SDS holds quiet convention

After several weeks of battling for a meeting place, SDS held its national convention at Harvard last weekend without apparent incident.

The convention, which was to run from Thursday, March 30 to Sunday, April 2, was granted use of Phillips Brooks House at Harvard for the weekend, while the Cambridge School Committee had granted SDS permission to use Eidson Tech Auditorium on Thursday and Friday.

According to The Boston Globe, more than 1000 SDS members attended the "national convention against racism." Much of the convention's time, The Globe reported, was devoted to debating political ideology. The Globe painted a bleak picture of the convention, focusing on various factions within the convention: Progressive Labor, the Spartacist League (based on Leon Trotsky's 1938 program), and the Revolutionary Communist Youth.

Apparently, area newsmen were denied access to the convention - WNAC's Saturday night news reported that its cameras were barred from the meeting place and instead showed young radicals standing outside the meeting hall engaged in discussion.

MIT SDS had requested space for the convention at MIT. Provost Walter Rosenblith, however, denied the request, saying that MIT SDS, by their past actions, had forfeited their right to use rooms at MIT. This came in spite of a favorable recommendation from the Student Center Committee.

On Friday, March 30, SDS had confronted Cornell Psychologist Urie Bronfenbrenner, alleging that his work was of a racial nature.

Bronfenbrenner, lecturing at MIT at the invitation of the Psychology Department, replied that his ideas had changed since the article under attack had been written. SDS has also launched heavy attacks against Harvard psychologist Richard Herrnstein. Two weeks ago, during a World Peace Lecture, MIT SDS members questioned Professor of Economics and Political Science Evertt Hughes about alleged connections between the CIS and the CIA.

SDS had hoped to meet for rooms for their national convention when Harvard had refused to allow them to use any classrooms on Thursday and Friday while the university was still in session.

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