

Sept. 20, 1938

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fee of \$460 per quarter of 12 weeks is charged. In this connection it is interesting to note that students and teachers alike are required to work 15 hours per week in the summer and 20 hours in the winter, at community tasks such as chopping wood, farming, milking, cooking, etc.

It is stated that prospective students do not need much money outside of their tuition inasmuch as the nearest town is 12 miles from the school and the only things for which they have occasion to spend money are the purchase of stamps, tobacco and an occasional moving picture.

The courses at Commonwealth as advertised in the releases, include:

Strike Strategy and Picketing
Methods of Negotiation
Union Recreation
Labor Publicity
Editing Shop Papers
Mimeograph Technique
Economic Problems
Public Speaking

Contracts and Union Management
Union Bookkeeping
Conducting of Meetings and Union Methods
Writing Leaflets
Current History
Labor Dramatics

Instructions are also given particularly in the discussion of "social trends in the United States today and determination of the rights of the worker and his place in the economic set-up of the United States".

According to the Peoples World under date of August 31, 1938, Communist daily paper for the west coast, the faculty of Commonwealth College is secured mainly from agricultural, industrial and professional workers in the south and the west. With reference to the student body and faculty of Commonwealth, it is interesting to note at this point that "Revolt on the Campus" by James Wechsler, he states as follows:

"Even the respectable citizenry of Mena, (Ark.) long ago repudiated any connection with it. Here you will be unable to find over-zealous trustees, keeping vigil over the students minds, or adolescent alumnai, pining away for triple threat half-backs. A man who assumes a teaching post in the institution does not automatically surrender

*(Subsequent information indicates that this rate has been reduced to \$50.00.)

Re: Commonwealth College

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his right as an American citizen; he is allowed and expected to speak his mind and to act when convictions so impel him."

The publication, Federated Press for July 7, 1938, states that Carl Jaessler, Managing editor of Federated Press, was to have begun a ten week summer lecture series beginning on July 4, 1938, at Commonwealth College. Other visiting lecturers are listed, among whom are President J. R. Butler, Southern Tenant Farmers Association, Willard Uphaus, Religion and Labor Foundation, and John Woodruff, American Federation of Teachers.

An interesting article in the Peoples World for September 7, 1938, in describing an average day at Commonwealth College, states that the students arise at 6 o'clock in the morning. Study period and classes start at 7:30 and last until noon. Immediately after the luncheon period, all students work for 3 or 4 hours at the various community tasks which have been previously mentioned. After dinner, the evening is spent in such recreational activities as the students may desire.

Commonwealth College according to a descriptive article in the Peoples World for August 31, 1938, makes available its grounds and facilities for union conferences, seminars, short training courses, conducted either by leaders provided by unions, or by the school itself, or by both together. It provides members of its faculty to assist unions in setting-up and conducting classes in strategic localities where elementary training among native workers is needed. On numerous occasions, according to information which is available, students as well as faculty have been sent out to various points in the south and west for emergency duty in connection with strike activities, picketing, establishing trade union locals, propaganda work, etc.

The above mentioned article in the Peoples World for August 31, 1938, in speaking of the graduates of the school, states "its graduates are in the Spanish Army, in the Nationalist Government of Mexico, in the Libraries and Journals of the Soviet Union, in the major organizational campaigns in steel, textile and autos * * *."

Commonwealth College has been the target of bitter denunciation, several legal controversies and constant criticism by the residents

Re: Commonwealth College

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of the agricultural community in which it is located as well as the entire State of Arkansas. It has likewise attracted national attention through magazine and newspaper articles as well as by its own activities and those of its graduates. In 1935, the Arkansas State Legislature upon public pressure conducted an inquiry into the activities of Commonwealth College. A copy of the transcript of the testimony of this hearing indicates that there was considerable practice of free love prevalent at the College as well as the teaching and practicing of Communism. In the questioning of Lucian Koch, then Director of Commonwealth College, Koch advised the Committee that he was insufficiently acquainted with the Bible to state whether or not he believed in it. He said, however, that he believed he would have many disagreements with passages contained in the Bible. He likewise indicated that he did not believe in God, that he had very little respect for any form of religion, as well as the flag of the United States.

With reference to the allegations of promiscuous sexual relationship between male and female students at Commonwealth, a portion of the testimony of T. J. Thomas, a witness before the above mentioned Committee, is being set out:

Question: Have you seen men and women at the College in bathing without clothes on?
 Answer: Sure
 Question: Did you see any other indecent acts in the swimming hole, that is, any actions between students?
 Answer: No, in the swimming pool, they were just swimming
 Question: Now, any other place?
 Answer: Well, yes.
 Question: Where?
 Answer: In the woods
 Question: Naked?
 Answer: Just the same as naked
 Question: What were they doing?
 Answer: You can guess the balance of it.
 Question: Were they having intercourse?
 Answer: Yes,

Mr. Thomas' testimony was substantiated by several other witnesses who gave testimony of the same nature which would indicate that it is a fairly common practice of students of Commonwealth College to practice the theory of free love.

Re: Commonwealth College

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Sept. 20, 1938

Lucian Koch, mentioned above as Director of Commonwealth College, severed his connection with this school in 1935 and subsequently secured temporary appointment as Field Representative in the Consumers Division, National Recovery Administration

[REDACTED] b7C

The Credentials Committee of the District Council after investigating his background for a period of one month, refused to seat him. This according to newspaper articles, was the first time that a seat had ever been refused to a delegate in the District Council of the A. F. G. E.

Resentment and public pressure against Commonwealth College reached such a high degree of intensity in Arkansas, that a bill known as the Horton Bill or Arkansas House Bill #148, was introduced in the Arkansas State House of Representatives. This act was described as "an act to prohibit the teaching of any foreign doctrine of Government for the purpose of overthrowing the Government of the United States or the State of Arkansas by violence and for other purposes". The Bill prohibits the teaching of free love, Communism and nudism in any public or private school in the State of Arkansas. It also required a loyalty oath from all instructors teaching in institutions in the State of Arkansas. In introducing his bill, Representative Herman Horton indicated that this bill was aimed primarily at Commonwealth College and stated at that time that he did not understand why Commonwealth so bitterly resented the bill, because if they were not guilty, they certainly would not be affected. Lobbying Committees were organized not only in Arkansas but in several other states of the Union for the purpose of defeating this bill. It was defeated on February 18, 1937, largely through the efforts of these sympathizers and supporters of Commonwealth College.

After numerous attempts through legal means to curb the activities and maintenance of Commonwealth, the citizens of Mena, Arkansas, and neighboring communities, threatened armed forces against this school. Vigilante organizations were formed with the avowed purpose of openly invading Commonwealth College and causing its physical destruction.

[REDACTED] directed an appeal to the La Fayette Civil Liberties Committee, requesting an investigation of

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the campaign which was being directed against that institution. The LaFollette Committee, according to information available, refused to investigate conditions at Commonwealth until some overt act had occurred which would restrict the constitutional rights of the College.

In June 1937, the Bureau received a complaint from [redacted] relative to violations of the White Slave Traffic Act. [redacted] alleged that officials of the College aided in violations of the Mann Act and that immoral sexual relations at the institution were very prevalent. [redacted] was unable to substantiate his charges by any tangible evidence and the Bureau closed its case without further investigation.

The Bureau is in possession of a photostatic copy of a letter on the stationery of the Commonwealth College. On the letterhead, it describes itself as a "Southern Resident Labor School". Officers as of March 8, 1938, are listed as follows:

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Claude Williams,
Director
Donald G. Kobler,
Secretary-Treasurer

NON-RESIDENT BOARD

J. K. Butler
Wm. I. Igo
E. B. Justice
Walker Martin
Edw. H. Norman
Wm. Santner
Odia L. Sweden
John Woodruff

Roger Baldwin
Walter Bergman
John Bosch
Geo. S. Counts
Harold S. Coy
Jerome Davis
Clinton S. Golden
Lester Granger
Carl Haessler
J. B. S. Hardman
Lew Harris
Geo. Clifton Edwards
Donald Henderson

Angelo Herndon
Charles Johnson
Elizabeth Lawson
E. C. Lindeman
Grace Lumpkin
Alexander McKie John
E. F. Poulsen
A. Philip Randolph
Victor O. Reuther
Ella Robinson
James Sager
Mark Starr
Willard Uphaus

The publication National Republic for August 1938, contains a corrected list of the National Advisory Committee of Commonwealth College as of that date. It is listed as follows:

Roger Baldwin
George Counts
Jerome Davis
Grace Lumpkin
Donald Henderson
Dr. E. C. Lindeman
James Sager

Ella Robinson
A. Philip Randolph
Angelo Herndon
Lew Harris
Carl Haessler
Lester Granger
Willard Uphaus

Clinton Golden
Harold Coy
John Bosch
Walter Bergman
Prof. Alex. McKie John
Victor Reuther
Mark Starr

Re: Commonwealth College

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NON-RESIDENT BOARD

R. Butler
Wm. I. Igo
E. R. Justice
Walter Martin

Edw. H. Norman
William Sentner
Odin L. Sweden
John Woodruff

71926
C. A. Stanfield
Geo. Clifton Edwards

The article which has been previously mentioned as appearing in the Peoples World under date of August 31, 1938, indicates that Commonwealth College has been reorganized during the past few months to make it a "more distinctive trade union school with a southern orientation". It may be stated, however, that Commonwealth College at this time secures considerable publicity in the official publications of the Communist Party as well as other liberal and radical organizations. Its program and purposes are eulogized in the highest manner and efforts are constantly being made by these organizations to secure moral as well as financial support for the College. It disclaims any teaching of Communistic doctrines but the Daily Worker, official publication of the Communist Party, carries frequent advertisements of the College as well as articles praising the type of instructions which may be secured at this school.

With further reference to the support of Communist and liberal publications of Commonwealth College, it is interesting to note that under date of September 24, 1938, the Midwest Daily Record carries an advertisement of Commonwealth College in which it is stated that the fall term begins on October 3, 1938. Its courses as listed, include:

Economics
Union Methods
Labor History
Current Events
Public Speaking
Drama

The advertisement further states that the tuition cost is \$60 for three months plus 20 hours work per week (which has been previously referred to and explained in this memorandum). The article advises that information and applications may be secured from Donald G. Kohler, Secretary, Commonwealth College, Mena, Arkansas.

Baptists Fight for Again. School

Commonwealth Labor College Not Red, They Say

(Special to the Record)

MENA, Ark., Jan. 11—Baptist neighbors of Commonwealth College have risen to the defense of the labor school, recently denounced by the Arkansas State Baptist Association as "Communist and atheistic."

A request for a retraction and apology from the State Association is contained in a resolution of protest sent in today by the congregation of the Center Point Community Church, a Baptist institution. The church is two miles from the college and is frequently attended by college faculty members and students.

The Center Point congregation pointed out that its members were "neighbors and frequent visitors" of the college and called on the State Association to take cognizance of "the immense social service which Commonwealth renders the community."

"We feel that it is unjust for people who live far away and who have never once been in the neighborhood of Commonwealth College to pass judgment upon such an institution," said the resolution.

After citing the help given neighbors by the resident nurse, distribution of clothing, the fact that "no one wishing a meal is ever turned away from the Commons," and the entertainments to which the farm families are invited, the church's resolution asks:

"Compared to these services, what is the record of the Arkansas State Baptist Association in regard to meeting the social needs of Polk County?"

The church's resolution followed a formal denial of the State Association's charges by the faculty and student body of the college.

College officials today pointed out that the congregation of Center Point Community Church came "practically en masse" to the annual Christmas tree exercises on the campus, and that named ministers on the college faculty frequently preached in the church.

DAILY RECORD

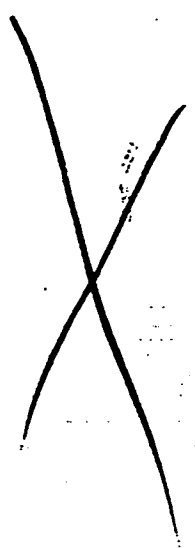
JAN 12 1939

61-7558-166N

**THE RECORD DOESN'T
HOLD UP IN THE
COMMONWEALTH COL-
LEGE LIBRARY**

For every issue is pounced upon by student hungry for accurate reports of Midwestern events. But the library is open 18 hours a day and there's plenty of time to read and study your pick of 224 other newspapers and periodicals. Spring term begins April 3. \$60 for 3 months of basic labor and progressive education—tuition, room, board and laundry. For information, write to

**Commonwealth
College**
Mena, Arkansas



DAILY RECORD

FEB 25 1939

INDEXED

61-7558-169X8

Elect Heads Of Labor College

Williams Cites Need To Win Negroes For Democracy

(Special to the Record)

MEMPHIS, Ark., March 3—

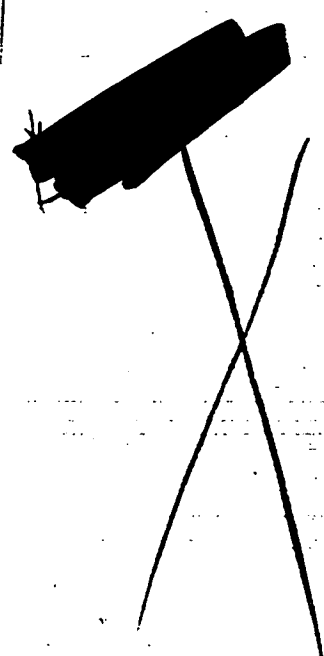
In answer to repeated "red-baiting" charges against its director, Commonwealth College has re-elected Claude Williams to that office.

The election was by acclamation at the second annual meeting of the reorganized Commonwealth College Association, governing body of the institution. The meetings was held on the college campus February 25-26.

The association approved the inclusion of a new Civil Liberties course in the college curriculum, beginning with the spring quarter, which will open April 3. Addressing the association with reference to this course, which will deal with minorities, Director Williams referred to the "increasingly acceptable foreign policy of the Roosevelt administration" and said:

"It is important that we continue our work among the Negro people. It is an illusion to believe we can correct the problems of the South without enlisting the cooperation of 25 per cent of the people of the South.

"In the light of the semi-feudal conditions of the region, the signs of chauvinism among the Negro people, the mounting anti-Semitism, the historic racial antagonisms, the Ku Klux Klan and other fertile soils for fascism, we must more than ever exert ourselves to preserve the democratic form of government by closer and broader cooperation with the awakening progressive forces of the South."



b7c

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MAR 4 1939
DAILY RECORD

61-7558-1704

Mr. Nathan
 Mr. E. A. Tamm
 Mr. Clegg
 Mr. Coffey
 Mr. Crowl
 Mr. Egan
 Mr. Foxworth
 Mr. Glavin
 Mr. Harbo
 Mr. Lester
 Mr. McInerney
 Mr. Nichols
 Mr. Quinn Tamm
 Mr. Tracy
 Miss Gandy

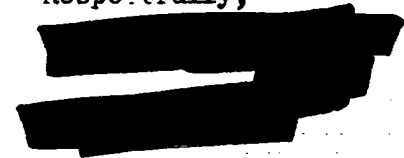
April 19, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR MR E. A. TAMM

You will no doubt recall that about two years ago Liberty Magazine ran an article exposing Commonwealth College located at Mena, Arkansas. In this article Commonwealth College and its then Director, Lucien Koch, were ~~were~~ criticised in no uncertain language for advocating and teaching Communism and for allowing the students to engage in illicit sexual cohabitation.

In this connection it is interesting to note that Lucien Koch, according to available information, has received \$500 from Liberty as a settlement on a libel action which Koch had instituted against that magazine. According to this information two other libel actions are pending against Liberty for this same article.

Respectfully,



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Authority:
 The Guild Reporter
 April 15, 1939
 Page 8

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 &
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61-7558-179

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

APR 27 1939 A.M.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WILSON Tamm

FILE

GENERAL FEDERATION DIRECTOR
MRS. ELWOOD BAKER
DERMOTT

VICE PRESIDENT
OSTER MAYFIELD
ROGERS

SECOND VICE
MR. [REDACTED]

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
MRS. R. H. OVERHOLT
COTTON PLANT

ARKANSAS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

TREASURER
MRS. F. J. WOLTMAN
2504 GROVE CIRCLE
LITTLE ROCK

RECORDING SECRETARY
MRS. FRANK GERIG
ARKADELPHIA

PRESIDENT
MRS. WILLIAM H. MCCAIN
COTTON PLANT

1938-1940

July 22, 1939

AUDITOR
MRS. A. A. GARRETT
PINE BLUFF

PARLIAMENTARIAN
MRS. J. W. VELVIN
LEWISVILLE

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Dept. of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Enclosed find copy of resolution passed by the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Federation of Women's Clubs sent to the Dies Committee.

We believe Commonwealth College is a breeding pot for Communism. As devoted Americans and loyal citizens we are asking you to use your influence in exposing this institution.

Pledging you our support in all movements for the betterment of mankind

Very sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]
Arkansas Federation of Women's Clubs

[REDACTED] mao

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RECORDED
&
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61-7558-185
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
JUL 27 1939
TAM TWO

GENERAL FEDERATION DIRECTOR
MRS. ELWOOD BAKER
DERMOTT

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
S. O. FOSTER
ROGERS

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
MRS. MINN
HARRISON

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
MRS. R. H. OVERHOLT
COTTON PLANT

ARKANSAS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

TREASURER
MRS. F. J. WOLTMAN
2804 GROVE CIRCLE
LITTLE ROCK

PRESIDENT
MRS. WILLIAM H. MCCAIN
COTTON PLANT
1938-1940

AUDITOR
MRS. A. A. GARRETT
PINE BLUFF

RECORDING SECRETARY
MRS. FRANK GERIG
ARKADELPHIA

PARLIAMENTARIAN
MRS. J. W. VELVIN
LEWISVILLE

Resolution voted by the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Federation of Women's Clubs in session at Searcy, Arkansas, June 5, 1939:

WHEREAS, There is a spirit of unrest, a feeling of intolerance, run that doctrines are being taught, opposed to our American form of government in our schools and elsewhere, and that this specific charge has been brought against Commonwealth College

THEREFORE, The Board of Directors of the Arkansas Federation of Women's Clubs, in session at the Biennial Council in Searcy, Arkansas, June 5, 1939, requests the Dies Committee to investigate Commonwealth College in Mena, Arkansas.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Room 5744

4/9

1939.

To: _____ Director
_____ Mr. Nathan
_____ Mr. Clegg
_____ ☒ Mr. Edward Tamm
_____ Mr. Glavin
_____ Mr. Crowl
_____ Miss Gandy
_____ Mr. Tracy
_____ Mr. Harbo
_____ Mr. Renneberger
_____ Mr. Nichols
_____ Mr. Quinn Tamm
_____ Personnel Files Section
_____ Files Section
_____ Miss Sheaffer

See Me For Appropriate Action

Send File Note and Return

*Believe a more
courteous letter
could have
been prepared*

Clyde Tolson

HIT WITCH HUNT AT COLLEGE

(Special to the Record)

B. MENA, Ark., May 3 — A resolution by the Forrest City District of the Arkansas State Federation of Women's Clubs calling upon the Dies Committee to investigate Commonwealth College on grounds of alleged subversive teaching" has drawn from the college an invitation to the protesting club women to join it in the investigation of certain other "un-American activities."

"An investigation of the cotton peonage system which obtains in your own area, and which is certainly subversive of the principles embodied in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, would be more worthy the attention of Arkansas club women sincerely interested in combatting un-American activities," reads a letter from David Beardsley, executive secretary of Commonwealth, to Mrs. W. H. McCain, president of the Arkansas Federation of Women's Club, a copy of which was made public by the college.

"May we inquire also," asks the college secretary, "whether your group would join us in our fight against the equally vicious Arkansas poll tax, violations of the federal minimum wage and hour laws, discrimination against labor and racial inequality."

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NOT RECORDED

MAY 4 1939

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61-7558-185X5

Commonwealth Aides Defend Folk School in Grundy County

Series of Articles Written for The Tennessean Assailed as Distorting Achievements Of Labor Institution

The following letter concerning the series of articles which appeared in The Tennessean last week about the Highlander Folk School, at Monteagle, has been received from executives of Commonwealth College, Mesa, Ark.

The Editor,
Nashville Tennessean,
Nashville, Tenn.
Sir:

"We have received clippings of the first of a series of articles written for your paper by John McDougal (Burns), purporting to 'make known the status' of the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tenn.

"Your reporter, McDougal (Burns), boasts that he approached Highlander not above board but as a 'school teacher' from another state, using a false name and concealing his car license plates. He says he accepted ten days' hospitality from the school. (Editor's Note: Burns stated in the first article of the series that he left his car behind and hitch-hiked from Chattanooga to Monteagle. He stated further that he paid the regular fee of \$2.00 per day to stay at the school.)

PURPOSE ATTACKED

"In making known the status of the school, McDougal (Burns) deliberately distorts the achievements of Highlander in the progressive Southern labor movement—its organization, education, recreation programs for trade unions and neighboring families, its nursery school, its institutes and conferences. What he went for was to try to prove that the school is Communist.

"Here are the 'Communist' activities he found:

"(1) Highlander has been visited by Anna Louise Strong and Clifford Odets, who, according to McDougal (Burns), have definite links with Moscow. If Odets has links with Moscow, and if this makes him poison to Americans, it's odd Broadway and Hollywood don't throw him out. As every newspaper reader knows, Anna Louise Strong organized the 'Moscow News' at the request of Americans employed in the USSR; of late years she has devoted much time to collecting funds for Spanish refugee babies. That well-known 'Communist,' Alf Landon, was one of the many contributors to this fund.

"(2) Highlander knows of the existence of the Communist Party in Nashville, says McDougal (Burns), even knows its address and the name of its state secretary (which has been quite constantly in the papers). A member of the Highlander staff, he says, once visited Communist headquarters. America still conserves the quaint customs of elections and voters' duty to question Republicans, Democrats, Communists, or any other party, about their platforms. Freedom of the press has never given the press jurisdiction over the freedom of citizens to investigate candidates.

SCHOOL DEFENDED

"(3) One student, who allegedly told McDougal (Burns) of having attended Communist meetings (place not specified), added that the notion of bomb-throwing Communists is out of date even for The Tennessean editorial desk. It is obvious that labor schools, like other progressive and youth organizations, do not purge their applicants according to political or religious belief or national or racial origin. It takes all sorts to make a school, as our American free public school system implies.

"(4) Highlander set up a nursery school in a local schoolhouse. McDougal (Burns) reports that this 'subversive' project has been planned by 'members of the Summerfield Community.' It seems an odd thing to boast about attacks on a nursery school project.

"(5) Highlander has organized Workers Alliance locals, securing relief for the needy—one in nine Grundy County residents being on relief; it has dared to participate in strikes and in the elections of a sheriff. It would seem that Grundy County may justly be proud of any groups working for relief of such a situation; and as long as officers are elected in America, citizens will, can, must campaign for officers of their choice.

"(6) McDougal (Burns) discovers contacts between Highlander Folk School and Commonwealth College. Commonwealth, he states, is 'widely known for its Communist teachings and life.' If the attempt to carry education to people who need it and want it—if the effort to set up a health clinic for the sick and needy can be called Communist, then the word

'Communist' is in the mouth of McDougal (Burns). The 'discovery' of contacts between Highlander and Commonwealth is no more news than discovering that Harvard and Yale are both universities. The two labor colleges naturally have at heart the welfare of American workers and their families and are proud of this harmony of purpose.

LIBRARY LAUDED

"As to the 'Communist' at Commonwealth, let it be said that the Commonwealth library, besides its 10,000 books, subscribes to 225 labor and liberal periodicals. If the 'Communist' movement in America has reached the point (as it obviously has not) where it issues 10,000 books and 225 periodicals, surely no modern library, even a non-labor library, could do other than make these sources accessible to students of economics and government. Don't forget our government is based on the 'consent of the governed' and always has been.

"Gentlemen of the press (accents on gentlemen) are by no means unwelcome in the Southwest. Labor schools are extremely desirous that their goals, activities, accomplishments be widely known, since the fun is which are their life-blood are furnished by progressive Americans.

But it is not in the American tradition—especially its labor tradition—to welcome spies and prowlers, or to credit their 'findings.'

"The South is proud of its tradition of hospitality. Those who abuse this tradition are not worthy of the support of the American people.

"(Signed)

"MORRIS ENGEL

"Educational Director.

"ELIZABETH SOUSINS

"Publicity Director."

Commonwealth Student Finds Fault With Series

Following is another letter addressed to The Tennessean, this one by the president of the student council of Commonwealth College:

The Editor,
Nashville Tennessean,
Nashville, Tenn.

Sir:
"The students of Commonwealth College are deeply shocked that a supposedly reputable paper should angle for and print such trash as John McDougal's articles on Highlander Folk School, currently appearing in your paper. These articles are a disgrace to the South and a disgrace to American ideals of free education.

"We resent the fact that you encouraged your reporter, McDougal, otherwise known as Burns, to present himself at Highlander under an alias, posing as a friend of the school. We resent his out-and-out lies about Highlander Folk School and Commonwealth College, pretending that these schools are controlled by Moscow."

NOT RECORDED

61-7558-219X

TAUGHT UNION METHODS

"The students here, as well as at Highlander, are taught plain union methods. It's an education for workers, many of us never having had a chance to go to school because we had to work in factories or on farms. We are not interested in overthrowing governments (apparently you ARE, since you pick on schools that support and help New Deal principles). We are interested in better wages and hours, and more security on our jobs. Many of us have attended both Commonwealth College and Highlander Folk School. We come here to learn how to run our unions more effectively. Obviously our unions appreciate this training since they frequently pay all or part of our expenses.

"Everybody who ever heard of Highlander knows what a wonderful job it is doing. Its nursery school is known all over the United States. Its organization of Workers Alliance locals was an education for the unemployed as well as an economic protection.

"Commonwealth, too, far from being 'widely known for its Communist teaching and life,' as you sneeringly say, is known all around Polk County for its medical aid to the needy. It's known to the whole trade-union movement for its studies of labor problems and its training of able leaders.

SAYS GAP FILLED

"These schools are doing an American job in an American way, filling gaps in our educational system which, as all progressive people acknowledge, badly need to be filled if millions of American boys

and girls are not to be left stranded and without hope.

"Instead of criticizing and lying about it, a paper like yours should be praising and helping this work in the South. Mr. McDougal may not know a good school when he sees one, but we students certainly do.

"Call off your red-baiting and lies, Mr. Editor—American workers aren't going to be fooled by any such nonsense.

"Very truly yours,

"MICHAEL OWENS, Pres.

"STUDENT COUNCIL

"Commonwealth College, Mena, Ark."

**Report by John L. Lewis Is
Cited as Proof**

[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]

William Z. Foster, national chairman of the communist party of America, and John L. Lewis himself are authorities for this statement.

Lewis Report Recalled.

In 1924 the United Mine Workers, through its president, Mr. Lewis, submitted to the United States senate an exhaustive report on communist activities in the United States, with particular reference to their efforts to organize all craft unions of the American Federation of Labor into single units of workers known

"The overthrow and destruction of this government, with the establishment of an absolute and arbitrary dictatorship and the elimination of all forms of popular voice in governmental affairs, is being attempted on a more gigantic scale than at any time in the history of this nation."

Agents of Communists.

"Through this organization," he said, "the revolutionary leaders in America are making a nation-wide attempt to obtain control of the American Federation of Labor, reorganize the craft unions on the basis of 'one big union' in an industry, and weld them together into a central revolutionary agency in America."

*It is a situation that challenges

Denounced by John L. Lewis in 1924 as an enemy of the government and who now says "The communist party heartily supports the C. I. O. organizing campaign."

not only organized labor but every employer as well. This is one occasion when labor and the employer might very well join hands and fight together."

Now Lewis Heads Drive

Now Mr. Lewis is leading the drive for industrial unionism and he has become the white hope of the communists. Says Mr. Foster, in a pamphlet, "Industrial Unionism," prepared for distribution in Michigan and Pennsylvania during the automobile and steel organization drives:

"The C. I. O. led so aggressively by John L. Lewis, is doing an historically important thing. . . . The C. I. O. has

NOT RECORDED INDEXED

61-7559-1322X2 CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE

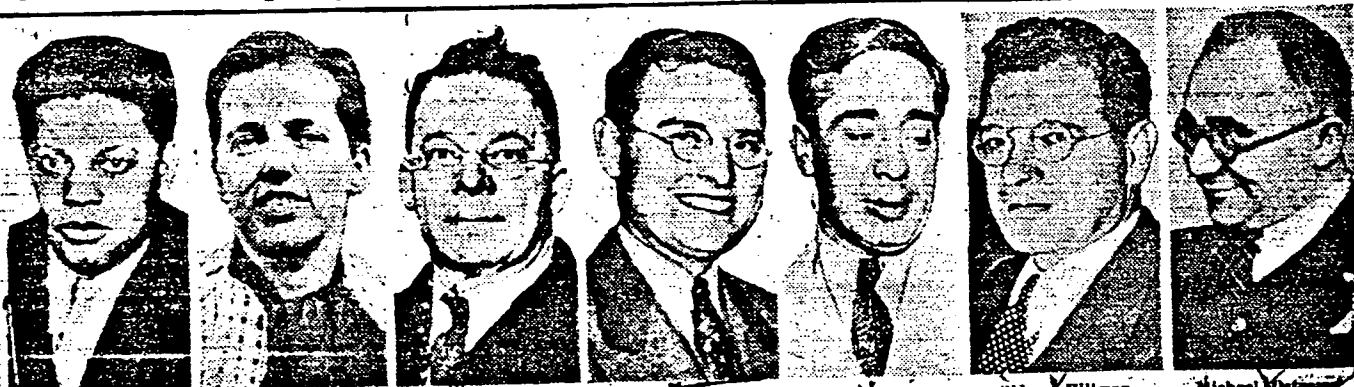
3-28-37

Left Wing Organizers and Agitators Who Are Aiding John



Al Patterson. David Dubinsky. Victor Reuther. Clarence Merwin. Clinton S. Golden. Paul Glasser. Leo Pressman.

Lewis' Campaign to Line Up Labor Under the C. I. O.



James W. Ford. Mary Hillier. Leo Kryzel. Homer Martin. Francis J. Gorman. Sidney Hillman. Michael Detmold.

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become the actual leader of the trade union movement. . . . The communist party heartily supports the C. I. O. organizing campaigns."

In this same booklet Mr. Foster recalls the drive for industrial unionism led by the Trade Union Educational League in 1923 and 1924 so vehemently condemned by Mr. Lewis.

In another pamphlet, "Organizing Methods in the Steel Industry," also widely distributed by C. I. O. organizers, Foster recalls his experiences in promoting the steel strike of 1919.

Foster Behind Steel Drive.

Foster is the "brains" behind the steel organization drive of the C. I. O. and his propaganda literature is being distributed by C. I. O. organizers in the other industries. However, Mr. Lewis' lieutenants in the C. I. O., the men out in front who are conducting the drive, are veteran agitators who have been denounced as communists by his own United Mine Workers.

"For months past," said the United Mine Workers Journal, for May 1, 1928, "The Save the Union Committee, under the leadership of John Brophy, Patrick Toohey, and Powers Hapgood and a few others has been doing its dirtiest to capture the United Mine Workers and to transform this splendid union into a communist organization."

In another editorial Mr. Lewis' Miners' Journal inferentially accused Brophy of being a paid agent of the

soviet government, saying the "Save the Union Committee" became "extremely busy in its efforts to wreck the United Mine Workers shortly after John Brophy returned from Russia . . . the very minute he came back."

Once Denounced by Lewis.

In 1930 Brophy, Hapgood, and Adolph Germer, who was convicted of violating the espionage act and sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment in 1918 [a verdict that was set aside on appeal], issued a call for a secession convention of the miners at Springfield, Ill., to form the National Miners' union affiliated with the Communist Trade Union Unity League.

Speaking at the Indianapolis convention in 1930 Lewis denounced Brophy, Hapgood, and Germer as "fakirs, repudiated leaders, traitors to the unions."

Today John Brophy is the executive director of the C. I. O.; Adolph Germer is the general organizer, and Powers Hapgood is field representative. The fourth member of this quartet, Patrick Toohey, is district organizer of the communist party in Pennsylvania and is credited with the success of the C. I. O.'s first real strike effort—the RCA-Victor strike at Camden, N. J.

List of Other Organizers.

These are the principals of the C. I. O., all strange bedfellows for the former communist baiting John L. Lewis, but the C. I. O. organization is literally crawling with communists and left wing agitators. A partial list of the small and large fry follows:

Walter Victor and Roy Reuther, C. I. O. organizers and long-time agitators for left wing causes. Victor and Walter are graduates of the Communist Brookwood Labor college at Katonah, N. Y., a training school for black and white agitators.

Sidney Hillman, president of the

Amalgamated Clothing Workers and a C. I. O. director. Hillman is a veteran pro-Soviet worker, having organized the Russian-American Industrial corporation to raise a million dollars to bring about "the rehabilitation of Russia" in 1922. He is a former director of the American Fund for Public Service, or Garland fund, as it is known, which has contributed or loaned more than two million dollars to socialist, communist and I. W. W. causes.

Attempted to Aid Spain.

David Dubinsky, president of the Ladies' Garment Workers' union and a director of the C. I. O. For many

years he has been a left wing leader of the Socialist party and in 1936 he undertook to raise \$100,000 for the communist "popular front" regime in Spain.

Francis J. Gorman, president of the C. I. O.'s United Textile Workers, and a leader in C. I. O. councils. Mr. Gorman is a member of the advisory board of the Garland fund supported Commonwealth college, a communistic training school for workers at Mena, Ark.

Homer S. Martin, president of the United Automobile Workers and Lewis' right hand man in Michigan. A former Baptist minister, Mr. Martin has been a left wing orator for years. Maurice Sugar, a radical lawyer

who was the communist candidate for the office of recorder's judge in Detroit in 1936. He is on the C. I. O. pay roll.

Lee Pressman, another radical lawyer, C. I. O.'s general counsel. He was a victim of the left wing "purge" in the agricultural adjustment administration two years ago.

Educational Director.

Merlin D. Bishop, a graduate and former member of the Brookwood Labor college staff, who is on the payroll as "educational director" for the C. I. O.

Dick P. Smith, president of the

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tor of Brookwood, who writes for the auto workers' C. I. O. organ and assisted the C. I. O. in founding a training school last summer at Saugatuck, Mich., where agitators were trained for the sitdown strike.

John Schmies, former assistant to William Z. Foster and one time organizer of the Auto Workers' union, a communist organization, which was active until a few years ago. He is the Detroit representative of the Fraternal Orders committee, organized by the C. I. O., to line up fraternal organizations.

Former Garland Fund Aid.

Clinton S. Golden, former director of the Garland fund and former business manager of Brookwood, C. I. O. regional director in the steel organization campaign in Pennsylvania.

Leo Krzycki, member of the advisory board of the C. I. O., vice president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and a member of the national executive committee of the Socialist party.

John W. Anderson, C. I. O. organizer, who was the communist candidate for governor of Michigan in 1934.

Mary Heston Vorse, well known communist author, who has been directing the organization of C. I. O. women's auxiliaries.

Margaret Cowl, another communist writer and agitator, who is on the pay roll and was active in promoting women's activities at Flint, Mich.

Mary Hillyer, leader in the left wing League for Industrial Democracy, who has been assisting Comrade Cowl.

Vice President Candidate.

James W. Ford, colored, communist candidate for Vice President in 1936. He attended a conference of Negro leaders, called by Philip Murray, director of the C. I. O.'s steel

organization drive, at Pittsburgh, Feb. 6.

William Weinstone, general secretary for the communist party in Michigan, who has been directing communist activities in the Flint and Detroit strikes.

Rosa Pesotta, C. I. O. organizer in the rubber and automotive industries, who is a veteran anarchist leader, and one time associate of Emma Goldman.

Genora Johnson, leader of the Women's Brigade at Flint and a member of the Socialist party.

William K. Gebert, associate of William Z. Foster and member of the

JOHN L. LEWIS



Who now welcomes the support of Foster and his lieutenants in organizing the C. I. O. movement.

JOHN BROPHY



[Associated Press Wirephoto.]

Who was accused by the United Mine Workers' Journal in 1928 of "trying to transform this splendid union into a communist organization" and who now is the executive director of the C. I. O.

central committee of the communist party, who is now a C. I. O. organizer and is in frequent conference with Philip Murray.

Formerly with Amtorg.

Jack Stachel, member of the central committee of the communist party and director of C. I. O. pay roll organizers in Pennsylvania. He is the author of a foreword to one of Foster's propaganda pamphlets distributed by C. I. O. organizers.

Blaise Owen, alias Boris Israel, this real name is Israel Berestein who