

## The Alternatives For American Students:

# Imperialism

—or—

# PEOPLE'S PEACE?

**W**AR has invaded the life of every student. Truth has been its first casualty, as it moves up behind a smokescreen of "war for democracy" propaganda, poured into the very classrooms by irresponsible professors and administrators. War has amputated educational budgets, bloated tuition fees, shrunken enrollments. It has touched off broadside after broadside into the four essential campus freedoms—freedom of speech, organization, press and self-government.

Irrespective of the needs of the people for the services of trained physical and social scientists in constructive, peacetime pursuits, college registrations will nose-dive as thousands of student conscripts whose numbers are already up are decorated this June with metal identification discs, just in case.

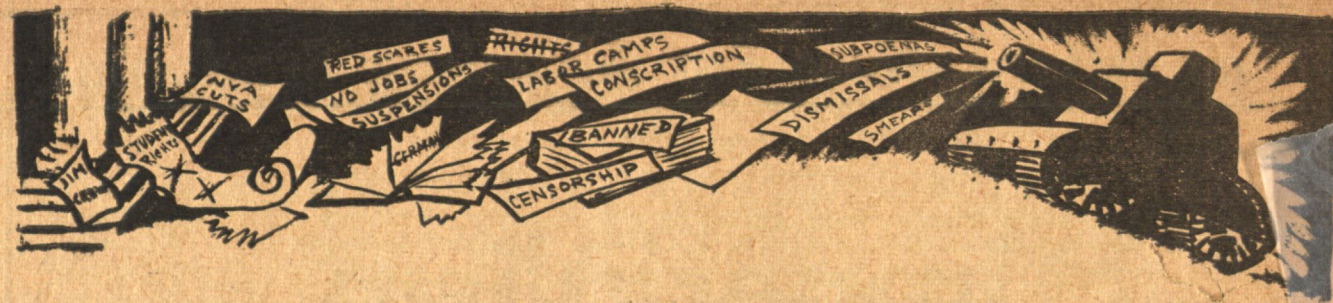
Legislative inquiries into educational systems, often proclaiming openly their budget-cutting objectives, have been transformed into political inquisitions. Not alone are textbooks which refer to monopolistic growths in industry and finance branded as "subversive," but the whole higher educational system is becoming suspect.

Subtle intimidation has infiltrated the campus, accompanied increasingly by more open repression, spreading the thesis that to speak out for democracy and peace is "to stick your neck out."

Intolerance and hysteria reach a new apex in the expulsion of students protesting racial discriminatory policies.







## What does it all mean, This strange war On Democracy and Education?

IT means that AMERICA HAS ALREADY BEEN PLUNGED DEEP INTO THE WAR ABROAD. Having secured passage of the Lease-Lend Bill, the Administration is already busily engaged "creating public sentiment" for use of the Navy in convoys. Three times the Administration forced Congress to vote down a ban on Human Bundles for Britain, while voting great funds for preparation of troop transports.

First, munitions; then, destroyers; then, conscription. Now, LEASE-LEND AND TOTAL WAR! Gone are the "short of war" promises. The policy of aid-to-Britain, which was offered as the way to keep out of war, has been PRECISELY the channel through which we have been dragged down the Wilson path.

And, to further this war-policy, those who control our colleges are rapidly perverting the rich human and physical resources of the campus to the uses of war.

This, indeed, is what is occurring in every phase of national life. In reply to its requests for higher wages to meet rising living-costs, American labor finds both the industrial magnates, who are acquiring unprecedented financial profits, and the government, which has been subsidizing these magnates, united in trying to abolish the right to strike, through compulsory mediation schemes, threats to use the Army for open strike-breaking, and impending legislation to make strikes a criminal offense.

The President says he will install the "four freedoms" in "every part of the world," BUT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE BEING ROBBED OF THEIR OWN SACRED LIBERTY.

### Aren't we ready to sacrifice?

WHO can doubt it? The American people, and American students, are worthy of our glorious heritage. Of course, we are ready to sacrifice much, to undergo great hardship, to fight and,

yes, to die for the things we hold dear. American students who fought in Spain proved that. Thousands of students who undergo tremendous hardship in order to obtain an education and help in the construction of America prove it daily.

But what are we asked to sacrifice? PRECISELY THOSE THINGS WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE DEFENDING! We are asked to do away with all the institutions of American democracy, to build a mighty armed force for participation in the world-wide struggle between the major imperialisms for control and domination over the already crumbling empires and remunerative sources of raw materials, markets and trade routes. We are asked to accept enforcement of United States "dollar diplomacy" upon the peoples of Latin America. We are asked to follow Chamberlain's disastrous appeasement policy by sending war materials to Japan, while "aid to China" becomes disruption of united Chinese resistance through demanding that their government follow an anti-communist policy. The "national defense" program is enriching monopoly with billions in war-profits reaped out of government contracts, paid for by the people's tax-dollars. And we shall be asked to give our lives in a second AEF within another year, as Dr. Virgil Jordan, director of the National Industrial Conference Board (the N.A.M.'s research apparatus), makes clear:

*"It seems certain that our army, navy and air force will be actively used in the war for attack and defense, probably in the Mediterranean area and the Far East before another year is gone."*

*(Speech to Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, March 18, 1941.)*

And this policy is offered us in the name of "defeating Hitlerism," and "establishing a new social order." For no power on earth could make the American people fight and die for imperialist expansion and war—IF THE PEOPLE WERE TOLD THE TRUTH.

Hitlerism cannot and will not be defeated in such a war to perpetuate imperialist rule over colonial areas. For Hitlerism is the way of rule of all imperialists who fear the people of their own countries and suppress their democratic strivings by force and violence. And this is proved

IN THIS VERY WAR by the rapid growth in the practices of Hitlerism in England and our own country.

## Will we get a new social order Out of this war?

THE fruits of this war, even if Anglo-American imperialism wins, will not be a new social order, as promised by conscious deceivers and some wishful-thinkers, but will be a peace dictated by the same ruling interests which wrote Versailles and Munich. Already visible in the destruction and artificial war-economy are the great new economic disasters which will be the result of this war. Have we forgotten so soon the picture of America and the world during the aftermath of World War I? Who can believe that the same monopolists and financial interests whose economy cracked-up after the last war and again in 1929 have invented some new magic to avoid an even greater crack-up when this gigantic arms-boom collapses, when this army of conscript millions is demobilized!

Is it for this that American democracy is to be traded in for a fascist dictatorship, Made in U. S. A.? Is it for this that the universities are to be militarized, students conscripted?

## How then to get out of this war?

HOW to stop it? How to advance democracy? It will not be easy. It will require real sacrifice, the same kind of sacrifice that has laid the foundations of democracy in this country and that is required for every great social advance. But it is worth it.

But first WE MUST FACE THE FACTS. We must stop this aid-to-Britain nonsense, which has gotten us nowhere except into the war. We must see that under cover of "national defense" and slogans of "war for democracy," as false as the 1917 variety, WE ARE BEING SOLD AN IMPERIALIST WAR.

The people's inherent suspicion of this war has already evoked opposition to its consequences in their daily lives. Out of our efforts to advance educational democracy, out of the struggles of the miners, the steelworkers, the Ford workers for industrial democracy—out of the fight of the

whole people to preserve our traditional liberties is growing a great American people's peace movement. These are the people. They have the power to re-establish popular control over the destiny of America, which is now usurped by a war-dictatorship marked by Congressional abdication and rule of Presidential decree.

## A People's Peace Is the only alternative

THIS is the alternative to the blind alley choice which offers British imperialism and inevitable American involvement as the "lesser evil." This is the alternative to continued bloodshed, blockade, famine, bombings, and war. IT IS THE WAY OUT FOR AMERICA.

It is the alternative because it is the goal of the peoples of all nations. It is toward this goal that colonial peoples and submerged nations, exemplified by united China, mighty India, neutral Ireland, are struggling. It is toward this goal that the people of France, of Czechoslovakia, of Germany, seething under the shell of Hitler Europe, strive, turning not to any imperialism but looking within themselves for the power to re-establish their freedom. It is toward this goal that the British people, represented by their People's Convention, move, fighting for popular rule in Britain which would offer a just peace to the peoples of all the belligerent countries and would unite with them to end fascism and imperialist domination. In this struggle for a people's peace, America's friendship with the Soviet Union, whatever we may think of its internal policy, can be of great value, for that country is demonstrating its neutrality and is remaining out of the war.

To those who believe that out of this war can come a new world, we say that it is an idle dream—unless the people, organized and determined, establish democratic governments in their nations and together make a people's peace, based upon self-determination for all nations, no indemnities, no annexations, based upon social justice and equality. That is the way out of this war, that is the way to avoid both a new Versailles and a new Munich. When the people's assume the responsibility for ending the war and for reconstruction—then we shall HAVE the foundation for a really DEMOCRATIC world order.

