Commonwealth College Fortnightly

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NOTE: Hole is punched into text of original item.
The Article: "Bill Reich Jailed Again"

Bill Reich, former Commonwealth teacher, was arrested again...
ON SYDNEY HOOK'S REPLY

By PAUL EVANS

In the February 15 issue of the Fortnightly William Cunningham, Commonwealth's teacher of labor journalism, reviewed Sidney Hook's book, "Toward the Understanding of Karl Marx." In the June 15 issue Hook replied to Cunningham's criticism. The present article, by Paul Evans, teacher of Marxism, is a reply to Hook's reply.

We believe not. The application of the labor theory of value to the commodity labor power leaves practically all the rifts in Hook's presentation. "Why did Marx reject the theory of the subsistent wage?" he asks in his reply. We answer: Because this theory is based upon "eternal natural laws" which cannot be applied to society (Malthus' law of population); and because it has no room for the activity of the working class in the determination of the wage level.

POLITICAL WAGE

Marx's theory of wages is right but not because it is an instrument for the proletariat in the class struggle. Rather it becomes a weapon for the working class in the class struggle because it explains scientifically the wage problem in all its complexity and shows to the working class together with an understanding of the objective connections between wages and profit, the ways and possibilities of its struggle, and also the limits of this struggle in so far as it is confined to the economic field. The German trade union bureaucracy defended its class-collaboration and the careful separation of the economic from the political struggle, with the same argument of the political wages. For Hook also there is only this political wage.

When Marx ridicules the "Robinson Crusoe" methods of the classic school by which it wants to illustrate the functioning of natural laws in political economy; when he sets against the political economy of the bourgeoisie, with its natural laws, the political economy of the working class in which economic questions are social questions, he does at the same time insist that in a given social order economic laws function. He speaks of the "natural laws" of capitalist production, of "tendencies working with iron necessity towards inevitable results," of the "general law of capitalist accumulation," of the "law of the decreasing rate of profit," etc. Is this only "coquetry with Hegel?" Or does Marx want to characterize the innate contradictions of capitalism as necessary and inevitable contradictions? The working class can and must fight against the disastrous results of capitalist accumulation, but it cannot negate the effects of capitalist accumulation without destroying capitalism.

INSTRUMENT OR SCIENCE?

This question involves the very core of Hook's revisionism, as Cunningham points out at the very beginning of his review. Marxism is an instrument and not a science, Hook claims. He regards only the Marxian method, dialectical materialism, as scientific, but argues that the system of Marxian economics developed by this method is a class economics, the theoretical expression of the class interests of the proletariat, and as such not a science. The foundation of Marxian economics, the labor theory of value, and with it the theories of surplus value, wages, accumulation, crises, etc. is to Hook merely a form of presentation, possible as well from the standpoint of any bourgeois economics. It doesn't measure up to the requirements of an objective science, he maintains.

No matter what Hook intends with his separation of method and results, we must see whether he is here giving Marx's or smuggling in his own philosophy disguised as Marxism. There cannot be any doubt but that Hook is here in open and irreconcilable contradiction to Marx and Engels.

"BOURGEOIS SKIN"

First of all there is a science of political economy for Marx. He explains it working class can and must fight against the disastrous results of capitalist accumulation, but it cannot negate the effects of capitalist accumulation without destroying capitalism.

"BOURGEOIS SKIN"

"Political economy which as an independent science first sprang into being during the period of manufacture..." (Page 400, Vol. 1 of Capital) At the same time he shows its class character. "Classical political economy nearly touches the true relation of things without however consciously formulating it. This cannot be so long as it sticks in its bourgeois skin." (Page 694, ibid.) Marx freed political economy as a science by breaking through bourgeoisclass limitations.

Furthermore Marx and Engels regarded their theoretical work scientific not only in method but also in results. It is simple to quote as many citations as you wish from Capital and the Contribution to the Critique of Political
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To Publish Quarterly
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ma magazine. Film Art, through Harry Hansen and the San Francisco Chronicle, to the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, have found much to praise in The Windsor Quarterly.

The two most important yearly collections of American short stories are to reprint work from the first volume of The Windsor Quarterly. Edward J. O'Brien has selected "Winter Meeting," by Benjamin Appel, and "My Dead Brother Comes to America," by Alexander Golik, for inclusion in his The Best Short Stories of 1934; while Leane Zucchin's "King Lear in Evansville," is to be reprinted in the O. Henry Award Annuals of 1937, edited by Harry Hansen.

According to Lucien Koch, Director of Commonwealth College, the task of publishing The Windsor Quarterly is added to Commonwealth's many activities with the expectation that the magazine will play an important part in Commonwealth's program of training leaders for the workers' cultural movement as well as for the political and economic movement.

COST TO BE LOW

Maxham states that the co-operative method of work at Commonwealth will reduce manufacturing and operating costs of The Windsor Quarterly to a minimum. However, he notes, the college is not in a position to draw upon its limited funds for the maintenance of the magazine. The college provides its printing equipment and other facilities, but the means for all cash outlay must come through subscriptions received from friends of Commonwealth and of the Quarterly.

The initial number of The Windsor Quarterly to be issued from Commonwealth will appear September fifteenth. This issue will contain ninety-six pages of text. The magazine will be offered for sale at forty cents a copy, one dollar and a half a year, or two dollars and a half for two years. The editors consider an increase in size with future issues desirable, but their plans in that direction will be regulated by the response received in the form of subscriptions.

READERS ONLY SUPPORTERS

The editors explain the position of The Windsor Quarterly in this way: "The commercial magazines, by sustained and socially vicious ballyhoo, maintain the large circulation desired by their controllers, the national advertisers. Their editorial policy is free to be moulded by any manufacturer of lipstick or armaments who will pur-

LOEVINGER IS ELECTED STUDENT PRESIDENT

Bob Loewinger, St. Paul, was elected president of the Commonwealth student body at the quarterly meeting early in the term.

Milfred Mahlin, Detroit, was elected secretary. Student members of the forum committee are Evelyn Antinjuntti, Bellefontaine, Ohio; Bob Reed, Charleston, Texas. Members of the student discipline committee are Horace Bryan, Gideon, Arkansas; Roy Phillips, Clovis, New Mexico; Joe Kopcs, Chicago. Student members of the entertainment committee are Frances Reisman, Detroit; and Bill Proctor, Philadelphia.

JUNE MARIE RATTLE

June Marie Rattle, daughter of Russell and Dolly Rattel, was born at Commonwealth June 26.

June Marie is the second baby to be born on the campus. The first was Bobby Bellman, born here in 1937.

A. F. of T.

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would not go so far. It resolved that the A.F. of T. use its influence "to keep the C.C.C. non military in character."

"If and when," Cunningham said, "conditions force the teachers to realize fully that their interests lie with the working class, we may see the A. F. of T. in a leading role in the American labor movement. Until that time the A.F. of T. must be classed as progressive but not militant."

CHASE 'SPACE'

"The fact that this situation will not appear in The Windsor Quarterly is of great importance to the maintenance of its high level of quality. But such an insistence upon merit and avoidance of 'entangling alliances' places the task of supporting the project directly upon the readers.

"To finance the first Commonwealth issue, subscriptions and single copy orders must be received immediately. While too great to be borne by a workers' school, the operating cost of The Windsor Quarterly will be sufficiently low for every subscription and every single copy order to be of great importance. This is especially true at this time, when the expenses of the issue must be met before the magazine is offered for general sale.

"In an effort to form a sustaining fund, there are also being offered life subscriptions at ten dollars each, or whatever sum one or a friend may wish to pay."

Twenty-Seven Enroll

Twenty-seven enrolled in Commonwealth classes when the summer quarter opened the week beginning July 2. This is an average enrollment for Commonwealth.

Classes are labor problems and public speaking, taught by Lucien Koch; Marxism, taught by Bill Cunningham; current events, by Winfred Chappell, psychology by Ray Koch, imperialism by Sachio Oka; stenography by Chrisc Cunningham. Agnes Cunningham is handling labor dramatics.

David Englestein, veteran Commonwealth teacher, is attending the Wellesley Institute for Social Progress at Wellesley College in Massachusetts. His future plans are uncertain.

Paul Evans, Marxism teacher, is spending the summer in New York.

John Lee, of the school of business of Kansas University, will be at Commonwealth as a special lecturer August 14 to 27. Paul Mattick writes that he may not be able to come to Commonwealth this summer.

BILf REICH JAILED

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loved. That night I organized a picket line in defiance of police orders. They did not interfere with the picket line but they picked me up in an unguarded moment and rushed me to jail where I was held in practically solitary confinement for a week. Meanwhile the following charges were made against me: 1. Inciting to riot, 2. Inciting to riot, (two charges), 3. Vagrancy, and 4. Being a suspicious character. Bond was fixed at $10,200! Offers were continuously made to drop the case if I would get out of town.

Bill still hopes to come to Commonwealth to relate his experiences to this group.

THANKS FRIENDS

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES