

THE CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

For Peace
Through
Socialism

We Won't
Die For
Boss Profits

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Monthly Organ of the Young People's Socialist League (Youth Section, Workers Party)

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Our Answer to the War-Makers:

YOUTH DEMANDS THE RIGHT TO VOTE AGAINST WAR PLANS!

Wall Street Tries to Scrap History

As predicted in the last issue of *The Challenge*, the investigation into social science textbooks conducted by the National Association of Manufacturers and executed for them by arch-reactionary Professor Ralph Robey, has turned into a witch-hunt attacking every sort of mildly liberal book.

According to Professor Robey's finding, many textbooks have a slyly insidious, destructive content which "destroy the confidence of youth in democracy," and in "private enterprise" (a fancy phrase for capitalism).

A glance, however, at the citations offered by Professor Robey to buttress his contentions, indicates the real purpose of the investigation: to smear any sort of mildly critical or intelligent textbook.

EXHIBIT A—The following paragraph from Harold Rugg's "America's March Toward Democracy" is cited as subversive propaganda:

"In 1861 there were only three millionaires in the United States; in 1900 there were 3,800. It was generally agreed that at the time one tenth of the American people owned nine tenths of the wealth. By 1900 this tenth of the people (probably fewer than that) set the standards of the new 'society' which was arising in the United States."

Now, what's so "subvoisive" about that? They're facts, aren't they? They can't be denied, can they?

EXHIBIT B—From Samuel Steinberg's and Lucian Lamb's "Our Changing Government":

"...What single newspaper publisher can compete, for example, with the twenty-nine newspapers, totaling a circulation of over ten million in seventeen cities owned and directed by William Randolph Hearst? It is only logical for our great newspapers to exert their powerful influence in behalf of the politics and economics most favorable to their interests."

Here again, to what does Professor Robey object? The authors of this text are merely citing undeniable facts. (OR CAN IT BE THAT PROFESSOR ROBEY, AND THE INTERESTS BEHIND HIM, ARE AFRAID OF THE FACTS AND ARE THEREFORE YELLING ABOUT SUBVERSIVE BOOKS?)

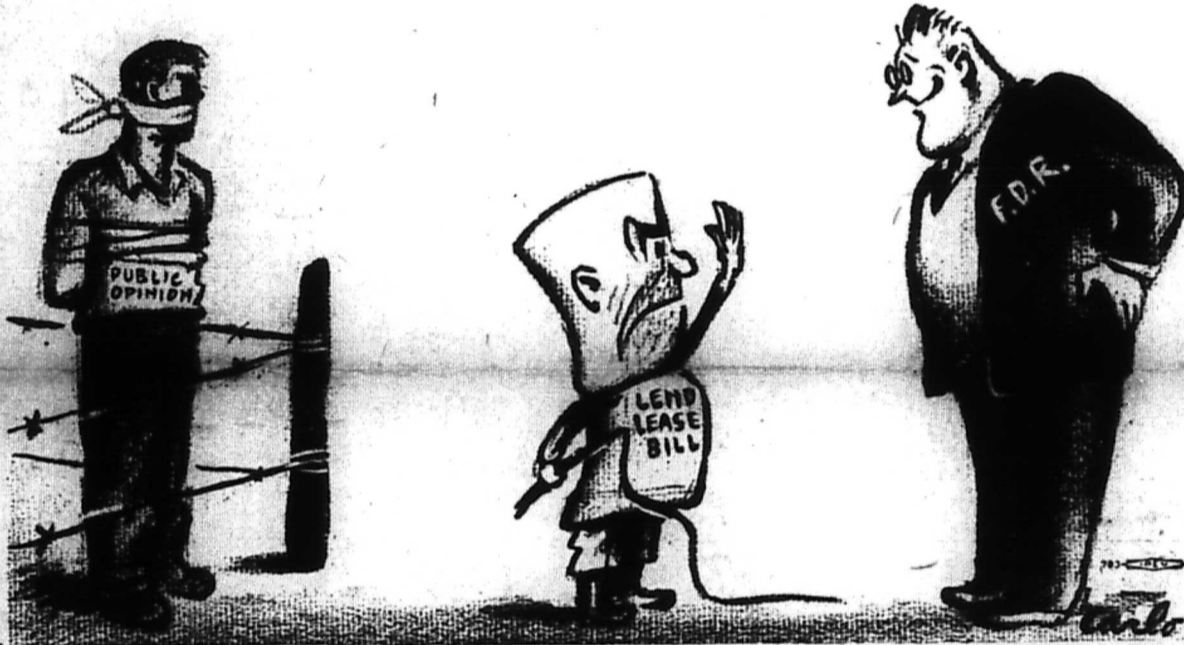
EXHIBIT C—From "The Story of Human Progress" by Leon Marshall (discussing monopolies):

"...Shrewd men have found many ways to make gains without rendering service.

"They form monopolies and charge monopoly prices. They destroy carloads of potatoes so that the price of the remainder will be higher." Etc., etc.

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HEIL DEMOCRACY!



Youth Congress Fails To Answer Youth Needs

The "Town Hall Meeting of an 'individual' basis) and with Youth" run by the Stalinist-controlled American Youth Congress from New York, the complete bankruptcy of the Youth Congress as a representative body of American youth was revealed. With the sentation to the meeting was on undemocratic procedure and a pro-

Stalin program, the AYC proved itself useless as a rallying ground for anti-war youth.

Procedure was typical of Stalinist totalitarianism. No discussion of the agenda was permitted, although the body of delegates were asked to vote for it! All requests for the floor had to be handed in, listing the name of the speaker and the "specific topic" to be discussed. This permitted the Stalinist chairman to weed out "undesirable" speakers. Although a town-hall meeting is usually divided into pro and con debate on the resolutions presented, only one speaker was permitted in the first day and a half discussion to take the floor in opposition! Conveniently enough, Joe Lash, the darling "youth leader" of the pro-war Roosevelt Administration, was allowed to speak so that the Stalinists could use him as a punching bag for their "anti-war" line.

Stalinist Barrage

It was only during the last session that discussion was finally permitted. After two days of a barrage in favor of a "Moscow-Chunking-Washington Axis," "friendship with the Soviet Union," etc., the Stalinists finally permitted some genuine discussion. This was done for fear of a bad press write-up and to placate the few genuine youth organizations represented at the Congress, who were mainly anti-Stalinist.

It was during this session that Milton Miller, editor of *The Challenge of Youth*, managed to get the floor as spokesman of the YPSL, although previous attempts to get

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The question asked in the nation's capital is no longer: Will we get into the war? It is rather: WHEN will we get into the war?

The policy of the Roosevelt Administration which, from its pledge of "defend" Canada to its present Lease-Lend Bill, has been leading the country steadily into the war, is now coming to a head.

It was, thus, possible for Secretary of Commerce Jones to state bluntly a few days ago that "We're in the war now." It was possible for President Roosevelt to endorse a speech of Dorothy Thompson, in which she proposed sending an armed expeditionary force to Europe.

Draftee Tells Of Army Life

(Editor's Note—The following letter has been received by a reader from a friend of his who was drafted. The reader turned it over to us because he believed it to be of general interest and worthy of publication. We print it here as representing the point of view of one young worker who was drafted. We should be glad to print other letters from young men in the Army, describing conditions there and commenting on our program for conscripted youth. It is of course understood that all such communications will be held in the strictest confidence and all letters will be printed anonymously.)

Dear Gang—

You saw the bus. How old it was. But it was good enough transportation for conscripts. It brought us to _____, all fifty of us, in 1 state of agony.

We were herded through a huge doorway into a large hall, the Armory. Patience became the immediate attitude of us all. Questions, inquiries, scrutinies, hypocritical jokes, sadistic commands, anus-peeking, and waiting.

The food we received was slop. For lunch, rubber spare ribs. For dinner, sausages. The food was, it seems, provided by the B— Company. As the long line of hungry men files past the door, each is given an aluminum token on which is stamped: "One meal—for Selectee—the B— Company." And in the kitchen, the superior is a man who wears grey overalls with the "B— Company" written across the back.

I wonder how many dollars this company made from the sausage which was left on the tin trays by at least a quarter of these hungry men, who just couldn't stand the food?

Tomorrow's selectees will probably get hash. About four-thirty, I wanted to get out of this stinking dungeon to get, first, some fresh air, and, second, a newspaper—plus wiring Mom that I had been "accepted."

Can't Go Out

At the door a big sign warned me: "No One Is Allowed to Leave the Armory." An armed policeman stood ready nearby to enforce the warning.

One of the snotty privates was at the time soliciting telegrams for Postal Telegraph. The wire cost

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All talk of "aid short of war" has been dropped. The tune has changed to aid to England, regardless of the consequences. Senators Austin, Glass and others have frankly spoken out for war.

Even the demagogical amendment of Senator Ellender to the Lend-Lease Bill which states that it is not the policy of the United States to send troops to Europe, even that is being rejected by the Administration. ROOSEVELT WANTS NO BARRIER IN HIS WAR COURSE.

The plans are ready—only one thing is still lacking: the voice of American youth assenting to be-

OUR PROGRAM FOR THE CONSCRIPTS

- 1) Increase draftees' pay to \$60.
- 2) Complete voting rights for draftees.
- 3) Abolish Jim-Crow in the Army.
- 4) For right of draftees to retain trade-union membership.
- 5) For right of draftees to receive any kind of literature and to hold their own political forums and discussions.
- 6) For right of draftees to negotiate collectively with officers on camp conditions.

ing sent to die in an imperialist war in Europe.

For even before the war has formally begun the American people are suffering its consequences. As the munition makers rake in tremendous profits, prices of food go up; as the Winthrop Rockefellers lounge in steam-heated Camp Plattsburgh, the ordinary American youth freezes in Fort Dix.

Same Story

As in 1917, the politicians and propagandists scream about "a war to make the world safe for democracy." But the people remain extremely skeptical. They see how their democratic rights—their right to strike, for example—are being whittled away at in the name of this very "war to make the world safe for democracy."

The Gallup poll has shown that 85 per cent of the people are against entry into the war. Why is their voice not being heard?

It is necessary for us to speak up now: DEMAND THE RIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE TO VOTE ON WAR!

Wall Street wants one man to decide; we want the people to decide!

We refuse to be hijacked onto a European battlefield!

