

The Turning Point

Tunny Pattison, coordinator of the NSOAC has announced that the upcoming national planning conference is to be held March 30, 31, and April 1, in Hutchinson, Kansas. SO Reno County will act as host cast for the national council meeting, planning housing for up to 400 delegates from around America. The cast will also be able to provide transportation from the airport in Wichita, 45 minutes away, if notices of intentions to attend are received early enough. Hutchinson itself is served by AMTRACK.

It is hoped that all casts in the country will be represented at this meeting. Each cast will have one vote voice in the decision making. Topics to be covered will be concerned primarily with providing Sing Out's everywhere with the tools they need to help turn around the local cast program in America. Plans will be discussed concerning joint cast efforts and publication of information booklets concerning various aspects of Sing Out and its musical production; the by-laws of the NSOAC will be presented; and of great importance, new music composed by local casts will be presented. All planning for, and running of the conference is being handled by the NSOAC.

Besides the numerous work sessions devoted to the above mentioned topics, there will be several special features in the evenings. The host cast will perform on one evening for the delegates, and Sing Out Dubuque, Iowa which recently started SO Cedar Rapids will perform another night. Also, of great interest will be a talk planned by General Daniel C. Daniels, deputy assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force, and the nation's first negro general. The general is a very popular speaker having received a forty-five minute ovation from the Texas State Legislature for a 30 minute speech.

Sing Out in America has great potential, can and must be developed. With our new-found awareness of each other, we must all work at this coming conference to construct the base for the turning point Sing Out needs and deserves.

The SO Reno County coordinator for the conference is Mrs. Ray Stauffer, 1801 Carey Blvd, Hutchinson, Kansas 67501, 316-662-8428. She can be contacted concerning details of the conference, arrivals and such. Formal registration for the conference however, should be made through your regional coordinator, or Tunny Pattison, 3716 Volcanic Ave, El Paso, Texas 79904.

Northeast Coordinator

We have found someone to be the acting regional coordinator for the northeastern U.S., including the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Dave Harrison of New Bedford, Mass. has been involved with local Sing Outs for several years now and is helping to get the Northeast organized.

"I'm really anxious to see this thing work, because I think that the whole Up With People idea is too big, and too important to today's world to let it die down into just a musically-oriented educational experiment on the road. I don't think that the local Sing Outs have died out nearly as fast as UWP, Inc. thought they would, and I feel that there are enough strong local casts to pull the whole program back to full strength, if we can get sufficiently organized again."

Dave has been a member of SO New Bedford, SO Boston, and SO El Paso while serving in the army. Having just finished a year in Korea, Dave is back in the states and helping us. The Northeast region is one of the hardest nuts we have to crack, since we have heard from so few of the casts up there. Dave is enlisting the help of SO Boston right now, trying to get addresses for other groups.

Western Regional Meetings

Robert Middough, western coordinator, and Joy Lee Erb of Sing Out Young Generation are planning a one day "rap session" on March 11. It will be held at the Western Federal Savings in Orange, California, just off the Newport Freeway. Mrs. Erb says the main purpose of the session is to give broken casts a chance to get back together again.

Six subjects will be discussed, including a conference to be held in the last week in June. Complete facilities at the privately owned Cota de Caza recreational preserve in Trabuco Canyon, Calif., have been reserved for the conference sponsored by the western region. Cota de Caza can be used for 3 to 5 days, and can accommodate up to 2000 people. Families are invited to come and spend their vacations at the recreational preserve and take part in the conference. All details on cost, camping, accommodations, etc. will be available at a later date. Mrs. Erb hopes that the planning of the June conference will be done by the representatives attending the March 11th meeting, and the NSOAC.

Sing-Outs wishing to send representatives to the rap session should send a post card with an approximate number of people planning on attending to Mrs. Joy Lee Erb, 1118 S. Cedar, Santa Ana, CA 92701. Her phone number is 714-836-8008.

Further information can be received by contacting either Mrs. Erb or Robert Middough, 1006 Mercer Ave., Ojai, CA 93023. 805-649-1346

People to People

This newsletter is published for the National Sing Out Action Council by Let's Go San Diego, Inc. Editor is Bill Montgomery. Remarks concerning the newsletter, and possible news items should be addressed to People to People in care of Let's Go San Diego, Inc., Box 6193 San Diego, California 92106.

Tuscon's Reply to OVAC

In our last issue, we reported that the Ohio Valley Action Council had sent a letter to Mr. Blanton Belk of Up With People, Inc., advising him of their adopted position concerning relations with his organization. In the letter, Thomas P. Harahan made these points:

1. OVAC will no longer associate in any way with Up With People, Inc.
2. While Up With People, Inc. is developing a fine liberal and innovative educational program, in OVAC's opinion it is no longer moving in the direction it set out in--it no longer is primarily concerned about people.
3. OVAC believes that one reason for the "downfall and collapse" of the Sing Out program is because local casts attempted to emulate Up With People, and failed.
4. OVAC advocates the return to the original concept of "a commitment to people, to making this a better world for all humanity, and to try to establish cooperation and understanding among men and nations.
5. OVAC advises discontinuance of the term "Sing Out", because of its association with Up With People, Inc., in favor of a term that would more readily communicate our care and concern for people.
6. Local Sing Outs, in OVAC's opinion should use meaningful contemporary music to complement the use of music copyrighted by Up With People, Inc. They recommend that royalties be paid to ASCAP instead of Up With People, Inc., once current performance agreements expire.
7. OVAC asks that all other local casts and regional associations join it in its action.

On January 12, Up With People, Inc. replied in a letter over the signature of Secretary William F. Wilkes. It stated,

"...As you know, Up With People Incorporated formerly attempted to develop and provide some supervision for 'local' or regional 'Sing Outs,' but we were forced by lack of sufficient trained personnel and financing to discontinue this type of service and supervision. Our national and international programs must necessarily require our principal attention. We felt at the time that it was unwise and unfair to all concerned to continue a program which we were not able to accomplish thoroughly and properly.

Concurrently, we requested that the local organizations refer to themselves as associated with or a part of Up With People, since this was not, in fact, the situation. This likewise would be unfair to all concerned.

Again, in regard to your letter we certainly want to encourage you in every way in the accomplishment of your aims and agree with what you feel to be your need of a technical and legal dissociation from Up With People..."

Reaction around the country to this reply has been varying. Some see the letter as a slap in the face, since OVAC addressed
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itself to Mr. Belk and was answered by a secretary, with no mention of Mr. Belk. Others point out that it is believed Belk has been sick and unable to answer. Another view is that the letter represents a slap on the back for local casts, encouraging them to go on as they please.

News From Mississippi

The Reverend Paul Hogue has written with some interesting news. First off, he writes that he has arranged with the Methodist Bishop of Florida and Mississippi for a year's sabbatical, during which he will work with MRA and the local SO program in the U.S. He lives now in Jackson, Mississippi having just moved there from Florida.

He says that SO was introduced to Jackson when the city was starting to desegregate and as a result five churches in Jackson have their youth programs built on the facet of UWP. He says SO came at psychologically the right time.

He also included a list of SO related literature available currently. The list reads as follows:

Peter Howard: Life and Letters by Anne Walrige Gordan \$1.25
God Can Be Real by Edward Perry \$1.50
Remaking the World collected speeches by Frank Buchman \$2.00
From India With Hope by Michael Henderson about \$1.00
Himmat a biweekly published by MRA in India
MRA Information Service published by MRA in English

Reverend Hogue says he has supplies of the above books, and also has several films produced by MRA before and during the beginnings of UWP. The British newsletter is published by New World News, 45 Hays Mews, London W1X 7RT. Rates on request. Himmat is published weekly at 501 Arun Chambers, Tardeo Road, Bombay 34, India. The yearly rate for airmail is \$17.50.

He also included a photostat of the following telegram addressed to Up With People's annual meeting:

"...Those who take part in the annual gathering of Up With People have my warmest personal congratulation on their important role in our society.

Through the Up With People movement, countless young people have brought hope, inspiration, courage and good cheer to those who have attended your performances throughout the world. I warmly endorse the high ideals that bring you together in this worthwhile fellowship, and express the deepest gratitude for the good that comes of your fine programs. May you have every future success.

Richard Nixon."

NSOAC Membership

Tunny Pattison has received letters from casts around the country who inquired as to the requirements for gaining membership in the NSOAC. While we thought we made this point before, let us restate it: Every cast is considered a member of the Action Council. We

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We decided that since nearly every cast in America is in harmony with our objectives, a lot of paperwork would be spared if everyone got membership automatically, and must decline it in writing before we consider them non-members.

We would also like to point out that the NSOAC was set up to compliment and augment all the other local SO organizations in the country, not to replace them.

Editorial

On February 19th, I drove the almost 500 miles from San Diego to Tucson, Arizona to see a performance of the combined casts B and C of Up With People, Inc. The cast was performing at the University of Arizona as part of the city's evening concert series. The audience was made up mainly of older folks, who seemed to enjoy the evening quite a bit. There were over 3500 people there.

The show itself was very good, technically and musically, and as far as it went, spirit-wise. The musical numbers were much longer than in the last show I saw (late 1969). Because of the fine staging and choreography though, the show never dragged, never prompted me to see what time it was. The music was very contemporary, but acceptable to all parts of the audience because it wasn't loud or raucous. The songs dealt with loneliness, peace, "living it live", and the countries represented in the cast, in addition to the more "standard" songs, God's Skin, UWP, Wonder of it All, and Hometown. The audience participated from the very beginning, from the song "Don't Keep It to Yourself", through "Everybody Likes a Good Tune" to the final UWP. The audience loved it because it was spirited and good, clean, fun. There was nothing, or very little, beyond a few exhortations to cultivate peace and brotherhood, communicated to the audience concerning where America should go. There was little real commitment shown to making America what it should be.

I talked to several old members of national casts I met there, and most seemed to think UWP was going in the right direction, away from the "dogmatism of Moral Re-Armament", and the impression it gave to some that it was the only way to go. They said that the show was now relevant, because it dealt with more than just four standards and patriotism. Certainly, the show is dealing with more social problems and provoking a lot of thought, but couldn't it say at least something about how America could be even greater than it is, for the benefit of everyone?

I talked with several high school students in the audience who had also seen the strike force performances in their schools. They were all impressed by the fact that people their own age could be that professional and spirited. The words to the songs were nice but did not impress them much.

The worth of local casts came through to me even stronger after seeing this show. I think they could supply the little more the musical show needs to make it a social force, not just a content of our times.

The ideas of Sing Out, the original ideas, can be put in a show without the show seeming stuffy, without it turning off our generation. I think we should try for the things UWP, Inc. has left out, to have a greater and more lasting impact on people's thoughts and actions.

W.S.I.I.V.

A Thought

"...For you and I, ordinary men and women, our faces dust and dirt and water, stirred with the same desires, wooed by the same temptations, borne forward by the same power if we choose, have this distinctive contribution to make.

"We know the most precious secret of this and every generation, the secret which can remake the world. We possess the idea big enough to outmatch all other ideas, to mobilize the minds, hearts and wills of millions to unity and action.

'Tradition is not on our side-unless we live and create it.

'God is not on our side-unless we listen and obey.

'History will be written about the choice you and I make today. It will be the most momentous choice in human history.

'For one thing is certain. We do stand on the threshold of a new age. A new age of some kind is about to be ushered in, with all the sweat and blood and agony of new creation.

'It can be God's idea of a new age. If not, it will be a new age of another kind. And we, we alone, the citizens of destiny, decide.

'Once to every man and nation
Comes the moment to decide.
Then it is the brave man chooses
While the coward stands aside,
Till the multitude makes virtue
Of the faith they had denied."

From Ideas Have Legs by Peter Howard.

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