

## Young Socialists Open Parley; To Weigh 'New Politics' Split

Five days of debates and reports by Socialist party leaders, focusing on their split with the "new politics" wing of the Democratic party and their recently strengthened alliance with organized labor, began last night when the Young People's Socialist League opened its national convention here.

The biennial meeting of the league, which has a registration of about 200 in attendance, will continue today and tomorrow at the Joint Cloak Board offices of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, 22 West 38th Street.

The weekend convention of the party itself will begin Friday at the McAlpin Hotel. One debate on the agenda involves a name change from the Socialist Party-Democratic Socialist Federation, the name the party adopted at a special meeting last March, to reflect the reabsorption this year of a 35-year-old offshoot group. The combined membership is variously estimated between 12,000 and 18,000 and described as "running heavily to intellectuals, academic people and labor-union leaders."

The league, the under-30 age group of the party, has about 2,000 members, most of them students or former students.

### 'Last Gasp of Ferment'

"We will look back on the McGovern campaign as the last gasp of a decade of student ferment—you can hardly find the New Left on the campuses," said Josh Muravchik, national chairman, reporting on election-year activities.

"We are one of the few political youth groups still functioning and we will be very influential," he predicted. "We did not play the role we hoped for in the Democratic convention or campaign, but we made progress in our ties with the major part of the party and with the labor movement."

Mr. Muravchik's report foreshadowed the expected themes of debate at both conventions. He called for "bringing the Democratic Party around from New Left and McGovern-style 'coalition' politics to a majority liberal movement and combating "neo-isolationism that dismisses the threat" of Communism and favors total American withdrawal from Southeast Asia, troop cuts in Europe and a slashed defense budget.

This position of the leadership will be presented at the Socialist party convention by the national cochairmen — Bayard Rustin, executive director of the A. Philip Randolph

Institute, and Charles S. Zimmerman, a vice-president of the I.L.G.W.U.—and other speakers, including Midge Decter, editor and antifeminist writer.

A third cochairman, the writer Michael Harrington, who resigned his office in October, and others are expected to defend the dissident position of the so-called "coalition caucus."

Mr. Harrington said he thought that the Socialist party's post-convention endorsement of Senator McGovern was not strong enough, coupled as it was with what other party leaders called "constructive criticism," and that members were not sufficiently active in the campaign. Earlier he had lost a move to have the Socialist party advocate withdrawal from Vietnam "by a certain date."

Arch Puddington, research director of the Randolph Institute, said yesterday that although party members worked for Senator McGovern in California and other states, most in New York were active in other campaigns. "A lot of our people were involved in Patricia Ryan's congressional campaign," he said.

"We gave up trying to elect Socialist candidates about 12 years ago in favor of getting a social-democratic current going in the Democratic Party," Mr. Puddington said, "but it doesn't mean we're totally in agreement with the party."

### 'Middle Class' Stressed

The opposition to "neo-isolationism" and to "new-politics elitism," with its emphasis on "the middle class instead of working people," led Socialist party leaders to back the nomination of either Senator Hubert H. Humphrey or Senator Henry Jackson.

The alignment with the position of George Meany, president of the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations, was strengthened after the convention when Tom Kahn, a party leader, became executive assistant to Mr. Meany. Mr. Kahn will address the league convention tonight.

Party leaders said the conventions would "not be passing long resolutions about goals that are 20 or 30 years away, such as socialization of basic industries and communications."

The possible name change, they said, would seek to eliminate the perennial confusion with two smaller groups—the Socialist Workers party, a Trotskyite organization, and the Socialist Labor party.