ISA United Slate Answer to Prexy's Attacks on Staff

Tomorrow, May 14, the Instructional Staff Association holds its annual election of officers. It is important at this time for all members of the ISA to examine carefully the past few months' achievements of the ISA, accomplished through the vigorous action of a united membership. The unity established on certain basic issues (cooperation with other organizations, particularly the Teachers Union, the reply to the Robinson questionnaire, the functioning of the Grievance Committee etc.) must be continued by electing a united slate pledged to work along the lines which have already proved effective.

Robinson’s Attacks Sharpened of Late

These past few months especially have demonstrated that the administration of the college is engaged in an attempt to crush the program and organization of the ISA. The fact that no less than twenty-four members of the staff have been compelled to lay their grievances before the Teachers Union and ISA Grievance Committees is enough to establish the point. Particularly Prof. Horne’s Robinson-inspired attack on Mr. Schappes serves as a warning that the administration is trying to “plow under” teachers’ organizations. The intimidation of leading members of teachers’ organizations, as well as of the rank and file of the memberships, is Robinson’s principal object. While before the whole staff he mouthes pretty phrases about his great devotion to the interests of all the members of the staff, and attempts to divide the staff by crying out about “skunks”, in private he is making every effort to vitilify and threaten individuals and destroy the united action of their organizations.

Unity in ISA Can Ward Off Attacks

With the force of these facts made clear, the ISA must, above everything else, stand together in action. Without this unity, the ISA is threatened with extinction. With a progressive program of action in cooperation with other teachers’ organizations, and with the election of a (Continued over)

Robinson Draws Support from Nazis, Liberty Leaguers

It is noteworthy that in addition to the Liberty League's Herald Tribune, support of Robinson in the Schappes case has come from the Nazi sheet “The White Man’s Viewpoint.” The (CUNY) Union Teacher in its publication of May 7 gave the College a sampling of the \( Q \) (Continued over)

Listless Charter Day Shows Opposition to Robinson

The student body, in contrast with their enthusiastic Peace Strike on April 22nd, gathered apathetically in the Great Hall again on Charter Day to celebrate, or rather to watch their faculty and president celebrate for them, the 59th anniversary of the founding of the College. Even with a large number of the seats taken by members of the staff, the main floor was only partially filled.

As in the case of so many of the official functions of the College within the last few years, the Charter Day exercises were marred by the recent actions of the president. Even though Robinson did no more than introduce the speakers, the entire audience was resentful of his recent steps in encouraging Professor Horne not to reappoint Mr. Schappes and apprehensive of what he might do or say. Their fears proved justified. He again demonstrated his lack of those qualities essential in an administrator by refusing to sign the Student Council Insignia of Rob. (Continued over)

Trustees’ Concession Must Not Act as Damper

As we go to press, there is a rumor whose authenticity there is reason to believe, that the City College Administrative Committee, at its May 7th meeting adopted a resolution to the effect that people of all ranks who have been at the College for three years or more have tenure. It is further understood that the Committee has ruled that no one in this category may be removed from the College rolls without a hearing on specific charges based on teaching ability or other College work. The Committee has ordered that this resolution be printed in this week’s Faculty Bulletin.

This action of the Trustees indicates a decided success for those active in the defense of Mr. Schappes and other members of the staff threatened with non-reappointment. Clearly it has been the activity of organized groups which has brought about this favorable decision on the part of the Committee, which might otherwise have heard of these cases only through the deceptive reports of Pres. Robinson.

Victory Must Teach Wariness

Gratifying as this victory is, it may have dangerous consequences. The administration has been forced to retreat but it still hopes to weaken the campaign and split its united opponents. Unless the organizations concerned realize that this success is by no means final, unless there is no abatement of the pressure now being brought to bear, Robinson and Horne may (Continued over)

T&W Acknowledges and Solicits Contributions

T&W is gratified by the excellent response to its appeal for funds to carry on publication. However, this being the fourth special issue in three weeks our deficit is still large. Those who have not as yet contributed are urged to do so at once. Send funds to Teacher & Worker, 5th floor, 50 E. 13th St., N. Y. C.
Schappes Case Culmination of Robinson-Hearst-Legion Tieup?

On November 16, 1934, Hearst’s N. Y. American opened its editorial columns to the president of a large municipal college. Under the headline, “Punish Student Reds,” the feature article on the editorial page that day attempted to make clear the necessity for “legal provisions to check the spread of Communism in American schools and seats of higher learning—INCLUDING CRIMINAL PENALTIES . . . .” The alleged “spread of Communism” was evidenced, according to the writer, by the unrestrained discussion of everything from “the character of food in the cafeteria . . . right up to . . . Hitlerism in Germany, and various aspects of world peace”; by the concerted efforts of “seditive forces” to overthrow college government and administration. Legislation was demanded conferring upon college authorities such powers as not even the President of the United States enjoyed. It was clear that at this stage of the development of the student movement for relief for needy students, against militarism, for academic freedom, the tactics of the abominable Hearst were designed to intimidate the American student body and isolate the student leaders.

Collaborated With Legion

Subsequent to the writing of this article, the author, Frederick B. Robinson, sought to practice the ideas therein expressed by mass expulsions and suspensions of anti-fascist students of the College. This was of a nature similar to his actions during preceding years. In the next year, 1935, the City College Post of the American Legion was organized to aid in the furtherance of the campaign. Against the overwhelming sentiment of the College, Robinson stated publicly that “it is difficult to see how any friend of the College could object”. Fortunately, this activity was short-lived owing to the immediate resistance of students and teachers organized in bodies for the defense of their freedom of inquiry, discussion, and movement. The Legion did not leave the College halls without first pointing to an alleged “bastard” whom they were aiming to “get”. Apparently, they weren’t quite as good as the Canadian “Mounties”. But there still remained the writer of articles for Hearst, the wielder of the closed umbrella, the man most despised by students, alumni, and teachers in the annals of the College.

Has Pointed Finger Struck?

It is not unreasonable to wonder whether this guiding hand of reaction is seeking the culmination of the Legion program. Has the pointed finger struck at Morris U. Schappes? At least, it is true to say that when the Legion made its pronouncements, members of the staff were not slow in remarking to colleagues, “I’ll bet they are after Schappes”. To Mr. Schappes, who then was recognized as an alert, conscientious, and intelligent leader in the ISA and the AFA, as a kind and understanding friend of the student body, we pledge our full support and call upon the staffs of the College to continue the splendid protest thus far raised. The loss of Schappes means the loss of an active partisan for the interests of students and staff.

Student Unresponsiveness On Charter Day Evidence Of Opposition to Robinson

(Continued from first page)

T&W Cautions Against Slackening Campaign on Basis of Board’s Concession

(Continued from first page)

United Slate in ISA Answer to Robinson

(Continued from first page)

For academic freedom and the right to organize.

For a united slate in the election.

For cooperation with all teachers’ organizations.

leage must now act decisively if they wish to be rid of this representative of reaction. With Robinson gone, Charter Day may be an occasion for celebration rather than for apprehension and foreboding.

Robinson Did Not Have His Umbrella With Him on April 30

Everyone seems to have overlooked the fact that the only reason why April 30, 1926, did not go down in the history of the College as a repetition of the first Jingo Day, is that Robinson missed the student he swung at when he made his ignominious exit through a rear door accompanied by his bodyguard Dr. Richardson. Had Robinson had his umbrella with him there might have been a different tale to tell.

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