Action in Every State Backed

New Party Meets to Plan Election Strategy

By Claudia Levy
Washington Post Staff Writer

The national committee of the New Party, which draws the bulk of its support from backers of Sen. Eugene McCarthy, has voted to endorse efforts in each State "to develop new local and national political alternatives opposing Nixon, Humphrey and Wallace."

The New Party will work to create a new mainstream party, said Marcus G. Raskin, chairman of the Committee for the Formation of The New Party. The group's national committee met yesterday at the Morgan School here to elect a nine-member executive board, plan its organization and debate November election strategy.

Raskin is resigning as chairman and will be replaced by a nominee chosen by the executive committee Oct. 15.

Delegates from 29 states voted yesterday to urge the electorate to join efforts of the New Party and Independents "to build a new political fase for all citizens alienated by the political status quo."

New Party organizations in a number of states are working to place McCarthy's name on the November ballot and most members of the Party's National Committee are original McCarthy backers. Several state groups are currently working on the write-in campaigns of comedian Dick Gregory and Eldridge Cleaver, minister of information for the Black Panthers.

New Party officials could give no estimate of their organization's support nationally but said they felt about 10 per cent of the electorate would refuse to vote for the three major candidates and would write in names of others.

"We undertook to build a new party out of the energy of the new politics," Raskin said. "We will begin to assess our support after November."

Aiming more at 1970 and 1972 than the current election, the New Party is working to organize a broad political base. Its 100-member National Committee will include 25 selected representatives of Afro-American and Mexican-American movements; the clergy, labor, students and antiwar groups and will tap defecting Democrats and Independent Republicans.

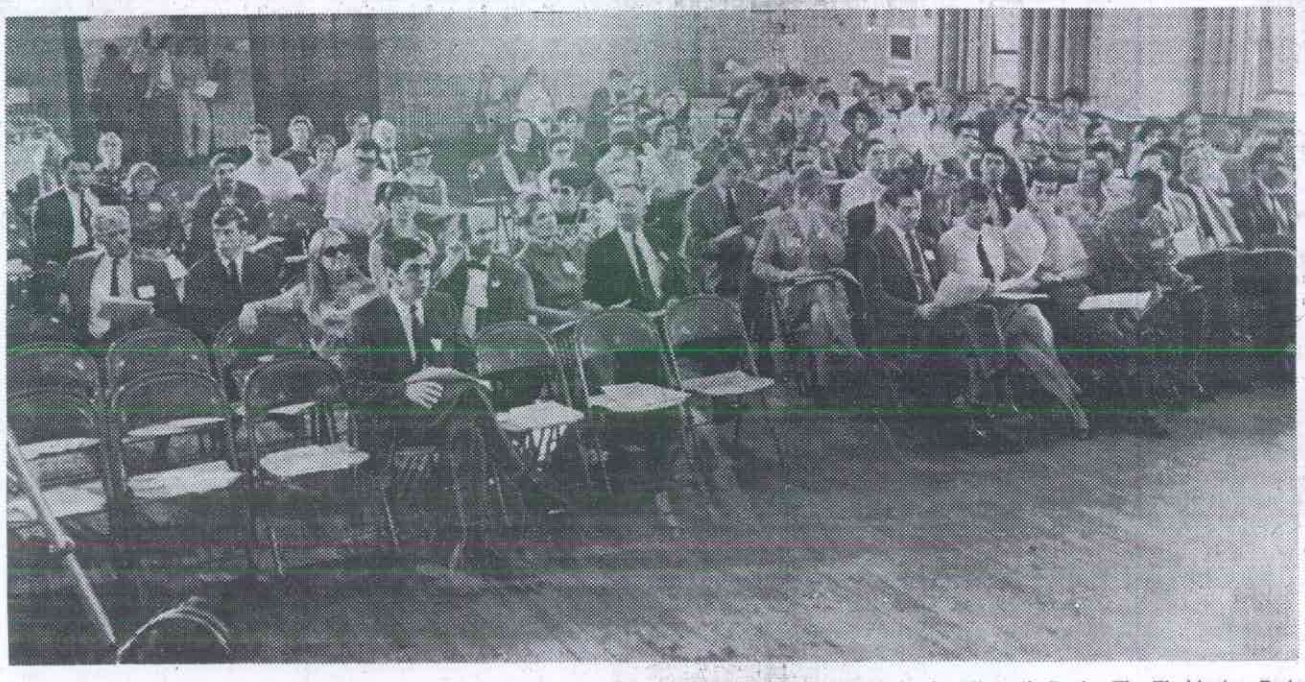
Raskin said the New Party plans to launch social action projects—legal services, health-care centers, and special store-front schools for young people—early next year. These projects will be experiments, he said, "to show what the alternatives are, to show what things could be like."

About 90 people attended yesterday's session, including 50 from the District, Maryland and Virginia. District delegates were Lorella Langberg and Gilbert Mendelson.

Representatives, from 29 of the 40 states where the New Party claims organizations, included Mario Savio, of San Francisco, student leader during demonstrations at the Berkeley campus of the University of California, and Peter Yarrow, of New York City, member of the Peter, Paul and Mary folk group.

Elected to the New Party's executive committee yesterday were Raskin, Christopher Jenks, of Cambridge, Mass.; Daniel Fivel, D.C. Democratic National Committeeman; Cornelius Gibbons, of New York; Gentry Fowler, an SCLC and New Party staff member here; Dr. Benjamin Spock; author Gore Vidal, The Rev. Andrew Young, high-ranking SCLC official, and David Frost of New Jersey.

James C. Hormel of New York was named executive director of the Party's national office here.



Photos by Ellsworth Davis—The Washington Post

New Party delegates gather at the Morgan School to elect a nine-member executive board.

Raskin addresses New Party committee meeting.