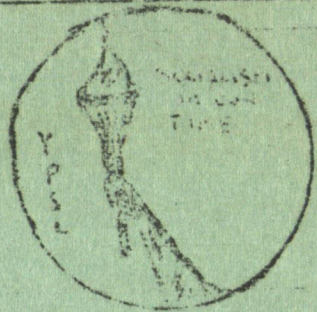


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RETAIN SCHAPPES MARCH MAY 1ST

YOUNG • PEOPLES • SOCIALIST • LEAGUE CIO

RETAIN • SCHAPPES!

On the very day when he spoke before a massed audience of students from City College and Wadleigh High School assembled in the Great Hall, Morris U. Schappes of the English Department was notified that he would not receive reappointment for the coming term. This after eight years of valuable service! The letter was signed by Professor Horne, chairman of the department, but we can be quite certain that none other than our reactionary F.B. Robinson was the prime mover in this affair. In fact, we have very reliable information that this was intended to be but the first of a number of reprisals against all who have been in the forefront of the progressive movement. The determined stand of the student body and of the teaching staff has forced the administration to hold its fire. We must force them to retreat!

The details of this sordid story have been well enough publicized. The essential thing now is to devise ways of securing Schappes' reinstatement. Petitions, classroom resolutions, telegrams, post cards to the Board of Higher Education, buttons, and street demonstrations are among the immediate tactics which can be utilized to bring this matter to a successful conclusion. The threat of a student strike must be reserved for a crucial moment in the campaign. Teachers' organizations, such as the AFA, ISA, and the Teachers' Union have already expressed their support of Schappes. The Student Council, American Student Union, Inter-Fraternity Council, clubs, publications, etc. are among the student groups which are pledged to fight vigorously for the cause of academic freedom.

It appears quite obvious that organization and solidarity, as shown by the acts of the teachers' and students' groups are the most effective and most important ways of defending ourselves against reactionary attacks. It is for that reason that we try to build the ASU as the organ of progressive student opinion; it is for that very same reason that we call upon youth to unite in the YPSL to build for a new and better society—a Socialist society; and for that same reason, we urge support of the official representatives of the American labor movement.

To evince our solidarity with labor which is the foremost opponent of war and fascism, we call upon all City College students to march on MAY DAY, May 1, 1936, the first UNITED LABOR MAY DAY in many years. A good number of the teachers at the College will be marching with the rest of labor; it is certainly up to us to prove that we are at least equal to our teachers in our determined opposition to war and fascism.

The fight for academic freedom calls for unity of all!

UNITED FRONT FOR ACADEMIC FREEDOM!!

ALL OUT MAY FIRST!

EXPRESS YOUR SOLIDARITY WITH LABOR!

SCOOP! THE FACULTY ADMITS.

(EDITOR'S NOTE:- A report on the condition of the school plant has just been drawn up by a faculty committee. Many interesting items are therein contained. The report has not been submitted to the General Faculty as yet. The editors of the SOCIALIST STUDENT deemed it advisable to make the best of a fortunate situation which permitted them to discover the contents of the report. What better use could be made of the report than to pass on to the student body the facts and general tenor expressed before they are distorted or suppressed.)

The poor conditions, both physical and social, at the College have at last reached such a deplorable state that the "Committee on Survey of the College Plant" in its "Report to the General Faculty" finally recognized the fact that perhaps things are not what they are supposed to be. The professors and instructors constituting the committee reported that the general atmosphere within the college "is absolutely heinous. With reference to the physics lecture hall (Room 105) they report that "the air in the room quickly becomes little short of poisonous." (P. 9) Incongruous as it seems, cognizant of this condition the committee can yet imply assent to increased appropriations for the R.O.T.C. which serves no useful or educational purpose within the college.

On page 8 of the report this statement is found: "...we may not be able to maintain our academic standards much longer without additional space and physical facilities." Despite this serious condition, already long recognized by the student body, the committee, as is the habit of administrative committees, evades the entire issue by making no recommendations whatsoever as to the means of securing the necessary additional facilities. As usual, although the faculty may realize that conditions are bad, they cannot do anything about them without jeopardizing their own standing with the administration.

A very interesting point which refutes the too oft repeated answer to the troubles at City College as being due to "a small handful of reds" appears on page of the report. The section dealing with faculty-student controversy states: "...much of our student dissatisfaction ... has its origin in misunderstanding", the implication being that it is the faculty's misunderstanding that has caused the difficulties.

This report is but another confirming link in the long history of educational inadequacy at City College which has prompted the student body to wage the vigorous and ever growing struggle for better school conditions, no fees, free books, a clean sanitary lunchroom and many other items of a non-material nature.

In this fight, the Y.P.S.E. will engage as always with all its might. But this will not be enough. For victory the student body itself must act. It must employ mass action and mass pressure. If the entire school acts, better conditions at City College will be realities instead of mere desires.

PAGE 2

FIGHT FOR THE AYA!
MARCH MAY DAY - REMEMBER AUSTRIA!
FIGHT FACISM, WAR AND CAPITALISM!

MARX & ENGELS ON THE FARMER LABOR PARTY

It is particularly appropriate now, when the demand for a Farmer Labor Party is gaining strength, and is actually being effected on a local scale, to point out the ideas of Marx and Engels on this very subject.

Writing about sixty years ago, the founders of modern Socialism pointed out the lack of a spirit of class consciousness sufficient to develop a separate mass party of labor. The situation at that time was complicated by the lack of class fixity due to the continued abundance of free land and the rapid development of industry. This, however, is no longer the case since the frontier has long disappeared and we are faced with the prospect of a permanent unemployed population of several millions.

It was in connection with the foregoing that Marx pointed out in 1852 that "...in the United States ... the classes already exist, but have not yet acquired permanent character, are in constant flux and reflux." (1) This condition served to retard the ideological and political progress of the working class. In the 1880's, only the German refugees to America already possessed a Socialist background had any real conception of the class struggle. They neglected to educate the native born Americans. Engels criticized them for this neglect, as follows: "A national working class movement independent of the Germans is the real starting point of the American working class development. If the Germans... stand aloof, they will dwindle to a dogmatic sect, and will be brushed aside as a people who do not understand their own principles." (2)

This statement applies to those groups or sects which are in opposition to the formation of a mass political party of labor as a matter of principle. Marx and Engels did not emphasize clarity of program, but rather the "constitution of an earnest workingmen's party" from which, out of its experience

and mistakes would come clarity. Engels wrote in a letter to Florence Kelley: "It is far more important that the movement should spread, proceed harmoniously, take root and embrace as much as possible the whole American proletariat, than that it should start and proceed from the beginning on theoretically correct lines." (4) This theme he constantly repeated. In his pamphlet in the American labor movement he wrote "Unification of the various independent bodies into one national labor Army, with no matter how inadequate a provisional platform, provided it be truly a working-class platform--that is the next great step to be accomplished in America." (5) The present move for a Farmer Labor Party fulfills these conditions since it is based on an anti-capitalist program.

It might seem that Engels foresaw the Communist line of 1929-1935, a line which branded them as purely Fascist, when he wrote that a platform, even if theoretically correct, is useless "if it is unable to get into contact with the actual needs of the people" (6) Today it is the Communist who is most vociferous in shouting for the formation of a Farmer Labor Party, seeming to forget that it was they who helped delay it by their line of dual unionism. In 1924, the Communist, then Workers Party, declared against support of any third party and its press urged all supporters not to participate in the 1925 Conference for Progressive Political Action. It was the Socialist Party which consistently advocated and supported the Farmer Labor Party, and we now welcome the changed position of the Communist Party.

At the present juncture, the Communists are wont to attack some Socialists, especially Comrade Thomas for opposing the MECHANICAL establishment of such a party in name only, inasmuch as it has not the support of the trade and farm unions. This position they maintain despite the admonitions of Engels that such a group must bring the various sympathies "face to face", Georgites,

(Continued on Page 7)

WHAT IS THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST LEAGUE?

The Young People's Socialist League is an organization of young workers and students whose primary fight is for the establishment of a socialist commonwealth to replace the present system. An analysis of the history of capitalism shows that in the struggle against feudalism, it played an historically progressive role, rendering asunder rotten feudal aristocracy. Today, however, its role is a reactionary one; it acts as the brake on historical evolution, which proclaims socialism on the order of the day. In its desperate struggle to retain political and economic control, it resorts to war and fascism. Systematically and ruthlessly, it exploits labor for its own aggrandizement. It preys upon its colonies, bleeding them of their natural resources and raw materials for its own profits. The workingclass is today the sole progressive force working to eliminate these evils and to establish a classless society. Cognizant of this basic struggle, we have taken our stand with the workingclass and invite those youth who recognize this basic struggle and want to work for socialism to join with us in our fight.

In our alliance with labor, we relentlessly fight against the poverty, unemployment, retrenchment, and repression which stalks in the wake of this decaying order. We support the American Youth Act which was designed to alleviate the immediate economic demands of the youth. No struggle of the young workers to better their conditions is without our support. Our members are found in the front lines, picketing with labor. Only recently, in the strike of the Building Service employees, YPSL members distinguished themselves in action. We urge the unemployed youth to organize itself into the Workers' Alliance of America and present a solid front of opposition to the government which would herd them into the warcamps of the CCC.

On the campus, the YPSL supports the American Student Union, considering it the most significant step forward in building student sentiment against war and fascism. The YPSL played an important role in forming the ASU at Columbus, Ohio, lending vigor and enthusiasm to the convention proceedings. Leading members of the ASU are members of the YPSL. We strive to orientate the ASU towards labor and all its activities. Unconditionally we support the Oxford Pledge--"not to support any war which the U.S. government may undertake"--recognizing that such a war would be an imperialist one for the profits of the few. Unlike other forces in the ASU, we oppose all imperialist war regardless of whether the participants are democratic, fascist, or non-imperialist countries allied with imperialist countries. We regard the April 22 Student Strike as the most effective means of expressing our opposition to imperialist war. We urged all students to strike on that day to show their strength to the warmongers of America and thus help to prevent another war.

The final solution lies only in a socialist society, but meanwhile we fight against all the manifestations of the twin evils of capitalism-war and fascism. To those who have the courage of their convictions, who desire to translate their rebellion into action, who seek to ally themselves with progressive social forces--we address our appeal: JOIN THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST LEAGUE!!!

ON WITH THE FIGHT!

THE sitdown demonstration in front of Robinson's office was swell stuff; and what a turn-out we had for the May Day parade!

AND we're getting results, too. Charles H. Tuttle, chairman of the Administrative Committee of the Board of Higher Education, made an innocuous statement to the papers to the effect that "nobody was fired yet and that Morris Schappes was still a member of the teaching staff."

WELL, that's a little concession that doesn't hurt anybody. We knew all that before Mr Tuttle told us so. What we want is definite assurance that Schappes will be reappointed.

THE Administrative Committee meets tonight. A tremendous sit-down demonstration beginning at 12 o'clock today will put us over the winning line, and following that, if a broad student committee appears at the Committee meeting along with a teachers delegation from all over the city, the Administrative Committee will make up its mind in a hurry to reappoint Schappes.

THEY say that it never rains, but it pours. This time some of the reactionary owners of the Campus, particularly President Louis Gust, have suspended it. It has been suspended because it has been a vigorous, progressive fighter, most recently in the Schappes case.

IMAGINE what a setback President Robinson will get when Schappes is reappointed! Imagine the boost to academic freedom and campus organization when the Campus is reinstated-- ALL DESPITE ROBINSON!

SPEND YOUR OFF HOURS IN LINCOLN CORRIDOR
KEEP SCHAPPES- OUST ROBINSON
REINSTATE THE CAMPUS

American Student Union
Schappes Student Committee
Student Council

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