

The Elephant Hunter

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Young Democrats

February 10, 1966

YD's Convention

The Young Democrats of the State of Michigan held their January convention on the Oakland University campus. The meeting was attended by Young Democrats from all over the state, the officers of Young Democrats and the chairman of the Democratic Party, Zolton Ferency.

Mr. Ferency keynoted the meeting with a speech which dwelt on the importance of closer relations between the YDs and the senior party. He said that this cooperation was essential if the full potential of the YDs was to be realized.

In other action the convention considered and accepted a resolution condemning Gen. Hershey for his recent action in reclassifying students who demonstrated against US policy in Viet Nam.

Stationery

The Young Democrats have begun consideration of buying official stationary for the club. The officers and the members of the executive board have expressed a desire to head the stationary with an official slogan or symbol of the club. Anyone who has any ideas on either a slogan or a symbol should submit it to the club at the next meeting of the YDs.

I always voted at my party's call,
And I never thought of thinking for myself at all.

-W.S. Gilbert

Support 18yr. Vote

The Young Democrats held their last meeting on January 27. The members at that meeting considered and endorsed a resolution which endorses an amendment to Michigan's constitution extending the franchise to 18 year olds. The object of the resolution was to show support for Oakland's delegation to the public hearing to be held on this issue at Ruddiman Jr. High on Southfield Road in Detroit.

Other business conducted at that meeting was the decision to delay consideration of three constitutional amendments until the next meeting on February 14. Those amendments deal with the impeachment of officers, the establishment of a State Representative to the Michigan YDs, and the power of the president to call special elections to fill vacancies in the club's offices.

The YDs also decided to show the Goldwater campaign film entitled "Choice". The film made by the Mothers for Moral America, shows the moral decay in the US and how Pres. Johnson is responsible.

The YDs were visited at the last meeting by Phil Masstum Vice-President of the Oakland County Democrats. Mr. Masstum asked the help of the club in putting on a Phil Hart testimonial dinner for March 12. He emphasized that the YDs help is necessary if the dinner is to be held on this campus. Anyone interested in helping on this dinner call Ken Weingarten at 2700.

Notes of Interest

The next meeting of the Young Democrats will be held on Monday, February 14, at 4PM in room 125 of the Oakland University Oakland Center. The purpose of the meeting will be consideration of the constitutional amendments which were tabled at the last meeting. There will also be discussion about the Phil Hart dinner and any member who has ideas about the club slogan or symbol, is asked to submit it at this meeting.

The meeting of the YDs is being held on a Monday because the officers have been unable to get the members to tell them what day is the most acceptable for the meetings so the only available alternative is to experiment. If you don't like the constant switching of dates, or have a preferable day, please let the YDs know.

The Goldwater campaign movie which the YDs sponsored on campus last February 2 was a grand success. The movie was attended by about 350 people and paid close to \$90 at 25¢ to see the movie.

General Lucius Clay, the erstwhile comedian-Republican Finance Chairman, went on radio last week and gave the American people something to think about. He stated that in the year of 1965 the Republican Party had received 40% of their total contributions in the amount of \$10 or less. This extraordinary statement can be interpreted in at least two ways. Does this mean as few as 40% or as many as 40% of the total GOP contributions? If this is typical Clay style it's a wonder that we ever won the war. Imagine the confusion of sending as many as 40% or as few as 40% of a battalion to the lines.

Editorial

The US public is being asked to support the administration's policy in Viet Nam. This is not an unreasonable demand- every wartime president must ask and receive this support if he is to act as the representative of his people. The difference between Johnson's request and that same request in other wars is that the present administration has not told the people why they must fight in Viet Nam.

All the arguments for US policy in Viet Nam says that we are fighting for the right of the Vietnamese people to choose their form of government, and that we must save Southeast Asia from the Chinese. The first of these statements is closer to the truth. We are in Viet Nam to save Asia from the Chinese so that our position on that continent is not jeopardized- but this is a selfish motivation and bears no relationship to any claim to protect smaller nations from domination. The first of those statements is fallacious because we refuse to accept the possibility that the Vietnamese might want to be Communists.

It is obvious that the administration should admit that we are dying in Viet Nam in the interest of the US and not in the future of Viet Nam beyond that which directly affects our own position. If Pres. Johnson wants the support of the American public he should tell them the truth- this is much better strategy than trying to fool them by appealing to emotions which are not even remotely connected to the action in Viet Nam.

Donald Rader