

April 18, 1935

TO THE STUDENTS OF CITY COLLEGE!

It is clear by now that the Administration of City College does not want an Anti-war movement. Robinson and Gottschall are no longer in a position to appear even as passive resisters to war. In the light of their consistent efforts to throttle this movement, their noble mouthings about "every right-minded person having but one opinion in opposition to war" stand revealed as deliberate lies.

An hour before the strike on Friday, when questioned as to the presence of police on the campus, Dr. Gottschall stated that he would "as soon see a riot on the campus as a disobedient meeting." Perhaps to demonstrate his consistency, the Dean appeared at the strike meeting accompanied by Prof. Woll and attempted to start a riot personally by assaulting a speaker. In spite of this, however, and in spite of the provocation of the police and the Boy Scout Storm Troopers — the R.O.T.C. officers — the City College students maintained splendid discipline.

At the strike meeting the Dean expressed himself as having "no objection to a meeting of this sort AT THE PROPER TIME AND IN THE PROPER PLACE." The meeting on the campus, according to Dr. Gottschall, was illegal.

Fifteen hundred students at that meeting gave the lie to Dr. Gottschall by their presence. Fifteen hundred students think that the campus is the proper place for a strike meeting. Fifteen hundred students not only thought that Friday was the proper time, but proved it by their willingness to cut classes. Those 'superior' persons who opposed a strike on the grounds that "not enough students will turn out" were discredited by the successful strikes all over the country Friday. The possibilities of an united student movement against war were shown not only by the strike at City College but by strikes in high schools and colleges from here to California.

WHY IS THE ADMINISTRATION OPPOSED TO THIS MOVEMENT?

The National Student League has always maintained an unequivocal position on war and on Student struggles against war. That position has in the last few months of heightened student anti-war action proved to be the common ground on which all students opposed to imperialist war can unite. The National Student League's position on this question was adopted at the Columbia, Brooklyn, N.Y.U., and City College Anti-War Congresses. On this position a national united front with the Student League for Industrial Democracy has been carried through. On our own campus the activities of last week were successfully undertaken under such an united front organization. What is the stand on which such effective action has been taken?

The National Student League recognizes that wars in modern society are an inevitable corollary of the capitalist system of production. This system always leaves a huge surplus of goods and profit, unpurchaseable by an unemployed working class, to be disposed of in foreign markets.

The whole globe having already been divided up for markets among the great imperialist powers, nations must sooner or later resort to war as a method of redistributing these markets. In this light we recognize that war can be eliminated only by eliminating the system which causes it.

The National Student League is not a "pacifist" organization. It sees that a powerful movement against war can be built only under the leadership of the working class in its struggles against the capitalist war-makers. The workers make the munitions; run the trains; man the ships; and provide the supplies without which wars cannot be carried on. Those who feel that an anti-war movement can be built by appealing exclusively to the "intelligent" 3%, to the students alone, are falling into an error which will lead them far afield. The war will not be fought in Lewisohn Stadium. As students alone we are helpless; united with the working class on this issue we are a powerful body. The most effective instrument in this struggle has been clearly shown to be the American League Against War and Fascism. Supported by working class organizations throughout the country, the American League has already drawn to it a great portion of the student movement.

Our strike last Friday was the beginning of a mass student awakening to the issues which confront us. The Administration has already set going its disciplinary steam-roller. At this writing, Edwin Alexander, '37, has been "suspended for poor academic standing." This poor academic standing consists in having "overcut" a course -- i.e., in having cut Friday at 11 to participate in the strike. Morris Levine and Leo Straus, of the evening session, and leaders of the strike there, have been suspended. The political nature of these suspensions can not be mistaken; they are an earnest of the Administration's attempts to hamstring the entire student anti-war movement. To remain silent on these actions is to expose ourselves to further attacks. We must join in an effective protest against student suspensions for anti-war activity; we must go forward to a mass demonstration on Jingo Day.

Friday's strike was victorious because it followed the N.S.L. policy of mass student action. In order to solidify the victory, we now invite the students to join the organization whose program they endorsed by their action last week.

This Friday (April 20) at 8 P.M. is the time, and 114 West 14 Street (near 6th Avenue) is the place of an open meeting of the City College N.S.L. chapter. All students, particularly the Student League for Industrial Democracy's members, who sincerely and courageously carried out united action, are invited to attend.

UNITE WITH THE NATIONAL STUDENT LEAGUE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST
WAR!