LEGISLATURE KILLS SUPPRESSIVE BILLS

Voted Down by Large Majority
When Protested by Entire Nation

Because thousands of protests came in from all over the nation, the Arkansas legislature did not pass any law or resolution under which Commonwealth can be destroyed.

The so-called “nuisance” bill, which would have made it possible to declare any such organization as a nuisance and close it by injunction, was withdrawn by its sponsor, Marcus Miller, soon after it was introduced. Representative Miller withdrew the bill after a series of vigorous speeches were made against it by the younger and more progressive members of the house.

The Senate, during the last hours of the session, killed the Gooch bill by a vote of 24 to 6.

Between the time that the house passed the Gooch bill by a huge majority and the time that it was scheduled to come up in the Senate, the thousands of protests against it, by working-class organizations, liberals, newspapers and even radio announcers, brought about a general change of opinion at the Arkansas state house.

The attitude of the Senate was expressed by some senatorial horse-play during a recess shortly before adjournment. The senators, after having considered the liquor question from every possible angle, were in a relaxed state for the moment. One of them took the chair, called the Senate to “disorder” and started proceedings. Senators and pages began calling for the Gooch bill. The bill was voted on and every senator, page, newspaper man and visitor then in the Senate chamber shouted “aye.” Then the measure was solemnly declared lost, despite the unanimous vote for it.

The legislative committee turned in its report March 11. It said, among other things, that “Some of the Commonwealth members are, however, committed to the Communist theory, and

Commonwealth owes its life to friends of the school and all persons interested in the preservation of civil liberties who have protested against the “sedition” and “nuisance” bills and against the attempt on the part of planter interests to close the school by means of the “investigation.”

Commonwealth wishes to express its appreciation for this prompt action in its defense.

****

Funds Needed to Repay Fight Costs

$537 of School’s Maintenance Used in Battle For Civil Liberties

Our fight against the sedition bills and the suppression of Commonwealth by the planter-prodded legislature cost us $537. By our standards this is a lot of money—it represents a large part of the fund we raised to carry us through until harvest—and we must get it back.

Below is an itemized statement of expenditures:

- $92 telegrams
- 147 postage
- 81 paper, envelopes, mimeograph supplies, etc.
- 95 gas and oil, tire repairs, tolls, etc.
- 60 outside meals and rooms, etc.
- 50 car repairs
- 12 telephone

$537

This represents trips around Arkansas to mobilize organized groups in the coal areas and elsewhere against the bills; repeated trips of Commonwealth delegations to Little Rock to speak before hearings of the legislature and to contact useful persons; special delivery letters and telegrams to organizations and individuals with powerful protest.

Continued on Page Four

Contents

- Fascist Bills Killed
- Commonwealth Finances
- Moscow U. Summer Session
- Protests Sent Arkansas Solons
- Museum of Social Change
- Spring Term Curriculum
- Readers, Attention

Published twice a month by Meno, Arkansas by Commonwealth College.Entered as second class matter January 30, 1912, at the post office at Meno, Arkansas, under the act of August 24, 1912.

Continued on Page Two
BROWNS TO CONDUCT STUDENTS TO SOVIET  
To Attend Summer Session 
At Moscow University 

Rose and Bob Brown, members of the faculty of Commonwealth College, will conduct a group of students to the 1935 Summer Session of Moscow University July 16 to August 23. They plan to visit the Russian Museums of the Revolution and on behalf of Commonwealth's Museum of Social Change and arrange for exchange of exhibits and services.

Also, they will make contacts for Commonwealth, the Writers Union, Associated Little Magazines and other organizations. They will be pleased to be of service to Fortnightly readers, as well.

The Browns represent Preslit, the Soviet literary agency, and have many friends and connections in Moscow, so anyone going along with them is not likely to be lonely. They are good travelers, having spent 510 days at sea.

If you are thinking of attending the Soviet summer school or know of anybody who would like to join a congenial group, please get in touch at once, for the bigger the party the better representation Commonwealth and its friends will have. Address The Browns, Commonwealth.

"LABOR FOLKLORE" TO BE PUBLISHED

A branch of the "Labor Folklore Associates" has been founded at Commonwealth for the purpose of unearthing and presenting in simple narrative style material bearing upon labor struggles in this and other parts of the nation.

The first organization of this nature was formed in New York recently. Its sponsors include Edward Dahlberg, Nathan Asch, James Farrell and others.

The general purpose is to build a labor folklore in America and familiarize all workers with the historical struggles of their class. It is planned to issue a series of pamphlets each to be sold for a few cents, telling the story of outstanding labor events.

All readers of the Fortnightly who have material which would be useful in such a project should send it to Commonwealth. If the donor wishes such material returned, copies will be made. Otherwise it will be filed in the library for the use of Commonwealth writers and others who are interested.

Members of the committee in charge are Rose Brown, secretary, Marvin Sanford, Armin Shuman, Claude Gover and Bob Reed.

SENTIMENT OF NATION AGAINST FASCIST BILLS

Commonwealth's Fight for Civil Liberties Aid by All Factions

Editor's Note: The following are extracts from a few of the hundred of statements and protests that have been made since the legislative "investigation" began.

Jane Addams: 

... am sure you know you have my profound sympathy in the difficulties you are encountering.

Mrs. Edward Bellamy: 

"I am immediately getting in touch with influential groups in this part of the country and will issue a statement. ... I will do all in my power to help."

James L. Brewer: "As a lawyer supporting the work of Commonwealth College along with others including Louis Brandeis, Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, I protest in the name of Genuine American Liberties against legislative interference with the heroic accomplishments of that institution in workers education."

Tucker P. Smith, director Brookwood Labor College: "Anation-wide conference of teachers representing 22 workers education groups meeting at Brookwood Labor College here protests the attack upon Commonwealth College as an outrage against American ideals of academic freedom and hopes your investigation committee will not jeopardize the service of that College to the labor movement."

International Labor Defense: "We are taking steps to get a real protest started against the investigation of Commonwealth College."

Alexander Meiklejohn, former director of Experimental College, University of Wisconsin: "I am terribly sorry that the wolves are after you. I know they won't frighten you, but I hope that you will not let your own courage get you into the position of being torn up. Please let me know if I can be of help in any way. With all good wishes for the outcome."
Protests from Page 2

with its enormous reservoir of advanced thinkers. I engage to find 200 head of revolutionary young professors to help you and to give a seminar in moral theology myself.

Bishop Francis J. McConnell, president Methodist Federation for Social Service, and Ralph B. Urmey: "In behalf of tolerance and civil liberties guaranteed by federal constitution we urge you to use your influence against proposed Arkansas sedition bill and against interference with Commonwealth College which progressive educators and liberals of America have watched with interest since its start.

Eugene W. Sutherland, chairman Conference of Younger Churchmen of the South: "... the ruthless assault of planters and 'red-hunters' upon civil liberties as well as upon those who strive to maintain them, gives deepest concern to all who hold justice and freedom dear. ... I can appreciate what Commonwealth and the Southern Tenant Farmers Union are up against in Arkansas. ... There is nothing praiseworthy enough that can be said of those like Lucien Koch and Ward Rodgers and Howard Kester and Powers Happgood and others who are bearing the brunt of the struggle for human rights in Arkansas. Please let us know how we can help.

The United Farmers League: "We are glad to note that you are fighting back against this reactionary Sedition Bill. There is no other course. You will get a lot of support. We on our part will continue to help through the publicity to rally farmers' organizations behind this fight."

Austin Unemployment Council: "We protest against the legislative investigation at Commonwealth College and frame-up designed to perpetrate the struggle of the tenant farmers in your state. ... We demand that Commonwealth College be not molested in the discharge of its purposes."

Frank Graham, president, University of North Carolina: "Please wire me by Western Union contents sedition bill. We have helped kill bills in last two legislatures here. Will gladly help."

Leo Gallagher, nationally famous statistician: "Entire nation condemns efforts of Arkansas legislature to destroy academic freedom and civil liberty."

Thomas R. Amile, member U. S. Congress: 'I have been greatly shocked by recent attacks on Commonwealth College in Arkansas because of its President's activities in organizing the tenant and sharecroppers of that state. This is an unmistakable effort to destroy the civil liberties of the people in the state of Arkansas and consequently a matter of direct interest to every since American citizen."

Corliss Lamont, Columbia University: "Commonwealth College has my complete support in its fight to maintain ordinary freedom of teaching and opinion, and to prevent Arkansas from becoming part of Hitler Germany.

Winifred L. Chappell, Secretary, Methodist Federation for Social Service: "Astonished at proposed investigation of Commonwealth College and at false reports of lax sex relations and unseemly dress. I, a Methodist church woman, was on the faculty last summer. Found staff serious and idealistic, social relations dignified and conventional, clothing like that worn in hundreds of summer schools. Vigorously protest investigation."

St. Louis Post Dispatch (editorial, Feb. 26, 1935): "All believers in academic freedom will regret the intemperate manner in which legislative committee has turned on Commonwealth College, the little institution dedicated to the training of labor leaders ... Arkansas has received credit far and wide for the refuge which it has given little Commonwealth. It is to be hoped that the State will think a second time and so prefer to be known for that, rather than as a throttler of free speech and educational inquiry."

Roy Johnson, Commonwealth neighbor: "I was very sorry to hear about the investigation of Commonwealth College. As I have lived within three miles of the college for better than two years and know pretty near every member on the campus I know that they are all right. On the night the president had the ball my baby was very sick with pneumonia, and if it hadn't been for the assistance Commonwealth College offered I am sure I would not have got a doctor out from Mena. Two women from the college went over to my house and stayed with my wife until the doctor could get there. ... They have also been very courteous and extended me help on other occasions. I think that Commonwealth is a good thing for our community and I would like to see them continue on with their school just as they have in the past."

Best Museum Exhibit Wins Scholarship

A meeting was held on March 15 in Commonwealth College's Museum of Social Change, to pick the winner of a transferable scholarship (worth $40) for the best exhibit received since January 1. Hundreds of exhibits were displayed and carefully judged; the prize finally went to Paul Fromholz, Racine, Wisconsin, a splendid collection of scores of photographs giving the entire history of the tragic Calumet-Hecla strike in the copper region of Michigan, 1913.

Other outstanding exhibits that received high votes were Alexander King's set of lithographs "Pereels Hell," Berenece Pittala's contrasting ladies hand-bags, one of them being a typical purse filled with transfers, telephone numbers, worn lip-stick and 30 cents, the other a penthouses pocket-book with a party kerosene and a $50 bill for 'mad-money.' "Alas, the fifties was stage-money. Miss Pittala also contributed two sets of silver corn-on-the-cob holders, to keep milady's finger-tips kissable. H. L. Mencken's collection of Americana was another memorable mention. A set of broadside and almanic contributions by the N. Y. Nature Friends was a runner-up, along with a modern wooden plough and human harness used by share-croppers who can't afford horses in this day of "ploughing under."

Book Needs

The Commonwealth library needs particularly the following books for class use and general reading:

READERS, ATTENTION

We have been sending the Fortnightly to a few non-subscribers, but in our present financial condition cannot continue to do so. Therefore:

1. If you are not a subscriber and can afford to pay your dollar subscription, please send it in.

2. If you can make a contribution to Commonwealth and would like to have it cover the cost of subscriptions for people who want the Fortnightly, but cannot afford to subscribe, we will gladly use your contribution in this manner.

3. If you cannot afford to subscribe, and want to continue receiving the Fortnightly, please write us to that effect, so that we can get your subscription covered for you.

Please respond promptly, as we do not want to remove anyone wishing to receive the Fortnightly.

S P R I N G T E R M O P E N S

WITH NEW TEACHERS

Workers Art Course Features
As Three New Members
Join Faculty

THE SPRING TERM will open at Commonwealth April 1 with three new teachers and one new course.

Virginia Donaldson will offer a course in drawing, composition and poster design for beginning and advanced students. This course, new on the curriculum, will be informally conducted to meet the special needs of the students. More than one work will be in progress. Cartooning will be taken up. Virginia comes from New York, where she studied at the Art Students League under Boardman Robinson, well known artist.

Marvin Sanford, editor and publisher of labor and co-operative papers for twenty years, will give a fifteen minute course in journalism this term. He will cover the history and personnel of the leading American labor papers since the Civil War, the policies, struggles, position in journalistic history, and will include some practical laboratory work in news writing, head writing, make-up, circulation, financing, and other problems of labor publishing.

Carl Parker, formerly of the staff of the Farm School on Wheels, will offer a course in farm problems and farm organization. The course will take up the position of the farmer in capitalism and will deal particularly with the farm situation in America today (AAA reduction and destruction programs, etc.) and the significant growth of farmers' organization during the past few years.

The regular courses to be repeated are English by Rose Brown and creative writing by Bob Brown and Irene Merrill. Marxist economics by Jean Koch, labor problems by Raymond Koch, public speaking by Al Lehman, and office methods by Charlotte Moskowitz.

Mildred Price will again give her weekly history and current events and will direct the labor orientation course. The latter, a required course, is a survey of world history from a modern working-class point of view. All members of the faculty co-operate in presenting the material.

Ben Low will direct the work in labor dramatics.

[SEDITION BILLS FROM PAGE 1] their militant actions in fostering, agitating and leading dissension, by strikes and otherwise. The state are extremely radical and close to the border line.

We recommend that a close check be kept hereafter on the manner in which the principles they advocate are urged to be put into effect by the people. If such teaching and principles tend to incite the people to overthrow the present constituted government and if such teaching and principles urge the people to overthrow the present constituted government the latter, a required course, is a survey of world history from a modern working-class point of view. All members of the faculty co-operate in presenting the material.

Ben Low will direct the work in labor dramatics.

[SEDITION BILLS FROM PAGE 1] their militant actions in fostering, agitating and leading dissension, by strikes and otherwise. The state are extremely radical and close to the border line.

We recommend that a close check be kept hereafter on the manner in which the principles they advocate are urged to be put into effect by the people. If such teaching and principles tend to incite the people to overthrow the present constituted government the latter, a required course, is a survey of world history from a modern working-class point of view. All members of the faculty co-operate in presenting the material.

Ben Low will direct the work in labor dramatics.

S T U D E N T S A R R E S T E D

Atley Delaney and Fred Rehmer, Commonwealth students now visiting New Orleans, were among the eleven persons arrested there March 17 for picketing a theater in protest against the picture "Man of Courage."

This picture glorifies Mussolini. Banners carried by the pickets read: "Fascism is the rule of the bankers and financial speculators by terror and force."

The demonstration in New Orleans was staged by The United Front Anti-Fascist Committee.

N O V E L B Y C. C. TEACHER

FOR FALL PUBLICATION

"The Green Corn Rebellion," a novel by William Cunningham, will be published in the fall by Vanguard Press. Cunningham teaches Marxism and writing at Commonwealth.

The story is based upon the tragic Green Corn Rebellion which occurred in Oklahoma in 1917. Hundreds of farmers in central Oklahoma armed themselves and banded together with the avowed purpose of overthrowing capitalism. Patriots of the small towns of the region turned out in great numbers. A few skirmishes were fought but the farmers, lacking experienced leadership, were routed and captured. Many of them went to prison. Government censors kept the event out of the papers and very few persons even now have ever heard of the rebellion.

The novel was written at Commonwealth during the past year. The author will get a leave of absence from Commonwealth in the spring quarter in order to complete work on the final draft of the manuscript.

SCHOOL FINANCES FROM PAGE 1

strength; two special issues of the Fortnightly; printed and mimeographed circulars to the Arkansas press, labor organizations, liberal groups, etc. We had to act speedily, using all resources at our command, since it was necessary for us to initiate and lead the successful battle against the suppression of the entire labor movement in Arkansas.

We are asking you to help recoup our funds, so that we can consider the job well done. If the money comes through, our educational program will go forward without injury from this attack.

We will express our appreciation in the energy and determination we are putting into making Commonwealth still more useful to the working class of America.