

Detroit's Jobless Organize Campaign For Jobs for All

By Robert Black

(The following article was written by a YS supporter while active in the unemployed workers' movement in Detroit.)

DETROIT—The recent demonstration of 1,000 unemployed workers, including many youth, before Detroit's Common Council has had a major impact on this city and on the country as a whole.

As a result of the militant organized action of the unemployed, a U.S. Senator threatened to introduce a bill in Congress calling for 30 hours work for 40 hours pay; Walter Reuther and the whole UAW leadership have been put on the spot to act for the unemployed; the governor and state legislature are considering the demand of unlimited extension of unemployment benefits.

The Detroit Free Press, spokesman for big business in the state, greeted the initiative of the un-

Other signs demanded, "public works—homes, schools and hospitals," "Unemployment compensation for entire period of unemployment," "Moratorium on debts—No foreclosures, no evictions."

Banning overtime during periods of unemployment was another demand paraded on the posters.

On the 13th floor of the City Hall, Common Council was in session. Three delegates from the UAW's Skilled and Production Workers Unemployed Committee, which sponsored the demonstration, presented their demands to the Council. The gallery, with seats for 70 people, was jammed to overflowing. More than 100 people witnessed the session.

The Council heard the delegates, and promised to take up the issue more completely the following weeks. The mayor, Louis Miriani, was "out of town" on that day.

UNEMPLOYED PLIGHT

At the Council session, the delegates pointed out that 200,000 are unemployed in Detroit and 75,000 of these have exhausted their benefits. In Michigan as a whole 245,000 exhausted their benefits in 1958. Quoting from *Fortune Magazine*, one delegate said that in Michigan, 328,000 are considered "productivity unemployed," that is, out of work due to automation. Of these he quoted that 150,000 are consid-

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THE YOUNG SOCIALIST

Ten Cents

Voice of America's Future

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A chief point of interest at Oberlin College is an arch erected to commemorate the American missionaries who died in the Chinese Boxer Rebellion of 1900. Oberlin students put up their own arch to commemorate the Chinese who were killed while defending their country.

Schools, Teachers, Students Fight Loyalty Oath for College Loans

by Richard DeHaan

In Greek and German, "education" means the same thing as "culture" or "civilization." In French, "to educate" is rendered as "to elevate," while Latin *educere* means "to lead forth," "to educate." In Americanese, unfortunately, education has not been recently of so high a station.

Robert M. Hutchins, president of The Fund for the Republic, last week noted that the only way an education bill can be passed in this country is to call it a defense bill. (He was referring to the National Defense Education Act of 1958, passed by the 85th Con-

gress.) Meanwhile, the Columbia University *Spectator* believes that "the recent announcement that Russia has quadrupled its outlay for education is frightening."

This fright and the corollary belief that education should become a gambit in the Cold War was apparently communicated by the Columbia University editors to our august legislators. Their above-mentioned National Defense Education Act was consciously calculated to utilize our

national "brain power" in a crusade against Russian technical achievements. It allocated \$900,000,000 and for the encouragement of language and science (i.e. physical science and engineering) teaching. Educators, having learned not to look a gift horse in the mouth, welcomed even this pittance.

But our Cold Warriors, not knowing when to leave well enough alone, decided that no "defense" bill could be safe without tacking on additional qualifications. Thus they appended the requirement that any recipient of the loans or grants would be required to sign two loyalty oaths: one

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employed with a vicious cartoon. The unemployed are now planning a demonstration in front of the paper's offices to demand a public apology.

It all started when, on January 12, 1,000 unemployed picketed Detroit's Common Council to demand that it endorse the 30 hour week at 40 hours pay. Signs saying, "30 for 40 means 200,000 jobs in Detroit alone" and "The 30-hour week means another shift," were carried by demonstrators.

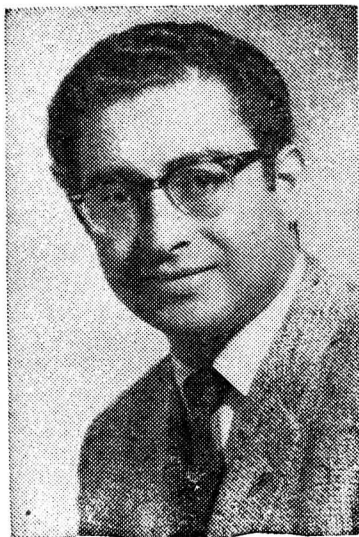
"SCHOOLS SHOULD TEACH THE TRUTH":

LA Young Socialist Runs for Bd. of Education

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—After a vigorous and successful petition campaign, Peter Buch, a 24-year-old YOUNG SOCIALIST supporter, placed his name on the ballot for the spring elections to the Los Angeles Board of Education, office No. 3.

Buch holds a B.S. degree from U.C.L.A. and is presently continuing his studies there. He is also active in the Eugene V. Debs Club, a U.C.L.A. student socialist discussion group. While distributing and selling the YOUNG SOCIALIST near campus, he was red-bated and slandered by the *Daily Bruin*, U.C.L.A. student daily, and became known as the only open, public advocate of militant socialist activity at the university.

"Our schools should teach the truth," declared Peter Buch. "Not only is socialism misrepresented and the real nature of the war-breeding capitalist system concealed in the classrooms, but the actual profound role in American history played by the labor move-



PETER BUCH

ment, the Negro people and other minorities is either ignored or distorted."

"As the only socialist in this campaign," Buch stated, "I will

run on an anti-war platform calling for education toward world peace. As a student as well as a socialist, I demand the abolition of all loyalty oaths and thought-control measures that constrict independent thinking and genuine learning, restoration of academic freedom for both students and teachers, and granting the students a voice in the administration of their schools.

COLD WAR TEACHES FEAR

"The cold war atmosphere permeates our schools. Every care is taken to teach the students how to crouch furtively under desks in atomic drills—presumably for 'protection' against missile-bomb that gouges a mile-wide crater out of the ground with only a few seconds' warning."

"As a Board of Education member," Buch went on to announce, "I would call for a halt to the senseless drills that only terrorize our children with cold war neuroses. The billions now ear-

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Pickets to Bring 'Kiss Case' Before UN

(For a background story on the "Kiss Case," "A Southern Town becomes a Battlefield of Prejudice," see page 3).

NEW YORK—A mass picket line of mothers and youth in front of the UN building here is being planned by the Youth Committee to Free Hanover Thompson and David "Fuzzy" Simpson for Friday, Feb. 20, 2:30-5 P.M. The aim of the demonstration is to bring the famous "Kiss Case" to the attention of the UN General Assembly, which is opening on that day. The Committee feels that the Declaration of Human Rights should apply to the U.S. as well as the rest of the world.

The Youth Committee, which is an affiliate of the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice has been carrying on extensive activities over the last month to free the two boys from reform school. Committee representatives have spoken before NAACP youth councils, church groups and college organizations in the New York area as well as throughout the country. On February 1, the Youth Committee held a reception for Robert Williams and Dr. Perry of the Monroe N.C. NAACP. Close to 100 persons, largely Negro and white teenagers, attended.

In expressing his gratitude for the work being done by the Youth Committee, Williams gave special thanks to the YOUNG SOCIALIST. Describing the visit to Monroe by Nora Roberts and Joan Garrett of the YS, he said that when they arrived the local NAACP didn't even have a lawyer for the boys. It was the YS reporters that suggested Conrade Lynn and upon their return to New York told their story to Lynn, he stated.

DISCUSSION:

We Should Favor 'Peaceful Coexistence'

(The following communication was received from A. Robert Kaufman, YS Corresponding Editor for Baltimore, in answer to our invitation to discuss the question of "peaceful co-existence with Scott Nearing in our December issue. Evelyn Sell of Detroit comments on the same topic in the January issue.)

It is correct to say that the last great barrier to a world of peace and plenty is the capitalist system. In order to ensure peace we must, therefore, destroy capitalism.

However, this does not mean that a policy of peaceful co-existence between blocks of nations is not something which socialists should advocate. Peaceful co-existence, let us remember, means primarily an end to the cold war. It also means no historical need or excuse for infringements on freedom and democracy on either side of the great ideological divide.

The co-existence which followed World War II lasted only until peace-time production had fully met effective consumer demand and then the Frankenstein monster of capitalism was re-established—i.e. the problem of surplus production and underemployment of workers in a world of need.

Twenty percent of the gross national product of the United

States is now devoted to producing war materials. Millions of workers are employed in various phases of our war industry as well as the armed forces.

What do you think would happen to these men and to the entire capitalist economy should the arms race end? We would have a depression far greater than the one of the Thirties. Capitalism could never survive such a depression. The American socialism

which would grow out of such a capitalist crisis would remove the last great barrier to peace and plenty.

The capitalists well know that peace equals depression which equals the end of their rule. It is for this reason that they oppose peaceful-coexistence. It might very well be that we can hasten the downfall of capitalism through the popular demand for co-existence.

Boston Young Socialists Plan Conference

BOSTON—With the formation of the Harvard Radcliffe Socialist Club in November of this year, the ice was broken in the Boston area for socialist activity on campus. Almost simultaneously and independently a discussion group was set up at M.I.T. for the purpose of studying socialism. Since November socialist students from different campuses have been discussing the possibility of forming an inter-college socialist grouping.

Then in December Tim Wohlforth came to the Boston area and spoke at Harvard, Brandeis and Boston University. He also spoke before an informal group of socialists representing different colleges around the Boston vicinity. This led to the organization of a committee for the formation of a United Socialist Student group of Greater Boston.

This committee is calling a conference for February 22 of all socialist students from the campuses around Boston for the formation of the group mentioned above.

The committee and the organization to be formed is and will be open to socialists of different tendencies. The committee itself contains the Y.S. and YPSL Boston representatives plus a variety of independent socialists.

The conference is expected to draw students from M.I.T., Harvard, Radcliffe, Brandeis, Boston College, Wellesley and Tufts.

Detroit's Jobless Organize Campaign . . .

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ered permanently unemployed.

Another of the delegates described machines that compile data from blueprints, feed it to tapes, and these tapes run lathes, milling machines, grinders, presses, drills and so on without the aid of workers. "All this could be a good thing," the delegate said, "but the present results of it make it a threat to employment instead."

At the surplus food stations in Detroit, people received for the month of January, one pound each of rice and butter. "That's about \$1 worth of food." One man said angrily while picking up his food, "I could have bought about as much with the carfare I spent to come down here and pick up this food."

It was also pointed out at the Council session that the future looks grim. Ford's Rouge factory has laid off 100 with more to follow from its glass plant. The en-

gine plant has just gone on a 4-day week.

One thousand unemployed a day exhaust their benefits in Mich., 100 a day lose their homes, often with only a few payments to go, and 1 out of 3 will be denied welfare, who are not first discouraged from applying. Welfare aid has been further cut by the labor-endorsed Mayor of Detroit, Miriani. Evictions mount daily.

Many of the nation's unemployed are young people, ex-G.I.'s, and the hundreds of thousands of students poured into the labor market each year.

The conditions here led a handful of young unemployed workers to begin the organization of an unemployed committee.

The international leadership of the UAW had done nothing about unemployment or 30 for 40. These workers made the rounds of the local unemployed councils and unions and called a meeting late in December to set up a city wide

committee. The meeting was successful and plans were made for action.

A group went to meet with Sen. McNamara (Dem.-M.) to ask him to introduce a bill in Congress for the 30 hour week. At first he refused, but later said he would do so providing Walter Reuther sent him a letter saying he supported the move. Reuther and McNamara have done nothing since then. The committee attempted to meet with Reuther. The militant unemployed did not let their actions begin and end with politicians and labor bureaucrats. More than 30,000 leaflets were passed out by willing hands to bring the unemployed out to demonstrate on Jan. 12, at City Hall.

Detroit Common Council members unofficially stated they would support the 30 hour week, but like McNamara, only if Reuther supported it. This escape route is rapidly becoming a well blazed trail.

When news of McNamara's "promise" hit the papers, Reuther sent a six point statement to the press for the next day. None of the six points included 30 for 40. This was Reuther's answer.

The behavior of these politicians shows that labor endorsement of them was a mistake. The unemployed are learning this lesson and are beginning to understand that a third party—a labor party—is needed to fight unemployment.

On the state level, Democratic "friend of labor" Gov. Williams has shown no more consideration of the problems of the workers.

As a result of the actions of the so-called friends of labor, the unemployed are beginning to take matters into their own hands. The unemployed movement is growing and progressive. It is a good example of how working people can organize and come to grips with a problem in order to solve it and make life better for themselves and others.

It is significant that young people are in the forefront of this struggle as they have been in the fight against nuclear tests and against racial discrimination.

Canadian Students in Action

by Cliff Cotton

Developments of the past month show that Canadian students have not been silent on issues concerning them.

VANCOUVER: 500 Victoria College students booted, hung in effigy, and threw lunch bags at British Columbia's Premier, B. C. Bennet. The students demanded his resignation following the conviction of a British Columbian cabinet member, Robert Sommers, on a bribery charge.

WINNIPEG: One of Canada's most publicized civil rights cases, the firing of H. C. Crowe from the United College staff, caused 80 students to boycott classes in defense of his academic freedom. The protest was joined by 15 of the 52 members of the faculty who resigned in support of Professor Crowe. The 3,400 members of the Canadian Association of University Teachers backed Crowe completely. 104 professors from the University of Manitoba and 22 from the University of Toronto

signed petitions joining the weight of public opinion causing the resignation of the principal of United College.

OTTAWA: Two of the editors of the University of Ottawa's student paper, *La Rotunde*, were told not to return to campus because they had printed articles last spring criticizing the administration for "religious paternalism." The expulsion caused considerable protest from the students of the Catholic institution. But, with no support from the faculty, the editors lost the fight and no French student newspaper is now being published on the campus.

MONTREAL: After nine months of struggle on the part of 18,000 students, (see May-June 1958 YS) Quebec's Premier Duplessis agreed to meet representatives from six student bodies in the province. The students were protesting the Premier's refusal of a grant to college students amounting to \$16,000,000.

Young Socialist

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Luxemburg and Liebknecht

In the middle of the night on January 15, 1919, 40 years ago, Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, two of the finest revolutionary socialists of all time, were brutally murdered by military groups that later became the nucleus of the Nazi party.

Implicated in the murder, and directly responsible for it, was the Social Democratic Government of Ebert, the Guy Mollet of his day. The "crime" for which Liebknecht and Luxemburg were murdered was their leadership in the struggle against war and their support to the "Sparticus" rebellion which aimed at establishing socialism in Germany. The Second International refused to condemn the action of the Ebert Government just as today it refuses to condemn Guy Mollet for his support to France's war against the Algerian people and to deGaulle.

Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht have always had a special place in the heart of socialist youth. Rosa was probably the greatest women socialist and symbolizes the possibility of women to free themselves from the secondary position they are forced into in capitalist society and assume real leadership in the worker's movement.

Karl more than any other single individual can be considered the founder of the socialist youth movement. As early as 1904 he proposed to the Social Democratic Party that they initiate an independent youth movement whose aim would be to fight the influence of militarism over the youth. The Social Democratic leaders fearing the independence of the youth and also fearing an open confrontation with the militaristic drive of the government fought the proposal.

However, Liebknecht was able to organize a South German youth group and with this called the first international congress of socialist youth in 1907. In this venture he received the full support of Rosa Luxemburg and Lenin. The congress adopted a strong anti-militarist declaration which stated "the struggle against militarism cannot be separated from the socialist class struggle in general." In 1908 while Liebknecht was in jail for his anti-war views, the Social Democratic Party passed a resolution subordinating the youth to the party and thus contradicting the aims of Liebknecht to establish an independent youth movement.

The Socialist Party-Social Democratic Federation leadership, the legitimate heirs of Ebert and Co. likewise is afraid of the independence of the youth and insists on subordinating the Young People's Socialist League to itself. We, on the other hand, continue to champion the independence of the youth movement. Further we agree with Liebknecht's words: "If you want peace, prepare for war, war against militarism!"

YPSL Opposes Unity

In the last issue of the YS we printed an editorial challenge to the Young Peoples Socialist League in which we suggested to YPSL members that instead of orienting towards the right they move to left and seriously consider uniting with YS supporters in the joint effort to build a socialist youth movement in this country. We suggested as a programmatic basis for such a unity the YPSL members consider the editorial policy statement adopted at our Detroit conference.

On January 16 in a debate with YS editor Tim Wohlforth, Michael Harrington gave the YPSL's answer to our challenge. He flatly turned down any possibility of the two groups uniting on the basis proposed in our editorial. Further, he made it clear that he would not even accept unity with most of the YS supporters on his basis. He stated that he would oppose allowing most of the YS supporters to join the YPSL even if they choose to.

The record is now clear. We will continue in our efforts to build an independent broad and militant youth movement in the United States despite the opposition of YPSL.

YOUNG SOCIALIST CLUB LIST

- ANNAPOLIS: c/o Bob McCormick, Box 16, St. John's College.
- BALTIMORE: Socialist Study Group, c/o A. Robert Kaufman, 2738 Reisterstown Rd. LA 3-3703.
- BAY AREA: Young Socialist Alliance, 2431 Dwight Way, Berkeley, E. V. Debs Club, 2431 Dwight Way, Berkeley. Mark Twain Club, 196-A Connecticut St., San Francisco.
- BOSTON: c/o Camejo, 405 Monroe, MIT, Cambridge.
- BUFFALO: c/o Neva Kescemetic, 831 Main St.
- CHICAGO: Young Socialist Committee, c/o Calnek, 1501 E. 68 St.
- DENVER: Young Socialist Club, Box 724.
- DETROIT: Young Socialist Committee, c/o 3310 Cortland.
- LOS ANGELES: Young Socialist Committee, c/o 1702 E. 4 St.
- MADISON, Wis.: Wisconsin Socialist Club, c/o Laddan, 1026 Clymer Pl.
- MONTREAL: McGill University Socialist Society, c/o McGill Students' Union, 690 Sherbrooke St., W.
- MILWAUKEE: Young Socialist Club, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
- NEW YORK CITY: Young Socialist Alliance, Box 471, Cooper Sta.
- OBERLIN, Ohio: Oberlin Socialist Club, Oberlin College.
- PHILADELPHIA: Young Socialist Club, c/o Phelps, Apt. 4b, 3506 Powelton Ave.
- PORTLAND, Ore.: Focus, Reed College.
- RICHMOND, Ind.: Socialist Discussion Group, Earlham College.
- TWIN CITIES: Independent Political Youth, c/o Jean Bradford, 1822 La Salle Ave., Mpls.
- TORONTO: Socialist Youth Forum, LE 4-8040.
- YELLOW SPRINGS, Ohio: Socialist Discussion Club, Antioch College.

BEHIND THE 'KISS' CASE:

A Southern Town Becomes a Battlefield of Prejudice

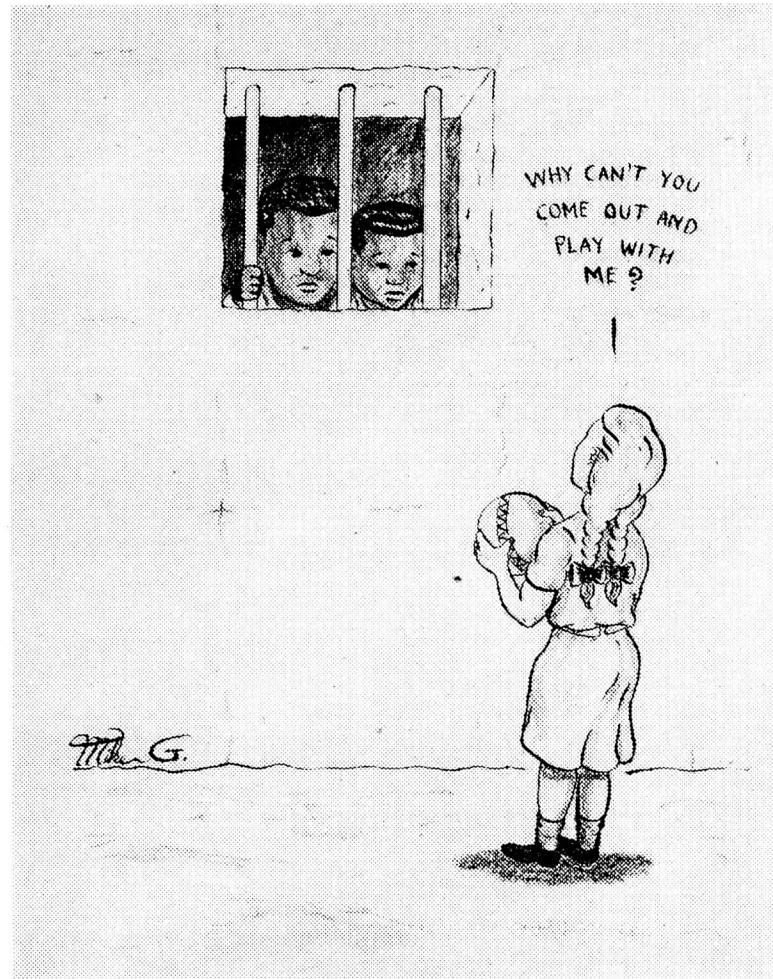
by Barbara Dority

Who will prevail in Monroe, North Carolina? Split with the knife of race hatred and violence, this Southern city received international notoriety as the city that produced the "kissing case." Two little Negro boys, eight and ten, have been thrown in a reformatory possibly until they are 21 years old for having been kissed by a white girl.

Monroe is a divided city. An increasingly typical Southern phenomena, Monroe's white and Negro population make up two armed camps. On the one side, the whites a majority in the city, have their Ku Klux Klan which has planned and carried through not only terrorist but full-scale military attacks on the Negro minority. On the other side are the Negroes, fighting to exist freely as equals with all citizens. They have organized themselves in the NAACP. They have utilized rifles, steel helmets, sandbag barricades and a grim solidarity to preserve the new dignity won by all Southern Negroes over the past few years. Monroe is a divided city and more—it is a battlefield.

How did this small Southern town become a battlefield of race prejudice? Monroe, North Carolina is located in the region known as the "Black Belt." This circular arc, which begins at the Mississippi Delta and ends in Vicksburg, Va., is the backbone of the South and the bastion of "white supremacy." The history of this state reflects all the prejudices, hatreds and violence that are part of the southern reality which retards and blocks the emancipation of the American people.

As far back as 1797 Negroes of this state petitioned to Congress for their rights. In 1829 a Negro militant, then in the North, published a pamphlet against Negro inequality. The demand for Negro higher education, federal support of education, uniform requirements of salaries for Negro and white teachers are not solely demands of the present, but also



date as far back as the Reconstruction days.

Side by side with the small gains made by the Negro in Monroe exists race violence in the form of the Ku Klux Klan, whose campaign of night-riding, cross-burning, and "evangelical rallies" have become a symbol of terror.

DEFEND RIGHTS

For the last three years the Negroes of Monroe have intensified this fight for their equality. First the battle to desegregate the town library was won with the help of the local NAACP president, Robert F. Williams. In July 1957 there was a fight to integrate recreation facilities. The Negroes were defeated in that struggle, thereby

laying the groundwork for a desegregation suit. This action brought about terrorist attacks from the Ku Klux Klan against Williams and Dr. A. E. Perry, vice-president of the NAACP. A Klan motorcade of sixty cars—headed towards Perry's home—was beaten back by the armed Negro community. And finally, last October Williams formally petitioned the Monroe school board for the transfer of his two sons to the white school. It is against this background that Monroe's most scandalous incident—the Carolina "kissing case" took place.

Like the Negroes in the South at large, Monroe's Negroes are outnumbered by whites; their un-

usual militancy is being outflanked, again like other Southern Negroes, by legal attacks. For instance, Dr. Perry has been arrested on a trumped up charge of performing an abortion on a white woman. He had joined Robert F. Williams in the fight to desegregate the local municipal swimming pool.

Recently Monroe was awakened by another case, that of a 16-year-old Negro boy who was sentenced to 110 years in prison on a manslaughter charge after a white boy was killed in a fight.

Even more recently a Negro chambermaid, Mrs. Georgia Davis, 29, in a hotel in Monroe was thrown down a flight of stairs by a white man because he claimed her calling out to another chambermaid had disturbed his sleep. She went to the police who reluctantly swore out a warrant with a very low bail. In retaliation the chambermaid is being prosecuted on an old unemployment compensation charge, accusing her of earning \$4 while drawing compensation.

LABOR ALLY

There are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of cases like these occurring every day in the South. When their cry is not heard the big fight remains isolated and the Negroes suffer another defeat. We ask ourselves what other forces can be brought to their aid.

Union attention and support must and will be attracted to the struggle in Monroe. Dr. Perry and Robert F. Williams are in the forefront of the newly formed Committee to Combat Racial Injustice, whose national committee includes Reverend C. K. Steele, leader of the Tallahassee bus-boycott. Their purpose is to spread the call for union aid to the Southern Negro. Unionization on an integrated basis is the only way Negro equality can prevail.

The most significant factor involved in this phenomena is that the Negroes have begun to seek out the support of whites who are victims of the same oppressors and will carry on a struggle with them. By the same token the entire South will begin to feel the results of "who will prevail." The struggle is not unique for Monroe but at the same time Monroe's victory will give strength and militancy to the majority of the Negroes still suppressed.

It is for us now to help the "kiss case boys," mere children, not criminals. What can we do? Donate money to help the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice win union support. Petitions to free the boys can be obtained from the committee—spread them in your community! Send money and signed petitions to the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice, Suite 1117, 141 Broadway, New York 6.

Protest College Loyalty Oath . . .

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pledging allegiance to the government and Constitution, the other swearing that the applicant does not believe in or support any "subversive" organization (Section 1001 (f), Title X, of the Act). The second of these requirements has at last goaded the sleeping giant of American academe into action. UNIVERSITIES PROTEST OATH

First, the 40,000-member American Association of University Professors sent letters protesting the oath requirement to Congressional committee members, branding the provision as "humiliating," and pointing out that it judges students to be "a particularly suspect part of your population."

Then the issue was raised even in the conservative Association of American Colleges, which has traditionally played a role vis-a-vis the AAUP somewhat analogous to that of management vis-a-vis labor. When the issue was raised at the AAC's annual meeting, proponents of the oath argued that the meeting was not sufficiently representative to ensure a democratic decision, and it was accordingly decided to poll the 750 member institutions of the Association on the question. The results of this poll have not yet been released.

Several of the member institutions, however, jumped the gun on the AAC, and made public their own views. The three Quaker colleges in the Philadelphia area, Bryn Mawr, Haverford and Swarthmore, demanded repeal of the provision, and the first two stated that they would not participate in the program unless the requirement is removed.

Three Maine colleges, Bates, Bowdoin and Colby and the presidents of Yale, Harvard and Princeton joined the protest.

None of the colleges took exception to the companion requirement of the act that applicants take an act of allegiance. To require such an oath was held to be "a necessary accompaniment of citizenship" and the "right of the Government."

At YOUNG SOCIALIST press-time, student opposition was also

beginning to form in isolated areas. The Oberlin College Student Council took a forthright stand against the requirement as did the University of Michigan and Swarthmore student councils.

But one student organization has been conspicuous in its weakness. The National Student Association joins its voice with Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Arthur S. Fleming in condemning the "loyalty" provision as unenforceable against hardcore "subversives" — who, they believe, will sign the oath anyway.

NSA: 'OATH NOT EFFECTIVE'
NSA adopted a resolution by a 23-3 vote of its National Executive Committee meeting of December 29, 1958 welcoming the National Defense Education Act with one objection. Its objection to the requirement clause is not even as courageous as those of conservative colleges. "We do not oppose positive affirmations of loyalty to the United States..." declared the student organization, "However, Section 1001(f) fails to offer a clear and unobjectionable affirmation of loyalty... will fail to eliminate those working toward the overthrow of the government, but may work hardships on innocent individuals."

Few of the protestants seem to appreciate that the oath requirement is really of a piece with the whole new-found American concern for "education." Once education becomes just another ploy in the Cold War, then there is no logical reason why "security risks" should not be summarily eliminated from it. Once education loses its basically democratic function, there is no reason why students should not be denied the presumption of innocence which is the basis of all democratic law.

There is, indeed, much to be said for the Greek belief that education has something to do with the general character of the civilization. Were Plato familiar with our educational system as an adjunct of American foreign policy, he would surely have to reaffirm his statement that "what is revered in a society will be taught there."

LA Election . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

marked for war should be channeled into higher salaries to secure better teachers, into building more and better quality schools and expanding the free lunch and health programs. No more children in the school system of Los Angeles, one of the wealthiest cities in America, should need to go hungry or without complete health care."

"Students should be given an objective consideration of socialist ideas," stated Peter Buch. "They should be taught friendship and respect for peoples of other lands"

Other points in his program call for non-discriminatory hiring of teachers and assignment of school districts; a council of representatives of labor, Negro, Mexican-American and other minority groups to supervise the selection of unbiased textbooks.

Although the office is non-partisan, the candidacy of Buch is endorsed by the Socialist Workers Party, which has supported candidates running on socialist platforms in previous elections for Los Angeles Board of Education as well as for mayor. In addition, the editorial board of the YOUNG SOCIALIST has come out in support of the campaign and its supporters in Los Angeles will actively campaign to bring Buch's proposals for better education and a peaceful, prosperous, socialist world to the workers and the students of Los Angeles.

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THE WORKERS' PARTIES ARE RESPONSIBLE:

France: Why Reaction Triumphed

Shane Mage, presently roving correspondent for the YS, was one of the founders of the paper. He was in France during the period of the Referendum and elections analyzed in this article.

By Shane Mage

CASABLANCA — Reaction has triumphed in France. The majority of the French people have given a sweeping mandate to the party of Jacques Soustelle and Michel Debre, "The Union for the New Republic," and its ultra-conservative allies, the "Independents." In doing so, they have approved the military coup d'etat of May 13, 1958, which killed the Fourth Republic. The French have voted in favor of the war against the Algerian people—a war which has as its consequences inside France steadily rising prices (further aggravated by de Gaulle's devaluation of the franc), political repression and a governmental budget so unbalanced by the cost of the war that the most elementary needs of the people must be ignored.

This is a shocking result for those who think of France as the country of liberalism and "The Declaration of the Rights of Man." So, too, is it for those who recall that less than three years ago the French sent to the National Assembly "men of the left" who campaigned on a program calling for an end to the Algerian war and the start of a new era of social progress. But especially must it be a revelation to those who had seen in the huge French Communist Party a reliable bulwark of democratic liberties.

It is incumbent upon every political conscious person to understand how France has been handed over to a militarist and quasi-fascist leadership for the next five years. Why did parliamentary democracy fail, and why were the Communist, Socialist and liberal forces all powerless before the sweep of Gaullist-Soustelle reaction?

While deGaulle himself is the best-known character in this story of the Fourth Republic, the story cannot be understood without knowledge of three infinitely more important characters: the Socialist Party, the Communist Party and colonialism.

SOCIALISTS SUPPORT REACTION

Led by Leon Blum, the Socialist Party was typically social-democratic. Swept to power (in the famous "Popular Front") by a general strike in 1936, Blum quickly proclaimed himself a "loyal administrator" of French capitalism. He did not betray his word. French capitalism was saved at the cost of a few minor reforms, while international socialist solidarity was broken by the refusal of the Blum government to intervene on the side of their Spanish Loyalist comrades.

Once far to the left of the SP, the French Communist Party became domesticated in the 1930's. When the Kremlin made deals with the French capitalists, such as the Stalin-Laval pact of 1935, the CP was obliged to support a government which the day before it had called "fascist." The CP entered the "Popular Front" in

1936, and loyally did Blum's bidding, even to the point of strike-breaking.

The two parties nevertheless retained the allegiance of the working class because they represented the only organized political force available to the workers.

Our third character, colonialism, has always been an integral element of French capitalism. French industry was backward and uncompetitive as against Germany, England and the U.S. Its archaic industrial system was shored up only by the profits streaming from a vast colonial empire, including Indo-China, Morocco and Algeria.

During the Nazi occupation of France in World War II, most French capitalists and conservatives collaborated with the Germans through the Vichy Government. A smaller section of the

On Purity and Politics

Socialists are constantly concerned that their politics uphold sound principles. The Texans, however, seem to have settled that problem. "Politics is politics," said one "Lone Star" lobbyist to a Texas Observer reporter. "Don't try to mix principle with it. Politics is pure, but you start mixing principle in it, and everything gets murky."

capitalists, principally those associated with light industry, supported the British side under the leadership of deGaulle. But in France itself, a powerful Resistance was formed, made up largely of workers, mainly socialists and communists, and their program was the establishment of socialism in France.

After the war, the Resistance movement was the strongest single political force in France, and militarily stronger than deGaulle's army and police. With the Vichy collaborators in hiding, the Communist and Socialist parties together polled an absolute majority in the first post-war elections. Nothing, it seemed, could stop France from becoming socialist.

But the Communists and Socialists, having learned nothing from the disastrous lessons of the Popular Front, pursued the same policies in 1945 and they had in 1936, and with the same results. Instead of forming a socialist government, they entered a coalition with a Catholic, capitalist and colonialist party, the "Popular Republicans." Despite the presence of Socialist and Communist ministers, this coalition government continued with a vengeance the policies of colonialism. In 1945, 50,000 Algerians were slaughtered at Setif, and Damascus was bombed mercilessly. In 1946, Haiphong was bombed, and the war in Indo-China began. In 1947, 80,000 natives of Madagas-

car were slaughtered for demanding independence.

Meanwhile, in France the CP used its prestige from the Resistance movement to persuade workers to support the coalition government. Under cover of slogans like "Produce First" and "The Strike is the Class Weapon of the Trusts," the CP for two years prevented the workers from going on strike. Most disastrous of all, the CP forced the workers' militias to disarm themselves on the basis of CP-leader Maurice Thorez slogan, "A Single Army, A Single Police, A Single State." What Thorez neglected to tell the workers was that this army, police and state were to be used against them and against the colonial peoples.

WORKERS REBEL AGAINST 'RESTRAINT'

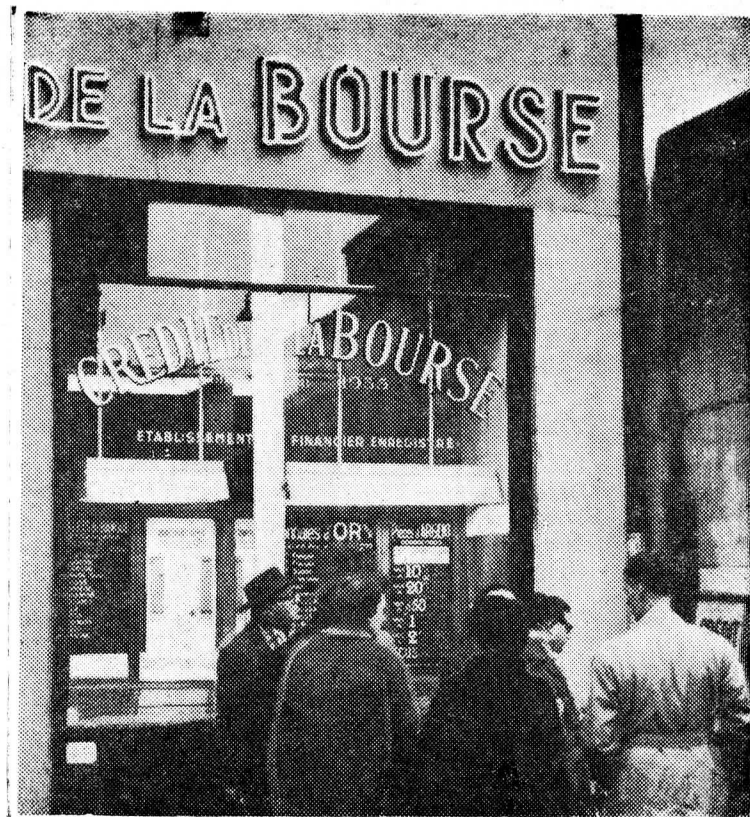
The working class, by 1947, had enough of this "restraint" and a great wave of wildcat strikes began over CP protests, including a strike at the enormous Renault automobile factory. The CP was forced to withdraw from the government, a decision which was greeted with relief by its Socialist and Catholic "friends" who were beginning to shiver in the Cold War winds blowing from Washington.

The years following the breakup of the three-party coalition were somber ones for France. The event symbolizing the period was the disastrous Indo-Chinese war, which while producing huge fortunes for some shrewd currency manipulators with government connections, ruined French finances and ate away the value of the franc.

When the CP left the coalition government, it announced that it was going into opposition; yet it followed the most sterile and ineffective policy conceivable. It steadfastly opposed any united class action against capitalism and colonialism, either as a united front of communist and socialist workers or in the form of a general strike. (In 1948, the French coal miners were defeated in a bitter two-month strike solely because the CP prevented the Renault workers from coming to their aid.) The CP frittered away the strength of the working-class movement in isolated and adventurist actions such as the "Ridge-way Riots."

Meanwhile, the first Gaullist movement, the "Rally of the French People," made its appearance in 1951, showing already the fascist stigmata of its later incarnation.

With the victory of the Indo-Chinese people at Dienbienphu in 1954 and the emerging of powerful anti-colonial movements in Tunisia and Morocco, it seemed for a moment as though a change was in the offing. The liberal Pierre Mendès-France became premier, negotiated a settlement in Indo-China and promised autonomy to Tunisia. At the same time, however, he continued the repression in Morocco and Algeria, and then cut his government's political throat by forcing German rearmament through the National Assembly in January, 1955.



People stand in front of a closed stock exchange office in Paris, discussing De Gaulle's decree pegging the franc at 493.7 to the dollar instead of the previous 420. The effect of the devaluation move was to lower the ability of the French workers to buy foreign goods.

With the end of the Mendès-France "experiment," French colonialism faced a yet more serious threat: the Algerian revolution, which had broken out in October, 1954. The Faure-Pinay government, which succeeded that of Mendès-France, abandoned Morocco in order to concentrate on Algeria, but to no avail. The Algerian revolution flourished in the face of all that French militarism could offer.

GOVERNMENT FACES ALGERIA

The last great hope of the Fourth Republic came in the elections of January, 1956. The "Republican Front," headed by SP-leader Guy Mollet, was brought to power on a promise to end the Algerian war and to carry through real social reforms.

As it was the last hope of parliamentary democracy, so was it the last betrayal of the "Popular Front." Instead of ending the war through negotiation, Mollet—through his Socialist minister, Lacoste—intensified it by a policy of military "pacification." On the basis of special powers voted by all parties, including the Communists, the war took on the macabre character of massacre and torture which is now all too familiar. Into the bottomless pit of Algeria also went all hope of social reform, as inflation wiped out the gradual improvement in the French workers' real wages.

The Mollet government was beset by many contradictory forces in its prosecution of the Algerian war: the intransigent colons, the inexorable economic necessity of ending the war and the mute presence of the French working class—paralyzed by the CP's direct and indirect support of the war, but capable at any time of spontaneous revolutionary action against it.

These forces finally came into open collision on May 13, 1958, when, rightly suspecting that the Paris government was preparing to negotiate with the Algerians, the army and colons, of Algeria staged their coup d'Etat. The rebellion could have been easily

crushed, as is now generally recognized, and a similar coup in France itself could have been put down instantly by workers' militia and a general strike.

But the Pflimlin government was far more frightened of such measures than of the fascist plotters of May 13, for both it and they represented the same capitalist order. To break with the army would have meant relying on the power of the working class.

The SP-Popular Republican government did not seek to put down the revolt, but to capitulate to it. The CP did not desert them in this, but supported Pflimlin and Mollet absolutely and uncritically, even going so far as to join in a vote of confidence in the arch-conspirator, Salan. The CP opposed the tendencies in the labor movement, such as the Teachers' Union, which called for a general strike. "Unnecessary and provocative," they said, "for Mollet and Pflimlin will defend democracy against deGaulle."

When Pflimlin and Mollet had finally turned over absolute power to deGaulle, the CP posed as the only "real" defender of democracy. But its record is written in its parliamentary votes and in the pages of L'Humanite during those crucial May days: the CP had acted as an effective accomplice in the murder of the Fourth Republic.

Disillusioned with Socialist and Communist betrayal, the workers turned to deGaulle, the only real force in France. Their defeat set back progress everywhere in the world. It behooves all of us to learn the lesson of that defeat.

It has aptly been said that socialists today are used by the bourgeoisie to do the dirty work which no capitalist party could get away with. The regeneration of socialism requires a sharp break with the old traditions of parliamentary maneuver and popular front with liberal capitalists. It was the workers' parties which organized the workers' defeat in France. That defeat can be overcome only by united, militant and democratic working-class action.

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