

# PEACE AND FREEDOM Conventions

## Santa Clara County

Dick Bierce

The Santa Clara County Peace and Freedom Movement convened at Wilbur Junior High in Palo Alto, March 2 and 3, with about 150 registrants in attendance. All the elements that make up the mixed bag of Peace and Freedom politics were represented from classical anarchists (bearded and wild-eyed, of course) to a systems analyst (clean-shaven and wild-eyed) who would have liked to condense the Movement into a compact stack of punched cards. The gathering produced a platform defining many of the goals of the local branch of the Peace and Freedom Movement, and selected 21 sets of delegates and alternates to represent Santa Clara at the state convention to be held in Richmond March 16-18. The delegates were also asked to act as an interim County Coordinating Council pending establishment of a constitutional governing structure. The delegation/council is composed of sixteen members representing existing local Peace and Freedom clubs and five members elected at-large by the convention.

Saturday morning and afternoon sessions featured the workshop meetings that formulated platform proposals for the county PFM. Martin Primack opened the morning session with an introductory talk on the history and goals of the Movement. Bruce Franklin spoke in the afternoon on American foreign policy and its relation to present political alternatives. A general session was convened on Sunday afternoon which discussed and ratified most of the platform statements suggested by the Saturday workshops. Vietnam withdrawal, abolition of conscription, and a resolution to call for freeing Huey Newton were key points of the platform adopted.

Despite the remarkable degree of agreement on policy statements, the convention did not lack controversy entirely. The strongest conflicts arose on the matter of representation on the County Coordinating Council and the question of whether and how the Movement should support candidates outside the PFP. The representation issue was between one-man-one-vote and one-club-one-vote advocates. It was decided that the issue will be resolved as part of the constitution that will be put to the vote of all members, with the temporary division of power being prescribed by the delegate formula. Support for extra-party candidates was provided for in two ways. The Movement will only endorse candidates who fully support PFM programs, and then only when no Peace and Freedom candidate is running for the office. Providing for individuals who wish to work for peace candidates in other parties, the Movement recognizes the sincere opinions of these members and welcomes their continued participation in the PFM.

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## San Mateo County

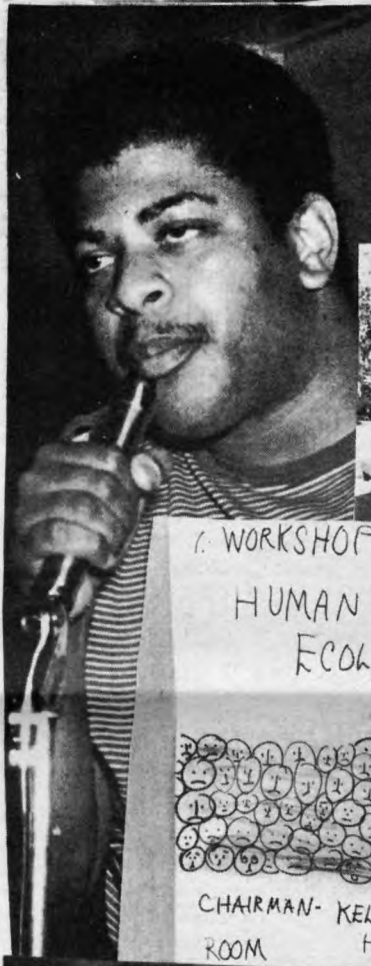
Close to 200 members of the San Mateo County Peace and Freedom Movement met Feb. 24 and 25 to discuss platform proposals and choose candidates and officers. The first day was held at the College of San Mateo and was opened with a report from acting county chairman Gaylord Smith on the history and present status of the local and state P and F Movements. Wilson Branch, county treasurer, discussed the financial situation and the urgent and immediate need for funds.

During the lunch break, the six districts in the county caucused and chose San Mateo's 13 delegates and their alternates to the upcoming state convention in Richmond. The afternoon session was divided into many work sessions where platform proposals for the county and state conventions were formulated.

On the following day the convention reconvened at McKinley School in Redwood City to adopt a county platform dealing with local issues. The County Movement called for election of the Board of Supervisors by geographically compact districts rather than the present at-large system.

The platform planks on East Palo Alto favored return of the lands lost from the area to surrounding communities which would then allow it a tax base for incorporation, discontinuation of excessive taxes now levied in the area, rental of unsaleable repossessed homes, rent controls and subsidies, a locally directed police force, a

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photographs by Robert Mahany and Gilbert Delyon

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## PFM CANDIDATES NEED SUPPORT

The local Peace and Freedom Movements at their county conventions endorsed candidates for elective office.

### San Mateo County

PFM in San Mateo County endorsed David Ransom for the 9th Congressional District seat, Glenda Jones for the 26th Assembly District seat, and George Louzensky for the 27th Assembly District seat.

David Ransom is an East Palo Alto resident and former Stanford graduate student who had taught at Menlo College and Stanford. He is presently co-editor of the Midpeninsula Observer.

Glenda Jones is an artist who has lived in East Palo Alto for 10 years. She was active in the registration drive and is presently chairwoman of the East Palo Alto District PFM.

George Louzensky is an elementary school teacher from San Mateo and one of the county's earliest PFP registrants. He was also a registrar during the fall drive.

### Santa Clara County

Santa Clara County endorsed Martin Primack for the 10th Congressional District seat, Betsy Ehlers for the 22nd Assembly District seat, and Bill Paulsen for the non-partisan office of County Supervisor in the 5th District.

Martin Primack lives in Palo Alto and teaches economics at San Jose State. Active in the Peace and Freedom registration in San Jose, he later served as temporary chairman of the Santa Clara County PFM.

Betsy Ehlers, a Mountain View housewife, has served as treasurer for the Santa Clara PFM since its inception, and more recently as chairman of the county finance committee.

Bill Paulsen lives in Palo Alto and works as a computer programmer for an accounting firm. He recently returned from a trip to Russia which was awarded him for his winning entry in an essay contest sponsored by Radio Moscow.

### Campaign Problems

Having been registered in Brand X political party within the year prior to the filing deadline, Mrs. Ehlers and Louzensky will not be qualified to appear on the primary ballot unless the US Supreme Court reverses last month's state supreme court decision upholding the discriminatory provisions of the Elections Code. The Alquist Bill, which would have relieved the restrictive qualifications for candidacy was defeated in the state Senate by a 17-10 margin on March 5.

In order to run an effective educational campaign P and F candidates need workers who will begin organizing to gather information and create a staff to prepare for the coming months' work. In order to run a campaign at all the candidates need money NOW for filing fees (Congress \$300, Assembly \$160, Supervisor \$270). All members and friends who can help are urged to contribute to or contact their county PFM.

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