



Christmas Greetings



from the National Student League
to the Students of the city colleges.



1934

DANGER AHEAD!

Fees Menace Looms After Vacation
Give Yourself the Best X-mas Gift
Join the N. S. L.

Enclosed please find 25c registration fee. I wish to join the N.S.L.

I want more information about the N.S.L.

Name..... Address.....

School.....

Mail this to NATIONAL STUDENT LEAGUE, 257 Seventh Ave., N. Y. C.





Christmas Week brings temporary surcease from academic activities. There have been so many activities—the C.C.N.Y. expulsions, the Hunter fight for an anti-war conference, the fight for F.E.R.A. jobs, the worry about imposition of text book fees—that the National Student League wholeheartedly wishes everyone a happy, easeful vacation.

No Free Texts

But N.S.L. wishes to the contrary, presentiments are bound to creep into the idyllic picture. Next term, the no free text books edict will be brought forcibly to mind . . . students who are poor but not yet reduced to the pauperization so prized by F.E.R.A. officials will have no pay checks to spend on presents or clothes. . . . 8,000 students of City College, 21 in particular, will nurse festering resentment against a near fascist president.

Meditations during Christmas week can produce valuable results. Here are a few provocative suggestions:

Protest Halted Fees

Two years ago the City attempted to impose tuition fees at the free colleges. An eruption of protests stopped the move dead. Then a new political clique, with savory promises of maintaining free education, came into power.

But the metropolitan budget crisis continued unabated. Capitalism moved on its course. Free education was won by the organized labor movement in the middle of the last century. But the capitalist class, to whom free education meant less profits, was rather willing to grant this demand. Capitalism was in its healthy infancy. Educated laborers could be more efficient, i.e. produce more profit for their employers. But in 1934, there is no room for any



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sort of laborers. The whole productive system is stopped, because, while the techniques of production are here, there is no profit in production. Education for the masses no longer brings any advantage to the bourgeoisie.

It is inevitable then that whatever party gets into power, education will suffer. The wave of protest against Tammany's brazen attempt to institute fees taught Fusion a lesson. So Fusion has lopped off here, lopped off there, in an attempt to eat away free higher education piecemeal. It hopes no one will recognize the gravity of the situation until the damage is almost completed.

Any number of facts prove the contention. No free books . . . no appropriations for summer schools . . . entrance requirements raised steadily . . . \$2.50 tuition fees for non-matriculated students in the evening sessions . . . recent institution of lab fees . . . \$5 per point fees for graduate students.

The excuse is lack of funds. There are funds.

Upon induction into office, Mayor LaGuardia accepted the Four Year Bankers Agreement. He promised to pay \$17,000,000 per month on loans to the exclusion of all other services. This promise he has carried out to the letter. But his promises to students he has broken consistently.

There is money. Every two hours LaGuardia pays \$40,000 to the bankers. But he cuts out \$35,000 a year for free text books.

Only compulsion will force the diversion of funds from the bankers to the students. Students' compelling weapon is their strength of numbers, their alliance with the vast number of workers of New York who have interests identical with ours. While we face fees, the workers face LaGuardia's Sales Tax.

But these numbers can only be utilized to the



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fullest through organization, through pooling the individuals into one broad, non-partisan student organization. At this moment, the need for a city-wide, nation-wide organization, transcending the bounds of one school is apparent.

NSL Leading Force

The National Student League led the successful campaign against fees two years ago. Now it is the first organization to understand and raise this problem. The National Student League wants unity of all school groups on this issue. Particularly we appeal to the Student League for Industrial Democracy, because unity of the outstanding progressive groups will open the way to unity involving much broader masses. The New York District Convention of the N.S.L., adjourned last Sunday, understood this danger of retrenchment. The N.S.L. definitely states that its main campaign next term will be a campaign for the everyday needs of the student body.

There is an immediate, concrete danger. The Board of Higher Education is controlled by the remnants of Tammany Hall. It has nothing to lose politically. It wants to cast an unfavorable light on Fusion. The Board of Higher Education might very well call for more open retrenchment than the "tactful" but efficient LaGuardia dares to.

Danger lies ahead after the Christmas vacation, because LaGuardia insists on paying \$17,000,000 a month to the bankers. Prepare to meet the danger! Recognize your weapon—mass action! Recognize the necessity for mass action being consolidated into one, city-wide, non-partisan organization! Recognize that the National Student League is that organization!

Danger! Free higher education is being undermined!

