

Minnesota CP Leader Talks To University YWCA Group

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—Apparently Communist views subsequent to the recent national convention of the Communist Party are of no little interest here as attested by page one attention given by the University of Minnesota paper, the "Minnesota Daily" to a talk by Carl Ross on the campus a few days ago. The "Daily" boasts the "world's largest college circulation."

"The young ladies of the campus YWCA responded enthusiastically to a talk by Carl Ross, state secretary of the American Communist Party, in the Union Women's Lounge yesterday afternoon," the "Daily" reported.

"After the soft-spoken Ross outlined basic tenets of American Communism, some 40 attending YWCA members fired questions for about 30 minutes."

The "Daily" further reported: "The speaker's discussion of sociology and economics met no arguments. Questions were mainly on why the party was being attacked in the United States, and about the social order in the Soviet Union."

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ROSS, IN HIS SPEECH and replies to questions, covered a wide range of questions from origins of scientific socialist philosophy to questions of ethics and morality. The doctrinairism of Communists in the past was compared to the practice of citing Scripture without relation to its applicability or interpretations; and the effort to develop Marxism in American conditions, he said, was comparable in some ways to the effort of some of the Christian church to interpret and apply Scripture as a "living faith."

Ross drew a parallel between the work of men such as Thomas



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Jefferson in applying to American society the commonly accepted universal truths of that revolutionary age and the true Americanism of contemporary American Marxists in endeavoring to apply those principles of Marxist science that are universally valid.

Subject of the talk was basic principles of Communism as compared to Christian religion. Ross disclaimed that Communism is a "faith" and described it as a social science.

One student wrote afterward: "If this can serve as any morale booster, let me commend you on your course in speaking out: it is a rare quality these days. You provided the girls with some food for thought, which is a claim greater than the university can make."