

GALLEY

The responsibility for Senator Eugene McCarthy's excellent showing in the New Hampshire primary last week lay largely with his student organization throughout the state. Students held most of the sensitive and powerful positions on the Senator's staff. At last count he was within 230 votes of the total vote cast for President Johnson and had captured 20 of the 24 delegates going to the Democratic convention in August.

Irrespective of how you view the entry of Robert Kennedy into the Presidential contest, a decisive victory for Senator McCarthy on April 30 in Massachusetts is crucial. The amount of pressure that can be successfully exerted on delegates favorable to either candidate, particularly from the non-primary states, is in direct proportion to the strength of the anti-war, anti-Johnson vote in states with primaries. Moreover the McCarthy supporters feel that it is essential for the Senator to make increasingly strong showings quite independent of Kennedy's efforts.

No matter how radical your politics or how pessimistic your outlook, a first step surely must be to insure this grassroots candidate the largest plurality possible. And while the Vietnamese war is no excuse for failing to commit full resources to our domestic problems, it is clear that only a significant change in policy can challenge the Hillaryesque rationalization that Vietnam somehow comes first because we are there.

If you cannot support Johnson or Nixon, then let us join together to forge an alternative. The first task is to maximize the anti-war anti-Johnson vote wherever and by whomever the President is challenged. An outstanding success for McCarthy in Massachusetts will unquestionably also further the candidacies of Kennedy and Nelson Rockefeller (neither of whom is running in Massachusetts). But regardless of your candidate, the campaign for an alternative, which in Massachusetts is the McCarthy campaign, is dependent on students and in Berkshire County is dependent on us.

Please come to the first meeting of the Committee for a Political Alternative on Thursday, March 21, at 7:30 in Kilpatrick living room.

18 March 1968

S.P.

