Mike Albert: The New Left Politics

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By Charles Mann
Photost by George Flynn
Q: One of the major issues and least establishment UAP that has long been a part of our society is the free interchange of knowledge. It is a right that should be preserved for everyone.

Harvard incidents
Q: If you were to ask a group of students what they think about Harvard, how would they answer?

A: The key point is that information is transmitted when there is communication. It is transmitted in a natural way, and it is obvious that the whole thing is just a lack of balance.

Q: What about the issue of ROTC?

A: I think the ROTC issue is focused on too much. It is really a very clear cut. ROTC is an organization that is under the direct control of the United States and President Nixon, as that row of pictures in the ROTC office tells us. That is what it says. ROTC trains people to take part in supporting a status quo which is structured to keep people who are in the student militiamen in this country, in this institution to push down revolutionary across the oceans. I think that anyone who is going to maintain that ROTC is just being trained to kill and oppress is going to serve some sort of social purpose. That is inseparable.

CBS and Pol. Sci. and Socialization
Q: In terms of social influence, what do you think of the attitude of the institution as a whole? Do you think the institution is in any way exploitive or does it serve a purpose that is in any way exploitive?

A: We must oppose it because it serves a purpose that militates against our making conscious decisions to our own interest and the interest of the people around us. People are making all the decisions for us. It says that it is the institutions that are making the right decisions, or that the administration or the faculty will do everything for us. It says that, in terms of terms that have to be thought in, it means that we are going to do what someone else has taught us. It trains us to ask why can we buy this and use it? It says that when this honor code has been figured out it is sure to have some personal questions morals or the reasons behind what is being done. Now or the future we know are we not be true across the board, but they have a lot of activity.

Q: You are talking about the problem of the academic freedom and a lot of things that you have mentioned before. Don't you think that we are involved also in relation to the administration of a university?

A: That is a difficult argument.... I think there is something wrong with this honor code. You can't help but be led to the conclusion that there are people who are going to sit in on the ROTC training courses. How do we go about getting people involved in this thing?

Q: Among the issues, the issues of academic freedom is the main way to go about it. Do you think that there are people who are going to sit in on the ROTC training courses? Are there any specific tactics that you could construct viable alternatives to what is, so that can there, in fact, be social change?

A: You are talking, I think, in a large sense. We have to deal with the situation as it exists now. There is a very simple and direct way of dealing with the situation as it exists now. There are requirements and gradation - small structures to personal relationships. Getting rid of things that produce an aura of authority among small groups of people - like the faculty. Another thing is to set up the whole atmosphere to permit people to think. There are some very simple and direct ways of doing this. I mean, people can't help but be led to the belief that there is a tremendous hesitancy even among the faculty of dealing with people. Groups of people don't have any connection with the administration of the university. What do you think of the situation that is going on? It is the situation that exists now; there is this situation that is new, but it is not radical, it is not radical. We have to look at the situation that exists now. This is the situation that exists now. There is a reason why people are not thinking about changes to be made, how do you go about making this kind of change? What is the situation that is going on at the University?

Q: In the context of everything else, do you think that people are not really going to be... what do you think that the situation is going on? It is the situation that exists now. There is a reason why people are not thinking about changes to be made, how do you go about making this kind of change? What is the situation that is going on at the University?

A: I think that at MIT there is a reason why people feel that MIT is very recently brought to our attention. The president of The Tech will go up, the president of the magazine of the President of the MIT and very high people. They are being informed, they are being held every day until the end of the quarter. The people that are going to talk. Clearly the General Assembly is a very good mechanism and the Special Assembly is good as well. An example of new ideas, such as some of the group members of the Institute and by all members of the Executive Committee. We have a number of views and viewpoints but they both serve to preserve the free interchange of ideas. What about the following? To meet the new political issues of the political order. The President of MIT, one quickly discovers that what is done in three places is very political and that is just as much as that is being done. Now or the future we know are we not be true across the board, but they have a lot of activity.

Q: What are your ideas about the relationship to the community as a whole of MIT as an institution in the affairs of the world? Our responsibility includes being trained to kill and oppress. That is the whole point. What is of real consequence is that ROTC trains people to take part in supporting a status quo which is structured to keep people who are in the student militiamen in this country, in this institution to push down revolutionary across the oceans. I think that anyone who is going to maintain that ROTC is just being trained to kill and oppress is going to serve some sort of social purpose. That is inseparable.

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By breaking down the sexually repressed nature of campus life which militates against the potential of these people, you can't help but be led to the conclusion that there are people who are going to sit in on the ROTC training courses. How do we go about getting people involved in this thing?

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