Within two weeks Commonwealth College will be without funds and the members of the community will go hungry unless friends of the school send in donations.

We say "go hungry" instead of "close the school" because we will not abandon our work. We know that the need for united-front labor education is greater now than ever before and we know that no one else will carry on the particular work that Commonwealth is doing.

The school does not belong to the teachers, maintenance members or students on the campus. It is the property of the working people of America. Members of the permanent group at Commonwealth are responsible for keeping it in operation but they cannot make a profit from it or sell it for their individual gain.

Commonwealth College is the only resident college in America equipped to take a hundred confused and discouraged young men and women and make them into well-grounded and determined workers in the labor movement at a total cost of $5000 a year (including the board, room and tuition fee of the students).

The United States has nearly a thousand bourgeois colleges and universities—one of them a thousand times as large as Commonwealth—and these institutions require millions of dollars a year to operate. The resident school is a powerful weapon in the hands of the class which controls it.

You can count the working-class schools on your fingers and all of these institutions are small. Commonwealth operates more economically than any other school.

It is doing its work well. During the past year it has sent out more well-trained students into the labor movement than during any other year, and it has become the base for labor activity in Arkansas through its organization program among the farmers and miners of the state.

But Commonwealth works with and for the class which has borne the brunt of the depression. Young men and women of the working class no longer find it possible to raise even the small tuition fee that Commonwealth must charge. Most of Commonwealth’s cash budget in the past has come from tuitions; the rest has come from donations.

Donations must increase, so that worth-while students may be kept here though they have no money.

The Commonwealth farm, upon which we depend for most of our food, has been more efficiently operated this year than ever before. But this is a drought section. Local farmers have estimated that crops in this country are less than one-fourth their normal size. Thus despite efficient management Commonwealth’s farm has yielded very little.

This issue of the Fortnightly will go to 6000 persons, and if each one of you were to send in $1 for a year’s subscription to this paper, or as a donation if you have already paid your subscription, the financial problems of the school would be solved.

About 3000 of you could send in $5 or $10 each with little difficulty. Five hundred of you can send in $50 each with as little inconvenience as a Commonwealth teacher or maintenance worker feels when he patches his overalls to make them last another six months.

We have purchased no new clothing except shoes for months. Commonwealth meals cost between 6 and 7 cents each per person.

We are very much interested in this work. If we can arouse a corresponding interest in one person in ten who reads this statement, Commonwealth will go on training workers for the American labor movement.

Only the working class can solve the problems of the nation—your problems—and your support should go to working-class organizations and institutions. Commonwealth, as a working-class institution, asks for your help.
IF SPAIN GOES FASCIST

by MILDRED PRICE

It is difficult to think of Spain under fascism. It is not only difficult, it is heartbreaking, because if there ever was a country where the masses of workers are class-conscious, militant, ready to sacrifice everything for the future proletarian state it is Spain. One could feel the beginnings of a real proletarian culture springing up there, a culture that not only affected the workers in the cities but even in the tiniest villages remote from railroad or bus line. The labor temple is the center of village life instead of the church or the corner drug store. The Internationale is better known perhaps by the great mass of people than any one folk song. Both the Socialists and the Communists had quite a substantial beginning in a workers’ drama movement. Oftentimes the plays that were presented by one of these groups would be the only form of entertainment that many villages would have in months. The movie is not as ubiquitous in Spain as it is in this country. Before the Lerroix government early in 1934 began preparing Spain for the entrance of Gil Robles as the Spanish Hitler, practically every village, town and city had its Socialist mayor and Socialist Council. The workers were proud to be classed as proletarians; the peasants endured their miserable existence because they looked forward not to the Biblical heaven but to Spain “after the Revolution.”

THE TRADE UNIONS

Under fascism the proud trade union movement in Spain will be either stamped out or it will exist as a hunted underground movement. Unless you have had the experience of mingling with the workers there it is impossible to describe what the trade unions meant to that country. They were so strong that a complete general strike could be called in most of the cities of Spain and everything would be tied up. Zaragoza, a town of 125,000 people, had a general strike for thirty-five days, a complete general strike when there were not even any electric lights and people had to carry around lanterns at night. It was successful, too, for the employers in the end had to give in to the demands of the workers. A visit to the workers’ centers, Anarchist, Socialist, and Communist, at night right after work was enough to make even a tired radical take on new life. The building would be seething with workers, having union meetings, planning the next demonstration, editing publications, or simply standing around in groups deciding how best to take revenge on the fascists who had the day before managed to shoot down a worker and get away before shots could be exchanged. Out in front of the center would be a group of young workers guarding the entrance to keep out fascists who might attempt to come in as spies or to “get a Socialist.”

On last May Day not a wheel was turning in Madrid except a few ambulance cars. During the day the subway owners tried to run one line with fascist motormen. They made such a complete failure that only one trip was made and it took about six hours the next day for the regular union motormen and engineers to get the trains running on time. The union men did not hesitate to show their disgust with the silly employers, and the bosses in turn found out that it would be both troublesome and expensive to get along without the union. In Barcelona during a street-car strike there was a complete shut down of the city with both the motormen and people moving along on foot. They tried to howl her down, but she see the unbeatable—fascism could never fasten its dirty fingers on Spain.

LABOR MOVEMENT PERSONALITIES

I wonder what will happen to Margarita Nelken, Socialist leader, who, during the insurrection mounted the barricades to lead the peasants of Estremadura, the peasants whom she represented so courageously during the peasant strike last June. She made speeches then all over Spain telling of the unbelievable conditions under which the peasants lived. She sent out illegal propaganda urging the peasants to keep on with the fight. She made a speech in the Cortes (parliament), a Cortes controlled by the Rights, and during this speech she told the Rights what she thought of them and their oppression of the peasants and workers. They tried to hoot her down, but she kept right on, speaking for one hour and a half. A Gil Robles, with the wealth of the rich land owners at his command,
Commonwealth College Fortnightly

PRINTED AT COMMONWEALTH BY STUDENT AND TEACHER LABOR

VOL. X, No. 20 October 15, 1934

Published twice a month at Mena, Arkansas, by the Student and Teacher Labor Association. 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.

Signed articles express only individual opinions.

Editors, particularly of labor and farmer papers, are welcome to use material appearing in these columns. A line crediting the Commonwealth College Fortnightly will be appreciated.

WHAT IS COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE?

Commonwealth College is a non-traditional labor school which has as its function the training of young men and women for active and militant organization in the labor movement.

Its courses, which include economics, industrial labor problems, proletarian culture, creative writing, public speaking, journal-ism, etc., are taught from a point of view partisan to the working class. The classes are conducted at the college grown on the college farm. The school has its own store, service station, print shop, etc. All work is done communally by members of the group. The school pays no wages. Teachers receive only the maintenance

Students pay $40 tuition per quarter term (three months) and receive their board and room in exchange for 28 hours work per week during fall, winter and spring terms, and 15 hours per week during the summer term, on the college farm, in the garden, of-fering the students the best training in practical agriculture.

Commonwealth is located near Mena, Ark., in the Ouachita Mountains, the southernmost part of the Ozarks.

could not intimidate Margarita NeJken. She understood the deceitfully gracious Lorencu, a man who probably acted like a gentleman around her but who had said since the beginning of the insulation that an example will be made of left-wing leaders who were responsible for the outbreaks. "My hands will not tremble when I sign these sentences," he is quoted as saying. If one of those sentences applies to Margarita NeJken, I am sure of this: that what she did in attempting to make Sunny Spain a decent place for peasants and worker won't be forgotten very soon by those forgotten peasants in far-off Estremadura.

WORKERS' CULTURE

Fascism will see to it that Rafael Alberti, young Communist poet and musician, won't be forgotten very soon by those forgotten peasants in far-off Estremadura.

Alberti composed a song to the German Thaelmann and soon all the workers in Madrid were singing it. The tune still rings in my ears. (Perhaps sometimes a French worker, if fascism doesn't succeed in coming to France, will compose a song for the liberation of Alberti who probably will be thrown into prison next to a concentration camp as Thaelmann was.) The proletarian orchestra was one that any workers' group could be proud of, and it did not have just one leader either. Three or four members of the orchestra were capable of laying down their instruments and acting as directors. Alberti and his group not only wrote songs, composed revolutionary poetry, and directed the orchestra but they also put on quite creditable puppet performances. These puppet shows were always designed to show the oppression of one class by the other. One time the role of oppressor would be taken by the church, another time by the rich landowners who always had enormous stomachs. It was fun going to those workers' theatres and even though the Spanish language was at times difficult to understand, there was an enthusiasm present that didn't have to be translated.

What do those Anarchist workers in Barcelona have to look forward to now? For long hours over the tables in the coffee shops they told us about the situation in the labor movement there—how it was split into eight factions, how great the obstacles would be in making a general strike effective although Barcelona was highly industrialized. However, even with those odds against them, they said grimly, "We won't let fascism come to Spain." At that time, the first of September, they were chafing under the persecution of the Companys government, but that persecution was mild compared to what Gil Robles and his fascists gang will deal out to them. Because of the ebulliency of the Anarchist workers, fascism will likely take a very brutal form in Barcelona.

Gil Robles has never built up a mass movement in Spain the way Hitler did in Germany when he came into power, but there was an enthusiasm present that didn't have to be translated.

MARY WRIGHT UNABLE TO REMAIN AT SCHOOL

Public Speaking and Labor History Classes Now Taught by Ray Koch

Mary Wright, of New York City, a member of the Communist Party Opposition, who was to have taught public speaking and labor history at Commonwealth this quarter, was forced by illness to return to her home shortly before the quarter began. Her courses were taken by Raymond Koch.

Other courses being given this quarter are imperialism and current events by Mildred Price, Marxism and labor writing by William Cunningham, shorthand by Clarice Cunningham, and typing by Charlotte Moskowitz.

WINDSOR QUARTERLY NOW OUT

The fall number of the Windsor Quarterly, published by Commonwealth, is now off the press. A year's subscription is $1.50; single copy 40 cents. Contents:

What's a Guy Gonna Do? Story . . . . Benjamin Appel
The Cloud Puncher Story . . . . William Cunningham
The Blizzard Story . . . . Philip Stevenson
Long Snake Story . . . . Joan Kinner
For a Dead Leader Poem . . . . J. M. Sherby
Pond Pasture Story . . . . France
Miniatures Poems . . . . Harry Roeskenkier
Xmas Tree Story . . . . Meridele Le Sueur
This Native Place Poem . . . . Richard Leekley
An Episode on the Prado Story . . . . Hans Nissen
San Francisco on the Poem . . . . Paul D. Anderson
Kaffesdrinker Poem . . . . Hazel H. Sherby
Seu el testre! Great Neck Poem . . . . J. M. Sherby
Correspondence to the Editors . . . . Kenneth Burke

BOOK REVIEWS

PEANUTS PULL THROUGH

Peanuts will be an important food at Commonwealth this winter. Despite the drought of the past summer the peanut patch is yielding about 75 bushels of nuts and eight or ten tons of hay.

The peanut has always been important here. Students or teachers unable to do more difficult work are put to pulling peanuts. Thus "the peanut puller" has come to mean an inefficient, awkward or lazy individual.
FARMERS' UNION HAS 1200, KOCH REPORTS

Director Now on Trip Through South: in New York
November 2

The Southern Tenant Farmers Union now has about 1200 members, with locals in Missouri and Oklahoma as well as Arkansas, according to a report of Lucien Koch, who went through Eastern Arkansas recently. "The membership realizes pretty well the nature of the struggle ahead of it," he writes. "Most of them display genuine determination.

Koch is now on a speaking tour and has visited Nashville, Memphis, Cincinnati and Washington. His lecture topics are: "The Challenge of Workers Education Without Nature in the Labor Movement?", "Can War and Fascism Be Averted?" and "Arkansas Hill Farmers, C'rapers, and Miners."

His future schedule is as follows:

October 26-27 Baltimore, Md.
November 1 Paterson, N.J.
2-14 New York City
15 Harrisburg, Pa.
17-21 Pittsburgh, Pa.
24-26 Chicago, Ill.
December 5-7 Milwaukee, Wis.
9-10 Madison, Wis.
12-17 Minneapolis, Minn.
19 Des Moines, Iowa
21-22 Kansas City, Mo.
23-24 Topeka, Kan.

Anyone wishing to arrange a lecture date or personal interview should correspond with the college.

Dramatics Group To Stage Farm Play

The Commonwealth dramatics group is now rehearsing "When a Man's Hungry," a four-act farm play written at Commonwealth by Agnes Cunningham, dramatics director.

The play deals with the local relief situation and portrays the pressing need for organization among the farmers of this section. It will be presented before audiences of farmers throughout the county. November 7 is the date set for the first performance, which will be given in the Commons in connection with our annual celebration of the Russian Revolution.

Those taking part in the play are: Bob Reed, Isabell Carson, Walter Montross, Ralph Field, Mildred Mahlin, Ted Freedman, and Charles Rehmer.

Commonwealth and A.C.L.U. Exposed!

Commonwealth College and the American Civil Liberties Union have at last been branded and put in their proper place by an organization calling itself "United For California League."

This league, of which a Mr. Thomas McGurn of San Francisco is secretary, has issued a pamphlet which it calls "Sinclair, Slanderer of All Churches and All Christian Institutions, Active Official of Communist Organizations, Communist Writer, Communist Agitator, The Man Who Said the P.T.A. Has Been Taken Over by the Black Hand."

Evidently this pamphlet has been widely distributed, since Commonwealth has received copies from friends in many parts of the nation.

Quoting "The Red Network" by Elizabeth Dillon, the United For California League divulges some startling information. It seems that Sinclair is an "officer of Commonwealth College located at Mena, Arkansas, founded by the notorious Charles Garland, which trains Communist agitators and spreads Communist propaganda."

Likewise Sinclair was "in 1923 connected with the American Civil Liberties Union—an organization to provide funds for and finance the defense of Communist agitators charged with crime."

In justice to Mr. Sinclair we wish to say that he is not and never has been an officer of Commonwealth College, nor has he ever visited the place. Years ago, when the school was under different control he was for a time a member of a non-functioning "advisory committee."

Mr. Garland, perhaps, should also be exonerated. He had nothing whatsoever to do with the founding of the college, has never been here, and has never corresponded with the college nor, so far as is known, with any person connected with the college.

Labor Plays and Songs

Available at Low Cost

Copies of Five Labor Plays (I'm Predictin', For the Love of Humanity, Until the Mortgage is Due, Risen from the Ranks, The Forgotten Man), together with an anti-war skit, The Devil's Deputy (alone, 3 cents), will be mailed for ten cents.

The words and music of six labor songs by Agnes Cunningham, in mimeographed booklet form, will be sent for ten cents per copy. These songs are effectively used by various labor groups.

CARSON IS ELECTED STUDENT PRESIDENT

Elson, Secretary; Gower, Mahlin and Freedman on S. D. C.

Isabella Carson of Decatur, Arkansas, one of the three winners of Commonwealth's essay contest, was chosen president of the student body at the regular quarterly meeting recently. Lorain Elson, of East Orange, New Jersey, was chosen secretary.

The discipline committee is Claude Gower, Annapolis, Ill.; Mildred Mahlin, Detroit; Ted Freedman, Los Angeles. This committee, elected by the student body each quarter, handles all infractions reported to it of community regulations. The inefficient or careless dishwasher, either student or teacher, the person who throws cigarette butts into waste-paper baskets or puts hot ashes in wooden boxes; the teacher or student who doesn't come to class, etc.—all these are on the hook for over the student discipline committee.

The forum committee is Paul Maslow of Brooklyn; Charles Rehmer of Milliken, Colorado; and Bob West of Minneapolis. This committee arranges the regular forums and other events.

The entertainment committee, which is in charge of all recreational activities, consists of Harold London, and Walter and Helen Montross, all of Philadelphia.

Dr. SHADID VISITS SCHOOL

Dr. M. Shadid, member of the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party and chief surgeon of the Community Hospital of Elk City, Oklahoma, was a visitor at Commonwealth recently.

In an address to the college group Dr. Shadid told of the method by which the Community Hospital was established and is being maintained. A family, he explained, buys a $50 share of the hospital stock and thereafter for $24 a year receives any medical, surgical or dental care that is necessary. In addition to this each patient pays $1 for each day he remains in the hospital.

NAMES TO BE TAKEN FROM LIST

After this issue many names will be removed from the Fortnightly mailing list, according to Charlotte Moskowitz, executive secretary. Those who have let their subscriptions lapse and wish to receive this publication should send in $1 immediately.

If you wish to receive an occasional issue write to the executive secretary.