

The Communist Party Unit welcomes the development of the Caucus for Democratic Control in the ISA. With the ISA in the grip of an obstructive bureaucratic group, the Caucus is a necessary step if the ISA is to move ahead. The whole labor movement testifies to the need for such action. Workers in the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers have organized against the bureaucracy of the union "leader" Tighe; in the Teachers Union, the rank and file have joined against the ineffective and undemocratic tactics of the Linville-Lefkowitz group. (cf. the pamphlet, "Principles and Program of the Rank and File in the Teachers Union", for an illuminating analysis of a situation much like our own.)

The Communist Party Unit, just as it supports every struggle against bureaucracy and every united front for militant action, approves the proposals of the Caucus as steps in the right direction. Some of the proposals have already been adopted by the ISA. Action should also have been taken on the proposal demanding immediate interpretation by the Board of Higher Education of the Feld-McGrath Tenure Bill. Above all, we feel that the hostility of the Board, as implied in the Klein Committee report, must be brought out into the open.

That the ISA is coming to realize the need for action was proved at the April 24 meeting, which was attended, despite the holiday, by about 90. They were eager to enact the Caucus proposals. They were obstructed systematically by the bureaucracy. Under prodding by Mr. Rosen, the Chairman arrogated to himself the sole right to interpret the Constitution, and obstinately refused to entertain an appeal from his interpretation to the membership itself! At one point, after a motion to adjourn had been overwhelmingly defeated, Mr. Finkel suggested to those who wished to adjourn that if they left the meeting there might no longer be a quorum. Several promptly left. He was sharply called to account for his anti-democratic obstructionism by members. But later the Chair was quite willing to dissolve the meeting when it fell short of a quorum by one. Mr. Finkel again showed his hand later: when a decisive majority passed a motion to send to the entire membership the tables and charts in the Klein report by May 1, Mr. Finkel immediately tendered his resignation from the Salary and Promotion Committee. The Chair promptly accepted the resignation, with the intention no doubt, of finding a "legitimate" excuse for delaying the sending out of the data demanded by the body.

Nevertheless, the meeting achieved several positive results. It instructed the chair hereafter to call regular meetings on Saturday afternoons at 1:30, thereby allowing more time for discussion, and permitting those who teach at 23rd St., and members of the library and office staffs to attend. (Vote: 50 to 27) A motion was also passed, with only two dissenting votes, to publish a monthly Bulletin to keep the entire membership informed of the proceedings.

The Caucus has struck a ringing blow against the defeatist policies of the Administration group. We call upon all members of the ISA to turn out for meetings, and to back up the proposals of the Caucus. The May regular meeting will elect officers for the coming year. Vote for programs of action, and for men who will fight for them.

The Communist Party Unit of
the City College.

(This is sent only to members of the Instructional Staff Ass'n)