

1,000 Leaders of High School Strike Plan as They Camp in 5th Ave. Center

Several thousand high-school students have moved their guitars, their posters and their anger into the graduate center of the New School for Social Research. There, for the last week, they have been talking, singing, sleeping and eating as they coordinate their citywide strike activities protesting conditions in the high schools, in America generally and in Indochina.

"If you want things to be better, strike," says a sign on the second floor of the modern building at 65 Fifth Avenue where classrooms, lounges and hallways are filled with students. "You have more power than you know."

On May 13, when schools and colleges all over the country closed down to protest the expanding military operations in Cambodia and the killing of four students at Kent State College in Ohio, the strike committee at the New School announced that the school's graduate facilities were available for protest activities.

Many Schools Represented

"We moved in that night and we've been here ever since," said Bob Singer, a 16-year-old student at the underground New World School and a member of the coordinating committee. "And we'll stay here till the end of the school year," he added as he bent over a table covered with papers, drawings, posters and sandwiches in room 303, the committee's headquarters.

Elsewhere throughout the building striking students from Stuyvesant, Seward Park, Washington Irving, Brooklyn Technical, Performing Arts, Brandeis and many others gathered by the hundreds in small classrooms to discuss various strike plans at their schools. Toby Mamis, a member of the committee, explained the purpose of their action.

"We're trying to unite all the high-school students so that

we can do something effective, not just run in the streets like wild and get hit on the heads by construction workers," the 16-year-old student said.

End of High Schools Urged

"Sure, we're against the war, sure, we don't like kids getting murdered, but we're also against the same kind of repressive conditions that exist right here in our own high schools. Personally, I feel very strongly that high schools should be out permanently."

"Hey, excuse me, you guys," said a member of the New School Strike Committee, which uses the same building, as he entered the crowded room. "We haven't hit you for any money before, but we're down and can you give us a dime or a quarter, like to buy paper for the mimeograph machine?"

"Sure," answered 18-year-old Robert Brickerton, a senior at Brooklyn Technical High School and another member of the coordinating committee. "I will give you my lunch money," he said, taking a dollar bill from his pocket.

60,000 Leaflets a Day

The door opened and the deafening sound of cheers and yells emanated from room 301 where about 400 students from Stuyvesant High School were gathered. In the dark corridors, groups of boys and girls sitting on the floor waited for one of the frequent mass meetings to start and read from some of the approximately 60,000 light-blue mimeographed sheets that are being run off in the school office daily, without charge.

Downstairs in room 204 about 500 young people from Seward Park High School in Manhattan listened as their chairman read aloud the list of demands concerning high-school conditions. The students have included these demands with the calls for an end of the war in Indochina and of alleged political

repression at home that are the goals of the nationwide student strike activities.

Their demands to the Board of Education including making Regents exams and tutorial classes available for all students who participate in the strike, suspension of all classes, full use of school facilities "to make the school more relevant to the problems of our society today" and being granted final marks on a pass-fail basis based on the work "we have done so far."

After he had completed the list, the chairman, who refused to give his name, looked around at the large group. "We want some citywide mass action from all high-school students," he said.

"We want unified action. Every other high school has the same list of demands and every other high school is going to vote on how it feels about it. "How do you feel?" he asked them. "Are you going to support this unified action?"

"Yes," they cried, as hundreds of hands rose in the air. The chairman then announced that the demands were passed "by an overwhelming majority."

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NOT



The New York Times

PROTEST GEORGIA SLAYINGS: Students bearing flowers leading demonstration up Park Avenue yesterday. Group, protesting the killing of six persons in Augusta riots Monday and Tuesday, marched to the U.N. Church Center.
