

10/7/37

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A LETTER TO THE "CAMPUS"

" DESTROY HIS FIB AND SOPHISTRY--IN VAIN!
THE CREATURE'S AT HIS DIRTY WORK AGAIN."

--Pope, Prologue to the Satires

To the Editor of the "Campus",

We write this letter, not to answer vituperation with vituperation, but to answer the few arguments in the fulminations of Sussman and the Young Communist League in their Campus articles.

The characterization of political opponents as "Wharf Rats," etc., and the advocacy of Mussolini castor oil doses for them, are the methods of people who resort to slander and incitement to violence BECAUSE THEY LACK POLITICAL ARGUMENTS. WE, as revolutionists, as Fourth Internationalists, fight on a political basis-- and thus we answer you point by point:

1) SLAIMAN'S DECLINATION - That Don Slaiman resigned as president of the ASU is merely an indication of his willingness to bend over backwards in order not to leave any doubt as to the legality of his election. This does not mean an abandonment of the four point program of the "MILITANT PROGRESSIVES" or his opposition to the YCL drive "to expel the Trotskyites from the ASU".

2) PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION-- Sussman is for PR in principle, but not for the ASU exec because "it is not a legislative body". In reality everybody knows that the exec determines the policy of the ASU. The YCL opposes PR because it cannot tolerate a collective leadership which would include representatives of all points of view. They cannot tolerate divergent viewpoints on the left.

3) THE ASU -- The charge of packing the ASU comes with ill grace from the YCL. Those people who came in late were members of the Avukah and sincerely interested in the ASU. Does the YCL think they should be excluded from the ASU simply because they disagree with Stalinism.

The YCL letter charges us with regarding the ASU as a Company Union. This is only another slander designed to prepare the way for a drive to split the ASU by expelling us because of our political opposition to the YCL. In the name of our organization we say: We do NOT call the ASU "Company Union". We do say that the STALINIST leaders of the ASU are striving "to lead the ASU along the road of their own Social-patriotism, and to the abandonment of Militant struggle, by eliminating the Oxford Pledge from the ASU program and toning down its actions to conform to the administration. We put forward our program for the ASU openly: For a Militant, progressive left wing in the ASU to fight against the YCL's war program of collective security pacts and to organize students for militant action.

We vigorously protest against the Sussman piece, a pitifully humorless conglomeration of raving hallucinations, which sinks to a new psychopathic low. We do not object to being attacked; but we demand that that attack be on a principled level and not one of slander and blind hat red.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST LEAGUE
(Fourth Internationalists)

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