

# MASS LINE IN CULTURE no. 43

**MASS LINE IN CULTURE** will report on the progressive intellectuals' struggle against the bourgeois, obscurantist, anti-people and anti-scientific world outlook promoted in American universities

**MASS LINE IN CULTURE** rejects as erroneous the viewpoint of putting politics in opposition to knowledge or substituting politics for knowledge. It also opposes the line of elevating knowledge above politics. These are the leftist and rightist lines on academic professions.

**MASS LINE IN CULTURE** holds that in every academic field there is bound to be a guiding ideology which plays the leading role and that there is no such thing as "pure" academic subjects divorced from politics. Imperialist scholar despots give prominence to idealist and reactionary theories in order to protect the interests of U. S. monopoly capital and to oppose movements for change.

**MASS LINE IN CULTURE** undertakes the struggle against this bourgeois ideology in the academic disciplines as an integral part of the American people's valiant struggle against U. S. imperialism and for socialism and urges intellectuals to build anti-imperialist positions in their place of work.

## INVITATION

**MASS LINE IN CULTURE** invites all progressive intellectuals interested in building organs of revolutionary ideological propaganda to attend a meeting of the supporters of **LITERATURE & IDEOLOGY**, an anti-imperialist critical quarterly. This meeting is being held in New York at the same time as the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association on December 27, 28 & 29, 1972. A representative from the editorial staff of **LITERATURE & IDEOLOGY** will speak on the experience of the four years of L&I; his report will form the basis for a wide-ranging discussion on the role of intellectuals in the ideological struggle against imperialist and fascist theories. (The meeting is open to everyone except known revisionists and trotskyites.) Those who wish to participate in this consultative meeting should write for details to **MASS LINE IN CULTURE**, P. O. Box 6225, Providence, R. I. 02904.

**MASS LINE IN CULTURE** is published by members and supporters of The Necessity for Change Institute, Boston. Additional copies available from **MLIC**, P. O. Box 6225, Providence, R.I. 02904.

## INTENSIFY THE STRUGGLE AGAINST FASCIST AND IMPERIALIST IDEOLOGY BY JOINING THE ADVISORY BOARD OF LITERATURE & IDEOLOGY

The experience of the last four years of building public opinion against fascist and imperialist ideology in a comprehensive way has shown that the vast numbers of educated people do not support and disseminate reactionary propaganda through cultural institutions in imperialist countries. The number of academics directly involved in the production and circulation of this propaganda has shrunk since World War II. Imperialists control all cultural institutions in the West and are therefore able to generate a considerable amount of idealist verbiage to confuse and mislead people, but the basic fact is that imperialist ideology is bankrupt.

In a speech delivered in Montreal, "Combat This Growing Fascism," the Chairman of the Necessity for Change Institute of Ideological Studies (now known as the Norman Bethune Institute, Toronto) analysed the nature of fascist ideological propaganda:

The fascist method mainly consists of: Building abstract, medieval notions about state, country, people, race, history, law and order, culture, and human nature; proving these abstract notions through pure speculation, which means a purely non-scientific method. This method, in essence, means: Concoct "facts" in order to "prove truth," as opposed to **SEEKING TRUTH FROM FACTS**. The two methods are in constant struggle. In the fascist method, the fascists mainly rely on "experts" to develop anti-working class, anti-people and anti-progressive theories as well as to develop practical plans to smash the working class, to commit genocide against the people, and to attempt to stop the forward march of history. . . . The fascists contend that the broad masses of the people are ignorant, incapable of understanding, and helpless; they require experts from the

superior race to do what is good.

The Chairman of the Institute went on to say:

For a systematic and conscious development of struggle against the fascist ideology of U.S. imperialism, we must wage a tireless struggle. We must explain to the broad masses of the people: 1. The basis of change, development and motion. 2. The role of consciousness in history. 3. The relationship of the superstructure to the economic base. The whole fascist ideology of U.S. imperialism is centred around confusing and mystifying these three aspects.

(For the text of this speech, see L&I, No. 6 [1970], 1-16. Unfortunately this issue is out of print.)

During four years of its existence, LITERATURE & IDEOLOGY followed this guideline and aroused the intelligentsia in support of the working-class ideology against the fascist ideology of U.S. imperialism, for the theory of classes in literature and art against the theory of human nature, for the principle of partisanship in the arts against the imperialist and revisionist principle of class collaboration. Imperialist commentators on literature were gleefully remarking that Marxist criticism had exhausted and discredited itself so thoroughly in the thirties that it would not rise again. In support of their prophecy they were citing the fact that no Marxist "dogmatic" journal had appeared since the thirties. This was a vain dream of ideological peace which was never a reality, even though revisionist "Communist" parties became bourgeois in many countries. The broad masses may have been confused, but they were basically anti-fascist and wanted to move things forward in the struggle against imperialism. This struggle has gone through many twists and turns and been betrayed by revisionists, trotskyites and new-leftists many times, but people have not given it up. The intelligentsia in the 1960s in many local organs tried again and again to oppose imperialist ideology and to uphold the working-class ideology. The Necessity for Change Institute grew out of these struggles in 1968 in the British Isles and North America.

The experience of the past four years has proved that progressive intellectuals, as in the past, are

now uniting themselves on a principled basis to propagate the working-class ideology and to repudiate the fascist and revisionist ideas of imperialism and social-imperialism. This was recently confirmed in their response to MASS LINE IN CULTURE #42; they want to participate in the struggle against decadent and outdated theories of imperialism. In order to follow the Mass Line in opposition to the bourgeois Expert Line, to make it possible for many intellectuals to participate consciously in the development and dissemination of working-class ideology as it applies to literature and art, and to repudiate fascist and anti-people theories in culture, the editor of LITERATURE & IDEOLOGY invites progressive intellectuals to join the L&I Advisory Board and to use their initiative in consolidating and popularizing organs of working-class ideological propaganda. Any intellectuals who wish to join the Advisory Board will work with the editor in developing LITERATURE & IDEOLOGY as a Marxist critical quarterly. The first step toward the formation of this Advisory Board will be taken at a meeting in New York on December 27-29, 1972, where the editor of LITERATURE & IDEOLOGY will talk to all those who can come there. (The details of this meeting can be obtained from MASS LINE IN CULTURE, P.O. Box 6225, Providence, R.I. 02904.) Similar meetings to form the Advisory Boards in Canada and the British Isles will be held in those countries in the near future. LITERATURE & IDEOLOGY proposes to unite intellectuals on the basis of the working-class ideology of Marxism; therefore it wishes to exclude revisionists and trotskyites from these meetings.

Putting the Mass Line into practice and discarding the bourgeois Expert Line itself involves a tortuous struggle, for imperialism creates its own "Socialist Scholars" and promotes them as the theoreticians of non-dogmatic and humane "Marxism." Similarly, the bourgeois influence among progressive intellectuals tends to take the form of expertism and a lack of faith in the masses. The efforts of the Advisory Board will be to develop ways and means of building public opinion for scientific ideas in the arts against anti-scientific, fascist theories, instead of functioning as a body of "Marxist experts on literature and art."

The university, the breeding ground of all imperialist theories, is the place from where we start, and the entire working class is the one we serve.

#44 (March 31, 1973)