

STUDENT SOCIALIST

May 1, 1950 Vol. II No. 4

Socialist Youth League

MAY DAY ✓
1950

CAMPUS
ISSUES

MAY DAY, the traditional day celebrating international working-class solidarity, was originated in 1886 by the American labor movement as a demonstration in favor of an 8 hr. day. Since then the use of May 1 as a workers holiday has spread; till by 1914 many millions, not only of workers, but of all sympathetic to their cause, came out in parades and mass meetings to express their loyalty to the world working-class and opposition to the ruling-classes of their respective national states.

AT FIRST the bourgeoisie attempted to forcibly suppress these demonstrations of latent revolt. But, the world's ruling-classes have become more sophisticated through the lessons they learned in the waves of revolution and depression that swept the earth between the two world wars.

ON THE FIRST May Day after the fascists took power in Germany, May 1, 1933, Hitler, instead of greeting any attempted demonstrations with armed thugs, called for a great national celebration, a day of German Labor. The previously strongest working-class in the world found itself obliged to march under the banners and slogans of those who had destroyed it as a social force.

AS THE FASCISTS and others have shown, it is much shrewder to destroy revolutionary content; then, when the evisceration is complete, turn what is left to other purposes. Much the same has been done by some to Marx and even Lenin, who are presented as "sincere but mis-guided idealists".

SIMULTANEOUSLY, May Day celebrations by the Communists developed into a hollow mockery as the Russian workers-state became transformed into a workers-prison.
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RADIO NEWS COMMENTATOR

Listen to Alex Garber commentating on the news each Thursday evening at 7:45 over KPFA-FM (104.9 on your dial).

THE ALUMNI PROPOSAL accepted by the Regents will be the final form of that capitulation foreseen by the STUDENT SOCIALIST in October, 1949. The oath has "disappeared" only to be reinstated in the professor's contract as a legally valid condition of employment which must be policed by the Faculty tenure committee.

THUS the question of power has been reconciled, defeating the Regents' attempt to completely dominate every phase of University life (ie., oust Soroul, separate the campuses, etc.), BUT, and this must be emphasized, AT THE EXPENSE OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM.

A PURGE SYSTEM has been instituted at the University under the control of the Faculty. The non-signers have reaped the fruits of remaining under the discipline of the Committee of Seven, for while before they could institute mass action (on the ultimatum date, for example) now they will be kicked off, one by one, even over the recommendations of a faculty committee.

FROM May 15th to June 30th the faculty committee will investigate those who refuse to comply with the new contract. The Regents, however, have a perfectly good legal reason to refuse to rehire those who will not comply, and can be expected to use this power to oust any political dissident.

IT WOULD BE UNWISE to boycott the faculty trial committee, although certain questions need not be answered. The approach should be: TURN THE FACULTY INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE INTO A FORUM FOR DEFENDING ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND ATTACKING THE REGENTS. This can only be done if the non-
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MAY DAY: 1950 (cont. from p.1)

Till today, those in Stalinist lands find in May Day nothing more than one more chore set for them by their masters.

MAY 1, 1950: Now into this picture enters the American capitalist class, which through the medium of its NAM, Amer. Legion, etc., is sponsoring a day of American National Solidarity, 'Loyalty Day'. In addition to these obviously reactionary organizations who are participating, the leadership of the whole American trade - union movement has committed its unions as sponsors. No better index of the political immaturity of our labor movement can be found, than this act of collaboration between labor and its sworn and proven enemies. But the most important question to be answered is why a 'Loyalty Day' at this time. Even the Christian Science Monitor has seen the answer when it termed L-Day "an exercise of the cold-war. As the time draws nearer for the power struggle with Russia to be changed into a shooting war, every effort is being made to bend or destroy any organization - particularly trade-unions - which stands in the way of immediate, sole subordination to the state on the part of any group in society.

THE FIGHT against this trend in America must obviously be waged on many fronts. The primary job for students and youth generally is to oppose the more immediate and military aspects of the march toward war. There is much that can be done; as for example protesting conscription, and, on campus, opposing ROTC and the general militarization of the university.

THE REASON why these particular issues belong mainly to youth is obvious - though old generals may plan wars, it is a nation's youth who must be coerced or bought into carrying them out. And as long as there is resistance there is hope.

ONE of the most heartening signs on the horizon today is the formation and rapid growth of the socialist-pacifist Student Federation Against War, publishers of the magazine Anvil.

READ _____

LABOR ACTION

SOCIALIST NEWSPAPER

Latest copies of LABOR ACTION, weekly Independent Socialist newspaper, are on sale at the Red Rack just outside of Sather Gate next to the mailbox. Find out new facts and the real significance of apparently unconnected world events.

CAMPUS ISSUES (cont. from p.1)

signers refuse to remain bound by the decision of the faculty on academic freedom and the hiring and firing of professors on political grounds.

THE STUDENTS (through their organizations and through UACAF-while it can be used) should be prepared to support those who refuse to comply; May 15th will be a decisive date, and demonstrations of solidarity might be in order.

SACRO: The loyalty oath battle has eclipsed the appearance of a vigorous new organization on campus. STUDENTS AGAINST COMPULSORY ROTC, taking the lead from a similar organization at UCLA, is preparing to introduce a student vote on the question of compulsory ROTC. The Regents have the power to make this institution voluntary under the Morrill Act and the California State Act of 1916, but have consistently refused to do so for many years. Although such an organization will not be consistently and completely anti-war and pro-socialist, it is a good start and all socialists and liberals would do well to join and support its efforts.

RSP: The Stalinists, embarrassed by the independent united - front character of the United Action Committee for Academic Freedom, have revived an emasculated version of the Representative Student Party, which existed at Cal in 1947.

THEY HAVE SEDUCED a number of independent liberals to "head" the group. To cooperate in a vague political amalgam with Stalinists is completely unprincipled. It gives them power and political support which they do not deserve, and makes it impossible for students to choose between totalitarians who pretend to be democrats, and real liberals. This group was born dead and to revive it as an instrument of progressive campus politics is an error. Campus political groups should come out openly, as the Socialist Youth League is doing, and run candidates in their own name. (end)

AUTOMATIC "JA" VOTE

The securities and Exchange Commission has recently cracked down on a corporation which put a new twist in election-rigging. It sent its stockholders dividend checks with management's proxy statement printed on the back. To cash his dividend the stockholder had to endorse it, and thus he automatically signed over to the company management his annual right to vote on the company's policies.

...NOW WE SEE WHERE THE FRUSTRATED CORPORATION LAWYERS IN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GOT THEIR IDEA!

"OFFICERS AND GENTLEMEN"?

IN A RECENT sworn statement before a Notary Public in Los Angeles, the UCLA "Students Against Compulsory ROTC ("SACRO") made the following charges:

1-A copy of SACRO'S membership was stolen from the notebook of David McReynold, chairman of SACRO, by Charles Glasman, an ROTC officer.

2-This stolen list is in the "confidential" file of the ROTC dept. according to Walter Stewart, an ROTC officer.

3-Notes were taken at all SACRO meetings by Walter Stewart, who denied that these were for the Military Department.

4-A file of SACRO minutes is now in the ROTC's "confidential" files.

5-A record of a SACRO-ROTC debate was taken by Mr. Stewart, who said that it would not get into the hands of the Military Dept.

6-Mr. Stewart and Mr. Robert Downen, both ROT officers, agreed to a radio debate with SACRO two weeks in advance.

7-At 9 PM the night before the debate the ROT officers refused to go on the air because of the desire of the Military Science Dept. to keep the issue from the public..according to Mr. Stewart's admission.

THUS DUPLICITY, lying, stealing, and spying are being carried on by influential
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10th ANNIVERSARY (Cont. from col. 2)

in following his day to day life beyond the campus' limits.

WHAT DOES THE SYL HAVE TO OFFER YOU?

1-A thorough investigation and presentation of conditions in this country & the rest of the world.

2-A Marxian approach which seeks to relate meaningfully all events in society.

3-An arena where those who want a better world under Socialism may come to discuss their viewpoints critically in an attempt to reach certain common conclusions.

4-An opportunity to band together and plan concerted actions to improve your social and economic environment. (end)

10TH ANNIVERSARY

THE THIRD CAMP tendency, represented on college campuses by the Socialist Youth League, has been presenting the Socialist world-view to those seeking an understanding of contemporary events ever since the formal birth of our movement on May Day, 1940.

TO SHOW the faults inherent to world capitalism, leading it from war to depression to fascism to war to recession, and to another war in the offing- all within two generations - has been one of its tasks. At the same time it has had to recognize those gross denials - committed in the name of 'Socialism' - of

the most elementary rights and privileges of students and workers in the USSR and wherever else Russian-'Stalinism' has prevailed.

RATHER than a simple "either-or" decision it has had to advocate a "neither-nor" solution, proposing the necessary Third Camp position -- that of socialism.

THE NATIONAL SYL has participated in the struggle for students' rights on several campuses and has used its personnel to fight for

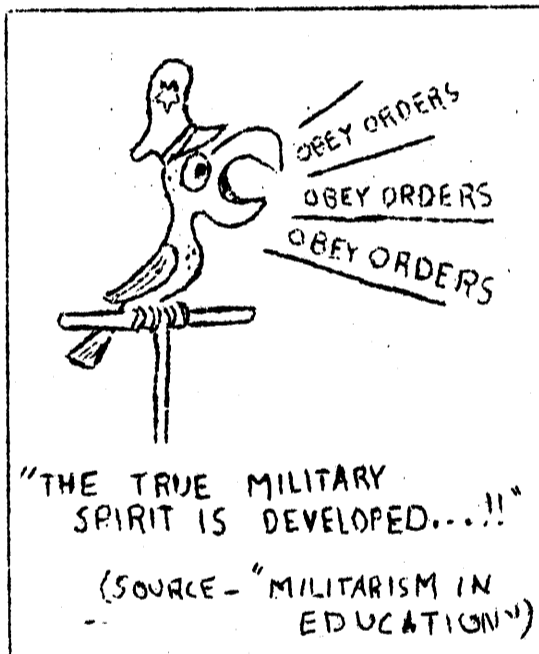
academic freedom when this was under political fire in various parts of the country.

AT PRESENT the Berkeley SYL is active in the United Action Committee for Academic Freedom trying to point out how its struggle might be best carried on, given a Socialist understanding of the forces involved in the situation.

OFF-CAMPUS it has participated organizationally and through its individual members in seeking to destroy racial discrimination, to gain adequate low-cost housing, to get better working conditions and to press for changes sought by students and workers to promote their welfare.

IT HAS TRIED to show how the future of the student is inextricably bound up with that of the vast majority of industrial and agricultural workers, both with regard to securing a college education and

(over to col. 1)



THE SYL CHALLENGES

A RECORDING of Max Shachtman, National Chairman of the Independent Socialist League, debating Earl Browder, ex-General Secretary of the Communist Party, on the question: "Is Russia a Socialist Community?"...is coming to Berkeley soon.

WE-the Berkeley SYL'ers-think that Browder got slaughtered in this debate, through reports and press coverage from New York. The New York Labor Youth League admits this also, while the Communist Party said that "Shachtman mopped the floor with Browder."

The Labor Youth League had complained

that Browder could not defend the Soviet Union because he was not a present member of the CP. To settle this question, the Berkeley Socialist Youth League challenges the campus Labor Youth League to: (1) debate us on this question, with details to be worked out together, or (2) get any other speaker to meet our representative.

Marvin REISS, editor of the CP magazine "Political Affairs" finally agreed that "It would be all right for us to challenge Trotskyists to debate on local campuses" (but) "they (the Trotskyists) would not accept." (sic)

OFFICERS AND GENTLEMEN (from pg. 3)

students in the ROTC Dept.-having access to "confidential" files-at UCLA, according to this affidavit, which has yet to be refuted. But why should these "officers and gentlemen" stoop to such tactics? Is it because they are dealing with some secret society pursuing nameless actions toward bloodthirsty goals? Frankly, no.

INSTEAD, SACRO is a bona fide campus organization at UCLA which is attempting to do one thing...abolish compulsory ROTC. In attempting this they have held speeches, debates, and distributions of leaflets containing their viewpoint, and most recently have sought a student referendum regarding the continuance of compulsory ROTC.

"To petition for redress of grievances" is certainly a basic American right(!), especially when remediable by a simple Regent decree, since ROTC is kept compulsory solely at their discretion as can be shown by: (1) the original Federal Act which gave the states the right to choose between compulsory or voluntary ROTC; and (2) the California State Act of 1916 which delegated this prerogative to the Regents.

DESPITE the FALSEHOOD printed in the 1948 ROTC manual, that it is necessary to make ROTC compulsory at land-grant universities, ROTC need not be compulsory, as shown by the previously mentioned laws and the fact that compulsory ROTC has been abolished at other state universities Minnesota, for one.

ALREADY we have seen veiled threats in Daily Cal..that the Military knows how to deal with "dissidents." There is no place on a university for this type of thinking! There is also no place for
(Cont. on next col.) →

OFFICERS AND GENTLEMEN (from col. 1)

FBI-NKVD type files kept by the ROTC Department! In short, there is no place on campus for compulsory ROTC and its accompanying evils.

AS SOCIALISTS we are opposed to all forms of militarism-whether in this country, Russia, or anyplace else in the world. We do not believe that SACRO can, nor is it intended to, solve the general problem of increasing militarization, but it is a step in the right direction, and as such, is worthy of support by many people who do not subscribe to all parts of our program. (end)

INTERESTED IN US?

If you want further information about the activities and program of the Socialist Youth League, fill out this blank and mail it to us:

c/o Labor Action
466 10th St. Rm. 218
Oakland, Calif.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

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of the SOCIALIST YOUTH LEAGUE)