

The Campus

TROTSKYITE

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STATEMENT OF POLICY

With the appearance of THE CAMPUS TROTSKYITE, the voice of revolutionary socialism will again be heard on the Berkeley campus. THE CAMPUS TROTSKYITE will be published at least monthly by the UC unit of the Socialist Youth League, youth section of the Workers Party.

The Workers Party is by no means the only political group of which students will, in various ways, hear on campus. Nor will it even be the only group on campus which claims the name Marxist: There will of course be different Stalinist groups -- nowadays principally the Communist Party all alone --- who suffer from the impression that it is possible for Marxists to be Russian patriots; there may be something heard from the Socialist Party and the Social-Democratic Federation who in their politics of class-collaboration practice "a mystic unity of what is and what should be;" the student may also hear from the Socialist Workers Party, which abandoned the practice of thought in 1941, when Trotsky died - and perhaps from the Socialist Labor Party, which stopped thinking even earlier, some four decades ago, when DeLeon died. And of course (although hardly to be mentioned in quite the same breath with the groups above which can at least pretend) there will be Tweedle-Dum and Tweedle-Dee, the Republican and Democratic parties, respectively.

All of these groups share one property: In considering the giant conflict between the United States and Subsidiaries and Russia and Subsidiaries, each of these groups makes a choice - of

one side or the other, depending upon the group --- but nevertheless a definite choice to give its allegiance to one of the two contenders listed above.

Let us examine both the capitalistic "West" and the so-called communist "East" to see what it might mean to choose one or the other of them rather than some different possibility. Right in California, for example, unemployment, according to news reports, is increasing, and this trend is nation-wide; the weakness of our economy is well demonstrated by the stock decline, coming just after the recent Russian 'peace' feelers, which, as feelers go, were really not very strong and pressing. The visible effects of the disintegration of our social system surround us on every hand; it cannot be doubted that we live in the era of the demise of capitalism. But does the so-called communism of the new Russian Empire provide any better perspective? It may be more stable -- we do not know so much about bureaucratic-collectivist economy as about capitalist economy: But with its forced labor, its brutal exploitation, its obscurantism toward science, it is certainly not the society in which most persons would choose to live. It is sometimes claimed that Russia is a workers state, that the wealth of the country is available not to vested class interests, but only to the benefit of the workers and peasants, i.e. the people. But even a quick glance at the many authoritative works on the Russian state suffices to disabuse any but the most biased of this notion. (Continued on page 2.)

Most of the politicians would have us believe that we must of necessity choose one of these sides; almost all groups admit that both sides are perhaps at least a little evil, but they ask us to choose the lesser evil of the two. The Workers Party is alone among the political parties of this country in its rejection of this kind of choice, a choice between two kinds of society which are now engaging in a monumental struggle to answer the question, which of them is to have the right to oppress the vast majority of the peoples of earth. Both capitalism and Stalinism are exploitative and oppressive systems for the rule of a special class over the majority of mankind. The Workers Party is a party of revolutionary socialism in the tradition of Marx, Lenin, and Trotsky: As such, it fights for the victory of the working classes of all countries over their oppressors, whether capitalists or commissars. Our policy is one of uncompromising opposition to the Third Imperialist War; of international socialist struggle against the ruling classes of both the United States and Russia, and for the construction of a world-wide democratic socialist society.

GERMANY: THE WORLD IN MINIATURE

The struggle for Berlin is representative of the struggle for Germany - for the industrial potential of the most highly developed country in Europe. As after every imperialist war, the thieves, none too amicably, are dividing the spoils: In the UN halls are heard the niggling voices of rival imperialist diplomats -- and in the crushed and blackened German cities is heard the tramp of the occupation armies. Especially in Berlin is the struggle between the USA and Russia a real thing in the lives of the German working class, for here the rivals are clearest --

the despotism of Russian forced labor and the oppression of capitalist imperialism. In Berlin, one might suppose, this rivalry must drive the German workers to one side or the other more quickly and definitely than elsewhere.

But the workers of Berlin have refused to champion one potential exploiter against another: They now support the Social-Democrats --- not because they fail to see the bankruptcy of this party's reformist and conciliatory policies, but because it is the only fairly independent working class party opposed to the Stalinists. The Berlin workers receive American airlift aid, but are completely cynical about the "good will" of their American masters. The hatred of the working class for both occupying powers has been shown by strikes demonstrations, pitched battles, and the recent Berlin vote. The policy of the German revolutionary is clear: To enter the social-Democracy, form a left wing within it, and break the German workers away from the present conciliatory and pro-American leadership.

It is the elementary duty of every international socialist, in fact of every honest liberal, to demand the immediate withdrawal of all occupation troops. It is the duty of all German socialists and workers to fraternize with the ordinary troops of the occupation and to explain to them the reactionary policy of their leaders. In this, all support to the German workers! Neither Washington nor Moscow! This is the only road to socialism!

THE CAMPUS TROTSKYITE welcomes correspondence. Letters, to be suitable for publication, must be not more than 150 words long. NOTE: IN the next issue of THE CAMPUS TROTSKYITE, we shall publish what we believe to be the first English translation of the recent genetics Ukase of the Russian government.

A CRITIQUE OF THE LATEST STALINIST APOLOGY FOR RUSSIAN SLAVE LABOR

The last issue of the "Communist Campanile," a moth-eaten monthly put out by the local section of the International Brotherhood of Russian Patriots, has strained at a camel and swallowed a knot. By attempting to examine the so-called "myth" of slave-labor in Russia, they have so thoroughly indicted themselves as ignoramuses that it is almost embarrassing to attempt a reply.

Their thesis can be presented in a sentence: Large amounts (five millions) of slave laborers cannot exist in Russia because it is physically impossible to transport 5,000 men per week on the "single-track" trans-Siberian railway. This guilty argument is sponsored by--hold your breath--the Dean of Canterbury. Let us stop to consider the metamorphosis undergone by religion in the Stalinist Weltanschauung. Religion, you see, is no longer the opium of the people. "Bad"(anti-Stalinist) religion is worse than an advanced case of syphilis, while "good"(fellow-traveling) religion is like a mild case of gonorrhoea--it won't hurt you as long as you administer some "progressive" penicillin in the appropriate places.

In any case, the Stalinists do admit the existence of slave-labor in Russia. They admit "corrective labor," however, and try to compare its significance to prison labor in the U.S. This is a false analogy because capitalism demands a "free" labor force, i.e., a working class which is "free" to sell its labor for wages or starve to death, and which is "free" from the means of production. The system of bureaucratic collectivism in Russia is a new class society and therefore the forms of exploitation differ from "wage slavery" under capitalism, and state-slavery becomes an important economic category.

But don't the Dean of Canterbury's mathematical laborings disprove the existence of slave-labor? About as much as the scribbling of Lysenko(the Russian genetics "expert") disproves the science of genetics. In the first place, all state-slaves are not sent to Siber-

ia. The "camp clusters" are scattered through the length and breadth of the Russian empire, wherever the existence of raw materials(lumber, coal, metals) or the need for public works(roads, canals, railroads) makes it possible to use the Russian worker in the interests of the Russian ruling class. And in the second place, the trans-Siberian railway has been double-tracked since around 1932; and what's more it was made into a double-tracked railroad by SLAVE-LABOR. These people are completely ignorant of the very country they are trying to sell to the world as Socialism.

There is a further hidden premise in this Stalinist syllogism about the trans-Siberian railway which makes a caricature of their entire argument, i.e., the assumption that the slaves travel on a first-class railway coach. As a matter of fact, the conditions of transporting these lower-class pariahs of the "class-less" society have been ably documented in books like "The Dark Side of the Moon." The following quote just touches the horror of these cattle-trains. "The fifty or sixty...persons accidentally herded together in each of the hundreds of cars were all suffering from shock...thirst... hunger, fatigue, epidemics, sores, vomiting..." Now from the Stalinists' own figures it is possible to say that 5,000 persons could be transported in this manner in ONE FREIGHT TRAIN of 100 cattle-cars!

But why go on? Is it not clear that these people are defending something indefensible, and are guilty of the unpardonable crime of palming-off this prison-state as socialism? But the Russian slave-state and its foreign representatives have been caught more than once with their pants at half mast. This will not deter them in the slightest. One stands abashed at the amount of evidence on slave labor but they are religious about their HEAVEN. Reason stands helpless. They are the greatest enemies of socialism and progress in the world today; and must be exposed continuously and fought vigorously by all progressive people.

R.O.T.C.: ROBOTS FOR WAR

Many students are perturbed and annoyed at having to spend their first two years in college dressed up like tin soldiers in that tight little institution called ROTC. But most of them accept this situation as a part of normal campus life.

To refresh the memory of newcomers as to the attitude held by the average student some ten years ago, we will quote a small section from an excellent report prepared by the A.S.U.C. Peace Committee in 1939.

"Squads suddenly start to whistle the Fascist National Anthem. Lines often deliberately waver and sag when passing in review. Squads report in regulation uniform--except that instead of the required brown shoes, they appear in white or tennis shoes. Uniforms are deliberately wrinkled and left unpressed. The bolts of rifles are opened and exposed to rain so that the mechanism rusts. Barrels are 'accidentally' dropped into the mud. Dust is poured into the muzzle of the gun."

This type of sabotage is, of course, not an efficient way to fight militarism but it shows clearly what the prevalent attitude was. The present "cold war" atmosphere in the U.S., with the jingoistic nonsense which goes with it, has frightened the average student into apathetic submission to these bemedalled petty-bureaucrats and has prevented an active regrowth of a healthy anti-militarist tradition in the student body.

Students should not be fooled by the hypocritical argument that compulsory ROTC is necessary because this is a "land grant" college or because we must produce a crop of 2nd. Lieutenants. As the report of the Peace Committee shows, the Regents have the right to abolish ROTC; and God knows we have enough brass on this one campus to coat the football stadium with a six-foot layer.

Why then is two years of military 'science' a requirement of

this University? The answer is twofold--in the first place, the petty-militarists (the student officers) need a lot of guys to boss around to get in practice for the real army; and secondly, and even more important, the basic course in ROTC is an ideal place for the army to stuff its anti-democratic, anti-working class ideas down the recalcitrant throats of innocent undergraduates.

As the diplomacy of the third imperialist blood-bath proceeds unabated, we can expect to see more attention and funds being given to military 'science' and its well-fed high priests. In short, we will see the total pattern of the peace-time army being reduced to its smallest common denominator and highest absurdity in these two years of 'basic' ROTC.

SOCIALIST YOUTH LEAGUE EVENTS:

Street Meeting: Friday, Feb. 18
at 12:00 noon, at Sather Gate.
Subject: SOCIALISTS AND THE THIRD
WORLD WAR.

SOCIAL: Saturday, Feb. 19, 8:00
at AVC Clubhouse, 2114 Durant
Admission 50 cents. Food. Beer.

READ: THE NEW INTERNATIONAL
FOREMOST journal of revolutionary
Marxism in the United States.

available each month at Wheelans
Cigar Store, corner of Bancroft
and Telegraph. Price: 25 cents.

For information on the S.Y.L.
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(The labor required to put out
this sheet has been donated by
members of the S.Y.L.)