Hurry!

Students who wish to enroll for the summer course are requested to send their applications immediately to Charlotte Moskowitz, Executive Secretary, Commonwealth College, Mena, Arkansas. The eight week summer course begins June 28th and it's very important that all applications be in as soon as possible in order that proper accommodations can be arranged.

Anyone planning to spend less than the full eight weeks at Commonwealth at the prescribed rate of two dollars a day, without industrial work, is also urged to notify Charlotte Moskowitz in advance.

NEW TEACHERS ADDED FOR SUMMER FACULTY

Kenneth Kuribara arrived at Commonwealth June 5th to complete the outline for the course in Basic Economic and Social Forces in Modern America which he is teaching during the summer session.

It has also been announced that Janet Feder, executive secretary of the American Youth Congress, will lead the discussion on the Youth and Student Movements during the week of July 20th to 24th at Commonwealth's 1936 summer session. Miss Feder is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and has had considerable experience in youth work. She will attend the National Youth Congress at Cleveland on her way to Commonwealth.

Clyde L. Johnson, secretary-treasurer of the Sharecroppers Union, will be one of the three leaders of the discussion on the Sharecroppers', Rural Workers' and Farmers' Movements during the week of August 3rd to 8th. The other two discussion leaders will be announced at a later date.

"I am looking forward to an interesting session," said Kuribara, "expecting to learn from the students' experiences and to help them all learn to mature theoretically. Kuribara came directly from Oberlin College where he recently completed requirements for a masters degree in philosophy.

COMMONERS REPORT FARMER-LABOR MEET
AND CLEVELAND CONVENTION OF THE S. P.

Butler, Whitten, Are Official Delegates At S.P. Convention

The Socialist Party solved one of its major organizational problems by the seating of the New York delegates," according to Richard B. Whitten, director of Commonwealth College who returned recently from the National Convention of the Socialist Party held at Cleveland.

"The way is cleared now to a large degree by the solution of this problem," Whitten continued, "for a period of growing ideological clarity within the party and intensive activity nationally in educating and organizing the American working class for Socialism. The Convention gave definite assurance that one of the first steps in this new turn in the history of the Socialist Party would be one of the most intensive national campaigns ever waged, with Norman Thomas and George Nelson as presidential and vice-presidential candidates for 1936."

Another Commoner at the Convention

Whitten Addresses Forum On Chicago F.-L. Meeting

This call issued by the Minnesota State Farmer-Labor Association Committee to representative farmer-labor groups, labor unions, state federations of labor and political groups throughout the country to attend an exploratory conference for the consideration of launching a National Farmer-Labor Party included Commonwealth College. The College sent its director, Richard Babb Whitten, to attend the Conference which was held in Chicago, May 30th and 31st.

Sunday night, seated on the steps of the Commons, Dick, tired from his long journey yet jovial with his usual sense of humor, held the interest of the group of Commoners and visitors while he told of his experiences and the significant achievements of the Conference.

Dick was much embarrassed when he was forced to appear in Chicago the first day of the convention unshaved, and with a covering of traveler's dust, because an intoxicated bus companion had taken his suitcase by mistake. However, he managed to recover the suitcase and the Farmer-Labor Bibliographies compiled by Commonwealth College, which were received with much enthusiasm when distributed among the Conference delegates.


The speeches and discussion of the Conference centered around two conflicting opinions. One, represented chiefly by Governor Orton and the Minnesota Farmer-

COMMUNONWEALTH COLLEGE
FORTNIGHTLY

VOL. XII, NO. 12 MENA, ARKANSAS: JUNE 15, 1936 $1.00 A YEAR
Commoner Prepares To Run Traveling Library

Students come to Commonwealth College to equip themselves for specific roles of leadership in the American labor movement. The task to which they return symbolizes their dedication to a new real civilization. Naturally, these tasks often involve hardships if not real suffering. And always come the hindrances of inadequate "tools" to work with. This creates a problem of organizing, not only working-class support with the nickels and dimes contributed by workers, but also support from sympathetic individuals or groups who may not themselves be part of the working class. One Commoner is in training for such an undertaking which embodies an interesting plan to be worked out in a southern state.

One of the greatest needs of southern workers is the opportunity to travel and study. It is necessary that they have access to socially conscious books, novels, magazines, etc., in order to know something of their own problems and how to solve them. To this goal, the value of workers libraries, particularly in the South, cannot be over-estimated. The latest development, the circulating library on wheels, offers an excellent opportunity in this direction. Real accomplishments can come from such a library giving special emphasis to literature on actual problems of the workers.

Our fellow commoner is here to learn all she can about libraries and literature desirable for such a workers' circulating library. Her home is in the bituminous coal fields of the Appalachian Mountains. Out from her home about one hundred thousand people live within a radius of one hundred miles. The majority of this population is composed of coal miners and poor mountain farmers. There is not a single library within this whole area!

The librarian, being native born to the mountains, knows how to approach her people and their needs. The real problem does not lie in conducting the library. Some local workers and friends have together secured an old laundry truck. One worker is now busy installing shelves and partitions for books in the truck. But there are not yet enough books for a full library. This is the biggest need right now to insure the success of this library on wheels. While the local workers do know how to patch up an old truck, put in shelves and other such jobs, they haven't books to put into the shelves when they are made. It is believed that after the library is once launched those able to pay rental fees for the books can be made adequately conscious of the value of such a circulating library to workers day operating expenses. The truck will travel up and down the coal hollows and through the by-ways of the country side, loaning books and making a nominal charge for a book each week to those who are able to pay. But it will strive not to keep a good book away from any coal miner or farmer who happens not to be able to pay even a small weekly fee.

Our Commoner-librarian-in-the-making is tied to the working class and the mountain people. She grew up in these mining towns and is one of the underprivileged group. As a loyal and awakened member of the working class, she should be able to do real and far reaching work through the medium of this circulating library on wheels in her home country.

Anyone interested in further details or information on this unique project should write to Don West, care of A. W. Adams, Quail, Kentucky.

Outlines Available

A limited number of mimeographed outlines of the Political Economy course at Commonwealth are being offered for sale at twenty cents each. This twenty-five page booklet contains a comprehensive review of the subject, definitions and an excellent bibliography. Anyone wishing to purchase a copy of this outline as a guide for study should write to Charlotte Moskowitz, Executive Secretary, Commonwealth College, Mena, Arkansas.

Covington Hall Tells Of Situation In Oklahoma

Political pandemonium reigns in Oklahoma," said Covington Hall, speaking from his experience the past few months in that state, where he has been working for the Veterans of Industry of America.

"The situation is a free for all scramble of the different groups for power and politicians for office."

Proof that the people are at least aware of the necessity of some political action by themselves is seen in the alliance recently formed by the V.I.A., the Farmers Union, the Townsend Clubs and the Share the Wealth movement for the purpose of electing representatives to the state legislature and Gomez Smith, vice president of the Townsend Clubs, for United States Senator. This alliance, however, also reveals the uncertainty of the people as to what they want, since these organizations all present different solutions for the problems of capitalism. The V.I.A. of which Ira M. Finley, long prominent in the Oklahoma labor movement, is the president proposes production for use and the Cooperative Commonwealth as its goal; the Townsend Clubs hope to solve the social question by old age pensions, while the Share the Wealth followers believe the solution lies in taking wealth from those at the top and handing it to those on the bottom.

"It is inevitable that such a combination can not continue long," says Covington Hall, "everyone is watching to see who will win in the final smash-up—socialists or fascists, political chaos pervades Oklahoma. The Socialist Party is torn to pieces, the left refusing to support any platform not emphatically and openly advocating socialism, advanced by any party, Socialist, Communist or Farmer-Labor. However, they will work within small groups that do not represent immediate demands to the people as socialist aims."

"I saw a great deal of suffering in Oklahoma," Covington said. "There is widespread unemployment through out the state. The government is already putting people off relief in all cities and towns.

"The relief rolls in many towns are filled with farmers and agricultural workers driven off the land."

"Yet the government is building streets and highways, and concrete squares about schoolyards. Sixty-two armories are being built in the state, yet mine was the only protest raised, excepting that of a Townsendite speaker on the radio, who denounced militarism and all things military.
FARM PROBLEMS CLASS USES UNIQUE METHOD

Only to the extent that you can apply your theory in practical circumstances can it be of any value in the working-class movement! Such was the opinion of the members of the Farm Problems class as they launched a new feature which proved very popular and which will certainly be used a great deal more in the same class in future quarters.

It consisted of improvising a situation in which the material covered in the previous days session could be used in mock combat with some of the most typical enemies of the small farmer and agricultural worker. Sometimes the student would be required to respond to the statements of such a character impartiously; at other times they would be given a role to play, for which they could prepare in advance. In all cases they were required to play their parts seriously, projecting themselves, as completely as possible into the situation as it was outlined by the instructor.

The possible benefits to the students of such a session are many. It will suffice here to mention two. First, it serves to fix in their minds much of the knowledge that they gain in class, but are apt to forget unless given an opportunity to use it soon afterwards. Second, it places them in a situation where they are required to put all their efforts into the job of making a logical oral presentation of their position. Briefly, it is about as exacting upon the student as is a similar experience in real life.

Books Needed By Library
Revolt on the Campus, by James Wechsler.
The Nazi Dictatorship, by F. L. Schuman.
When Japan Goes to War, by O. Tanin.
Inside Europe, by John Gunther.
Marxism, by J. M. Murray and others.
Lords of Creation, by F. L. Allen.
When Britain Goes to War, by B. H. Lidell Hart.
Must We Fight in Asia? by Nathaniel Pef- fer.
The Coming American Fascism, by Law- rence Dennis.
Introduction to Dialectical Materialism, by August Thalheimer.

Light Reading Wanted
Commoners, like all other people, have their less serious moments. The list of books needed is usually confined to material required for classwork or collateral reading, but we would also like to have a number of the better mystery and adventure stories published in the last three or four years.

Campus Notes

"Willa Bayes of Cleveland, member of the Advisory Board of the Progressive Education Association, arrived May 29th for a few days' visit. She left here for the Texas State Teachers College for Women at Dentsy, where she will teach in the summer school.

Vernon Reynolds arrived with Covington Hall a few days ago for a brief visit. He is an active member of the Socialist Labor Party and gave Commoners a very interesting interpretation of its program.

Don West, well known as the author of several highly praised proletarian poems, visited Commonwealth for two weeks. He, with his wife, Mabel, their daughter, Ann, Hazel Tate, fair Kentuckyan, and Joe Davis, a minor-student, left Sunday, May 31st, for Kentucky.

Certain Commoners have found a new diversion on these cool moonlit nights - frog hunting. Fishing, too, is much in favor - and eating them at dinner next day under the envius eyes of other Commoners who didn't go fishing.

Rex Pitkin, Commonwealth student, is on the job in eastern Arkansas, sending reports of the cotton-chopping strike there to labor papers.

William Waltrip spent a few days here attending classes and enjoying square dances.

FORUMS

Commoners attended a stimulating forum Sunday morning, May 31st, on the campus bluff. Covington Hall presided as chairman. Henry Black made an interesting talk on problems facing the Peoples Front in France. John Barnett discussed the question of when a revolutionary party should support a bourgeois government. Vernon Reynolds, lecturer for the Socialist Labor Party, presented its position on the United Front. His speech aroused so many questions that the forum was continued one hour after lunch.

Sunday evening, May 24th, a forum was held in the Commons, on national prejudice. John Barnett thoroughly exploded the theory of race or national superiority. Don West, socialist leader, spoke on Negro discrimination and the methods of unting black and white workers in a common struggle for economic gains.

LIBRARY STAFF BUSY WITH MANY PROJECTS

The library staff is as active as usual; in addition to the usual routine activity, work is going forward on a half dozen different projects.

In addition to the Farmer-Labor bibliography announced elsewhere, eight other lists of references are being prepared in connection with the summer school work; there is one on the international situation, one on midsummer custom, another on unemployed organizations, another on the student movement and so forth.

In April the library staff set a record for Commonwealth and cataloging and placing in use 186 new books and pamphlets; in addition several old volumes were restated.

Also in April a "supplementary list of subject headings, headings, "covering such topics as trade unions, socialism, communism and cooperation was completed. This "supplementary list" is a special "tool" used in cataloging of books; it was mimeographed and copies sent to a few libraries with collections similar to that at Commonwealth.

Work on the refining of the card catalog has been about half completed. In the course of the years the cards in the catalog have become disarranged and somewhat out of order. Refiling them is a slow, monotonous task, but it is hoped to have the work completed by midsummer.

Several new periodicals, including the Hosiery Worker, the Voice of Action, the Labor Tribune, New Frontiers and Woman Today have recently been added to the extensive file in the library.

Charles Matix, art teacher, is making a hecograph, a simple device for copying letters, forms, etc cetera, in small editions. It is expected to be used extensively in the library for copying catalog cards, book lists and office forms.

The reading lists which appeared in the FORUMS for a while will be mimeographed and distributed by mail in the future, according to Black, librarian. This will provide for more efficient distribution of the lists. Readers of the FORUMS who want lists on particular subjects are requested to write to the librarian.

DELEGATES ELECTED TO YOUTH CONGRESS

At a recent meeting of the student body Eino Jokinen and Mort Brown were elected to represent the college at a meeting called for the afternoon of June 13th in Little Rock to discuss means of sending a delegation to the Youth Congress in Cleveland. The conference will also consider the possibility of setting up a sponsoring committee for a State Youth Congress to be held some time after July 5th.
Josephine Johnson, Joe
Jones Are Visitors Here

Commonwealth entertained a number of visitors over the week-end of June 7th, including Joe Jones, well-known artist who painted the mural in the Commons last summer. Jones was accompanied by Josephine Johnson, author, and Caroline Drew, of St. Louis. (See over to Commonwealth from eastern Arkansas where Miss Johnson is gathering material on the S. T. F. U. strike for a series of articles. Jones is taking photographs in the strike area to illustrate Miss Johnson's articles which will soon appear in one of the St. Louis newspapers.

The trio were arrested in Forrest City, Arkansas, for talking with a Negro sharecropper, but were released as soon as they went to the political union which had entered into the state "entire labor." They returned on Monday, June 8th, to study the strike situation more fully.

Miss Johnson, who has won considerable recognition for her short stories and the Pulitzer Prize winning novel, "Now in November," said that her next novel will be concerned to a large extent with the struggle of the workers in a small American town.

Miss Drew is in charge of the Vanguard Book-Note in St. Louis.

Chester A. Arthur, Jr., and Ed Shertol have been spending a few days on their way to California.

Arthur is Pacific Coast editor of the Labor Defender and a member of the Executive Committee of the League for Southern Labor. He is touring the country for the purpose of studying labor and economic conditions and writing articles based upon his observations. Arthur has been asked by President Roosevelt to make a report of his survey to the White House.

[S.P. CONVENTION from page 1]

was J. R. Butler, president of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, who seconded the nomination of Norman Thomas for president. Butler told the Convention, "For the last two years the most completely forgotten of all the world's forgotten men, the sharecroppers, both white and Negro, of our fair Southland, have looked hopefully to Norman Thomas to show them the way out. The way out of the most exploited conditions. The way out of the most terribly terrorized situation that it has been the misfortune of human beings to endure. This opportunity that these oppressed people have, through me, of seconding the nomination of Norman Thomas is the outstanding highlight of their lives."

While getting rid of the reactionary Old Guard forces which have hampered the [SUMMER SESSION from page 1] with a thesis on historical materialism.

The complete program for the summer session is as follows:

 COURSES

Basic Economic and Social Forces in Modern America, one hour per day, eight weeks. Kenneth Kurihara.

American and World History in the Making, weekly sessions, eight weeks.

Graphic Methods of Propaganda, eight weeks, correlated with weekly discussions. Charles Mattox.

DISCUSSION GROUPS

(Two one-hour sessions daily)

June 29 to July 4: The International Scene. Carl Haessler.

July 6 to July 11: The Soviet Union Today. (To be announced.)

July 13 to July 18: The Fight Against War and Fascism. Mother Ella Reeve Bloor and another (To be announced).

July 20 to July 25: The Youth and Student Movements. Janet Feder.

July 27 to August 1: Trends in the American Trade Union Movement. (To be announced.)

August 3 to August 8: The Sharecroppers', Rural Workers', and Farmers' Movements. Clyde Johnson and others.

August 5 to August 10: The Organization of the Unemployed. Bill Reich.


The party so long was probably the high point of the Convention, there were other important accomplishments. Whitten pointed out the importance of the resolutions passed in the convention for a joint ticket with the Farmer-Labor Party.

Although the proposal for a joint ticket with the Communist Party was rejected, the question of a United Front aroused considerable favorable discussion. It was voted that a United Front between the Socialist and Communist Parties on immediate issues should be decided by a referendum of all the party members.

Others who attended the Convention from Arkansas were Walter Mosco, organizer and student, Billy Gilbert and Claude C. Williams. Williams, who attended as one of the official delegates from this state, served on the resolutions committee.

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[COVINGTON HALL from page 2]

with it, in unvarnished terms.

"Oil is the only active industry. We have no other. But the work is so irregular that it is difficult to make a living even in this field."

"I would like to see students from Commonwealth go to Oklahoma. It is a fine field in which to test their ideas, if they have any. They can get on the V. I. A. platform and preach the cooperative commonwealth or production for use as much as they like."

Covington Hall has had a long and interesting history in the labor movement, since entering the Socialist Party in 1902. In 1906 he worked with Debs, Haywood and others, including J. A. Smith and Arthur L. Emerson, two of the outstanding leaders of that day. He participated in the Louisiana Labor Workers' Revolt in 1910-13, and in many of the big strikes, political campaigns, industrial and political fights of workers and farmers throughout the country. In North Dakota he worked with several others in building the Non-Partisan League. He tells us that if they had been allowed to carry out their program, which was "robated" by the progressives, the midwest would have a strong Farmer-Labor Party today.

[F. L. MEETING from page 1] for a national Farmer-Labor ticket in 1936. This faction would support state and local tickets, but would give national support to Roosevelt. The other group, led by the Communist Party, urged the calling of a convention by September 5th, for the purpose of launching a National Farmer-Labor Party this year.

A compromise resolution was finally introduced by J. H. S. Hardman and adopted by the Conference. This resolution threw the responsibility of a National Convention in '36 back into the lap of the Minnesota Farmer-Labor Association. An advisory and cooperative committee of 25 was set up to aid the Minnesota Association. These two groups will continue to contact and try to enlist the support of farmer, labor, and political bodies, particularly the Committee for Industrial Organization and the Non-Partisan Labor League, in an effort to establish a national party in '36. They will also give immediate support to independent farmer-labor and liberal congressional candidates in the various states and districts where there may be a chance of success. But any further action towards launching a national party will be left to the discretion of the two committees.

Dick concluded his talk by saying he did not believe there would be a national Farmer-Labor ticket this year. He said, however, that a national convention was possible and local and state farmer-labor tickets were a certainty.