YARBOROUGH SPEAKS

YD Club Attends State Convention

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Senator Ralph Yarborough asked the Texas Young Democrats to "carry out the mandate that John F. Kennedy gave you in his inaugural address in 1961" at the Y.D.'s convention held at Six Flags this past weekend. Nine members of the Rice Young Democrats Club attended the convention.

In discussing the yearly registration act passed by the Texas Legislature in their special session, Senator Yarborough observed that such a bill is passed "if you don't want people to vote in the first place."

He explained that the current 15-day registration period is "a crucial testing time — not just crucial in Texas, but in the eyes of the whole world."

Out of Context

In an interview following his address, Senator Yarborough explained that he did not wish to comment on Robert Kennedy's recent statement on Vietnam because it has been so often quoted out of context, but emphasized his own position by stating, "I do not regard my vote to support the troops in Vietnam with a supplementary appropriation) a vote to enlarge the war."

The mood of the convention is best expressed by a statement, "An Answer to the New Left" drawn up by a sub-committee of the platform committee of the convention. The statement was accepted by the convention as the preamble to the state platform.

The preamble begins by describing the "genuine rebirth of American reformist spirit" that has arisen among young people since the election of President Kennedy in 1960.

It continues, "Most recently, we are confronted with disarray among young reformers. The growth of the New Left has challenged young people to make a choice not only twist change and apathy, but between what direction to take in working for improvement."

Two Positions

The statement describes the New Left in Arthur Schlesinger's words as "a utopian strain whose strategy is to stand outside social edifices and call for a change from without."

The position of the Young Democrats was described as that of the "permanent pragmatist who attempts to change society by accepting its structure and working for innovation from within."

Their chief point of contention with the New Left involves the concept of power. The preamble states, "We would love to join the New Left in condemning power, but despite our wishes, Power is in many ways the key to our hopes for a better world."

In conclusion, the Young Democrats stated that "Ours is the ... path to combat war, poverty, and misunderstanding, to be waged not in the world as we wish it, but in the world that is. As John Kennedy put it, in this lies both the Burden and the Glory of Freedom."