appropriate to their power, such as: the right to know all charges against one, the right to submit questions to and to cross-examine witnesses, the right to be represented by counsel, and the right to refuse to incriminate oneself even if granted immunity. Furthermore, we urge that these committees be restricted to investigations really related to legislative matters and not assume judicial or punitive tasks.

Security Investigations

We deplore the present loyalty-security program and the infringement of personal rights and due process which have characterized it. We urge instead

the adoption of a system similar to that used in Great Britain in which persons in sensitive jobs are transferred to non-sensitive jobs and are given a fair hearing.

We further urge that persons being investigated as possible security risks be granted the rights proposed above for those testifying before congressional committees, if suspected.

We deplore the firing from non-sensitive government or private jobs, persons considered as security risks, possible security risks, or members of organizations on the Attorney General's list. We urge the reinstatement of people dismissed for these reasons.

Advocacy

We urge the repeal of all provisions which outlaw mere advocacy or conspiracy to advocate, the forceful overthrow of the government. We consider such provisions to be unnecessary impingements on the right of free speech; the actual danger theoretically covered by these laws having been already sufficiently considered by other statutes.

Attorney General's List*

Since its inception, the Attorney General's list has been the basis of attempts to jeopardize the careers, reputations, and civil liberties of innumerable individuals who have either belonged to allegedly "subversive" organizations on the list, or had relatives or friends associated with listed groups. We believe that the negative consequences of such a list to the civil liberties of the American people has far outweighed any of the advantages gained from its existence, and that the Attorney General's list should be abolished.

Army Security

We oppose the armed forces use of "guilt by kinship" and of the granting of less than honorable discharges to persons whose military career has been beyond reproach. We urge the adoption of the recommendations recently made by Rowland Watts in his report on Army Security published by the Ford Foundation's Fund for the Republic.

White Citizens' Councils

We urge the investigation of possible anti-trust action against the white citizens' councils and of the companies helping them. We hope that further efforts will be made to mobilize private capital to help the victims of their pressure.

Discrimination

We urge the adoption and strict enforcement of FEPC legislation at all governmental levels. We also urge the outlawry of discriminatory business rates, rents and restrictive covenants. Every effort must be made to wipe out racial and religious discrimination in all fields over which the public has any control.

Immigration

Immigration quotas should be based on the number of people wishing to enter the United States from specific areas and not on the maintenance of artificial ideas of perpetuating present national balances.

Distinctions not made in the Constitution should not be made between naturalized and native-born citizens.

Attempts should be made to allow extra quotas for refugees from all tyrannies and greatly expanded help should be given to the U.N. refugee fund in the interim. We especially deplore the limitations and delays in the resettlement of Hungarian refugees in the United States.

Unfilled quotas should be transferred to oversubscribed areas rather than maintained from year to year.

Criteria for admission to the U.S. should be extensively revised to avoid inclusion for forced or unknowing membership in totalitarian groups and for convictions for "crimes" against tyrannical regimes.

No native-born American should ever be denied his citizenship.

Citizens threatened with denaturalization and others threatened with deportation should be allowed all safeguards usually given defendants in criminal trials.

The importation of seasonal labor to work at substandard wages should be forbidden and employers so doing should be prosecuted.

Unionization of the South

Current attempts at unionization of the South are of the greatest importance to the welfare of the country as a whole and of the citizens of the South especially. Attempts by unions have met with repeated illegal threat and unfair labor practices. We urge that such anti-union activity be investigated by the Labor and Justice Departments and that prosecution be started wherever justified by available evidence.

Compensation and Minimum Wage

Recent government reports stating that \$1.95 an hour is the minimum with which a worker can keep a family of four alive not only shows the inadequacy of minimum wages but the complete unreality of current unemployment, accident and other compensation as well as pensions. We urge the continued increase of all basic payments until anyone working for his living or having worked is assured that his efforts will allow to himself and his family the basic requirements of life.

Juvenile Delinquency and Prisons

As in all aspects of health and welfare, the immeasurable worth of each individual must be the first criterion. Enormous amounts will be spent to catch a criminal, but very little is expended to rehabilitate him. The sums needed to provide adequate facilities for criminals is only a part of the total sum required. A vastly increased program of psychiatric and social care, both during and after imprisonment, is urgently needed, as are increases in the budgets allotted for the care of juvenile delinquents.

Death Penalty

We urge the abolition of the death penalty in all criminal codes.

Aid to Education

Federal aid to public education which has been grudgingly accepted must not be merely limited to a program of school construction, badly needed as this is. Aid in the training of teachers, for federal scholarships and similar aspects of education must also be increased. Grants should be designed to stimulate increased expenditure on the part of local authorities and should carry with them no federal control of curricula or personnel. The only requirement should be the use of the funds for the general categories allocated and the compliance of school authorities with relevant federal legislation. Aid to schools which are still segregated should be allocated but withheld until the authorities comply with the Supreme Court decisions.

Federal Funds to Segregated Institutions

We urge that federal funds be appropriated as usual, but allocated only to those institutions that have integrated or are so doing.

Automation

The increased productive potential made possible through automation has also brought dangers which can be met in advance by proper social planning. Guaranteed Annual Wage, shorter hours, longer vacations, and higher school-leaving ages are but a few of the solutions which can be suggested.

Like all power, the potential of automation is neutral and its use will be decided by the standards of those controlling it. This new industrial revolution must bear no resemblance to the solely profit-driven transition of the past. Here again, in the control of this new potential, the worth of all individuals and their right to share equally in the technology, must be reasserted.

Health Insurance

Present voluntary health insurance provisions do not only leave large parts of the population uncared for, but give only partial coverage to those who can afford it.

A complete comprehensive program of health insurance covering all possible medical expenses - including hospitalization, specialists' fees, doctors' charges, dental expenses, etc., should be available for all the people not presently covered fully by voluntary health insurance.

Administration of such a program should allow free choice of doctors by the patients and could follow the pattern of state reimbursement of all expenses established abroad. Payment for such a program should be made partly by the worker, employer and government and should follow the pattern set by other compulsory insurance programs.

Government Aid to Health

Government aid to medical schools, hospitals and research programs, and loans to medical students, should be greatly increased, as long as recipients are non-profit and do not discriminate in their administration. No political or similar criteria should be set by the government and aid should preferably be channeled through impartial experts in the field.

The direct subvention of medical research by the government would not only provide much needed funds but could cut out the enormous expense of repeated wasteful appeals to the public.

Health, Education, and Welfare; Labor

We urge the expansion of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare so that its abilities will be somewhat more adequate to the tasks facing it. More than any other Department, H.E.W. has unlimited horizons and its budget should at least equal that of similar federal departments in other fields.

A considerable increase in funds and personnel available to the Labor Department is also urgently needed, as has been shown by the disclosure of widespread and unchecked violation of federal labor statutes.

Mental Health

The state of the nation's mental hospitals has long shocked the nation, yet the vastly increased funds required for their improvement have not been forthcoming. Only federal aid can help alleviate the pressing need for additional buildings, staff, etc. in the field of preventing as well as helping mental illness.

Public Corporations

Frequent mention has been made of the transference of power in various areas to newly established public corporations and similar agencies.

The increasing divorce of management and ownership has shown many of the old arguments about individual initiative to be irrelevant under present conditions. The existence of organizations ranging from TVA to BBC to Volkswagen has shown that public corporations can produce as well if not better than private ones.

The obvious advantages of production for use and not for profit are perhaps the best argument in their favor. In addition to this is the possibility of decentralized control linked with coordinated planning. But the economic advantages must not be taken to exclude the importance of expert direction under democratic control. Experts may direct the manner of production but representatives of the public and of the employees of the plant must have the power to control the eventual flow of such production.

The success of the British and other experiments in this field must not blind us to the dangers that are inherent in believing that a mere change in stockholders is enough. While public corporations can have enormous economic advantages in their ability to channel goods where they are needed at the lowest possible prices, it is of the utmost importance that their value also lies in the participation which they can afford their employees. Not having to be concerned with profit above all, such corporations could put into widespread use the discoveries made about plant organization based on the worker himself. With the welfare of the employee as one of its major goals, such firms could afford to make many of the little changes which can mean so much to one surrounded by the deadening monotony of industrial life.

Oligopoly and Monopoly

The increase in corporate concentration in recent years has brought new and unexpected problems to the advocates of old-fashioned trust busting. While favoring the continued forceful application of anti-trust laws where possible, we realize that a new appraisal of this question is long overdue.

Trust busting would seem rather ineffective when its major result seems to be the creation of new non-competitive organizations, which differ from the predecessors only in size. When this attack fails to make any real change in

the policy or ownership of such groups, then it would seem to deserve replacement. Likewise, such a policy would seem to be unwise when it results in considerable lower production and higher costs - bringing no genuine benefit to the people as a whole.

There is an increasing area of American production in which the claim of competition is a mere farce in a market controlled by one or a few non-competitive giants in which smaller groups try desperately to keep alive. As is shown in the automobile industry, such a situation allows neither for the most beneficial policies of production or pricing. The future of any of these giants affects the whole economy, as automobiles again shows, and their policy is therefore a matter of direct public interest.

We therefore suggest the investigation of a new alternative to the old policy of trust busting wherever the latter is shown to be ineffectual in the matters referred to above: wherever oligopoly or monopoly seems firmly established and its "busting" would not really benefit the public. Then we propose the investigation of possible public regulation as in the case of the utilities - or where this fails, transfer of ownership to a non-profit public corporation. Regulations should be strict, limiting profits, etc. to a definite level and planning of production to assure full employment and the cheapest possible rates for improved production. Representatives of the government, consumer, trade unions and general public as well as the employees of the company should control such regulatory bodies.

Should such regulation fail or become controlled by the companies themselves, then a gradual transfer of ownership, with compensation, should take place as was done with such industries as Renault in France and iron and steel in England; providing, of course, for workers' participation as outlined elsewhere.

Subsidization of the Arts

Proposals to create an American equivalent of the British Arts Council have long been before Congress. The aid which could be given through such an independent public agency could be greatly increased by governmental aid on all levels to cultural enterprises. Abolition of all entrance and other taxes could be supplemented by outright subsidization by local authorities and the subsidization of free performances for students and others.

Assistance can also be given through increasing grants available for study abroad in the arts as well as establishment of cultural attaches overseas.

As is the case with federal aid, care must be taken that complete independence is maintained by recipient organizations and that only misuse of funds and discrimination be prohibited,

Aid to Adult Education

Adult education should be extended to cover both night and summer as well as facilities such as community and old age centers, libraries, museums and education broadcasting. The vast increase of available leisure demands the enormous expansion of federal and other help to such efforts.

Farm Income

The decline of farm income has recently shown the inequities of the present program which concentrates its assistance on the larger, corporate farms. We feel that the enactment of an income support program, similar to that originally

proposed in the Brennan plan, could best help the small farmer. Larger farmers should, like other private businesses, be allowed to sell their produce at the prevailing world market without being subsidized to cut down production.

In an age when two-thirds of the world's people are ill-nourished there is no moral excuse for anything less than full production. Efforts at conservation should seek greater, not lesser production as their goal. Likewise, any subsidies allocated should be towards the disposal of farm surplus abroad, in areas where hunger is still a real problem. Thought should be given to recent proposals that underdeveloped areas dependent on exports of primary crops, such as rice, be given an internationally guaranteed income for their produce which would facilitate their acceptance of foreign surplus which might otherwise endanger their limited income from exports.

One-Party Press

Consideration should be given to further study of the problem of monopoly in the mass media as well as anti-trust action against any group controlling more than one medium of information within a given locality. Extended vigilance and action should also be exercised in reference to the methods used by companies controlling the existing media when faced with possible competition (e.g., threatening to cut off advertising facilities, etc.)

More positively, further consideration should be given to extensive non-partisan news coverage on non-commercial and similar stations.

Taxation

There can be no excuse for special tax clauses such as the oil depletion allowance which allows incredible profits. Attempts should be made to reclaim such losses to the Treasury as well as the repeal of such allowances.

The excessive dependence on regressive taxation, especially on the local level, should be curtailed. Sales and similar taxes should be replaced wherever possible by income taxes and the possibility of experiments in progressive real estate and similar taxes.

The basic rate of 22.2% should be greatly lowered and much greater exemptions given for lower income and lower middle income families. We urge the continued consideration of unlimited deductions for educational expenditures. We feel that the 30,000,000 Americans living in income units earning under \$2000 a year should pay a much smaller share of the taxes than they now do.

The fact that the top 20% of the nation has an income equal to that of the other 80% argues strongly for a reexamination of tax-exempt income and other fiscal policies. Tax evasion, excessive speculative profits and improper use of "family foundations" should all be investigated.

Real Wages

The discovery of large pockets of poverty in our nation should encourage all efforts to raise the real wages of many of our citizens. Lower food prices through income supports for farmers, shorter hours, longer vacations, vastly extended social and similar services and possible maternity and other benefits should be among the weapons used to raise the standards of living in the U.S.

Housing

Current construction has done little to alleviate the very serious problem of slums in America. The programs of renovation now proposed must not be accepted as substitutes for vast projects of new housing.

The right to decent housing should be one of the basic economic guarantees given every citizen. Wherever private builders can construct cheap and adequate housing, they should be encouraged. But experience has shown that they are unable to supply housing for vast numbers of our less wealthy citizens. An estimated minimum of one million new houses has been suggested as the basis of a federal housing program.

But in addition to the building of new houses, attempts should be made to create in the new projects a feeling of community for the residents. Lest these buildings become potential super-slums, their new residents must be helped to adjust and to learn how to maintain their new homes. Likewise, every attempt should be made to avoid building new ghettos and cross-sections of economic as well as racial groups should be integrated into the projects.

Wherever possible some element of self-government should be introduced and the residents encouraged to direct the social, recreational and other facilities centered in their houses.

Lobbying

The past Congress has utterly failed to investigate lobbies and pressure groups though it had every opportunity to do so. While very little can be done about the more subtle forms of lobbying, strict limits could be placed on the amounts which corporations and their subsidiaries could be allowed to spend in such activities.

Likewise, complete investigations of attempted or successful bribes should be followed by the prosecution of those who accepted as well as of those who offered the bribes. Such investigations are specially needed in state legislatures, where subtler bribes such as offers of jobs to former legislators, etc. should be examined.

Government Workers

Government workers should have the right to organize into trade unions, bargain collectively and strike, except in those few cases where the national interest is directly threatened. Where strikes are forbidden, labor disputes should be submitted to arbitration and special attempts made to assure that these workers receive gains made by their colleagues in less pivotal positions.

Government employees, like all other workers, should be allowed to share in the direct administration of their work. While they have no right to exercise undue pressure, they should nevertheless be permitted representation in the making of decisions having to do with their working conditions, etc.

Bureaucracy

The problem of bureaucracy is one which has always faced large enterprises, even private ones. But the examination of extended government services may offer new solutions to this problem in the fields under public scrutiny.

The individual in our modern world can be oppressed just as badly by the misunderstanding of a bureaucracy as by the direct exploitation of an employer.

Apart from the obvious encouragement of the simplification of administrative procedures, attempts should be made to establish boards of appeal separate from the bureaucracy wherever possible. Citizens should have clear cut rights in administrative as well as civil matters.

Special efforts should be made to remove the possibility of penal punishments for offenses of a purely administrative manner and offenses such as non-payment of bills should be treated no more harshly by the government than by private companies.

It is of the utmost importance that the extension of the government to more and more areas of everyday life will not carry with it the ever-present threat of government action or possible imprisonment.

The removal of the profit motives from large areas of our life must assure that individuals will be treated as ends in themselves and to this goal the strict curtailment of bureaucratic controls must be sought.

RESOLUTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL MATTERS

On the Popular Front

During the past few months the Communists have once again put forth overtures for alliance with the democratic left. Just as in 1936, we are being told that the aims and aspirations of Social-Democrats, Liberals and Communists are identical and hence that we should unite our efforts to create together what each supposedly is seeking alone. We are further informed by the Communists and their sympathizers that past betrayals must be forgotten and buried along with the corpse of their perpetrator Joseph Stalin.

In his speech before the Twentieth Communist Party Congress in Moscow, Nikita Khrushchev denounced Stalin's "reign of terror" and pledged a return to the principles of Marxism-Leninism. An examination of this speech and these principles demonstrates all too clearly that what is being denounced is not Stalin's abnegation of democracy, as is evidenced by the continuing imprisonment of Social-Democrats, etc., behind the iron curtain. It is not the "reign of terror" as such that is decried but rather use of it against the wrong people and at the wrong time. Unfortunately, the basic totalitarian philosophy of Soviet Russia and of World Communism remains unchanged.

We realize that the attempt to form a united front is but another of the deadly "means" by which the Communists seek to subvert democracy. It is mistaken to suggest that democrats will eventually cooperate with the Bolsheviks if the latter allow free trade unions and opposition parties, free political prisoners, etc. While supporting all efforts to bring about such changes, we feel that such demands are not sufficient prerequisites for eventual cooperation. The Bolshevik regime is, in its essence, anti-democratic and none of the reforms demanded or proposed hitherto would seem to affect its basic status.

We therefore oppose cooperation with totalitarians or anti-democrats at any time. It should be made perfectly clear that we will rather work with any democratic opposition, genuine trade union or similar group that might become established within the soviet orbit.

In line with our stand against all forms of totalitarianism, be they of the leftist or rightist variety, we of the Student League for Industrial Democracy wish to restate our opposition to alliances with any Communist groups since such alliances can only result in the destruction of those rights and freedoms to which we are dedicated.

Passports*

In view of the dubious constitutionality and equally dubious wisdom of the State Department's policy of withholding passports from certain citizens thus depriving them of their right to travel abroad, be it resolved, that a passport should be available by right and not by privilege.

Travel*

In those countries with which the U.S. does not have diplomatic relations it is unable to offer protection to American citizens and American passports may legitimately be marked not valid for travel in those countries. Nevertheless, U.S. citizens who are willing to waive any claim to diplomatic protection

should not be penalized in any way for travelling in countries with which the U.S. has no diplomatic relations.

Exchange *

Thoughts on exchange with people behind the iron curtain can be based on two conflicting ideas. First, the realization that the attitudes of the various Communist governments are not necessarily those of their people and that contact with individual citizens behind the iron curtain would undoubtedly be fruitful. On the other hand, the cynical Soviet attempts to use international exchange for propaganda purposes and to obscure their crimes in Hungary and elsewhere must be repudiated.

Therefore, we urge that exchange between the U.S. and the Soviet nations should be carefully examined to see what advantages could be obtained in each case. In general, however, we urge that exchange should primarily be in the field of long run contacts and cultural exchange, specifically long range student, faculty and professional exchange as well as exchange of publications, films, broadcasts and other cultural and professional missions.

Colonialism

The decade following World War II has seen the rise and fruition of nationalist movements in many of the world's underdeveloped areas. The potential political forces unleashed by these movements were dramatically underlined by last year's Bandung Conference. Here nations who had been subjected to centuries of foreign domination demonstrated their ability to determine and create their own destinies.

While the death knell of colonialism has been sounded, there are still many areas in which a last ditch attempt to preserve the status quo is made. While these attempts to turn back the clock are ultimately doomed to failure, they are none the less capable of destroying countless human lives and retarding, if only temporarily, the advancement of human rights. With the United Nations' ratification of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the right to self-determination was recognized as an essential correlate of human freedom. It is our conviction that the promotion of this freedom far outweighs any of the economic and security problems created by the withdrawal of the colonial overlords.

However, while we oppose all forms of colonialism be they of a political or economic nature, we do not give unqualified endorsement to all nationalist movements. The dictatorship of an oriental despot is no more desirable than that of its Western counterpart. Those nationalist movements which represent the real needs and desires of the people for whom they speak, i.e., those who represent true self-determination, are the only ones to whom we pledge our support.

The Communists are now trying to represent themselves as the true apostles of anti-colonialism. However, the governments of Hungary, Poland, etc. demonstrate the insincerity of their professions. Once again the Russians are seeking to pervert a noble cause for their own nefarious purposes. It is only by supporting these movements who are truly representative that the U.S. can demonstrate its sincere anti-colonialism to the waiting world.

Economic Aid to Underdeveloped Areas *

Many of the newly independent nations in Africa and Asia are in great need of economic aid for capital development. Most of them, however, are

afraid to take this aid from any one nation because they fear "economic imperialism." It is therefore essential that special U.N. machinery be created for this purpose. SUNFED is the best proposal so far. We urge our government to give it its full support to meet the need for long-range capital financing of underdeveloped countries.

Atomic Power

We urge that the UN be given materials and men to allow it to develop a program of peaceful atomic power which could be used as part of the UN Technical Assistance Program. The possibility of industrialization with atomic rather than coal power is one of the most exciting of recent technological possibilities and underdeveloped areas should not be deprived of such possibilities because they lack the material owned by other nations. We likewise urge the gradual transference of the control of all atomic production to a UN supervisory commission.

10th Anniversary - Universal Declaration of Human Rights

On this tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we reaffirm our support of and dedication to the principles which are enunciated therein. We hope that the UN General Assembly with the support of our government will take the opportunity of celebrating this anniversary by adopting the Covenants on Human Rights which will have binding force.

United Nations

The controversy over the "admission of Red China" to the United Nations has brought to light serious misunderstandings of the nature and functions of the UN and its specialized agencies.

The U.S. Government, in its attempt to prevent Communist China from entering the UN, has emphasized Article 4 and public opinion has taken this to mean that only anti-communist (often accepted to be synonymous with democratic) nations could be "good" members of the UN.

The argument against this position which is also widely accepted holds that the basic idea on which the UN was built is the principle of "universality", i.e. that the UN can only be effective and a true world organization if all de facto governments are included.

SLID endorses the latter point of view, however, with the clear understanding that universality is not an end in itself.

The UN is not committed to any ideology or political philosophy. It is committed to the values expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Through its specialized agencies it is actively translating these values into realities by raising the world's health, education, economic development and standard of living.

In the political sphere progress is slower. The UN, to take any action, is dependent on the consent of its member states. If universality of membership is achieved it will not create automatic solutions. It will, however, reflect the true picture of world politics and the pressure of public opinion can be brought to bear more effectively on those governments who violate human rights and betray the aspirations of the peoples of the world.

World University

SLID supports increased international student exchange and the idea of a United Nations sponsored World University to help the spread of understanding and to educate for lasting peace and continued progress.

Algeria *

The tragedy of Algeria has illustrated the disastrous path which can be followed by multi-racial communities. There seems no doubt that national independence, along the lines of Tunisia and Morocco, must be granted to Algeria in the near future--we urge that it be done before more blood is shed.

The large number of French residents in Algeria and the dominant economic position, of course, add another very difficult factor to the Algerian problem. Perhaps some kind of federal solution can be found. To be sure, the French citizens have a right to demand that their basic democratic rights be respected. But they must also reconcile themselves to the actual position which they hold --that of a minority group which can not and should not retain majority control.

The discovery of huge oil and other resources in the Sahara area has added another difficulty to the Algerian problem. But the French can not expect to retain title to these riches. Algeria will need French technical assistance to develop these resources and an equitable agreement, similar to others reached by equal sovereign states, seems the only solution for this development to be carried out for the benefit of all concerned.

The major immediate need is for a cessation of hostilities. We urge the French government immediately to announce their approval of the principle of independence for Algeria and to call for elections for a constituent assembly or provisional government, without prior conditions of "pacification of the Algerian rebels." If having made this call the French are unable to maintain order, then consideration should be given to getting the UN to supervise and police the elections.

Finally, we must condemn in the strongest terms the French use of torture and censorship in France and Algeria. All democrats must view these developments with the greatest shame and sadness and hope that this darkest side of French policy will soon be eliminated.

Hungary *

The brutal suppression of the uprising of the Hungarian people against Russian tyranny must not be allowed to pass from the memory of the world. Thousands of Hungarians were sacrificed to the interests of Soviet economic and political imperialism. In order to avoid such slaughters in the future, we urge the US to adopt a foreign policy designed to progressively weaken Soviet control over East Europe. As a first step we believe that the US should attempt to establish economic ties with the individual East European nations.

In 1956 the people of Hungary had no choice other than to accept continuing Soviet domination or engage in an abortive and bloody revolt. By lessening their economic dependence on Russia, we believe that channels could develop whereby the peoples of East Europe would be able to press their claims for greater freedom more effectively.

Yugoslavia

When Marshal Tito and the Yugoslav Communist Party were expelled from the Cominform in 1948, and Yugoslavia was forced to seek aid from the Western democracies, it was the hope of socialists and other democrats that this reliance would induce the Yugoslav Communists to grant greater freedom to the Yugoslav people.

The destruction of the collective farms and the return to private ownership in agriculture, together with the establishment of workers' councils in industry and a liberalization of the election laws seemed to point towards the growth of democracy.

The statements, in 1953, of Vladimir Dedijer and Milovan Djilas which attacked the growth of bureaucracy and urged a two-party system for Yugoslavia continued in this direction.

However, the attacks on Dedijer and Djilas by Tito and the leaders of the Yugoslav Communist Party showed that there were no intentions of establishing political democracy in Yugoslavia. The current refusal to allow Djilas to publish his views and the statements of Tito in Moscow show that the totalitarian regime in Yugoslavia is to remain as long as the Yugoslav Communist Party has control of the country, and that the basic communist ideology is common to both the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

For these reasons SLID reiterates its own position and the position of all other socialists and democrats that Yugoslavia can never be considered a democratic nation while Titoism as currently practiced continues.

Spain

We wish to express our sympathy with the workers of Spain who have recently shown their courageous opposition to their tyrannical regime. To this we add our hopes that they will soon have the democratic government for which they have so long striven and which they so richly merit.

Germany

General agreement on the need for eventual reunification of a free, independent and democratic Germany, has been hedged by very understandable fears of renewed aggression on the part of a united Germany,

Efforts to foil this possibility by integrating German forces into a united European army failed and thoughts have returned to the possible neutralization of Germany.

Actually, the excellent theories lost in EDC have not been extended to their logical and correct conclusion. The real German might which is still to be feared is not so much the divisions which Germany could commit to one side or another, but its industrial potential.

We, therefore, urge the continuance of efforts to merge the German industrial production, especially the iron and coal works of the Ruhr and Saar, into a general cooperative European community under unified control. The control of such potential by boards responsible to elected parliaments - and preferably to an elected European Assembly - would not only help the problems of European trade, but would assure close supervision and possible control of the use made of such industrial power.

Such concentration in uncontrolled private hands, however, could revive the worst aspects of cartelism. Hence we voice our support to all those now struggling to assure that this kind of potential will benefit all Europeans.

We also laud recent attempts to control atomic power in a similar way - hoping that the project of Euratom can be incorporated into the UN program of atomic development.

We deplore as completely immoral and inexcusable the return of the vast Krupp Empire to the hands of convicted war criminals. We need not compete with the Soviets with such tactics. Krupp has not paid a fraction of the reparations owed to his former slaves. There is still time to exact justice in this case and confiscate this industrial Empire. Its control should be in the hands of the German nation and its wealth should go to the aid of those who suffered under Krupp and his Nazi cohorts.

Israel

In view of the fact that the State of Israel was established under the auspices of the United Nations, we believe that the United Nations should take immediate steps to supplement the United Nations truce observers by United Nations police forces capable of restraining aggressive actions both on the part of the Arabs and the Israelis and of guaranteeing the preservation of the present boundaries.

Only such action seems capable of forestalling an explosive armaments race in the Near East and of permitting the Arab countries and Israel to spend the great percentage of their national incomes now going to the military on sorely needed economic and social improvement.

We further urge increased UN assistance to the Arab refugees and UN aid in their resettlement in neighboring lands. We urge likewise that Israel and her friends throughout the world assist in these efforts.

Finally, we hope that the ICFTU and similar organizations will be able to give all possible help to trade unions and other democratic organizations in the Arab lands.

China

The admission of Communist China to the UN would seem to be inevitable. The recent admission of such countries as the soviet satellites and France Spain have removed whatever vestige remained of the UN as a league of the good. It is preferable that the U.S. gain some concessions from the Soviets now in exchange for China's entrance than have to give in to public pressure in the future.

Among the conditions that could be extended are a guarantee of present borders, a peace treaty for Korea, UN trusteeship for Formosa, to be followed by a plebiscite in which independence is an alternative, release of prisoners still held, and agreement to all UN treaties currently being enforced.

De Galindez

Jesus de Galindez has not been the first enemy of the Trujillo regime to disappear mysteriously. That tyrant has not hesitated to use the bloodiest means against his opponents. It is fortunate indeed that America's press has finally shown to the public the true state of affairs in the Dominican Republic.

We urge in the strongest terms that the investigation of Galindez's dis-

appearance continue into all areas. We feel that the federal government should be called upon to use all the weapons at its disposal to aid in this search.

We pledge SLID's continued support of these attempts and our continued cooperation with the Inter-American Association for Democracy and Freedom in its efforts to bring the mystery to the public's attention and to obtain justice in this case.

We further wish to express our sincere disappointment that Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. has chosen to disgrace himself by continuing in his most unfortunate service to the Trujillo regime.

Latin America*

The recent developments in Columbia, Peru and Argentina give hope to those who feel that democracy can exist in all of the Latin American nations.

Nevertheless, the existence of Batista, Jimenez, Stroessner, Somoza and Trujillo are stark reminders that tyranny still reigns in all too many lands. While realizing that the US should not interfere in the internal affairs of other lands, American maintenance of the status quo, often in the form of open aid and encouragement to dictators, has helped to maintain tyranny and alienate us from the people of those lands.

We urge our government to maintain only those relations required by protocol with these dictators and to cease its previous policies of honoring and otherwise aiding them.

We hail the attempts made by Rep. Porter of Oregon to direct US economic aid primarily to countries in which all the people will benefit from our assistance, the nations in which political democracy is allowed to exist.

We also view with pleasure the steps that our government has finally taken to solve the Galindez-Murphy case.

APPENDIX A

STUDENT LEAGUE FOR INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY

CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS

(As Amended by the National Convention, September 6-7, 1957)

PREAMBLE:

The Student League for Industrial Democracy is a non-partisan educational organization which seeks to promote greater active participation on the part of American students in the resolution of present-day social problems. It is hoped that such participation will contribute to their awareness of the need for the establishment in the United States of a cooperative commonwealth in which the principle regulating production, distribution, and exchange will be the supplying of human needs, and under which human rights will be protected and extended.

Article I: NAME

Section 1.

The name of the organization shall be the Student League for Industrial Democracy.

Article II: AFFILIATION AND PURPOSE

Section 1.

The Student League for Industrial Democracy shall be affiliated with the League for Industrial Democracy, and it shall function as the youth and student section of the League. The Student League shall be autonomously constituted, and its principles and actions shall be consistent with the broad aims and principles of the League for Industrial Democracy.

Article III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. QUALIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the SLID is confined to young people who believe in education for economic, political, and cultural democracy; who believe in the democratic way of life as a means and as a social goal. By virtue of the democratic aims of the League, advocates of dictatorship and totalitarianism and of any political system that fails to provide for freedom of speech, of press, of religion, of assembly, and of political, economic and cultural organization; or of any system that would deny civil rights to any person because of race, color, creed, or national origin, are not eligible for membership. Nor are those eligible whose political policies are wholly or largely determined by the policies laid down by the leaders of a foreign government.

Section 2. DUES

National dues for members at large shall be \$1.00 per year payable to the National Office. National dues in the case of organized chapters shall be \$1.00, of which 50¢ is payable to the National Office.

Membership is considered to be for one year, beginning on the date of joining.

Section 3.

CHAPTERS

(a) Any group of ten or more members may apply to the National Executive Committee for a charter. The National Executive Committee may, at its own discretion, issue a charter to fewer than ten members.

(b) The N.E.C. may accept the affiliation of independent student clubs, subject to the approval of a convention. In all cases, no person shall be a member of a SLID chapter who is not a member of the national SLID.

(c) The policy of chapters may not conflict with that formulated at the Conventions or by the N.E.C. Chapters may formulate their policy on local issues, and national issues not covered by the National Convention or the N.E.C., subject to review by the N.E.C. Chapters shall be required to report any stand they may take within two weeks.

(d) Any chapter shall have the right to appeal a cease and desist order of the National Executive Committee to a national convention, but it must abide by the ruling of the N.E.C. in the interim period between conventions.

(e) Any two chapters or 1/3 of the N.E.C. members can initiate a national referendum on any question.

(f) Any member may be expelled from SLID for the reasons mentioned in the Constitution after a fair trial by his chapter with the chapter membership acting as jury. A 2/3 vote of the chapter membership is required to remove a member. Any member may appeal to the National Executive Committee, which may reverse the chapter decision.

Section 4.

CONVENTIONS

(a) The SLID shall meet in convention annually, at a time and place fixed by the N.E.C., with at least three months' prior notice being given to all members.

(b) Chapters are entitled to one vote at the National Convention for every member paid up with the national office one month before the Convention.

(c) Chapters may apportion their votes in any manner they see fit. Votes of a chapter shall be divided among delegates properly accredited by the members of the chapter who are present at the convention. If the chapter desires to split its vote a certain way on a certain issue, it may do so. In any event, the total number of votes shall equal chapter strength.

(d) Members-at-large may attend the Convention and speak and vote for themselves there.

Article IV: NATIONAL OFFICERS

Section 1.

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Page 3. Constitution

(a) National President

(b) Two National Vice-Presidents: one for Educational Affairs and one for International Affairs.

(c) The members at large and alternates of the N.E.C. who shall have the privileges and obligations of national officers of SLID.

Section 2. QUALIFICATION OF OFFICERS

National officers must either be enrolled at the time of election, in one or more courses at a recognized educational institution, or must have been enrolled no longer than one year prior to his or her election as a national officer.

Section 3. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

(a) The National President shall convene National Conventions, call National Executive Committee meetings, sign charter applications and membership cards, and consult with the paid staff on the carrying out of Convention and N.E.C. policies.

(b) The Education Vice-President shall, with the help of a National Education Commission, chosen by the N.E.C., draw up plans for discussion programs, forums and special projects, and shall edit the SLID magazine, MONITOR. Should there be any question on editorial policy, the N.E.C. shall decide the question.

(c) The International Affairs Vice-President shall maintain contact with international student organizations, and shall represent the SLID at conferences called by these organizations, after conferring with the N.E.C.

(d) The paid staff shall be responsible for all correspondence of the organization, including reports of all N.E.C. meetings to the chapters. The National Office shall have the responsibility of publishing the National Newsletter, SLID VOICE.

(e) All material sent out in the name of the SLID shall have the approval of two-thirds of the national officers and shall have been submitted to all of the national officers.

Section 4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

(a) National Officers shall be elected at the end of the National Convention, which shall meet once a year.

(b) They shall be elected by a simple majority vote.

Section 5. DISMISSAL OF OFFICERS

(a) National Officers may be dismissed upon a 2/3 vote of the N.E.C. Before a vote is taken on dismissal, the officer is entitled to a hearing before the committee.

(b) In the event of death, resignation, or dismissal of a national officer, the N.E.C. is authorized to appoint a temporary replacement until the next plenary session of the organization.

Article V: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. COMPOSITION

The National Executive Committee shall consist of:

- (a) The National Officers possessing one vote each.
- (b) Members-at-large. The number of members-at-large shall be in proportion to the membership of the organization; which shall equal one percent of the total membership to the nearest hundred, except that it shall never be under six or over fifteen. Members-at-large shall be elected at the annual convention.
- (c) There shall be five Alternates, who shall be elected at the annual convention, and from which absent N.E.C. members may designate for their proxy.
- (d) The paid staff members, without a vote.

Section 2. QUORUM

A quorum shall consist of fifty percent (50%) of the members of the N.E.C.

Section 3. POWERS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (a) To select staff personnel jointly with the LID Board.
- (b) To charter new chapters and suspend old ones.
- (c) To appoint sub-committees for specific purposes such as the publication of a newspaper.
- (d) To coordinate activities of the chapters.
- (e) To coordinate activities with other youth organizations.
- (f) To formulate the SLID's policy on current issues subject to the decisions of the National Convention. Decisions shall be automatically valid unless opposed by a majority of the membership of by 60% of the chapters, counted one vote per chapter, within two weeks of notification of such decisions.
- (g) To investigate questions involving fraudulent admission to membership in violation of Section 1, Article III, and to recommend voiding of such fraudulent memberships where evidence is present and opportunity for the accused to answer is available.

Section 4. MEETINGS

The National Executive Committee shall meet at least four times a year.

Article VI: NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Section 1. COMPOSITION

The National Action Committee shall be composed of the National

President, the paid staff officers of SLID and three other individuals chosen by the N.E.C. from among the members and alternate members of the N.E.C.

Section 2. FUNCTIONS

The National Action Committee shall carry out the directives of the N.E.C.

Section 3. MEETINGS

Meetings shall be called by the National President whenever the need for them arises. The frequency of such meetings shall be decided by the committee itself. Members of the NAC or NEC may call a meeting after consultation with the National President.

Article VII: REPRESENTATION ON L.I.D. BOARD

Section 1. NUMBER

The SLID shall have four representatives to the L.I.D. Board, who will have a vote, and who will be listed as regular members of the Board.

Section 2. SELECTION

The representatives shall be selected in the following manner:

(a) The present National President shall be an ex-officio representative.

(b) The other three shall be appointed by the National Executive Committee. They may hold other offices in SLID.

Section 3. POLICY

These representatives shall be bound by the decisions of the convention, and the N.E.C. between conventions, in all matters which affect SLID.

Article VIII: REGIONS

Section 1.

Two or more chapters in a given area which desire to coordinate their activities, and have the approval of the National Executive Committee, shall constitute a Region and shall elect a Regional Action Committee. The size and composition of the Regional Action Committee shall be determined by a meeting of the component chapters of the Region.

Section 2.

The Regional Action Committees, upon a majority vote of by whatever method each region decides upon, shall have the authority to coordinate chapter activities and initiate programs of their own which shall be binding upon the component SLID chapters, provided these actions are in accord with the policies of national SLID. In the event of any dispute

between an individual chapter and its Regional Action Committee, the aggrieved party shall have the right of appeal to the National Executive Committee and/or the National Convention.

Section 3.

The N.E.C. may appoint Regional organizers when the funds and the personnel are available. When appointed, these organizers shall be ex-officio secretaries of their Regional Action Committees, and shall have the authority to convene the meetings of such committees. This authority shall be limited until the 1958 SLID Convention.

Article IX: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1.

In all cases not covered by this constitution, "Roberts Rules of Order, Revised," shall be deemed to be the proper authority covering SLID business.

Article X: AMENDMENTS

Section 1.

This Constitution may be amended by:

- (a) A majority vote at any future convention.
- (b) A majority vote of the membership in chapters, to be conducted by the N.E.C. upon the request of two chapters.