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Que Ondee Sola- July 1976

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Que Ondée Sola!

UNION FOR PUERTO RICAN STUDENTS
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

JULY, 1976



F.U.S.P. Leads Confrontation Betances' Colleagues Criticize Him

The F.U.S.P. nucleus of Northeastern Illinois University on April 30, 1976 confronted and exposed Samuel Betances anti student, anti socialist, and cooperation with the defense department. This ideological struggle occurred at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse, Wisconsin during the 4th annual conference on minority studies.

F.U.S.P. members who were attending the workshop, on Puerto Rican colonialism were surprised to learn that Mr. Samuel Betances was among the commentators in this session, opposed that Mr. Betances be commentator particular in the area of Puerto Rican colonialism, because of his role in the defense department and his anti STUDENT stand and dealings at N.I.U. U.P.R.S. an anti-imperialist pro independence student organization at N.I.U., has had difficulty with Mr. Betances, who with among the N.I.U. administration and others had set-out to undermine and destroy the U.P.R.S. See Lucha Estudiantil Dec. 1975 for U.P.R.S. account on the above.

The workshop on Puerto Rican Colonialism was chaired by Manuel Maldonado-Denis papers the subject

were presented by Aaron Ramos, Rutgers University and Laird Bergard, University of Pittsburgh, after which the commentators; Daniel Lopez, of the University of Oregon and Samuel Betances of Chicago, Illinois presented their comments, which was followed by questions and answers sessions.

After the session was introduced, Luis Gutierrez President of the F.U.S.P. petition Maldonado-Denis, chairman of the workshop to exclude Mr. Betances' participation in the workshop, because of Mr. Betances role in the defense department, which Gutierrez pointed out was contradictory. Mr. Gutierrez former President of the U.P.R.S. gave a historical analysis of Mr. Betances, cooperation with the U.N.I. administration in their attempt to undermine the U.P.R.S. (See Lucha Estudiantil Volume 1 number 3. December, 1975) for a detail account of the U.P.R.S. grievances after Betances actions at N.I.U.)

Mr. Gutierrez exposed Betances reactionary stand on community issues, involvement with poverty pimp agencies and his current role in the department of defense.

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Support Betances Criticism

Throughout the F.U.S.P. exposure of Samuel Betances reactionary actions and involvement with the military. Betances tried to provoke the F.U.S.P. into a personal arguments, but the F.U.S.P. stuck to the political domain of the issue. Betances who tried to evade, the issue by calling the students (of the F.U.S.P.) liars and claiming that students that go to Cuba and cut sugar cane think that they can get over in their classes. Betances irrational defense got to the point that participants in the work shop had to criticize Betances lack of respect toward students.

Aaron Ramos pointed out to Betances that he shouldn't get personal that he should deal with the political issue that the F.U.S.P. raised. Note: the F.U.S.P. was given the floor, after the papers were presented and the questions and answer session was over this was done in all respect to the audience and the participants in the workshop.

After the session, the F.U.S.P. continued to raise questions about Mr. Samuel Betances role in the defense department. Mr. Betances classic defense, was that he worked for the Defense race relations institute, department of defense because he wanted to serve the need of Puerto Rican soldiers, who wanted Latino studies in the army. This defense was questioned by a number of the audience, a white north American female asked Betances "I want to know how Dr. Betances can possibly equate educating soldiers and cops on the beat about racism? What you're doing was working with army brass. Those people are generals, they're not soldiers." She was referring to the fliers that the F.U.S.P. handed out which contained information on lectures that Betances gave in such places as West Point, etc. After

hours of questioning and debating Betances was unable to justify his reactionary actions and role in the defense department. It got to the point where everybody in the workshop started questioning and criticizing Betances actions and role in the defense department.

Dr. Maldonado-Denis pointed out that the issue and question brought out by the companeros(as) of F.U.S.P. should be dealt and responded to by Dr. Betances. "Dr. Betances for a long time has had a defensive attitude which I can understand due to the situation he has faced this long. I think at this moment for Betances to indulge in self criticism, to essentially come to grips with the issue brought up and to explain his position in terms of not dealing with what happened in the past, but what is going to happen in the future."

The general concensus of the audience and the participants, was that Betances has made a grave political mistake by working for the defense department on the one hand while on the other hand Betances claims to be a supporter of Puerto Rican independence and socialism.

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F.U.S.P. Initiates Stern - Betances Negotiations

The F.U.S.P. Secretary of Information and Propaganda has informed Que Ondee Sola of negotiations between Dan Stern, Samuel Betances, and the FUSP in which these agreements were made: 1) to drop the charges against Dan Stern, alleging that Stern caused damage to Samuel Betances' reputation by authoring an article that appeared in several student media; 2) for Samuel Betances to resign from the Defense Department; and 3) that Dan Stern retract his allegation on Betances' role in Guam.

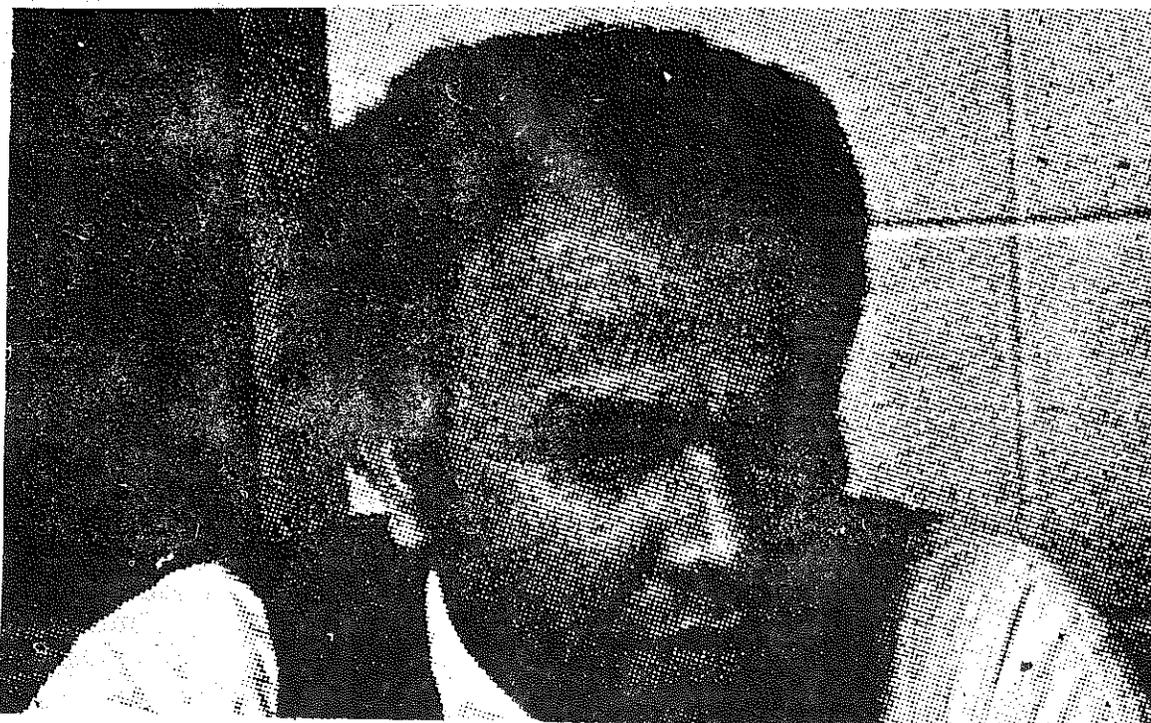
The FUSP's Secretary of Information and Propaganda outlined the negotiation process. "The negotiation started after the FUSP confronted Samuel Betances at LaCrosse, Wis. on April 30, 1976. During this conference, FUSP engaged in an ideological struggle with Betances, in which they questioned Betances' role in

the Defense Department, his anti-progressive, anti-socialist, pro-administration dealings at Northeastern Illinois University. After the questioning and the harsh criticism that Betances received from his colleagues Aaron Ramos, Manuel Maldonado Denis, etc., who told Betances that there was no excuse for his involvement with the DoD, consciously or unconsciously. He appealed to his colleagues at Northeastern, saying that he made a mistake in working in the DoD and that FUSP had clearly pointed out this mistake to him. Samuel appealed to the FUSP, saying that he didn't want to be confronted anymore, he wanted to rejoin the Puerto Rican movement.

During May, 1976, Samuel Betances informally discussed with several FUSP members that he wanted to resolve this problem, that he respected the FUSP and the work they had done in the liberation struggle, and he recognized their criticism of his role in the DoD.

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Dr. Samuel
Betances, Prof. of
Sociology, N.I.U.,
Consultant Defense Race
Relations Institute,
Department of De-
fense.



Dismissal Hearing face Dr. Stern

Dr. Daniel Stern now faces Dismissal Hearings at North-eastern Illinois University. The Hearings are scheduled for July 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22 from 1:30-6:00 p.m. The Dismissal Hearings will be open to all UNI-related persons.

Dr. Stern is facing dismissal because of alleged "unethical and unprofessional" behavior. The Sociology Dept., where Stern is a tenured full professor demands that Stern retract and apologize for a Dec. 1975 letter that he wrote in Lucha Estudiantil. In this letter Stern questioned whether there was and is a connection between Dr. Samuel Betances and the Dept. of Defense. Dr. Betances, also a Sociology Dept. faculty member, claims that Dr. Stern has damaged his professional reputation by publicly questioning Betances' commitment to the Puerto Rican movement while at the same time working as a race relations consultant to the Defense Dept.

The Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS) and the Federation of Puerto Rican Socialist University Students (FUSP) both supported Stern's letter and condemned Betances' anti-progressive behavior. The UPRS and FUSP accuse Betances of splitting the Puerto Rican community at UNI, and siding with the conservative, anti-Communist Latino groups at UNI.

On April 30, 1976 there was a major confrontation between the FUSP militants and Betances at LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Betances was a speaker at a workshop on "Puerto Rican Colonialism", as part of a larger Minority Studies Conference. The FUSP challenged the right of Betances to speak on the subject since he worked for the Defense Dept. Betances and FUSP debated for four hours in front of an audience of primarily Anglo

progressives.

Over and over, Betances was asked how he could support the progressive P.R. movement and still be an employee of the Defense Dept. In reply, Betances read a letter written by Dr. Ronald Glick, another Sociology Dept. member, attacking Stern. Glick attacked Stern for using McCarthy-type techniques to smear the reputation of Betances. FUSP defended Stern as a genuine progressive who had sided with the progressive P.R. groups at UNI after the split.

The audience, and other speakers, kept questioning how Betances could work for the Dept. of Defense and still be an independista and a socialist supporter of PSP. The audience was clearly extremely angry at Betances for his explanation that his DoD work "helped his people". Several members of the audience reminded Betances that the US Armed Forces were the chief force keeping down colonized, third World nations.

After the LaCrosse meeting, Betances agreed to negotiate with FUSP and settle his differences with PSP. Although an apparent agreement was reached among FUSP, Betances, and Stern, the agreement was never implemented. As part of the agreement Betances was to have publicly resigned from the Department of Defense, and ask the Sociology Dept. to drop charges against Stern. At the Sociology Dept. meeting, Betances did not make known his resignation from DoD, nor did he ask the Sociology Dept. to drop the charges against Stern. The Sociology Dept. did not drop the charges.

Stern's part of the agreement, a retraction of one statement in his Dec. 1975 letter concerning Guam, was fulfilled June 1.

At a pre-Hearing meeting June 18, 1976, the Dismissal Hearing Committee

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Negotiations. . . CONTINUED FROM 3

The FUSP, under the impression that Betances seemed honest, proceeded in setting up the process for negotiations.

The FUSP met with Stern and Betances twice (May 23 and May 28) in the P.R. community. In these negotiation sessions, the FUSP asked Betances to resign from the Defense Department, make the resignation and the reason for his resigning public, and ask the Sociology Dept. to drop the charges against Dan Stern. We asked Stern to write a retraction on Guam.

As of today, we only received Dan Stern's retraction. Betances has yet to follow through on his agreements, despite the fact that he agreed to do so. Betances violated his trust of the FUSP further, because he had given us an internal letter in which he states that he was going to resign from the Defense Department. We have not received proof of Betances' resignation, besides his verbal word.

The FUSP and Betances agreed that on June 8, 1976, at a Sociology Dept. meeting, Betances was to ask the Department to drop the charges against Stern. Betances did not follow through on this. He did not ask the Department to drop the charges against Stern.

We, the FUSP, have tried to work with Betances in trying to rejoin him back into the movement, but as we experienced, Betances has constantly betrayed us. Betances' conflict with the progressive student sector at UNI dates back to April, 1975, when the UPRS accused Betances of undermining their conference on the Colonial status of Puerto Rico, a conference which was pro-independence, anti-imperialist. This he did by calling Dr. Maldonado Denis in Puerto Rico and cancelling his trip. Dr. Denis was the key speaker.

During the May, 1975 Puerto Rican student split, Samuel Betances sided with the student sector that was anti-independence, anti-socialist

Because as he put it at that time, he had a lot of respect for the members in the splitter group, which formed the Puerto Rican Student Alliance, an anti-independence organization at UNI.

Samuel Betances sided with the Administration and the Puerto Rican Student Alliance to exclude the UPRS, the FUSP, and other pro-independence sympathizers in the Latino community from participating in the CLASES program.

Again, we reiterate: We, the FUSP, still await for Dr. Betances to resign from his role in the Defense Department. We await Betances to drop the charges against Stern which are unfounded. We will continue to engage in an ideological struggle with Betances, we will continue to expose and combat Betances' anti-student, anti-socialist, opportunist, and reactionary political and ideological actions.

In the struggle,

F.U.S.P.

De cada estudiant una independista!

Hearing. . . CONTINUED FROM 4

voted to have open hearings. Stern and his lawyer had pressed for open hearings, the UNI Administration and the Sociology Dept. asked for closed hearings. Stern supporters regard this as a significant victory since they contend that there has been a "cover-up" of the issues by the Sociology Dept.

The Dismissal Hearing Committee is composed of five tenured, full Professors who were chosen by vote of another University committee. Stern supporters generally regard the Dismissal Hearing Committee as being very conservative. Only one known liberal was elected to it.

Stern has publicly stated that he will go into Federal Court if he is punished in any way by this Committee. Stern contends that the Sociology Dept. and the UNI Administration are attempting to control his political freedom of speech. He thinks that there is an excellent legal case which would vindicate him in Federal Court.

The Role of the Intellectual and Betances

Historically, the intellectual has represented the ideology of the bourgeoisie, which has its roots in the ruling class. Marx and Engels, whose class ties were with the bourgeoisie, denounced those ties and dedicated their lives to the working-class, and their struggle. Betances, on the other hand, has not taken the same ideological road as Marx and Engels. Dr. Betances has chosen to serve the interests of the bourgeoisie, that is to say, the capitalist class; which at this historical moment is the ruling class of the United States. This ruling class, established and maintains the colonization of Puerto Rico.

Why do we say this? As Lenin pointed out, "there can be but two ideologies, that of the bourgeoisie or ruling class, and that of the proletariat or working-class." Betances has declared himself a Puerto Rican intellectual, I prefer "pseudo-intellectual."

Why do we say this? Because historically, Dr. Betances has taken reactionary stances on the student movement at Northeastern, along with his affiliation with the Department of Defence, DoD.

How has he done this? By putting issues on a personal level, not on a political level. He has repeated many times that there is a campaign to discredit him. Dr. Betances has attempted to play on the emotions of both the Puerto Ricans; both here and elsewhere, as well as the UNI-community-at-large.

Why? This is to side track the people from knowing the real issue. He has stated that he supports the independence of Puerto Rico and the establishment of socialism. On the one hand, and then on the other hand, he is, to our knowledge, still working for the Defence Race Relation Institute, (DRRI). DRRI is part of the Department of Defence, which serves as the repressive apparatus of the State. The FBI, Military Intelligence, and the CIA are also a part of this re-

pressive apparatus. The DRRI utilizes intellectuals to do sociological research, that is to say, the dirty work. With the use of this information the DRRI is able to understand how to control the mentality of the Latino, the Black person, the Asian, throughout the world. This work has been done by intellectuals, conscious, or unconscious of the repressive repercussions it would have on liberation movements throughout the world.

How can one who claims to be struggling against imperialism, work for the agents of imperialism? We cannot believe Dr. Betances, a self-proclaimed Puerto Rican intellectual, can be so naive as to say that he could not see the dangerous implications in working for the counterinsurgency apparatus of the State.

Dr. Betances is not fooling the liberation movement. Dr. Betances, you have committed political suicide. Politically and professionally, you have destroyed yourself. You cannot give classes in Puerto Rico, Nueva York, or wherever there are large concentrations of Puerto Ricans. For this, you alone are to blame. By a political mistake, you played into the hands of those who oppress us, and serving their interests, whether it be in the Defence Department or the educational institute. Your action in the educational institute have served the interests of a reactionary bourgeoisie.



Stern Defense Committee Statement⁸

On June 18, 1976 there was a pre-Hearing meeting to go over questions of procedure for the Stern Dismissal Hearings. Both Stern and his lawyer argued for open hearings on the grounds that they felt there was a cover-up of the issues by the Sociology Dept. and the UNI Administration, and they wanted people from the UNI community to be aware of the kind of political repression that was being carried out against Stern. Both the Sociology Dept. and the Administration argued for closed hearings saying that they wanted things to be "rational", feeling things were too polarized on campus, they insisted they needed a calm atmosphere in which to handle these hearings. The Stern Defense Committee regards the Dept.'s and Administrations argument as a further sign that they are determined to cover-up any public debate on the real issues.

As of this time, we do not have the evidence that Dr. Betances has resigned from the DoD. We

regard the letter from Lt. Col. Frank Montalvo dated June 12, 1976 as evidence that Betances still has a friendly relationship with DRRI. Lt. Col. Montalvo was the former director of the DRRI's Minority Studies Division and wrote a letter of commendation on behalf of Dr. Betances. We feel that nobody can be a sincere progressive and still work for the Dept. of Defense in any way.

We urge everybody to attend the Hearings. We want everybody to decide for themselves whether the charges against Dr. Stern are real or whether they constitute political repression dressed-up as unethical and unprofessional behavior.

The Dismissal Hearing Committee consists of: Dr. Joseph Morton, Chairperson (History Dept.); Dr. Lorenzo Harrison (History); Dr. Frank Hostétler (Physical Ed); Dr. Louis Weiner (Mathematics); and Dr. Richard Wenzlaff (Music). For medical reasons, it is uncertain whether Dr. Wenzlaff will be able to serve on this committee or not.



Shown at left, Dr. Daniel J. Stern, Professor of Sociology at Northeastern Illinois University. His dismissal hearing begins Tuesday July 13. (see schedule below.)

DOES FREEDOM OF SPEECH EXIST AT UNI ?

COME TO THE STERN
DISMISSAL HEARINGS
AND FIND OUT FOR
YOURSELF

HEARINGS WILL BE IN SESSION FROM 1:30-6:00 P.M.

BRING YOUR UNI I. D.

JULY 13 CC 216 JULY 20 CC 217

JULY 14 CC 217 JULY 21 CC 217

JULY 15 CC 216 JULY 22 CC 217

It is no violation of ethics to expose deception, quite the contrary. It is a necessary element of its preservation.