

# THE YOUNG SOCIALIST

Ten Cents

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The pictures above left and directly above are of the 80,000 strong student demonstration held in Mexico City on August 30. The picture on the lower left shows workers and students fleeing from tear gas and rifle fire the day before when they attempted to storm the jailhouse. See story below.

**YS WRITER IMPRISONED:**

## 150,000 Mexican Students March; Face Bullets, Gas

(This is an on the spot eye-witness account of the latest demonstration of students in Mexico City on September 6. It is written by a socialist youth who is a member of the Gran Comision (University of Mexico student executive committee) and was arrested and imprisoned for leading a demonstration of 150,000 students and workers. Following this is a diary of a young American which gives an account of the events leading up to the September 6 demonstration. Comrade Lang was wounded in the leg with a tear gas shell while getting this story and the pictures above for the YS.)

by Felipe Galvan

MEXICO CITY—Once again we were marching—teachers, students, and workers. The teachers, led by Oton Salazar, were fighting for a union that would represent their own interests, against the stooges who run the union in the interests of the government.

As we started to march, we learned that the police had just arrested Oton Salazar. The granaderos (riot police) began to form around us. On the avenue where the tourists buy "curios" and stay in luxurious hotels, the tear gas bombs began to fall. The granaderos dispersed us, but several blocks further on we reorganized the march.

More tear gas. We threw the bombs back—the police didn't have masks. Several fell dead. An old man who had been among the onlookers picked up a banner that had fallen and joined our march. Several students captured a bus and sent it wild against the granaderos. A student fell on the ground in convulsions after being hit on the head by a rifle butt.

Women, in many places, were taking the lead, throwing stones and urging onlookers to join them. People in offices above the street began throwing broken glass and shooting at the granaderos. Many of us then went to the railway station to get the railway workers to join us. The granaderos arrived, but had to retreat under a barrage of stones. The students at the Polytechnic are waiting now with rifles and coctels.

**THE BEGINNING**

We know that this is only the beginning of the repression by the Government against the student and worker's movement which began with a series of strikes last February and which came to a head in the recent student led demonstrations against a rise in the bus fare. Hundreds have been arrested, including several army officers who joined us and shot at the police. As yet we have no knowledge of the number wounded. The police have hidden the dead.

We are not defeated. The teachers are already on strike. The railway and petroleum workers within a matter of days will probably go on strike. Hundreds of thousands of people who before were not interested in "politics," after having their children tear gassed and in several cases shot at, are with us now. Most important of

all there's talk of a general strike.

Just before the above described demonstration on September 6, we held 400 buses at University City, where the police are not allowed to enter. The members of the Gran Comision (Student Executive Committee), including myself, interviewed the President. He promised that the troops would be withdrawn from the Polytechnic Institute and from around the University as soon as there was calm and that the raise in bus fares would be suspended. We answered that the troops were responsible for the atmosphere at Poly and the University, and that

the only way to achieve calm would be to withdraw the troops. The students voted overwhelmingly not to accept the Government's proposals.

After the voting most of the 50 members of the Gran Comision went home to change their clothing and eat. Just three members were left, all members of the right wing of the student organization. Secretly in conjunction with the police, without the authorization of anyone, they handed over the buses. The rumor is that they were bribed with a fabulous amount of money. The students have beaten up two of the three, and are look-

ing for the third. It was this situation that led to the demonstration of September 6th.

We in the Juventud Socialista de Mexico (Socialist Youth of Mexico) are in the middle of the fight. Whether or not the government decides on a military dictatorship or decides to retreat, we know the people are with us. And that means we can't be defeated.

by Jerry Lang

MEXICO CITY—Tear gas and machine-gun fire in Mexico's modern downtown streets forced the world's attention on this country last week. Following a hard-

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**ACTION PLANNED ON LITTLE ROCK CRISIS:**

## Youth March for Integration

by Martha Curti

With the integration of schools stymied in Little Rock and Virginia, a mass march of youth on Washington is being planned for Saturday, October 11. The march is being sponsored by a committee headed by Martin Luther King, Mrs. Ralph Bunche, A. Philip Randolph and Jackie Robinson.

Other signs of opposition by youth, white and Negro, to the so far successful attempts of Faubus and Company to stall the integration of schools is beginning to be noticed throughout the country.

A group of white Southern delegates to the recent convention of the National Student Association voted 33-1 for a resolution condemning school segregation.

"Though we are proud of the Southern community's way of life," the resolution said, "we do not feel that a system that denies equal opportunity to some Southern citizens is either necessary or desirable as part of that way of life."

In the border states of Oklahoma and Kansas, young Negroes are conducting "sit-in" strikes to gain service at eating places discriminating against Negroes. In Oklahoma City, youths from six to 17 years of age have won service at at least two lunch counters and are working on a third. In Wichita, Kansas, a two-day sit-down campaign opened the lunch counters of an entire drugstore

chain to Negro citizens. The campaigns are sponsored by local Youth Councils of the NAACP.

**RACISM IN NEW YORK**

As school opened in New York City 21 Negro pupils stayed home to protest the de facto segregation existing in this "liberal" Northern city. This segregation operates by a school zoning system similar to the notorious pupil-placement system of Virginia.

There are indications that if students were left to themselves, integration would be no problem. This opinion was expressed last year by several Little Rock students, both colored and white. This year, white high school students at Arlington, Va., a suburb of Washington, D.C., were asked on a TV interview, "How would you feel if your school had opened on an integrated basis?" The majority of students said they would accept it and would try to be nice to the Negro students. One girl said, "I would welcome integration, and I think most of my friends feel the same way."

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## NYC: A New Party Emerges

by James Lambrecht

NEW YORK—Election politics have the same stature with many young people as bootlegging had a generation ago. Except for occasional political St. Valentine's Day Massacres we tolerate them as petty, uninteresting farces affecting our lives not at all. Serious politics, attracting our serious thought, deal with those terrifying symptoms of international

crisis that crowd the daily press. Beside these, the tiny machinations at Tammany have an almost comprehensible human capacity however evil.

But socialists running in the November New York state elections on the Independent-Socialist ticket reject this attitude. They hold that "high politics" in Washington—decisions on cold

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## REJECT YS UNITY BID:

# Right Wing Socialist Youth Unite

by Allen Taplin

NEW YORK—The Young People's Socialist League (YPSL) and the Young Socialist League (YSL) merged into a single organization in their joint convention held in New York the weekend of Aug. 30-31. The YPSL is the official youth affiliate of the Norman Thomas Socialist Party-Social Democratic Federation (SP-SDF); the YSL is the fraternal youth affiliate of Max Shachtman's Independent-Socialist League (ISL).

The new organization will be called "The YPSL" — although three-fourths of its membership will come from the now dissolving YSL—and will function under the rules and discipline of the Constitution of the SP-SDF. Formal unity will be held up until the ISL dissolves and its members are allowed to individually join the SP-SDF.

High point of the convention was a spirited debate over adoption of a programmatic statement for the new organization. Over the opposition of a left-wing minority, largely within the YPSL, the youth group adopted as its platform "The Aims and Tasks of Democratic Socialism." This is the basic programmatic document of the Socialist (Second) International.

The main protests of the minority were directed towards the document's advocacy of "collective security" by the capitalist nations, and its statement that "... democracy has the right and duty to protect itself against those who exploit its opportunities only in order to destroy it." This was criticized as akin to the Smith Act thought-control law.

Prior to the convention, on Aug. 3, the YOUNG SOCIALIST Editorial Board had addressed a letter to the two social-democratic youth organizations urging discussions of possible unity or joint socialist activities. The letter said in part:

"The YOUNG SOCIALIST, America's only nationwide socialist youth newspaper, its supporters, and some 15 youth clubs throughout the country to which it gives expression, have from their very birth sought to unify all socialist youth into a common organization. We stand at this moment, as we have from our very inception, for the unity of the Young Socialist League, Young Peoples Socialist League, the supporters of the Young Socialist, independents and former members of the Labor Youth League into one organization.

"We stand ready at this time to enter into immediate negotiations with the YSL and YPSL as a move toward this end. We specifically ask the YSL and YPSL to enter into negotiations with us prior to taking any final steps on their own merger. We, on our part, desire such negotiations in order to clarify the situation in the youth field prior to the holding of our National Conference in December.

"Should it be impossible at this time to bring about the organic unity of all socialist youth, it still may be possible for the different youth organizations, publications and local youth groups to work together on those issues where there is agreement. We favor a united front of all socialist and working-class youth, including young members of the Communist Party as well as any other party, in order to advance the struggle for peace, for integration, for civil liberties and for socialism in our own country. We seek a formal statement from the YSL and the YPSL as to their willingness to cooperate with other young socialists and workers."

The Board also asked the two organizations for their views on the SP-SDF leaders' statement characterizing the YOUNG SOCIALIST as having "no greater

claim to the name 'socialist' than the Communist Party or the National Socialists of Germany." (see YS No. 11) And it asked for discussions on the issue of united electoral activity in opposition to the two major capitalist parties. This last point was particularly timely as the United Independent-Socialist Party (see story pg. 1) was just entering a petition campaign to get on the ballot in New York State.

The YOUNG SOCIALIST letter was answered on Aug. 22 by Eldon Clingan and Michael Harrington, the respective National Secretary and Chairman of the YPSL and YSL. Their answer did not make a single mention of the SP-SDF statement nor of their attitude toward united socialist electoral activity. On the question of youth unity and independence they rejected the offer to have discussions with the YS and had the following to say:

"On one point, however, we would like to restate our attitude

in this letter. It concerns your conception of an "independent" youth organization. In recent times we have become more convinced than ever of the rightness of linking the perspectives for youth unity with those for adult regroupment. Thus, we are preparing to hold a convention for the purpose of forming the largest organization of democratic socialist youth seen in this country for a decade, one which will be affiliated to the Socialist Party-Social Democratic Federation.

"On practical grounds, too, we reject the notion of youth independence. We know full well how difficult it is to maintain a youth organization. The YSL has said before and repeats now, that the YSL's very existence has been made possible only because of the fraternal aid of the ISL; the YPSL is, of course, affiliated to the SP-SDF."

"Our common perspective, we feel, is now being vindicated. We will soon go forward as an integral part of a nationwide growth of democratic socialism under the banner of the SP-SDF. So far, every indication which you have given is in opposition to these basic notions. For this reason, we see no possibility of fruitful discussions at this time."

## YS Launches Expansion Drive

Organization has begun in local areas throughout the country for the YOUNG SOCIALIST's first nationwide barnstorming tour. The tour starts in Los Angeles on Sept. 20.

Tim Wohlforth, editor of the YS, will tour the West Coast from San Diego to Vancouver until October 15. He will visit Denver, Colorado and the Twin Cities and then begin an extensive tour to the Mid West. After visiting such areas as Madison, Chicago, Michigan, Ohio, Toronto and Montreal in Canada, Wohlforth will start the East Coast lap of his tour with extensive meetings in the Boston area. From there he will tour the Coast down to Baltimore and return to the New York area around Dec. 7.

Along with the tour the YS is planning a subscription and sales drive to expand the paper into new areas and to reach new readers in areas where the paper is already sold. Alongside this sub drive the YS is initiating a special \$1,200 expansion fund drive for the period of Sept. 15 to Dec. 15, and in laying plans for an additional drive to raise \$1,200 next Spring.

The YOUNG SOCIALIST is taking a major organizational step to strengthen the publication and to give a firm basis for expanding the socialist youth movement in this country by establishing a YS "Supporter" system. The YS is issuing supporter cards to the hundreds of young people throughout the country who have been actively promoting the paper and fostering unity among socialist youth. A YS supporter will receive communications and discussion material and will have a voice in the activities of the YOUNG SOCIALIST. The supporter will be expected to pledge a minimum of 50 cents a month to the support of the paper.

The YOUNG SOCIALIST hopes that through this expanded level of activity it will be able to further the regroupment of militant socialist youth into a new movement open to all young socialists in this country.

## Youth Plan March on Washington for Integration . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

As in Little Rock and Van Buren, Ark., it is a small minority of students who actively resist integration. At Van Buren H.S., which was integrated last year, a small band of segregationist students threatened a strike, burned a Negro in effigy, and succeeded in keeping the Negroes out of school. A teacher at the school, speaking of her students, said, "These are nice kids, and the troublemakers outside get all the publicity."

### LITTLE ROCK

The Little Rock case, a worldwide symbol of American "democracy," has evolved into a complex legal tangle. As the YS goes to press the Supreme Court has ruled against any delay in integration at Central High. However Faubus has answered by closing the schools and preparing to open them again on a private basis. The world is now waiting to see if the U.S. Government will act

with speed and authority or whether the legal battle to go on at length in the state courts before stepping in.

Since the 1954 Supreme Court decision barring jimcrow schools, integration has proceeded at a slower rate each year, until this year it is almost at a standstill, and indeed in some places it has gone into reverse.

The number of school districts integrated in the first two years after the decision was 450. Last year it was just 67; this year the number is expected to drop sharply. And most of the new districts to be integrated this year will be as a result of earlier plans for expansion. Indeed, in such places as North Little Rock and Van Buren, Ark., plans already made for integration have been called off as a result of the Little Rock setback.

The government, in the form of the House "Un-American" Committee, under the leadership

of Southern Democrats, is proceeding also to witchhunt most of the militant fighters for integration in the South, white and colored. It considers these people to be a great threat to our security.

But Faubus and Company, who are openly plotting to subvert and undermine the nation's government, who are endangering not only the education, but the actual lives of innocent Negro students, who are shamelessly instigating rebellion against peace and justice—do these people merit the attention of this "investigating" committee? It seems not; it seems that these activities are quite "American" and constitute no danger to our "internal security."

For the Negro people and their friends among the whites to merely sit by and wait for the government to step in and enforce school integration would be futile and utopian. It is clear that the U.S. Government is far more concerned with "Freedom" in Lebanon or

Quemoy than in the South.

Further, to simply rely on legal action to enforce integration is likewise utopian. Four years of legal battle following the Supreme Court decision have proved fruitless in bringing about integration for the bulk of Negro students in the South.

The only way to enforce integration is by the militant action of the Negro people themselves. The announcement of a "Youth March for Integrated Schools" by a group of prominent Negro leaders is a sign that many Negroes are becoming aware of the necessity to act in their own interests.

It is necessary for all young people in the Eastern part of the United States who really wish to contribute to the integration of schools to plan to march together on October 11. The eyes of the whole world will be watching America's youth to see if they care enough for democracy to see that it is practiced at home.

# Young Socialist

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October, 1958

## Matsu and You

With this issue the YOUNG SOCIALIST enters its second year of publication. For the fourth time since we began publication in September of 1957 the YS is forced to speak out against the "brinkmanship" of our government and in support of the colonial peoples.

Our December issue featured an article by Shane Mage in defense of Syria which was faced with the threat of war from the U.S. puppet government in Turkey and U.S. intervention. Our March issue contained a front page editorial attacking U.S. support to the French war against the Algerian people. This time world attention was brought to North Africa by the bombing of Sakiet, a town in Tunisia, by the French with U.S. made bombers.

Our August issue demanded "Send GI's Home from Middle-East" protesting U.S. troops in Lebanon.

Today American ships are escorting boatloads of U.S. made supplies to several islands less than 3 miles off the coast of China to help the dictator Chiang Kai-Chek "defend" himself. The latest reports indicate that U.S. planes are flying well within the 3 mile limit to cover the landing operation and that American "advisors" are on the actual landing craft.

We must demand of our government: withdraw the Seventh Fleet. Let Chiang Kai-Chek fend for himself. Stop brandishing guns, planes and ships three miles off the mainland of Communist China. Quemoy is no more necessary for the "defense" of the U.S. than Long Island is for the defense of the Soviet Union.

The N.Y. Times reported recently, on the basis of a nationwide survey of public opinion, that "hardly anyone expressed the view that the offshore islands, or even Taiwan, were vital to United States interests." It reports one Columbia University student as saying: "I don't think any American wants to die redeeming Dulles' pledges."

In addition to protesting once again the Government's "brinkmanship" it is time young people began thinking about why in one year we have approached the brink so many times? Could it be that something basically is wrong? Could it be that the socialists are right in saying that America's foreign policy is imperialistic and in pointing to the capitalist system as the source of the imperialistic drive of our government?

In the coming school year more and more students will be asking themselves these questions. It will be the task of the YS to help to offer some answers.

## Students for Sanity

Just before the school term began students from campuses throughout the country came together for the first national meeting of Student Committees for a Sane Nuclear Policy. These students mapped out together a program to combat the nuclear madness in the world and to inform the student public of the dangers of continued nuclear testing.

Students on the Eastern seaboard are planning a "Youth March for

Integration" early in October (see page 1). A large number of students from high schools and colleges—Negro and white—are planning to participate.

These two actions are signs that larger sections of young people in this country are beginning to wake up and to act—for sanity. It is hoped that both the student SANE committees and the youth march for integration will be successful in the coming year.

# British MP Tells About Labor Youth

an interview

(The following is an interview with Harold Davies, left-wing Labor Member of the British Parliament, conducted by YS editor Tim Wohlforth. The interview was held at the Young Socialist Alliance Hall in New York City just prior to Comrade Davies' national tour. Davies is a leader of the Victory for Socialism group within the Labor Party and very active in the recent anti-H-Bomb test campaign in England.)

You have a very nice hall here. It's about the size of the coffee shop we have just set up on Carlisle St. (London). It is a new meeting place for young people around the *Universities and Left Review*. One of the leftwing publishers in England is donating a whole library to the new center.

Q. What is the present state of the Labor Party youth movement?

A. In the past the Labor Party leadership has tended to fear the youth. It's been like an old lady with her skirts way down below her ankles. What if the youth occasionally send in an ultra-leftist resolution or something? If a person isn't radical when he is young, what will he be like at 70? Presently the Labor Party youth support isn't a tenth what it should be.

Q. Have you noticed any changes recently among Britain's youth that might point to a brighter picture for the future?

A. Youth seem to be asking more questions—inquiring more. The Party should give these young people more headroom to function. The Victory for Socialism group is consciously supporting a policy of encouraging youth support to the Labor Party. Young people have played a very active role in the various

anti-nuclear test demonstrations we held recently.

Q. How was youth support in previous times?

A. Of course masses of youth were around us in the thirties. Just after world War II we



HAROLD DAVIES, M.P.

reached our peak strength among youth. The young soldier returning home played a major role in bringing Labor to power in 1945. Since then our strength among youth has been dwindling. The Conservatives have a bigger youth following but

their's is largely social. They have more money than we to provide for entertainment and dances.

Q. What do you think of the present drive toward a third world War?

A. This business of making war every 20 years must stop. Our enemies of the last war become our allies in the next war. Japan has changed from being a bunch of "yellow dogs" to our new "Defenders of Democracy" in Asia. The men and women of the world must learn to work together and to live together in peace. In order to promote peace we need a new united democratic socialist left.

Q. What is the purpose of your tour throughout the United States and Canada?

A. I hope to promote friendship between the left-wing democratic left in this country and the British trade union and left-wing movement. I hope to learn something about this country in the process and possibly give some information on developments in Britain.

Q. What do you think young people can do to help out in the present world situation?

A. I hope the young people of America can meet and learn to know the young people of Europe and other parts of the world. I hope that they can learn to work together as you around the YOUNG SOCIALIST seemed to have learned even though they may have differences on many important questions.

# A New Party Emerges . . .

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wars, hydrogen bombs, revolutions and counter-revolutions—are as closely linked to the machine wars of New York state as are the machines themselves to the "rotten wards" of each city. Woe to the federal officials, including presidents, who ignore their party: that dirty little world contains their only social roots and they would perish without it.

Nervously fingering their draft cards, many students and young workers while agreeing with this picture point to the imminent danger of war. Why start now, they ask? Political machines have not changed since the Muckrakers described them fifty years ago. Isn't it more realistic to fight to put the best machine men in office—and in that way stall the war? And in any case why use the scare word "socialism?" Why lose votes?

### THE RECORD

Supporters of the Independent-Socialist ticket are all for realism. The urgency of the present war crisis demands more, not less, realism about the record—and that record shows a perfect score for both major machines on the war question. Even when the Democrat, Truman, felt real pressure in 1948 from the Progressive Party he refused to make even demagogic concessions on that one point. And in '50 he launrhd the Korean police action. Eisenhower, the Republican, has brought us to the brink so often that new ventures scarcely make the front pages. On the record the only sane hope for stopping war lies in the defeat of both machines. Maybe "this time" will be different? May-

be—but why gamble for high stakes with such terrible odds?

Pressures from within the machines rather than against them can be handled in many ways, all of them benefiting the machine itself. For those who support one machine as the lesser evil but fight to reform it, the political boss can always point to the danger of victory of the greater evil, the other machine, and demand "unity." Expulsions that deepen the apathy of the rank and file are another method, and the machines grow on apathy.

The Liberal Party of New York, nominally independent of both parties, fights "on the issues," avoids the more profound criticisms of the socialists and winds up like any Democrat ward worker fruitlessly applying "pressure from within." The truth of this was carved in solid marble after the Democratic convention when the Liberals nominated every single major candidate on the Democratic slate. Even Frank Hogan, state Attorney General and strangely enough the Senatorial choice of the crime-ridden DeSapio machine, was finally accepted by the Liberals. Why? Fear of Republican victory.

### THE RULERS

Only the socialists have the courage to stand apart from and fight against this political system. They see that the city wards whose corruption is legend in America rule the Washington tops, and are in turn ruled by the social status quo, a necessary precondition for petty politics and crime. But the social status quo itself is the product of ruler and ruled, basically the power of big business over working people.

Students and youth of all occupations, as the panic-stricken invasion of Lebanon showed, our future is in the hands of men terrified and infuriated by every step of the colonial people toward national freedom. And the colonial people will not be stopped, though our "leaders" send us to die fighting them. Who of the two major parties has dared speak out against this? Corliss Lamont, I-SP candidate for U.S. Senator, recently issued this statement: "I challenge Frank Hogan (Democrat Senatorial candidate) and Kenneth B. Keating the Republican nominee for Senator, to condemn as I have the reckless U.S. military intervention in Lebanon; and come out flatly, as I have, for a halt to U.S. nuclear bomb tests and the total abolition of nuclear weapons."

Ward politics, by and large, are the affairs of old men. Youth are attracted by the clear-cut, and in politics a wide-open attack on injustice is the only program that fills that bill. Targets for the draft, without job seniority or skills in a shrinking labor market, it is no wonder that young people are already indicating their support for the Independent-Socialist ticket. "A vote for the I-SP will be a vote against the political gang-up on labor," said John T. McManus, candidate for Governor. "It will be a vote for independent political action."

The Independent-Socialist Party is not "just another" socialist party. It is the result of the unity of many different socialist groupings, including the American Labor Party, Socialist Workers Party, some members of the Communist Party and Socialist Party-Social Democratic Federation; plus socialist youth especially those around the Young Socialist Alliance. These various groups saw the need for pooling their strength as the world crisis produced explosion on explosion and nothing but panic in the ruling circles resulted.

# 150,000 Mexican Students March; Face Bullets, Gas . . .

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fought and victorious teacher's strike in May and a long railroad strike in the summer, tension in the capital rose to a high pitch with the student-led movement against the bus monopolies. This movement, triggered by the fare increases of August 20, and joined by the simultaneous oil workers' strike has shattered six years of relative tranquility.

Bus "kidnapping" brought the students' protests against fare increases to public attention. A salary increase of 5 pesos (40 cents) a day was the justification for a 5 centavo fare raise, from original 30 and 20 centavo fares on first and second class buses. In the first days of the movement fighting broke out between students and bus drivers, the result of efforts by the press and the Alianza de Camioneros (bus owners) to turn the drivers against the students.

On Saturday, August 23, crowds of students in confiscated buses gathered in the Zócolo, the main plaza in front of the National Palace, to present their petition to the government and the public. They called for a revocation of the fare increases, wage increases for the drivers, and municipalization of the urban bus lines. Uru-churtu, mayor of Mexico City, was concentrating police and troops near the University, as by afternoon the entire southern half of the city was without bus service.

The rector of the University, Nabor Carrillo, gave powerful support to the students when he told President Cortines he would resign if troops entered the autonomous, and privileged grounds of the University City. Carrillo, who is the brother of the Secretary of the Treasury, urged the students to act peaceably and without becoming involved with agitators.

**STUDENTS, POLICE CLASH**  
During the week the tension rose as the first student-police

clashes occurred Monday morning. On Tuesday, August 26, the Presidential Secretary, Benito Coquet, received 8 members of the Gran Comision Estudiantal (student executive committee), accepted their petition and promised a reply within 24 hours. That afternoon the militant secretary of the railroad workers, Demetrio Vallejo, pledged his support to the movement and offered 3,000 marchers for the demonstration planned for that evening.

More than 110,000 students and sympathizers marched in a torch-light parade that evening from the Monument to the Revolution down Avenida Juarez to the Latino-America skyscraper downtown.

In spite of this the President's reply on Wednesday promised only a temporary revocation of fare increases and did not answer the other points of the petition. The students met in assembly in University City, by now resembling an army camp with posted guards, loud speakers, and hundreds of captured buses, to discuss the President's answer. They decided to continue the movement until all their requests were dealt with.

**POLICE USE TEAR GAS**  
On Thursday tension rose to a peak as police used tear gas to break up the picket lines of the oil workers at the Pemex building (Petroleos Mexicanos, the nationalized oil industry). Locals 34 and 35, led by insurgents Carlos Castillo and Ignacio Hernandez, were on the second day of a protest strike against the bureaucratic leadership of Ferando Labastida and Antonio Ardilla. Seventy union members spear-headed the strike with a sit-down hunger strike because "we have a hunger for justice."

Frinay the rioting reached a climax. Beginning at the Pemex building, just two blocks from the ultra-fashionable tourist center

Hotel Del Prado, it spread to other parts of the city. Security police, federal troops, and firemen answered the rocks of the crowds



Felipe Galvan addresses 150,000 students and workers at a recent Mexico City demonstration.

with tear gas and water hoses and cleared the streets, block by block. A quarter mile west a more serious event occurred after oil workers and students gathered around the Monument to the Revolution to hear speakers on top of a captured bus. The crowd decided to storm the Procuraduria (court and jail) on the south side of the plaza, to free students just led off by the police. Rocks and a battering ram terrified the police within causing General Topete to order his men to fire. Pistol and machine-gun fire killed four workers and wounded others.

The crowd and the police engaged in a see-saw battle for the plaza as other groups threw stones through police car windshields, overturned police booths in the Buenavista railroad station, and did other damage. It was not until late in the afternoon that the police, aided by a thundershower,

restored order in the streets.

### STUDENTS FIRM

That evening the students met in assembly again and planned a demonstration for the next day. The students re-affirmed their original program and called for the freeing of all students held as political prisoners and the withdrawal of the army from the vicinity of the universities and its two-year occupation of the Polytechnic.

Eighty thousand students and workers assembled in the Monument area Saturday morning, August 30, for the march across town to the Zócolo. The well-organized and smoothly-run demonstration was led by the school of political and social science, followed by the school of economics and the others in order. One urban bus driver's union was represented with 100 members. Together with spectators, an estimated 115,000 jammed the Zócolo to hear the student speakers and a reading of the President's message issued that morning.

Cortines' reply agreed to raise bus drivers' wages, remove the troops from the universities, and free the jailed students.

As the oil workers' strike was evidently settled by an agreement to hold extraordinary union elections in the affected locals on September 17, Sunday was quiet and calm and the public awaited the annual State of the Nation speech Cortines was to deliver on September 1, Monday.

### CORTINES HITS WORKERS

Cortines then shocked the liberal public by implying in his speech that the workers and student's movement had been irresponsible and against the general interest. That evening the police arrested groups of students found on the streets, and no move had been made to fulfill any of the promises Cortines had made on Saturday.

# 'Capitalism's Record Made Me a Socialist'

by Peter Allan

"Why don't you go back to Russia?" shrieked an old lady from her Cadillac as she drove quickly past while I was selling copies of the YOUNG SOCIALIST near the UCLA campus. She hastily rolled up her window and vanished down the street before I could engage her in a discussion over where she could go back to.

Yet I had the feeling that her prejudice against socialists and socialism as being "foreign" to America was already beginning to disappear among most Americans. That same morning, scores of students on their way to class rolled their car windows down to buy my paper and many asked me why I believed in socialism and what kind of a socialist I was.

While there are a lot of reasons for this new interest in socialist ideas on the campus, I think that the intensified activities openly in behalf of socialism by many students, workers, and professional people all over the country have helped to dispel the notion that socialism is a crackpot importation by outlandish foreigners. A wider, more serious hearing for a socialist program than ever before has been gained. I am therefore very glad to have a chance to answer these questions in this article, although space requires extreme brevity.

## CAPITALISM'S RECORD

It was the record of capitalism which made me a socialist. While that record currently plays a marching tune of armaments prosperity, the sour notes of recession and foreign military adventures promise one day to turn into such unbearable discord that everyone will demand an end to it.

With the callousness acquired from being immersed in a violent world, most of us can look casually back at the events of the past fifty years without blinking.

Yet think of it! In this short space of time, tens of millions of human beings have been slaughtered and maimed in the two bloodiest wars of all time, capitalist wars not started by evil-minded Russians. In addition, consider the countless "small wars," "police actions," and colonial repressions, world-wide depressions in the midst of plenty with mass unemployment and starvation while millions of tons of food are destroyed; fascist dictatorships financed by the corporations and banks as a last-ditch attempt to preserve capitalism; racism and denial of elementary human rights—this has been our 20th Century capitalist world so far. And now we stand before the horror of impending H-bomb warfare. The Big Business politicians and the brass hats nervously wave atomic bombs and giant bullets at other nations while they speak nonchalantly of losing 90% of the American population in a hydrogen war! Surely this incredible record of capitalist insanity is enough to make even the most depraved Roman emperor throw away his fiddle in complete nausea!

## SOCIALIST ANSWER

A socialist society would end forever this crazy plunge toward world annihilation as well as exploitation of man by man. First of all, the people who do the work, the producing and creating for human needs will also for the first time own and control the factories, machines, land, and resources that they built together. Skilled managers and technicians would administer society's production facilities, but they would be responsible to the working people, who would produce plenty of good consumer goods, and not to a few wealthy magnates who shut down production if they cannot make plenty of profit.

The cooperation and scientific planning made possible by the common ownership of the means of production would enable every country, especially one as rich as the United States, to rapidly expand rather than restrict its industrial capacity and would supply the material needs of the population. At the same time, the desperate struggles between the competing capitalists of different nations for markets, raw material, and cheap labor will no longer exist and the chief cause of war will thus be eliminated. The natural

and human resources of our planet will be shared by all countries in mutual cooperation.

With the high technological level we have already achieved, we can begin to provide enough to go around for the first time in history and will make exploitation, parasitism, and crime obsolete and unnecessary. The incentive afforded by having millions take a direct hand in guiding their own economic and social development, instead of a few profit-minded corporation executives, will shoot productivity sky-high and reduce working hours to a minimum.

Those who point to Russia as a warning against socialism in America do so only by ignoring basic historical facts. The poverty, cultural backwardness, and meager technology that faced the Russian people when they ousted their capitalists and landlords, is in marked contrast to the towering might of American industrial development and scientific know-how today.

Nor would America be surrounded and choked off by hostile capitalist nations as Russia was. The totalitarianism, cults, and execu-

tions in Russia were perpetrated by the most ruthless and cynical individuals who were able to elbow their way to the top in a country with a small labor movement, amid severe privations where everybody had to look out for himself first. Our industrial capacity under socialist planning would quickly raise the mass standard of living and reduce the basic reason for the mad scramble for privilege and power, while the mighty strength of the large organized working class will check any attempt to impose a dictatorship over them. America would lead the way in socialist reconstruction of society, with the fullest democratic control by the working people.

## LAST PROP

Right now, American corporations and the Big Business bipartisan government are the last remaining props for the rickety structure of world capitalism and they are prepared to destroy the whole earth in defense of their system. The alternatives they pose are either forward to socialism or backward to the status of cave-men, if there are any caves left after an H-bomb war.

I am confident that one day not far off the American people will make the greatest contribution to peace and the material well-being of all nations by removing the corporation heads, with their brass hats and politician stooges, from their power grip on this country and establish socialism. The overwhelming majority of the American people will seek another "American way of life," one without depression, racism, exploitation, and the threat of war. Millions will listen to socialist ideas then and I want to help build a large socialist movement whose members will be on hand to present those ideas to the people.

That is why, even now, when most people appear indifferent or hostile to socialism, the YOUNG SOCIALIST supporters and many others are openly advocating this new system and winning adherents for it. I personally look forward to working with the many young people who will start to accept socialism as their own aspiration in the coming fight to transform our country to a real, socialist land of the free, with justice and democracy for all the working people, and with peace and plenty firmly established.

## THE SOCIALIST APPROACH:

# Rosa Luxemburg: The Road to Peace

by Rosa Luxemburg

(The following article was written by probably the most famous woman socialist. Rosa Luxemburg wrote this article in the Leipzig Volkszeitung in 1911 to dispel illusions then prevalent in Europe that war can be averted through some negotiated disarmament. Needless to say World War I followed shortly and Rosa Luxemburg went to jail in Germany for her socialist opposition to war. Shortly after the war she died along with Wilhelm Liebknecht—shot by the forces that were a decade later to bring Hitler to power. The ideas expressed in this article are just as meaningful today as they were when they were originally expressed. The illusion that peace can come some other way than through the socialist revolution is prevalent today not only in liberal circles but also among socialists.)

What is our task on the question of peace? It does not consist merely in vigorous demonstrating at all times that the social-democrats love peace, but first and foremost, our task is to make clear to the masses of people the nature of militarism and to bring out, sharply and clearly, the difference in principle between the standpoint of social democracy and that of the bourgeois peace enthusiasts.

In what does this difference consist? Certainly not merely in the fact that bourgeois apostles of peace rely on the influence of fine words, while we do not depend on words alone. Our very point of departure is diametrically opposed: the friends of peace in bourgeois circles believe that world peace and disarmament can be realized within the framework of the present social order, whereas we who base ourselves on the materialist conception of history and on scientific socialism, are convinced that militarism can be abolished only with the destruction of the capitalist state. From this follows the essential difference in our tactics in spreading the idea of peace.

## COUNTERFEIT PEACE

The bourgeois friends of peace

endeavor—and, from their point of view, this is perfectly logical and explicable—to invent all sorts of "practical" projects for gradually restraining militarism and are naturally inclined to consider every outward and apparent sign of a tendency toward peace as the genuine article, to take every expression of diplomacy in this vein at its word, to exaggerate it into a real basis of earnest activity. Social-democracy, on the other hand must consider it as its duty in this matter, just as in all matters of social criticism, to expose the bourgeois attempts to restrain militarism as pitiful half-measures and the expression of such sentiments on the part of the governing circles as diplomatic make believe, and to oppose bourgeois claims and pretenses with the ruthless analysis of capitalist reality.

From this standpoint, the tasks of the social-democracy with regard to the declaration of the kind issued by the British can only be to expose the idea of a partial limitation of armaments in all its impracticability, as a half-measure, and to endeavor to make it

clear to the people that militarism is closely linked with the colonial politics and that, therefore, the nations of today, if they are really serious and honest in their wish to call a halt to competitive armaments, would have to begin by disarming in the commercial and political field, by giving up predatory colonial campaigns, by abandoning the international politics of spheres of influence in all parts of the world—in a word, in their foreign as well as domestic politics, they would have to do the exact opposite of everything which the nature of the present politics of a capitalist state demands.

## A LEGITIMATE CHILD

And thus would be clearly explained what constitutes the kernel of the social-democratic conception: that militarism in both its forms—as war and as armed peace—is a legitimate child, a logical result of capitalism, and that whoever honestly desires world peace and freedom from the tremendous burden of armaments must strive for socialism. Only in this way can real socialist education and propaganda be carried on

in connection with the armaments debate.

Such work, however, will be rendered somewhat difficult and the attitude of the social-democrats will become obscure and vacillating if, by some strange exchange of roles, our party tries, on the contrary, to convince the bourgeois state that it can quite well limit armaments and achieve peace and that it can do this from its own standpoint, from that of a capitalist state.

## SCIENTIFIC BASIS

It has hitherto been the pride and the firm scientific basis of our party that not only the general line of our program but also the slogans of our practical every day policy were not compounded out of indiscriminate odds and ends just because they sounded desirable but that we always relied on our understanding of the tendencies of social development and made the objective trends of development the basis of our attitude.

For us the determining factor has hitherto been not possibility from the standpoint of the relation of forces within the state but possibility from the standpoint of the tendencies of social development. Limitations of armaments, the retrenchment of militarism, does not coincide with the further development of international capitalism. Only those who believe in the mitigation and blunting of class antagonism and in the reduction of the economic anarchy of capitalism can believe that these international conflicts will permit of slackening, mitigation and elimination.

For the international antagonisms of the capitalist state are but complements of class antagonisms and world-political anarchy, but the reverse side of the anarchic system of capitalist production. Both grow together and must be overcome together. "A little order and peace" is, therefore, just as impossible, just as much a petty-bourgeois utopia, with regard to world politics as it is with regard to the capitalist world market, with regard to the limitation of armaments as it is with regard to the restriction of crises.

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