

# Young Socialists Defeat Motion Favoring Recognition of Cuba

By LAURIE JOHNSTON

A motion favoring United States recognition of the Castro regime stirred the most debate yesterday at the national convention of the Young People's Socialist League.

The proposal was defeated in favor of the wording of the original "position paper," which said that "any further moves to change the present relations" with Cuba should depend on "some loosening of the bonds" of repression by Castro and the ending of Cuban aid to Latin-American guerrilla movements.

The league's biennial convention had been expected to ventilate differences between the majority of the membership and a minority caucus. The former, tied closely to the A.F.L.-C.I.O., call themselves "rebels against appeasement" of any form of communism.

Members of the minority caucus worked during the Presidential campaign with "New Politics" and "New Left" youth groups considered by the leadership to be "McGovern-style middle-class elitists" and, in the words of the position paper, "new isolationists who have cynically abandoned the struggle for democracy" throughout the world.

## Position Defended

"It does no good not to recognize the Castro regime, however regressive we consider it," said David Bensman, a graduate student at Columbia University, who offered the amendment. "American economic aid to Cuba would decrease its dependence on Russia and encourage more democratic political elements."

Mr. Bensman is an associate of Michael Harrington, who resigned as a co-chairman of the Socialist party—parent body

of the youth group — to work for the McGovern campaign.

Mr. Bensman and Jack Clark, chairman of the minority caucus and another Harrington associate, were among those who proposed changes in the position paper, a 13-page single-spaced analysis of world politics by Carl Gershman. A Yale graduate, Mr. Gershman is the director of its offspring, the Youth Committee for Peace in the Middle East.

Most of the international debate, which was friendly and intellectual, was over relatively minor differences. Domestic programs and politics will be debated at today's session at the Cloak Joint Board of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, 22 West 38th Street.

The meeting yesterday of about 60 persons included 15-year-olds as well as "elder statesmen" as old as 30. They were a cross-section sampling of long hair, short hair and beards; granny glasses and horn-rims, boots, blue jeans and suits or dresses.

But for four hours, they debated whether the league should criticize Willy Brandt's "ostpolitik" as a "gamble that could be a disaster" and whether European Socialists should join coalition governments with Communists.

"I think it's ludicrous for a movement of our size to lecture to mass-based European parties about how to treat Communists," Mr. Clark remarked about the amendment critical of coalitions. But it passed anyway, 36 to 27.