

500 Youths Plan Antiradical Crusade

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Special to The New York Times

HARTFORD, Sept. 13—It was a meeting of young counterrevolutionaries.

Their means, they said, would be nonviolent, but somehow they had to stop the radical leftists from destroying the Republic.

These were the Young Americans for Freedom, a group of politically conservative youths who embody much of what so many older Americans had begun to think was a part of the past.

Nearly 500 of them came from as far away as Hawaii to the University of Hartford to exchange ideas on ways of defeating the revolutionaries and advancing conservative political thought. They listened to the heroes of the conservative movement.

In a four-day meeting they resolved to redouble their of-

fensive against the radicals on the left. There was no formal vote, but nearly all the discussions turned toward "anti-New Left strategy."

As the fall semester begins in schools in the country, many young conservatives said they intended to circulate petitions indicating that students wanted to "keep the schools open" no matter what happened during the year. And, they said, they are prepared to seek injunctions and to file suits against university administrators who yield to radical demands.

At least five cases pressed by Young Americans for Freedom went to court last spring.

"Too many university officials have seen fit to only deal with the radical minority," Ronald F. Docksai, the national secretary of the conservative group, said last fall when the first thrusts were made.

"These officials have opted to ignore the opinions of the majority of students and local Y.A.F. chapters. "A reluctant administration must be shown that students are fed up with their smug, weak-kneed and regressively liberal approach to the outrages of the hyper-radicals."

Members at the meeting here also spoke of attempting to infiltrate student governments and newspapers — which they maintain are

NEWS INDEX

	Page		Page
Books	41	Obituaries	37
Bridge	40	Society	42
Business	60-63	Sports	50-55
Chess	40	Theaters	46-49
Congress Bills	39	Transportation	65
Crossword	41	TV and Radio	66-67
Editorials	36	U. N. Proceedings	8
Financial	56-59, 61	Weather	63
Movies	46-49	Woman in News	50
Music	46-49	Women's News	44

News Summary and Index, Page 35

Continued on Page 31, Column 1

SEP 14 1970

Continued From Page 1, Col. 3

dominated by liberals—and to present a broader front that is not so much distinctly conservative as it is antiradical. Some of them also proposed counterdemonstrations.

There are plans to distribute news columns and cartoons from national headquarters and hopes of starting antiradical underground newspapers.

Some members will also dress differently for their encounter with radicals.

"In a couple of days I'll start growing a beard, letting my hair go and dig out my torn dungarees," said J. Michael Yeager, a 25-year-old Navy veteran and student at the University of Connecticut. "I'll look like a radical but talk like a conservative."

Traditions Rejected

Up from the Boy Scouts, DeMolay and 4-H clubs, the Young Americans for Freedom believe in God, most things traditional and like to pledge allegiance to the flag. Sometimes they feel lonely and committed to hopeless battle on college campuses that are seemingly swarming with students crying for change in any way, at any cost.

But, according to David A. Keene, the 25-year-old national chairman of the group, one accomplishment of the four-day meeting that ended yesterday was the diminution of that feeling. "They saw they're not alone," he said.

William F. Buckley, whom they call the "Godfather," invited them out to his elegant family estate at Sharon, in northwestern Connecticut, where Young Americans for Freedom was created 10 years ago. Earlier Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona, warned them of the dangers of power being concentrated in Washington, and Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina said the country was entering a period of guerrilla warfare.

Poster-sized photographs of Mr. Buckley and Senator Goldwater and their books, along with the writings of Senator Thurmond and J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, sold well during the meeting.

Stickers and Buttons Used

There was also a brisk business in bumper stickers ("Tell it to Hanoi," "Power to the Individual") and buttons ("Up Against the Wall Commies," "I am a Capitalist" and "Ban the Bombers"). One poster read, "Victory over the Campus Cong."

Senator Goldwater was the central figure in the formation of Young Americans for Freedom. It was after his defeat in a bid for the vice-presidency in 1960 that a group of 50 to 60 of his young Republican backers gathered at the Buckley estate to outline plans for a campus organization that would carry the Goldwater banner in 1964.

The group has continued to campaign for conservative politicians, but with the nation changing political climate, it has shifted its emphasis to counterrevolutionary work.

"In the early sixties it was conservatives versus liberals—the A.D.A. [Americans for Democratic Action] and Hubert Humphrey were the adversaries," said J. Alan MacKay, a Boston lawyer who was one of the founders of Young Americans for Freedom.

"Today," he continued, "Abby Hoffman and Jerry Rubin cause us a lot more headaches than Hubert Humphrey."

Support Invited

A full page advertisement on the back of the group's national magazine, New Guard, asks: "Do you want to stop student radicals from disrupting academic life, promoting violence and destruction by storm-trooper tactics, denying serious students their rights to attend class, misrepresenting student views on national and local issues?"

If so, the advertisement says, "Join with Y.A.F."

The recent bombings at the University of Wisconsin and the National Guard killing of four students at Kent State University last spring were perhaps the most talked about events during the four days the conservatives spent together.

The bombing, they said, was a sign of weakness and desperation on the part of the New Left, and more of the same could be expected.

Kent State was most often used as a point of contrast. Campuses across the country erupted in reaction to the National Guard shooting. But why, the conservatives asked, had there been no roars of anguish when people had been hurt and lifetimes of work destroyed in the bombings? Why, instead, had there been applause from some radical quarters for the demolition?

Membership Rise Reported

Primarily as a reaction to the "lunacy of the New Left," the national chairman said, membership in the group has nearly doubled in the last two years, to about 50,000.

Sixty per cent of the members are in college, and the rest, in about equal proportions, are high school students and young adults, mainly in their 20's. The largest chapters are at the University of Tennessee, the University of Texas, Ohio State University and Indiana University.