

student

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SOCIALIST

WHAT HAPPENED TO S.W.F.?

A practical lesson in the political behavior of the Communist Party and its front group dupes in the Student Progressives is offered by the fate of the Student Workers Federation.

The S. W. F. was formed during the election campaign in the summer of 1948. Members of the Young Progressives, the Socialist Youth League, and unaffiliated student workers joined together to build the organization.

The Young Progressives who were then busy shoving Wallace and Taylor into the White House weren't very interested in this organization and being a minority from the very beginning, were defeated several times in their attempts to turn the embryo union into a front group for their reactionary political ends. (over)

SOCIALIST YOUTH LEAGUE
MEETING - TOPIC:

THE UAW AND WALTER REUTHER

THE MOST IMPORTANT LABOR BOOK OF THE
YEAR

To be reviewed by STAN WEIR, former
UAW shop steward.

TIME: This Sunday, 8:00 pm
PLACE: AVC Clubhouse, 2114 Durant Ave.

ADMISSION FREE - REFRESHMENTS

READ LABOR ACTION!

TOP STALINISTS CONVICTED!

Last week the eleven top leaders of the American Communist Party were convicted under the Smith Gag Act. There is no space with which to go into the intricacies of the law itself, although an examination of the Act, under which first Trotskyists and then Stalinists were tried, is a real exposure in itself of our 'democratic' processes.

The important thing is to recognize that the Stalinists' conviction is not merely one more abrogation of our civil liberties, but that it is a long step toward WAR! The government knows it must destroy the American Stalinists as an organization before shooting begins.

FIGHT AGAINST THIS CONVICTION AND HELP
STAVE OFF AN ATOMIC WAR!

✓ THE REGENT'S LOYALTY OATH

The 'gentlemanly and intelligent' discussions that have been going on between the Academic Senate and the Regents resemble the sort of mature deliberations that take place between a small rodent caught in the steel jaws of a trap and the owner of the trap.

Unfortunately, the way the professors have chosen is to assure oneself beforehand of losing.

Every since the first announcement of the loyalty oath, the Regents have shown no inhibitions in doing what they think necessary to get the oath across. They carefully delayed a public statement of the 'new policy' till just after the spring semester was over thus catching both students and faculty off guard. From then till now all that has had
(over)

WHAT HAPPENED TO S.W.F.? (cont.)

Finally, in the fall of 1948, just after the national elections ended, the S.W.F. was recognized by the A.S.U.C. as a legitimate on-campus student organization.

This was the signal for the young Stalinists to call out about 100 of their hand-raising stooges to take over the organization and to elect their own officers.

A variegated and heterogenous caucus arose to defend the union from the inevitable disintegration and mauling which accompanies control by Stalinists. It brought forward a program for building the S.W.F. into an all-embracing and democratic organization to fight for the rights of working students. A bitter factional struggle ensued during which the Stalinists took over control.

That was almost a year ago. What has happened to the S.W.F. under the control of these champions of the working class? The Stalinists packed the organization so full of people who were not even slightly interested in its future that IT WAS NEVER POSSIBLE TO GET A QUORUM DOWN TO ONE BUSINESS MEETING AFTER THEY SEIZED CONTROL. The union literally fell apart. Some of their own members resigned from the executive committee leaving a small handful of bureaucrats to control the funds and the future of an organization which once had excellent possibilities.

This is the answer to those timid souls who decried 'factionalism' in the S.W.F. This is the future of any organization which falls into the hands of the young totalitarianism in the Communist Party.

If you want further information about the activities and program of the Socialist Youth League, fill out this blank and mail it to us:

c/o Labor Action
466-10 th St. Rm. 218
Oakland, Calif.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

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THE REGENTS' LOYALTY OATH (cont.)

to be done is to give a show of conferring with the Academic Senate.

The fundamental mistakes made by those who oppose the new loyalty oaths were twofold: first, to make the issue appear as the Regents wanted - a morass of equivocation over the form rather than the content of the proposal; and second, to restrict the fight to one simply between the faculty and Regents - thus cutting off the broad base of support obtainable from the entire student body, both graduate and undergraduate.

It is true that the Stalinists have made a more general attack on the oath, however their leadership - with its "rule or ruin" tactics - has been so generally discredited among the more politically conscious students that the CP opposition has no real effect.

There is nowhere else one can turn to find an organization capable of developing and giving leadership to the broad masses of students. Certainly not the ASUC, for only a dim reflection of student feeling ever reached its Executive Committee - which took hours of debate and then a narrow vote even to decide NOT TO BE NEUTRAL!

The lesson to be drawn from the loyalty oath fiasco is that until at least the skeleton of an independent organization of students can be built, the students' protests - even in the mild and retarded form they take today - have no way of being channeled into significant action.

An example of what can be done is found in the recent events at New York City College, where the students rather matter of factly voted for and went out on strike over the presence of anti-Semitic and anti-Negro instructors on the faculty.

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