Koch Visits Hilander for W.E. Conference

Horton Invites Those Interested in Workers' Education Projects in South

Director Lucien Koch attended the conference on workers' education held at the Hilander Folk School, Monticello, Tennessee, July 28 to 29.

Myles Horton, in announcing the conference, stated: "This four day period includes the last two days of Summer School which is being attended by union leaders and radical students. We will have an opportunity to find out from the workers themselves what they expect of a workers' education program. The remaining two days will be devoted to discussions and plans. The exact nature of the programme will be determined by the conference group. Only those active in the workers' education movement in the South are being asked."

A report on the conference will be included in the next issue of the Fortnightly.

Reich Fails to Reach School Because of Railroad Bulls

Bill Reich, former Commonwealth teacher who planned to return to the school and give an account of his recent experiences in the labor movement, was forced to give up his attempt to get to Commonwealth after he had been kicked off the freight five times in a hundred-mile stretch between Charleston, West Virginia and Ashland, Kentucky.

"It seems that a drive is being instituted against 'transients,'" he writes. "Either they are placed in jail or in a transient camp."

He will attend the convention of the Unemployed League to be held in Columbus, Ohio, and may come to Commonwealth late in the summer.

John Ise to Give Series of Lectures on Economics At Commonwealth In August

Essays Submitted in Scholarship Contest

Essays are already coming in for the contest announced in the July 15 Fortnightly, according to Orul Towey, acting executive secretary. Inquiries concerning the content have come in from many parts of the nation, she reports.

The school will give three full scholarships for the best essays on the following topics: "The Fight Against War and Fascism," "The New Deal and the Farmer," "The New Deal and the Worker." The essays must be in the mail before September 1, 1934 and results will be announced the first week in September.

The three winners of the contest may attend Commonwealth any quarter during the 1934-35 term and will not be required to pay the regular tuition fee of $40. Like all other students they will get their board, room, and laundry service in exchange for 20 hours work per week on the college farm, in the garden, kitchen, laundry, library, etc.

Members of the Commonwealth faculty will act as judges. The essays need not be typewritten but should be neat and legible. Contestants must be under 35 and in fairly good health.

Wilkes-Towey

Orul Towey, of Philadelphia, and Eddie Wilkes, of Boston, were married quietly in Mena recently and then remarried noisily a few hours later in the Commons on the Commonwealth campus. The second ceremony, though it had no legal significance, was much more impressive than the first, according to witnesses.

Eddie is the college store keeper. Ourl works in the office and acts as executive secretary during Charlotte Moskowitz' absence.

Well-Known Teacher of Kansas University to Speak on Shortcomings of System

Professor John Ise of the School of Business, University of Kansas, will be at Commonwealth as a special lecturer from August 13 to 27.

His general topic will be "An Appraisal of Capitalism," and he will give a series of fourteen lectures as follows:

1. The Fundamental Significance of Economic Factors
2. Liberalism vs. Conservatism
3, 4, 5, and 6. Assumptions of Capitalism
4. Rationality
5. Survival of the Fittest
6. Just Distribution of Economic Rewards
7. Market Price and Production
8, 9, and 10. Faults of Capitalism
11. Monopoly
12. Business Control
13. Economic Inequality
14. Insecurity
15. Socialism
16. Communism
17. Fascism
18. The Outlook for Humanity

Professor Ise has degrees from the music school, the College of Liberal Arts and the law school at the University of Kansas, and a doctorate from Harvard. He has been on the editorial board of the American Economic Review and is now a member of the executive committee of the American Economic Association. He is the author of "U.S. Forest Policy," "U.S. Oil Policy," "Our Vanishing Oil Reserves," and of various articles in economic journals.

Mrs. Ise and their three children will also be at Commonwealth during this period.
THE SPANISH CHURCH: IMPRESARIO OF FASCISM

By Mildred Price

MADRID, May 17, 1934

Anti-Catholicism in the United States is quite a different thing from anti-Catholicism in Spain. In the United States, anti-Catholicism is the monopoly of the Heflins and the Ku Klux Klan, save where it is linked with a broad frontal attack on the obscurantism and pro-capitalism in all churches. A campaign against Catholicism as an isolated phenomenon is likely to boil down to a hunt for a scapegoat or a masked drive against the foreign-born.

In America, there are so many charming people in the churches who believe in peace, birth control, social justice and other commendable things that one does not easily come to feel that all-consuming hatred for the church which comes so naturally to the Spanish workingman. We spare the Bishop Mannings because we have the Sherwood Eddies. There are even radicals in the American church who use the pulpit as a platform from which to reach sectors of the middle class and who turn their churches into what might be described as an open forum plus a social center.

In Spain, for all practical purposes, there is no Church but the Catholic Church, and it has no left wing, not even a pseudo-left Father-Coughlin wing. It is quite frankly out to smash the labor movement to bits, and the labor movement hates the Church as ferociously as it is hated by the Church. Even in Republican meetings, with well-dressed middle-class crowds, every one of them knows that an attack on the Church is the surest way to bring down the house in tumultuous applause.

When Spain has its proletarian revolution, it is going to do with the Catholic Church exactly what Russia did with the Orthodox Church. Except that it may do it a little more violently. And good-hearted American liberals are going to feel sorry that the Spanish workingman could be so bitter.

THE CHURCH IN BUSINESS

Like the former Russian Church, the Spanish Church is corrupt, worldly and avaricious. Like the former, it is a prop to capitalism and a dispenser of opium to the people. But the Spanish Church is more than a prop to capitalism; in part it is capitalism. To attack capitalism without striking directly at the vitals of the Church would be impossible, for it is a heavy stockholder in the great enterprises of the nation. It is a great capitalist entrepreneur, and besides that a great feudal landlord.

John Gunther in Harper's for October, 1933, estimates the wealth of the Spanish Church at half a billion dollars. Add the wealth of Ford, Rockefeller, Morgan and half a dozen other great American capitalists together, and they would not own as large a share of America as the Catholic Church does of Spain. And yet even this figure of half a billion is probably inadequate, for the Church is talented in concealing its wealth. Not for nothing was the word "jesuitical" coined.

The Spanish government found this out in 1931 and 1932 when it attempted to carry out the new legislation. Theoretically the Jesuit order was dissolved and its property confiscated. What did the government find when it proceeded to claim its dues? A few broken chairs in the Jesuit centers, a few scant pesetas in the cash box. The Jesuit order was "dissolved," but its property was held in the names of private persons or dummy corporations. The Jesuits lived in private houses and wore civilian clothes, but they were still Jesuits. And now they are getting bold again and claiming what little ground they lost. Yes, and more. They are rehearsing for Fascism, with the Church cast for the stellar role.

LABOR'S ATTITUDE

In Spain, when you hear a moderate Socialist speak about the Church you would think you were listening to an editorial from the Daily Worker. What the Communists and Anarchists think of it is better left to the imagination.

The teachers' union, affiliated with the most moderate of the trade union federations, the other day addressed a proclamation to "public opinion," decrying a situation in which "20,000 teachers with school certificates find themselves unemployed, while the monkish hordes poison the minds of thousands of children."

There are typical of the attitudes of the most cautious elements of the labor movement -- the groups which formerly participated in bourgeois governments and helped hold down the exuberance of the extremists. But what is the attitude of the peasants, the people of the "backwoods"? Their attitude varies. In some places, the Church has a hold on their loyalty, particularly that of the women. In other places they would seize torches and burn the churches if the Civil Guard were to relax its vigilance a moment.

We have a peasant girl, in Madrid only a few months, in the care of the baby whose death was the cause of ten. She is from a remote mountainous part of Spain, far from a railroad. She cannot read or write a word. She does not appear to be distinguished by any originality of thought. She calls herself a Right in politics. Her views, we would imagine, are those of the village in which she grew up and would tend toward conservatism if anything.

Yet she never goes to mass, she eats meat on Friday with relish, she says all the Church wants to get out of you is your money. That the priests grow fat while the people starve.

PRIESTLY ANECDOTE

The other day she told us a couple of her "countrymen" were in Madrid. Who were they? we asked.

"Oh, the village priest and his sweetheart," she responded.

We expressed surprise, and she told us they were here because of the girl's pregnancy. She would have the baby in a hospital and place it in an asylum. Then the couple would return to the village.

"Isn't it unusual for a priest to be the father of a baby?" we asked.

"No, this is the third one. She works in his house, and they had the first two there. They let them die, and buried them in the patio. But there was so much talk about it in the village that they decided to come to Madrid this time."

"Are the priests in the other villages around where you live like that?" we asked.

"Yes, they are all the same. They are a bad lot. No self-respecting girl would think of working in the house of a priest."

"How about the bishops? They aren't that way, are they?"

"Oh, the bishops have three or four women. They are rich."
Librarian Is Needed After September 1

After September 1 Commonwealth will be in need of an experienced librarian, familiar with the Dewey decimal system, to take charge of the school library.

This library now has over 8,000 bound volumes and is being increased at the rate of more than 1,000 a year. It has also a large collection of labor pamphlets and periodicals.

The librarian at Commonwealth, like all other members of the permanent group, receives no salary but gets his maintenance—board, room, clothing, tobacco, etc. He works 30 hours per week and may enroll in one or more classes. Applicants should, of course, be in good health.

And now, with Fascism offering to capitalism in other countries a new lease on life, the Spanish Church has become the active ferment in the Spanish Fascist movement. Spanish Fascism, known as Accion Popular, is clerical Fascism. Its leader is Gil Robles, clerical journalist and attorney for the Jesuits. At its meetings it combines holy mass with political demagoguery as blatant as Hitler's and more frankly reactionary. It is anti-Semitic, anti-Masonic and anti-labor. Labor unions are called "enemies of society." Wage slates are demanded. Catholic youth are to be trained as strike-breakers.

"Education is to be the prerogative of the Church. Divorce—"legalized adultery"—is to be abolished. An "anti-parliamentary, hierarchical government" is to be set up.

Meanwhile, the wealthy young senoritos adhering to the Fascist forces dash about in their automobiles, shooting Socialists in the back and fleeing. They form Fascist militia. Labor strikes back by breaking up Fascist meetings, staging protest strikes and forming its militias. A veritable guerrilla warfare, with clashes a daily occurrence, is the order of the day in Spain.

HANSON SEES A. F. OF T. CHANGE

FLORENCE CURTIS HANSON, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Teachers, agrees with the opinion expressed recently in the Fortnightly that the A. F. of T. is progressive but not militant.

"I believe, however, that circumstances are going to force us to become militant rather than progressive," she says in a letter commenting on the Fortnightly article.

UPHAUS AND WILLIAMS ON CHURCH AND LABOR

The problem of the church and its relation to the labor movement was the chief topic of discussion at Commonwealth over a recent week end when Reverend Claude C. Williams, who recently lost his job as pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Paris, Arkansas, for his activities in behalf of the miners, spoke in that section, and Dr. W. E. Uphaus, of the National Religion and Labor Foundation, visited the school.

Saturday morning Dr. Uphaus spoke on the subject, "The Church and the Labor Movement." At the Sunday evening forum Reverend Williams spoke on a similar subject. Although they expressed faith in certain religious elements — faith not generally shared by Communists in the audience — neither saw much hope in the church as now organized.

Dr. Uphaus has been in Arkansas about a month making religious and social studies for the foundation. He is "especially interested in encouraging church folks to start projects in economic and social radicalism."

The particular project upon which he is now working is a survey of the situation in on around Paris. His purpose is "to defend Williams against his reactionary church board." The district presbytery and the state synod have both upheld the action of the church board in firing Williams. The case will come up before the general assembly of the church next May. Meanwhile Uphaus hopes that funds may be raised to keep Williams in the field at Paris.
"Winnie" Discovers Big Pans At College

By WINIFRED L. CHAPPELL

It is always pleasantly exciting to get acquainted with a person or place that you’ve heard a lot about and that is the experience I’ve been having at Commonwealth the past three weeks. It’s too early for final conclusions, of course, but several things please me.

The school is run by young folks—young in years and outlook. They are not overawed by the past. They think in terms of the future and consciously help make it.

Physical work here is combined with intellectual and no one bothers to draw the line between them. Everybody sweats in field or garden, in kitchen or laundry or cannery. And everybody discusses Marx and the current strikes and the present state of the world.

At first the school seems seclusive. It is away from the cities. It is hemmed in by mountains and trees. But in fact it is in close touch with the surrounding life and with the world outside. Neighbor farmers share in the program. A miner student goes away from classes a few days to attend a trial of the progressive miners. A representative of the school is sent to look into a killing at the nearby CCC camp. The Director slips away to attend a conference of pioneer educators. The local ILD responds to a call from national headquarters to help with the Scottsboro case. The school takes as its own the cause of an Arkansas preacher who loses his pulpit because he supports striking miners in their conflict with their bosses.

Teaching here is a pleasure. There is a surprisingly well-equipped and well-organized library. There are alert students working for something besides credits and degrees, which are in fact non-existent here. Young miners and farmers and textile workers rub elbows in the classroom with students from the Universities of Chicago, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

NOT ENOUGH ARGUMENT

There are a few things one might grumble about. There is a drought and for a few days we had to forego or go slow on our shower baths. The kitchen sink leaks—I know it for my work is dishwashing (such a lot of big pans!). There are not enough of us to do all the work that needs doing—on a farm in mid-summer. There is some but not enough clash of opinion—but that may be because it is too hot to argue.

It is hot! But the nights are cool.

STUDENT ATTENDS THREE CONVENTIONS

Margaret Vinson, Commonwealth student of three quarters, returned recently from a five-week hitching tour of the East, having covered 3700 miles and three conventions. As a fraternal delegate of the Commonwealth branch of the ILD, she attended the Seventh National Convention of the Young Communist League held in New York City June 22-27.

"This was as enthusiastic and inspiring as a convention can be," she declared in her report to the Commonwealth. "The persons with big names tagged on them didn’t excite me half so much as the delegates and their reports on work done and to be done in their respective districts. Gil Green’s opening report took all prizes as a concise and interesting convention document. The only unpleasant note struck was to me the appalling lack of theoretical clarity displayed by perhaps a majority of the delegates. If I had all the fire in the world I would not feel competent to go out and organize unless I had at least the little theoretical training Commonwealth has given me."

Having learned that the National Student League Summer Conference was to be held in New York July 5-8, Margaret extended her stay to include it. In her short talk she emphasized the need for a delegate from Commonwealth, she pledged herself to campaign for the forming of a chapter on the Commonwealth campus.

FIRST DISTRICT CONVENTION

On her return trip Margaret quite accidentally hit upon District 26 Convention of the Y.C.L. at St. Louis, which she stopped to attend as the only delegate from Arkansas. "Since this was the first convention of the new district," she said, "it hardly measured up to what a district convention should be, but it was surely worth attending if only to hear the organizer’s opening report. He almost rivaled Gil Green. General discussion was weak but showed promise. Of course Arkansas was duly criticized for having no Y. C. L. unit."

Margaret does not plan to remain at Commonwealth long, but intends to do organizational work among the farmers somewhere in the Middle West.

Executive Secretary

Back From East

For a New Yorker a summer at Commonwealth is a vacation, but for a New Yorker an ideal vacation is a month spent in New York City. Charlotte Moskowitz, executive secretary of Commonwealth, recently returned from such an "ideal" vacation. She spent a month in New York visiting former Commoners, friends, and "seeing the sights."

While in New York she attended the first session of the I.L.D. plenum. She contacted the League of Workers Theaters and discussed with them the dramatic work being done in Commonweal’s contribution of short labor plays and workers songs to the workers cultural movement, she says.

COMMUNAL LIVING ON RELIEF

She reports an evening spent with six former Commonwealth students who have carried communal practices learned at Commonwealth with them to New York. They rented a flat together, divided communal tasks. One cooks, another buys, etc. All six are out of work and on the relief rolls—"but they turn out a good meal," Charlotte says.

During her vacation period she met nearly thirty former students of Commonwealth. "Almost without exception," she says, "students I met are active on some front of the labor movement. One finds former students in drama leagues, in unions, in unemployed organizations, on labor journals. Many are out of work. Some follow the road staged the May Day pageant."

Charlotte considers seeing the play "Stevedore" one of the highlights of her trip. She tells of a tiresome trip to Coney Island on the Fourth of July and a more pleasant excursion up the Hudson on the "Show Boat."

SAM LISKE IN KANSAS CITY

While in New York she stayed with Ben and Dora Ostrow, Commoners, whose apartment was conveniently near the "hub" of labor activity centers—Fourteenth Street. On her return trip Charlotte spent a fourteen hour stop-over with Sam Liske, a former student and now an active labor lawyer in Kansas City. "Sam is winning his cases," Charlotte says. He is retained to handle cases for both the International Labor Defense and the American Civil Liberties Union. He recently won a "criminal syndicalism" case.