

student

Published Monthly by the
Berkeley Unit, Socialist
Youth League.

June 28th, 1949
Vol. 1, No. 3.

SOCIALIST

WHY

LOYALTY?

* From the Editors

Gerhart Eisler, the Stalinist bureaucrat and sometime-GPU agent recently told reporters that US Attorney-General Tom Clark is the stupidest man in the United States. This may be so. But Tom Clark's IQ neither explains nor condones the present drive by the US Government against the basic civil rights of the American people.

Many liberals who are honestly horrified by the extent and intensity of this campaign, which has indiscriminately blackened the names of high-placed Government functionaries, movie-stars and scientists, would do well to consider the close connection these purges have with the present attitude toward the labor movement.

Truman's raw-deal loyalty program is not primarily designed, as many people believe, to smoke out Stalinist spies and MVD-men from Government offices. After spending 20 million dollars probing into the private lives of literally millions of Government

This is the first issue of the newsletter of the Berkeley unit, Socialist Youth League, under its new title, The Student Socialist. The former name - The Campus Trotskyite - has been changed because it seems to have given many persons to believe that the Socialist Youth League is an affiliate of the "official" Trotskyist party, the Socialist Workers Party (Cannonite). This is not the case: The SYL is the youth section of the Independent Socialist League (Shachtmanite) formerly the Workers Party.

employees, the loyalty board recently announced the guilty and ridiculous figure of 36 "disloyal persons" found, which results in the efficiency-plus figure of 200,000 dollars per "disloyal person."

No, the budget-cutters are not stupid. They knew that the FBI already had their finger on most of these people. The real purpose of the loyalty program is forcibly to unify the American people behind the projected "Pax Americana" - to promote an atmosphere of fear and hysteria. The loyalty program, the increased power of the FBI, the screams of the congressional committees - all these are poured from the same pot as the Marshall Plan, the Atlantic Pact and the Taft-Hartley Act.

And yet, basic to this whole development is the cold war, the imperialist conflict between the Russian and American Empires. This in turn can be traced to the needs of

Don't miss the

public meeting
presented by the Kutcher
Civil Rights Committee

Hear

James Kutcher
8 PM Tuesday - "Y" Cottage

(continued from page one)

the American economic system - to expand and envelop Europe, while attempting to extricate itself from its hopeless internal crisis; and just as significantly to the brutal class oppression of the Stalinist regime in Russia.

Many of those who support the American horn of the cold war dilemma bleat plaintively at the loyalty program. And yet those two things are inseparably related. As the military becomes increasingly powerful; as the FBI is turned into a powerful secret political police; as the executive arm of the government becomes increasingly independent of the Congress; and the very existence of the labor movement is threatened --- we hear these people whimpering of "oligarchy" and "monopoly" - but little else. They are liberals in retreat. With no program and no perspective, they can do little but regard their dissolving dream-world with an expression of helplessness.

The Terminiello case is an illuminating exception to the main trend - the present Supreme Court has been fairly consistently in favor of civil liberties; just as the "old men" of the pre-FDR Court were consistently anti-labor. Many liberals, and with them the Stalinists (who headlined the event, "Supreme Court supports Fascists") oppose the Terminiello decision by comparing it to the pro-Nazi bias of the pro-Hitler German judiciary. This is nonsense: The present atmosphere is anti-radical and anti-working-class but there is no active, powerful fascist movement in this country. The Court has gone against the present trend, for this decision allows more free speech, not less.

A word about the Stalinists. These "champions of civil liberties" cannot fool those who remember their infamous behavior in

the case of the Minneapolis Trotskyists in 1941. Eighteen leaders of the Socialist Workers Party were the first jailed under the notorious Smith Act, the same act under which the eleven Stalinists are being tried today in New York. The Stalinists, draped in the American flag, praised the government and Roosevelt for doing their part in this rotten frame-up. To-day these "martyrs" are being tried for "Marxism-Leninism" instead of for their real crimes against the American and international working class.

The Kutcher case, as a matter of fact, shows the Stalinists in their true light. James Kutcher, logless veteran of World War II and avowedly a member of the Socialist Workers Party, has been fired from his job as a clerk in the Veterans Administration. The Kutcher Civil Rights Committee, a national organization composed of such groups as the American Veterans Committee, the ADA, and the UAW is fighting for his reinstatement in his job. He has the approval and sympathetic support of almost the entire labor movement - although his case has attracted nation-wide attention. THE STALINISTS HAVE NOT ONCE MENTIONED IT IN THEIR PUBLIC PRESS.

The stand of the UC faculty against the stupid and reactionary loyalty oath proposed by the Regents is a healthy sign of an awakening consciousness of the serious danger of the Un-American Activities Committee. The fact that Tenney has been replaced by Burns and that this probably means a less rabid attack on academic freedom in the near future in California should not lead to a passive attitude on the part of students and faculty. The way to beat the Tenneys and the Burnses is by militant and open opposition, not by compromise and soft soap.

GRIM, GREY FUTURE!

Students hitherto unconcerned with the nation's economic situation are now beginning to feel an uneasiness and insecurity which - while still far from that which prevailed in the '30's - is nevertheless real.

Why? The answer in general terms is fairly simple - the U.S. internal consumption market is near saturation, while American heavy industry (coal, steel, etc) is being sustained by a tremendous arms program and by the expenditures needed to prop up our satellites ("allies") abroad.

What this means to us here in America is 1) a lowering of living standards tending toward the example of British "austerity" and 2) increasing unemployment, tending to reach an equilibrium dependent upon - among other things - the amount of heat put into the "cold war."

Indeed, it is precisely the cold war that may be expected to keep the nation from plunging into a depression of the 1929 scale.

Now what are the prospects of students being affected by this situation?

For one thing - as a recent survey among the nation's top industrial firms indicates, the chances are getting slimmer that a new graduate will be able to

find a job right away: There is a declining market for college graduates. Further, the survey went on to state that this trend is not expected to reverse itself in the near future.

That students are finding that this is so is illustrated by the fact that, for the first time since the war, the number of those getting GI benefits is increasing.

Finally, if you or some relative of yours has ever been so incautious as to join any of a hundred organizations with nice-sounding progressive names, then - recession or not - you might as well give up the idea of taking a Government job: And while in an earlier period this would not have meant much, today, for people in many fields, almost the only place of employment is with the government.

In short, all that capitalist society offers to-day is wars and depressions: The only way out is the establishment of a democratic, socialist society where there is production for use rather than production for profit.

read the publications of the
INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE:

* The New International
a monthly organ of
revolutionary Marxism

* Labor Action
a weekly newspaper
in the interest of Socialism

read

t h o S T U D E N T

P A R T I S A N

a quarterly of student
political thought published
by the Politics Club,
University of Chicago.

Available in Berkeley at:
Wholans Cigar Store, Telegraph
Avenue at Bancroft Way.

The labor required for the publication of this newsletter is donated by members of the Berkeley unit of the Socialist Youth League

"KILL THE FAT GENERAL"

As a general rule of class warfare, officers who lead strike-breaking details are usually fat, pompous, and bull-necked. The reasons for this are obscure but the facts are plain enough. The Berlin Transport Workers discovered that Russian Generals are no exception to this rule. In the course of their successful month-long battle with the Eastern Zone police, the Russian military, and Communist hoodlums, the Berlin workers have raised a slogan which could well become the battle cry of all the oppressed of Europe.

"Kill the Fat General"; this cry rose spontaneously from the throats of thousands of hard-pressed workers fighting for their very lives against Stalinist thugs. The "fat General," in fact, used every weapon in the arsenal of anti-Unionism against the strikers. He placed machine-guns on the roofs of the elevated cars, recruited thousands of young Stalinist scabs, and acted with the ferocity of an American corporation executive defending his prerogatives.

The issue of the strike, before it became involved in inter-Zonal and even international politics, was simple. The American-Russian rivalry had placed the Transport workers in a terrible position. They received their pay in East Marks and had to pay their bills in the Western sector of Berlin where the price level is four times as high. The Union demanded its full pay in West Marks.

Of course those stalwart liberals, the American military, were tremendously pleased by the embarrassment this was causing Russia throughout the world. The top leaders recognized the propaganda value of this strike and adopted a clever "hands off" policy. At first they ignored a request by the Russian Transport chief to curb the "Mass violence" and declared piously that the demands of the workers were entirely legitimate.

It was only after the crowds began to show themselves capable of taking over the railway stations as well as stopping all traffic in Berlin that the Western commanders got rid of the Russian Zone police. Finally the workers showed their contempt for the entire occupation by voting down a joint compromise proposal of the combined occupation authorities, six to one.

"Kill the Fat General"; this cry expresses the hatred which the Berlin populace feels for the anti-working class policy of the Communists. It expresses the independence and militancy of the workers of Germany who are showing the oppressed people of Europe how to fight their masters, not by playing one imperialist camp against the other but by relying on their own strength and solidarity.

ANTI-WAR STUDENT GROUP FORMS IN NY

The New York Student Federation Against War was formed last month at a meeting of eight New York student clubs.

The group intends to publish a quarterly magazine in which there will be discussions of international politics, the Third Camp, and the anti-War movement in the United States.

If you are interested in the activities and program of the Socialist Youth League fill out this blank and send it to us,

c/o Labor Action
466 10th St., Rm. 212
Oakland, Calif.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____
