

STUDENT SOCIALIST

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EDITORIAL:

What Price Apathy?

The election for graduate rep-at-large is over. Bill Zion, a moderate liberal, has won over Carney Campion, the fraternity candidate.

The character of an election, however, is not exhausted by a statement of its simple electoral returns; and although Zion's victory was a good sign, its result is vitiated by the negative character of the entire election.

The amount of apathy in this election was deplorable and should be laid at the door of the elections council and the undemocratic red-tape with which it binds the arms of the candidates.

The two run-off candidates, Zion and Campion, distinguished themselves by the almost complete silence they maintained during the entire period. Their procedure consisted in rounding up machine voters in the frater-

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nities and living groups. They never tried to present themselves to the average student, and were not particularly happy about the various attempts of Martinson, the SYL candidate, to enliven and democratize the election with caucuses, leaflets, etc. They depended throughout on the passivity and disinterestedness of the student body as a whole.

They were not disappointed! The total vote on Monday was about 1700 votes or approximately 15% of the entire electorate. The Daily Californian "discovered" that the rain was the chief devil. Wednesday's run-off, however, only increased the total vote to about 2200, representing approximately 18% of the entire electorate.

When we realize that only 13,000 of the 19,000 students can afford an ASUC card, we can see why this valiant "election" hardly made a ripple in student affairs.

The Socialist Youth League candidate, Bob Martinson, received 250 votes in the primaries as opposed to the 320 votes for O'Brien, the Stalinoid, and about 500 apiece for the two "machine" candidates. The fact that Martinson ran as an open socialist while O'Brien tried to hide his illicit Stalinist connections and politics probably accounts for the difference. In any case the election shows that Stalinism and socialism now have approximately equal influence at Cal. When it is remembered that the Stalinists have been on the campus for over twenty years, while the SYL is three years old, this fact is very important!

The Stalinists cannot openly and honestly approach the student body in their own name. They must support front candidates and construct front groups, then

attempt to fool students into supporting their real program.

All the votes for Martinson are, of course, not directly socialist votes. Many students probably felt that Martinson could best carry out a real democratic, anti-oath fight in the Executive Committee. Once Martinson was defeated they turned, wisely enough, to Zion as the next best candidate.

Since Zion won over Campion by only 200 votes (1227 to 1016), he should realize that he was supported as the lesser evil by many of those who voted for Martinson in the primaries. The SYL wanted to make its support of Zion formal, but Zion's reticence and the election council's red-tape made this impossible.

BILL ZION NOW HOLDS THE RESPONSIBILITY BEFORE THE STUDENTS OF CARRYING FORWARD THE BANNER OF DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM OF THOUGHT. THE ELECTORATE SHOULD WATCH HIM CLOSELY TO SEE THAT HE DOES SO.

THE EDITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thursday, Oct. 26, 8:00 P.M. at 466 10th St., Oakland.
Class on "Socialism, Utopian & Scientific." Continuation of the Great Works of Socialist Literature. Transportation will be arranged.
- Friday, Oct. 27, 12:00 Noon at Sather Gate. Open air meeting, "An Answer to Stalinism." Speaker, Bob Martinson, Berkeley SYL Organizer.
- Friday, Oct. 27, 8:00 P.M. at Norway Hall, 3829 Piedmont Ave., Oakl. LABOR ACTION FORUM on "The Garrison State & World War III." Admission Free; Refreshments.
- Saturday, Oct. 28, 8:00 P.M. SYL Hallowe'en Social with Dancing & Refreshments. Place to be announced later.
- Thursday, Nov. 2, 8:00 P.M. at 466 10th St., Oakland.
Class on "The Paris Commune." Great Works Series. #

SAF, A SAD WAY TO FIGHT FOR ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The United Action Committee for Academic Freedom was voted out of existence at its last meeting and replaced by the Students for Academic Freedom.

Readers of the STUDENT SOCIALIST will remember that the SYL, recognized formerly as the leading element in the UAC, withdrew from that committee over four months ago. Our position at that time was simply that the UAC existed as a united front between political tendencies to act in common on the academic freedom fight regardless of the particular motivations of the adhering Liberal, Socialist, and Stalinist tendencies. The fact that, in essence, the UAC was an agreement between political tendencies was in no way invalidated by the additional circumstance that the bulk of delegates came from non-political groups (churches, co-ops, etc.). Such delegates voted generally along political lines.

With the alumni compromise destroying the basis for united action, the Stalinists moved to take over the UAC and demonstrated that common action was no longer possible. The fight on the issue declined from the action level to a mere propaganda campaign for academic freedom. But propaganda presupposes a specific point of view and cannot be presented by a body made up of widely differing viewpoints without one dominating the others.

As a result the SYL delegate attempted to dissolve the UAC. He withdrew from the committee when the Stalinists gained an organizational superiority.

We were condemned at that time as "splitters" and "summer patriots." We resisted entreaties by liberals

assuring us that the Stalinists had not taken over and that the committee must be continued. They did not see the political issues and attributed our withdrawal to power politics. Now four months later the facts vindicate the position of the SYL.

In the name of action the Stalinists captured the UAC. Academic freedom was in danger, they cried, and the students must do something. But what did the UAC do in the interim? It turned out one measly leaflet! The SYL, branded defeatist, turned out four during the same time!

In appraising the UAC the liberals were carried away by the seeming power and wide representation in the committee. Never before in campus history had so many organizations united for common action. The SYL maintained that this strength was actually based on student participation and would disappear with the defeat of the faculty. This prediction today stands unchallenged. As evidence the UAC at its first meeting this semester contained only five of its previous twenty-three organizations, and three of these were Stalinist!

The Stalinists have solved the question of the continued existence of the defunct UAC by changing it into a membership organization called Students for Academic Freedom. In loading this organization with their members they completely control it, reducing the SAF to another Stalinist front.

The lessons of the capture of UAC are clear! The Stalinists have shown once again that given an opportunity they will take over and destroy every democratic student group. The list of the organizations they have wrecked on this campus grows. The UAC is only their latest stunt. Liberals who believe they can cooperate with Stalinism on any other basis than specific action agreements should learn the lesson of the UAC. #

HOW DEMOCRATIC ARE CONCENTRATION CAMPS?

The U.S. government, by means of the McCarran Bill, has now undertaken the not-so-free enterprise of thought-control. It has shattered the monopoly hitherto held in this field by totalitarian states and has given due warning that the competition is going to be keen!

Members of the Communist Party are now required to register publicly their names and addresses. In "legalese" this appears harmless, but in the U.S. today this means that the targets of hysterical witch-hunts, "loyalty" oaths, wire tapping, fist fights at factories... are now to state openly who they are and where they may be found. A convenient blacklist!

Consequently they will be fired from their jobs and singled out and attacked by the super-patriots (American Legion, Giannini Vigilantes, G.I.K. Smiths). They, their friends and acquaintances subject themselves to possible physical attack. This is what happens to non-conformers caught in an era of "conform-or-else!"

Despite our socialist opposition to Stalinism, which makes us its first victims wherever it comes to power, we condemn the McCarran-police-state measures suppressing the Communist Party.

The Communist Party is based on certain ideas, odious as they are. It is an organization which gains recruits by means of its ideas and program. The only effective way to defeat Stalinism completely is to offer better ideas and a better program. A program of coercion roots itself in bankruptcy and desperation, and will not defeat the ideas of Stalinism. Can't the government learn the lesson of China and Indo-China?

To deny people the right to organize and propagandize for their ideas violates the elemental right of any democracy. No stronger indictment can be made of Stalinist Russia; it does not tolerate the expression of minority opinions!

The McCarran Bill is itself a "clear and present danger" to civil liberties in the U.S., a blueprint that will be used undoubtedly against other non-conformers. In addition it stupidly defeats its alleged ends on the international scene. By obliterating the differences between the U.S. and Russia in terms of freedom it makes more and more difficult the enlistment of aid from other countries. Thus the McCarran Bill is an act of desperation and hysteria on the part of the American capitalists against the gains of an anti-capitalist, pseudo-socialist program now offered by the Communist Parties throughout the world.

Hysterical action is a distinguishing feature of an insanely fearful organism. Look at the penalties imposed upon non-registering Communists: a \$10,000 fine and/or 5 years in prison FOR EVERY DAY BEYOND THE DATE OF REGISTRATION! In one week this means \$70,000 and/or 35 years in prison! In one year...!

A further provision in the McCarran Bill, sponsored by the drooping flower of American liberalism, is the Kilgore concentration-camp measure whereby in times of "emergency" all possible saboteurs and espionage

Sather Gate Meeting - Noon Friday, Oct. 27

"AN ANSWER TO STALINISM"

by Bob Martinson, SYL Organizer

agents are to be "detained."

A new principle has been introduced in American law: "Punishment before the crime." To see how this all-inclusive measure will be abused, look to the treatment accorded California's Japanese-Americans during World War II.

Even in this respect the McCarran Bill is ill aimed, since the real Russian spies, MKVD men, and saboteurs do not function in open political opposition to the government. We hold no sympathy for Russian or even American spies, but there is already adequate legislation against espionage on the books (U.S. Code, Title 18, sections 791-797 for espionage; and sections 2151-2156 for sabotage).

The only justification for abolishing civil liberties and calling this necessary to the preservation of a phantom "democracy" lies in a totalitarianization of the country. Why doesn't the self-styled Fair Deal Congress openly admit its objectives instead of covering itself shabbily in terms of "necessity," "Maintaining democracy," "the liberal way"...ad nauseum?

Clearly capitalism has no solution to the present crisis other than legalized force. Socialism becomes not only a desirable answer to the iniquities of the private profit system, but a necessity in extending democracy and defeating Stalinist totalitarianism.#

INTERESTED IN THE

SYL?

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