COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE
FORTNIGHTLY

VOL. XIII, NO. 11 MENA, ARKANSAS: JUNE 1, 1937 $1.00 A YEAR

Commoners Urged to Protest Violence of Chicago, Ill., Police

Police at Chicago attacked, arrested and beat up men and women on the picket line at the South Works of the Republic Steel Corporation when the steel strike started Wednesday night, May 28. Commoners are urged to do their part in winning the strike by writing to Chief of Police Prendergast, Chicago, Illinois, immediately, protesting against such illegal, fascist tactics used by police under his direction.

The Women's Auxiliary of the South Works asks that moral and material support of individuals and other unions be given the Steel Workers locals involved by writing the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, 305 West Wacker Drive, Chicago.

C.I.O., A.F. of L Forces Work Together in State

"C.I.O. and A.F. of L forces in the Arkansas Federation of Labor are working together," declared Trade Union Instructor Roy Koch upon returning from the 30th federation convention just held at Hot Springs, where he represented Commonwealth Local 284 of the Teachers Union.

Promote Organization

C.I.O. unions throughout the state excepting miners' locals which have withdrawn from the state federation) and A.F. of L. unions, are together promoting a vigorous campaign of organization.

In Fort Smith, organizers reported, 1500 new members had been secured in the first weeks of an intensive drive. Over 20 timber and sawmill workers in Mena have joined union ranks, while in Little Rock a number of new locals have sprung up.

Although W. R. Williams, personal representative of William Green, spoke scathing against the C.I.O. and asked for republi city of L. of Forces

Summer Session Offers Courses in Cultural Movement, South Today, Labor in Politics

With both lecturers' acceptances and students' applications coming in, it appears the summer session starting June 28 will be highly successful.

Five additional instructors are announced with this issue:

Arch Henderson will hold the second week in the discussions on the International Scene; Eugene Bechtold will conduct the third week's study on the question of International Peace and, in addition, will lecture on "Twenty Years of American Labor." Both Henderson and Bechtold are prominent leaders of workers' education in Chicago.

News Guild Leader for Publicity

The other three instructors will handle basic courses through the summer. Ira Henry, leader in the Newspaper Guild and connected with a big metropolitan daily, is to conduct the course in Labor Publicity; Henry Black, regular instructor in Political Economy and librarian here, will direct the study of Basic Economic and Social Forces in Modern America, and Winifred Chappell of the Methodist Federation for Social Service and Commonwealth instructor will have charge of the course in Imperialism and Fascism. The instructors for the courses in Public Speaking and Current Events are yet to be announced, probably in the next issue of the Fortnightly.

Southerners Lead Discussions

As was announced in the last issue, Carl Hassler, Chicago labor journalist, will lead the discussion the first week on the International Scene; Bob Wood, veteran labor defender and southern labor organizer, will cover Special Problems of the South Today; Clyde Johnson, Louisiana Farmers Union organizer and editor, and J. R. Butler, president of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, will share the week on The Sharecroppers, Rural Workers, and Farmers Movements.

Cunningham, Jones on Culture Trend

William Cunningham, author, former Commonwealth instructor, and director of the Oklahoma Federal Writers Project, and Joe Jones, mural artist who was recently awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, will discuss Trends in the Cultural Movement.

Howard Y. Williams, national organizer of the Farmer-Labor Political Federation, will headline the week on Labor in Politics.

Make Application Now!

Students and vacationists who desire to participate in this stimulating and educational summer seminar should contact Charlotte Moskowitz, Secretary-Treasurer, as soon as possible.

TENNESSEE, ARKANSAS STUDENTS ADDRESSED BY COM. COL. TEACHERS

Haven Perkins, chairman of the Commonwealth faculty, and Winifred Chappell, instructor, recently attended the annual meeting of the Fellowship of Southern Churchmen at Nashville, Tennessee. The Fellowship is composed of southern clergymen and others who are seeking to put into practice the social and economic implications of Christianity

Commonwealth Interests Students

While in Nashville, Perkins spoke at the chapel service of Fisk University, large Negro school, on invitation of the university dean. Students gave close attention as he described the present need and opportunity of labor organization and the preparation that Commonwealth gives for the job.

Earlier, Winifred Chappell spoke at the chapel service of Philander Smith, Methodist Negro college in Little Rock. The students applauded spontaneously reference to the Supreme Court decision releasing Angelo Herndon which the papers had that morning reported.

Addresses Young Methodists

She also addressed a Methodist young people's meeting at Conway, seat of Hendrix College. She reported that a group of Hendrix students are enthusiastically planning to visit Commonwealth—two carloads of them.
Farmers Union Leaders Cite Organization Power

"Which the union hits their pockets, then they meet the union in a hurry."
The "they" are big merchants, landlords and employers of the yet barely organized South. The quotation is the keynote sounded at the Farmers Union rally held recently at Commonwealth.

How this maxiim put to daily use has brought better prices and stronger organization to thousands of southern farmers was detailed to a group of neighboring soil-tillers and the student body by W. C. Irby, national board member and Alabama president of the union. He stressed an outstanding example of successful union pressure for higher produce rates in Walker County, Alabama, which is today recognized as one of the country's most completely unionized rural areas.

Cites Union Solidarity

Union miners' thorough solidarity with Walker farmers, Irby cited, has strengthened the organizations and struggles of both, besides stimulating general union activity and improving living conditions of the entire population.

Another Farmers' Union development in southern states came forth when Irby proudly held up a potato sack with a huge union emblem—the plow, bee and rake—stamped across it. Union label potatoes, cotton bales and other products now coming from the South, he pointed out, have a healthy effect upon the unorganized workers in the North, through whose hands these labelled containers pass.

State Union President Speaks

Dr. M. F. Dickinson, veteran organizer and Arkansas president of the union, accompanied Irby here and spoke with him also at a similar rally in Janssen Park at Mena. Dr. Dickinson told the campus audience of the union's progress in this state and of the organization's co-operative and insurance programs.

Home-Made Icery in Use

About the campus' unique four-story water tower FORTNIGHTLY readers have already heard, but this issue we're able to go down to the bottom of it: the ingenious milk-cooling compartment in the cellar has just been completed and successfully used during recent warm weather.

More like a navy brig with its stout door (specifically built by Matt Mackie and exclusively opened by Kitchen Manager Fred Freer), this cooler glistens clean and cold with heavy coats of aluminum paint applied by Ralph Field, who erected the tower last year. Storage space for a dozen large milk containers is provided, with ample space left for a sizeable chilling tank through which the campus water supply passes from the deep well adjoining the cellar.

Ah, Nature!

In its setting of verdant green and purple mountain majesties' Commonwealth is an inspiration to those coming here from beneath the canyon walls of dirty skyscrapers and smothering clouds of smoke from factory stacks.

Ouachita National Forest offers all the splendors of nature. While pine and oak trees predominate, hickory, sycamore, cottonwood, gum and cedar are found along the mountain trails. There are also persimmon trees with which possums and possum hunting are often associated. There are dogwood trees with their white flowers, and holly and mistletoe.

Blossoms Garland Woods

The grassy floor of the forest is covered with plants and flowers of every genus and species: pink and red wild honeysuckle, sweet williams, wild roses, sassafras laurel, Maythorns or Mayhaws, the Mayapple or mandrake, huckleberries, blackberries, wild plums, possum grapes, muscadines, youngberries, dewberries, and strawberries, are some of the seasonal fruits found on or near the campus.

The college farm is continually harassed by wild rabbits, and after a shower of rain squirrels may be found scurrying about beneath the trees on the campus. Opossums, coons, minks, skunks, foxes, and some muskrats live in the forest region.

SHARECROP AND WONDER by Joe Hoffmnn

Sharecrop... sharecrop...
Till you gasp in the trail of the blistering sun
And the pounding heart echoes through your veins—
Shrink at the thought
Of beans and cornmeal, day in and out,
Leaving a dead taste in your mouth,
Burning 'round the heart and flame at the spine,
Disease the reward of toil,
Southern wage for a hard life's work.

Sigh for the cool rain to soothe your needle-fire
Pain-shot body
Curse the hot, stinging dust-laden wind,
And remember the warps and holes in the roof.
Where the rain gathers and splashes in;
Wheeze with the mule limping lamely on worn hoofs
And moan with the wind for the stab in your heart,
For the pain in your children's eyes.

Sharecrop... Sharecrop...
Always in debt till you sink with the load;
Landlord's paid for lowered yield
No help for croppers in their misery

But themselves, their strong-knit union power.

Look up at the mountain breaking the sky
And think if you and those like you
Will ever be big enough
To push oppressing things back
And break them down.

Sharecrop and wonder
At last year's bold sown furrowed earth;
Whether the plowed under cotton will ever make clothes—
How much misery will increase
On a smaller strip of cotton—
Laugh with a chill sweating mirth
And dream of the day in your vein-swelled rage
That you and those like you
Will push back and break
The things that chain you down and wall you in;
Dream of a more full and abundant life
In which low hanging roofs and close walls
won't suffocate
But you can stand erect, breathe deep and expand
with life.
AH, NATURE!

Back in the sparsely settled sections of the mountains deer and wild boar are hunted.

Birds Only Transients

There is, of course, a great variety of birds in this part of the country, but many of them stay for only a short time, migrating on to the North. The robin, for example, is quite uncommon now, whereas a month ago there were whole flocks of them.

One of the varieties quite common to the region and the whole South is the mocking-bird, which has the ability to imitate many of the other birds of the forest. There are no scissor-tail swallows here, but many purple martins, a bird that is more common below the Mason-Dixon line. In the South the bobolink is called the “ricebird” because it infests the ricefields. Cardinals, goldfinches, bob-whites or quail are numerous.

Whippoorwills Common

In the early part of the night the whippoorwill is heard making its short, sharp call. It is an insectivorous bird; never builds its own nest but uses the nest of other birds; flies about only at night and is therefore seldom seen. The whippoorwill has a very soft plumage to insure its silent flight.

Other night birds are the hoot and screech-owls. They are seldom heard on the campus, however.

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Program, 1937 Summer Session - - June 28th - September 4th

**DISCUSSION GROUPS**

[Conducted by prominent leaders in each field. One hour lecture, one hour discussion daily.]

- The International Scene (First week.)
- The International Scene (Second week.)
- International Peace (Third week.)
- The Youth and Student Movements (Fourth week.)
- Trends in the American Trade Union Movement (Fifth week.)
- Special Problems of the South Today (Sixth week.)
- The Sharecroppers, Rural Workers and Farmers Movements (Seventh week.)
- The Organization of the Unemployed (Eighth week.)
- Trends in the Cultural Movement (Ninth week.)
- Labor in Politics (Tenth week.)

**COURSES**

- Basic Economic and Social Forces in Modern America
- Public Speaking
- Labor Publicity
- Imperialism and Fascism
- Current Events

Charlotte Moskowitz, Secretary-Treasurer, Commonwealth College, Mena, Arkansas,
[ ] Please send application for summer session.
[ ] Keep me posted on summer session plans.
[ ] I'm interested. Please send me your regular catalogue.
[ ] I enclose a dollar for a year's subscription to the FORTNIGHTLY.

Name __________________________
Address __________________________
City __________________ State ______

Please type or write plainly.
Why 'n' Wherefor?

Answers to the questions below will appear here next issue. Send your own queries to the Why 'n' Wherefor Dept. of the Fortnightly.

1. Why did the question of federal unions occupy such a prominent position in discussions at the 56th A. F. of L. convention?
2. Where does the C. I. O. get its funds?
3. What is the Federated Press?
4. Distinguish between a sharecropper, a share tenant, and a renter.
5. What legal arguments are there in defense of sit-down strikes?
6. Can a central labor union engage in collective bargaining?

ANSWERS FOR LAST WEEK

1. "Horizontal" is applied to craft unions because such a union's jurisdiction covers workers of a particular skill in all industries where they may be found, while "vertical" is characteristic of industrial unions because they cut through craft lines to include all workers engaged in producing a complete class of finished products.
2. Concentration of the southern textile drive is in Virginia, the Carolinas, and Tennessee. Oil organizing is focused upon Texas and Oklahoma.
3. Mississippi is known among organizers as "Hell Hole No. 1."
4. Education and joint action, particularly on picket lines and in daily struggles, alone can eradicate the color line that divides workers in Jim Crow territory.
5. Progressive public opinion grew strong enough to spike efforts to prevent medical assistance to Spain—and may yet develop sufficient pressure to prevent U. S. shipments of war materials to Germany and Italy for their present Spanish invasion.
6. Under the Industrial Mobilization Plan small farmers would chiefly suffer from absolute government control of prices with no provision against profiteering by the food trusts.
7. The Farmer-Labor Party as a people's progressive movement would decide its position on war credits according to the conflict's being really in the interest of the people or merely for bankers' profits.
8. As in 1917, the simplest pledge of allegiance could easily be used for army recruiting, and its violation could even be prosecuted as "treason."
9. Dismissal for union membership or activity is illegal under the Wagner Act, and hence an employer violating this law can be directly prosecuted through the courts by the worker or his organization.
10. No article in the Constitution grants the Supreme Court power to declare acts of Congress unconstitutional.
11. The Supreme Court has been enlarged or reduced six times.
12. Upton Sinclair was jailed for reading the Declaration of Independence aloud in public at Los Angeles.

THE LIBRARY NEEDS:
Social Security, by Maxwell Stewart.
Leon Blum, by Richard L. Stokes.
Labor Movements, by Selig Perlman.

Cooks Aplenty But Pots Are Scarce, So Kitchen Is Crippled

HELP wanted by the Commonwealth kitchen.

Next to the classroom, the cookery ranks highest in importance on the campus, so when the culinary department finds itself handicapped the seriousness of the situation is self-explanatory. Plenty of assistant chefs are on hand under Manager Fred Freer, but he hasn't nearly enough gadgets and vessels with which they can work. Here are the items needed at once, for which donors are heartily thanked in advance:
- Large skillets, kettles and double-boilers, a five-gallon coffee urn, three five-gallon milk settling cans, a cream separator, dairy and roasting thermometers, miscellaneous large pots, a deep fat fryer, six casserole dishes, a Dutch oven, a set of carving knives, and measuring cups.

Wanted: One Cookbook

Finally, but possibly foremost, a Boston cookbook is urgently needed, too. Neither Fred nor librarian Henry Black has been able to discover one to date, so they wish to appeal jointly in behalf of their respective departments to FORI-IIGHTLY readers and friends of the college who may be able to contribute such an essential piece of literature to the cause of workers' education.

from page one
C. I. O., A. F. OF L. FORCES WORK TOGETHER IN STATE

Delegates Protest A. F. of L Motion

The convention confirmed its allegiance to the A. F. of L, with many delegates protesting the motion as unnecessary and reflecting upon the goodwill of C. I. O. unionists to the convention.

Warm discussion led to the defeat of a motion to bar trade union officers from political office. Delegates emphasized that trade unionists, instead, should interest themselves in seeing that union men are placed in positions of public trust.

Collaboration Motion Downed

A motion proposing the setting up of conciliation machinery to avoid strikes was opposed as leading toward compulsory arbitration, and after much argument was declared out of order.

The convention adopted resolutions favoring Roosevelt's court plan, urging a two year extension of W. P. A., for an increase in wages to relief workers to keep pace with the rise in the cost of living, and against child labor.