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**BULLETIN**  
FROM  
**THE YOUTH COMMITTEE FOR THE OXFORD PLEDGE**  
242 EAST 14TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY  
GRAMERCY 9-7530

(This is the first of a series of bulletins on the work of the Youth Committee, incorporating useful suggestions for supporters and friends active in their communities.)

Bulletin No. 1

January 20, 1938

DIVISION IN THE ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT

TRAGIC dismemberment of the peace forces in the United States, a division of anti-war movements which are the only bulwark against a repetition of the holocaust of 1914, has become constantly more evident during the past few months. Forgetting the nationalist and imperialist basis of war, those who have aggravated this division endorse a conflict of "good, democratic, peace-loving" nations against "bad, fascist, war-loving" nations in the name of collective security, democracy and peace. A wave of hate-spreading propaganda has been launched against the "bad" nations, and the wheels of pious, retributive warfare set turning.

Recent events on the international scene, particularly in China, have been used by the advocates of collective security to make ever more vociferous demands for an alliance between the governments of the United States, Great Britain and France against Japan, Italy and Germany. Opposition to war preparations at home has been lost in the more absorbing task of "calling the fascists' bluff". Tacit support for the enormous - this year over a billion dollars - military appropriations asked by President Roosevelt is a logical outcome of the dangerous emotional approach of the forces of collective security, led in this country by the Communist Party and its youth section, the Young Communist League.

These signs of an ill wind bear only too close a parallel to 1914-18 when 10 million young men lost their lives to "make the world safe for democracy". The people of the United States can urge the government to join forces with the "democracies" of Europe in a holy crusade against fascism with the almost certain knowledge of disaster. Or they can strike out now against swollen military appropriations - the last minute tuning-up of the war machine - and against the fool-hardy idealism of collective security whose prophets seek to lure the United States into a war to "stop the fascist aggressors".

Collective security cannot "make America a force for peace" through the economic strangulation of what it brands "aggressor nations". Honest collective security spokesmen willingly admit that economic sanctions against desperate fascist states cannot be enforced without the use of military sanctions. And military sanctions, in anybody's language, mean war - military dictatorship at home, crushing the most elementary democratic rights, the labor movement, every individual and group which dares to raise its voice against "patriotic" murder. Collective security invites, and is apparently willing to risk, disaster.

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### THE ASU - LATEST SACRIFICE

MOST recent among the sacrifices on the altar of collective security is the American Student Union, until recently a fortress of the student anti-war movement and the backer of the dramatic Student Strike Against War. By a mechanical majority at the National Convention of the ASU (Vassar College, Dec. 27-31) the Young Communists and their allies succeeded in imposing a program of collective security, leavened only by a ridiculous and contradictory "compromise" which pledged the ASU to oppose military operations of the United States Government, should the economic sanctions which they demanded against Japan lead to military sanctions. The Oxford Pledge, incorporated in the ASU program since the inception of the organization as the crux of its anti-war policy, was abandoned. A militant anti-war program of two years' standing was emasculated in three days of impassioned condemnation of "fascist aggressors".

### MOBILIZATION IS IMPERATIVE!

NOW, more than ever, the mobilization of individuals and groups pledged to unwavering opposition to American war preparations is imperative. Widespread sentiment among the American people against the huge military budget of the Government and the alarming drift toward another world war must be given concrete form. Quarters in the Government seeking to establish the new idealism of collective security through the use of military force must be given dramatic notification of our abhorance of war and our positive refusal to fight in the next war, whomever it is directed against.

In the Youth Committee for the Oxford Pledge, young pacifists, socialists and liberals have united in an anti-war bloc which cuts across organizational lines to wage a common campaign for the Oxford Pledge, against collective security and its handmaiden, American militarism. We propose to launch a vigorous and comprehensive fight for peace based on the broad anti-war policies embodied in the Oxford Pledge. "We refuse to support the government of the United States in any war it may undertake."

- (1) Opposition to collective security as inviting war and increased war preparations.
- (2) Opposition to the war budget of the United States Government; to the R.O.T.C.; to the C.M.T.C.; to army control of the C.C.C.; and to the "M-Day" plans of the War Department and the Sheppard-Hill Bill.
- (3) Transference of war funds to socially useful purposes (e.g. the American Youth Act).
- (4) An appeal to workers and young people to refuse, in the present far--Eastern crisis, to ship war materials to Japan or to support Japanese militarism in any way.
- (5) Refusal to support the government of the United States in a war against Japan, and a plea to Japanese youth to refuse to support the military machine of Japan.
- (6) A demand for the freedom of all colonial peoples.
- (7) Emphasizes the internationalism of young people of the United States with young people in every country in a common opposition to world imperialism.

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- (8) Re-affirmation of our firm belief that the basic divisions and dislocations of world economy can never be removed without fundamental and far-reaching readjustments so that the peoples of the world have free access to raw materials and are able to carry on trade, commerce and production freely, in their own interest.

On the student anti-war front we regard the Youth Committee for the Oxford Pledge as a parallel center to the American Student Union, where students may give expression to their opposition to war and militarism as embodied in the Oxford Pledge, carrying out what has been the traditional peace program of the ASU and cooperating, wherever possible, in the general campus work of the Student Union. Should the adoption of a collective security policy by the National Convention necessitate the formation of separate anti-war clubs on individual campuses, the Youth Committee urges that such groups pass resolutions of support for, and affiliation to, the Youth Committee. We recommend, however, that individuals who oppose collective security and support the Oxford Pledge remain in the American Student Union and work consistently to prevent the complete conversion of the ASU from a force for peace into a tacit supporter of military aggression.

ACT NOW, WHILE YOU CAN STILL ACT

YOU, who are interested in furthering this campaign against militarism and impending war can cooperate in the following program of immediate action:

- (1) Build a Committee of Ten Thousand for the Oxford Pledge.  
-- Staunch supporters of peace must mobilize to stem the tide of this wave of militarism threatening to sweep the United States into the nightmare of another world war. Sign a pledge card immediately and secure the signatures of all peace-minded citizens in your community!"
- (2) Stop Militarization of America through the organized pressure of 500,000 petitioners.  
-- Strategic demands to be presented to President Roosevelt at the time of the American Youth Congress Pilgrimage to Washington, March 10: (a) drastic reduction of military appropriations; (b) immediate removal of all U.S. armed forces from China, as well as from all other foreign territory; (c) abandonment of the Shoppard-Hill industrial mobilization bill, and (d) the passage of a genuine war referendum amendment.
- (3) Organize anti-war clubs affiliated to the Youth Committee in every community.  
-- Wherever such organizations do not exist the Youth Committee urges that they be immediately formed to work with the Youth Committee for the Oxford Pledge nationally. Where peace organizations are already in existence we ask individuals to work within those groups for the program of the Youth Committee and to seek the passage of resolutions of support for the Youth Committee in those organizations.  
All concerned with the fight for peace - trade unions, fraternal youth groups, Y.W.C.A. clubs, youth peace councils, denominational organizations - are included within the broad inter-organizational scope of the Youth Committee. Begin work in your organi-

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zation on a genuine, nationally coordinated, anti-war program.

- (4) Send contributions to assist in financing the work of the Youth Committee to: 242 East 14th Street, New York City.  
-- A sizeable portion of our budget of \$1800 for the next quarter has still to be raised. The effectiveness of the work of the Youth Committee depends heavily on this working budget. Please cooperate!

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