THIRD ATTACK ON COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE

ARKANSAS LEGISLATURE MAKES THIRD ATTEMPT TO CLOSE COMMONWEALTH IN RETALIATION FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE SHARE-CROPPERS' STRUGGLE

FIRST—Feb. 16—the legislative investigation, which lasted two weeks, on which no report has been made public.
SECOND—Feb. 16—simultaneously the Gooch sedition bill, which would crush every labor organization in the state, was rushed through the House, but is still in the hands of the Senate Judiciary Committee.
THIRD—Mar. 6—a brand-new bill was hurriedly introduced at a night session of the House, its authors proudly proclaiming, but with deliberate misrepresentation, that it is "aimed at Commonwealth College or any other society, or institution which advocates anarchy, communism or the overthrow of any established government by force or violence."

The Associated Press reports as follows:

"NEW ANARCHY BILL OFFERED IN ASSEMBLY"

Author Says That Proposal Is Aimed at Commonwealth Labor College

Little Rock, Ark., March 6.—(AP)—Two members of the joint legislative committee investigating Commonwealth Labor college Wednesday night offered a bill in the Arkansas House of representatives declaring the act of advocating anarchy, communism or the overthrow of any established government by force or violence to be a nuisance which could be abated by permanent injunction in chancery court.

The bill was signed by Chairman Marcus Miller and Representative Minor Milwee and provides that a suit for action to abate the alleged nuisance may be instituted by a group of five citizens or by the attorney general or by any prosecuting attorney. It provides that the chancery courts will have jurisdiction to try cases and if found advisable, to issue either a temporary or permanent injunction.

The bill further stipulates:

"If upon trial of a cause hereunder, the existence of a nuisance be established, and order of abatement shall be entered as part of the judgment or decree, such order shall direct the removal from the building or place wherein such nuisance exists or is maintained of all means, applications, fixtures,appurtenances, materials, supplies and instrumentalities used for the purpose of conducting, maintaining or occupation constituting such nuisance, and shall direct the sale thereof, or such portion thereof as may be lawfully sold, and the payment of proceeds into court to be applied to the cost or paid over to the owners, and the destruction of such portions thereof, if any, as cannot be lawfully sold within this state; and the judgment or decree shall perpetually enjoin the defendants from engaging in, conducting, continuing or maintaining such nuisance, directly or indirectly, by themselves or their agents or representatives and perpetually forbid the owner of the building from permitting or suffering the same to be done or carried on in such building or place."

Protests still swamping the Arkansas legislature against the passage of the anti-labor Gooch sedition bill have made the planters of eastern Arkansas realize there are strong forces both in Arkansas and throughout the country that will not sit idly by while their civil liberties are endangered. This Miller-Milwee "nuisance" bill is the boss planters' attempt to isolate Commonwealth from these allies by striking at the college specifically, in such a way that no other groups will see themselves threatened and therefore be aroused to vigorous protest.

It is the most serious blow which has been struck at academic freedom in the South, for it makes possible the crippling of any educational institution in Arkansas by even one bigoted or politically ambitious "citizen."

Commonwealth College Fortnightly

Published twice a month at Mena, Arkansas, by Commonwealth College. Subscription one dollar a year. Entered as second class matter, January 30, 1926, at the post office at Mena, Arkansas, under the act of August 24, 1912.
Messrs. Miller and Milwee are sponsoring no mere instrument of torture, but a paralyzing fascistic edict worthy of a Hitler. Instead of putting the Commonwealth "bucks" and "communists" in the "pen", as Gooch bragged his bill would do, the Miller and Milwee bill would do away with Commonwealth College entirely, wipe it off the face of starving Arkansas with one sweeping gesture. The wording of the bill makes it plain that they expect the prime point of attack to be on the college library.

Commonwealth's library is well equipped with books on modern economics and sociology, and is well known as one of the most complete labor libraries in America. It contains no books, however, that the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library, or any of the larger private and state college libraries do not also have. Yet nothing is said about these in the Miller-Milwee attempt to drag the red bait across the trail.

Slyly they would steal up behind the college and brain its 8,000 volume labor library with their fascistic cudgel in the shape of a planter's whip. First they would get three other "citizens" to join them in bringing "suit for action to abate the alleged nuisance." Then rush through an injunction, padlock the halls of learning, railroad the case through their courts, and at last, with smug grins, pile into their V8s and head for Commonwealth to dunce around a Hitler book-burning on the campus. The bill plainly implies this when it says, "... and the destruction of such portions thereof, if any, as cannot be lawfully sold within the state."

It smells like a modern witchcraft burning. For Commonwealth College is not guilty of anything spectacular. It is not even a communist school, as Mr. Miller has ample evidence to show in the testimony of his investigation of Commonwealth—testimony which, in spite of his promise to do so, he has failed to make public. Commonwealth, as Mr. Miller knows, is a non-fictional school which does its best to present the facts.

It becomes a potential "nuisance" because it befriended the tenant farmers whom the cautious Secretary Wallace describes as "in pitiful economic condition" and Mary Connor Myers of the AAA as like "war-torn Belgium."

Members of the Commonwealth staff are now in Little Rock attempting to have introduced into the Legislature a resolution calling for an investigation of the lawlessness of the planters in eastern Arkansas.

Arthur Garfield Hays and Leo Gallagher, both internationally famous lawyers, have offered to defend Commonwealth in the courts against any attack.

With the support of all Americans who know the value of workers' education Commonwealth will be able to carry this fight through.

PLEASE WRITE OR TELEGRAPH YOUR PROTEST AGAINST THIRD ATTACK!!!

Action on the GOOCH BILL Is Delayed Because Arkansas Legislators Have Been Publicly Shamed by Thousands of PROTESTS Pouring in From All Quarters!

Nothing Short of a Flood of NEW PROTESTS Will Block the Vicious Miller-Milwee Bill Just Launched and Aimed at Commonwealth ONLY, With the Intention of Destroying the Library and Closing the College!

An Attempt Will Be Made to STAMPEDE the Miller-Milwee Bill Through Before March 16.

Send Your Protest TODAY To The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Little Rock, Arkansas