Special Strike Issue

Wednesday, April 27, 1938

A S. U. Leaders Hit Front Page

In Dispatches from Loyalist Spain

McEachron of Oberlin Captured
By Fascists; Wait Escapes

Two A.S.U. leaders are in head·
times today in the dispirations from the frontline trenches of democratic Spain. Paul McEachron was cap·
tured by the fascists near Huesca, Spain. He was a leader of the American Student Union at Ober·
lin College. George Wait escaped from the fascists after three days and two nights behind insurgent lines. He was executive secretary of the New York District of the American Student Union and an honorary member of the National Executive Committee.

On March 10, McEachron, who is twenty-one years of age, and fifteen other Americans—all members of McEachron’s machine gun squad—were trapped by the fascists about six miles from the town of Huesca, which the Loyalists took last September. Refusing to retreat, the machine gun squad battled against overwhelming odds for some time.

Americans Under Fire

The entire Battalion was con·
tinually pounded on both flanks by the latest German mechanism, both tanks and artillery. From above, squadrons of Italian planes aimed at the Americans.

McEachron’s little group, in the furthest front line positions, bore the brunt of the attack. Despite the severity of the attack, the six·
teen held on to their position. Finally, the Italians in a surprise move surrounded McEachron’s squad and forced them to surrender. Of the sixteen Americans who fell into Franco’s hands, only McEachron’s name has been confirmed, and “the world knows what the prisoners got who fell into Franco’s hands,” several of McEachron’s comrades stated to the Spanish correspondent of a New York newspaper.

McEachron’s comrades “hoped the world will not allow the firing squad to be the fate of those brave soldiers of liberty.”

Some time later, Wait, along with two other members of his company in the Washington-Lincoln Battalion, Brigade Commissar John Sales and Joseph Hecht, were forced to swim the Ebro River in order to get back to Loyalist territory.

At the Villalba smash last month, the Battalion was split in two. Taking command of an entire company, Wait and his men fought their way through to Gandesa, being stripped of their clothes as they went on. His return.

Wait and his brother-in-arms fell.

A Program for World Peace

Below is the statement of the Committee for Concerned Peace En·
deavors, consisting of hundreds of ed·
ucational, religious, trade union, lit·
erary, student and political leaders: “The situation which confronts the United States is more critical today than at any time in history. At a time when most nations in the world have focused their attention on reconstruction and security the threat of war hangs like a cloud over all. The drift toward catastrophe can only be stopped if the peaceful-loving peoples of the world unite.”

The committee urges the sanctity of international obliga·
tions. They must carry assistance to a treaty violator and withhold means for the continuation of any subsequent peril of arms. (Continued on Page 4, Col. 3)

Catholic Groups Participate
For First Time; Boycott of Fascist Aggressors Stressed

Over one million students in colleges and high schools throughout the nation will leave their classes at 11 a.m. today in a concerted demonstration for world peace.

The strike, which has been held annually since 1934, was called by the United Student Peace Committee.

“Lift the embargo on Loyalist Spain” has been made the keynote of the nationwide demonstrations. Although the United Student Peace Committee issued no official program, the stu·
dent strikes will exhibit a marked trend away from isolationism.

For the first time, several Catholic colleges, including Georgetown University of Washington, D.C., will participate with some sort of coordinated effort.

U.S.P.C. Composition

The Student Peace Committee is made up of:

Catholic Committee on World Peace

(Including the National Councils of the Student Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A.; National Negro Congress, Youth Division; Student Peace Service of the American Friends Service Committee; United Christian Youth Movement; University Commission of the Council of Church Board of Education; War Resisters League; Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom; and Youth Committee Against War.

The harrowing details of war were displayed last Thursday when the students of Oberlin College in Ohio, in order to give the college’s youth a bitter slap of the real thing, in a mock D-Day ceremony conducted as a pre-strike action to enlist vigorous participation in the United States Peace Arm peace, rationing, flag waving, machine guns, automatic rifles and jingoism.

Kentucky Students Boycott

The boycotting of Japanese goods will be stressed at Ken·
tucky University where the administration has called off all classes for the demonstration. The University of Illinois chapter.

Fascist Plot in State Dept.

Delays Lifting Spain Embargo

A well-plotted accurate tale of fas·
cist intrigue within the state·
parts of the State Depart·
ment Building in Washington, D.C. is described in an article by news·

The State Department plot in·
volved Jimmy Dunn, political advi·
sor to Cordell Hull, Pierpoint Mul·
tal, chief of the State Department’s European Division, and Judge Wal·
ter C. Borek, Counselor of the State Department, who are described as having maneuvered to prevent Pres·
ident Roosevelt and Secretary of State Hull from acting in a last·
minute effort to lift the arms em·
argo on Spain.

Spurred by Breckenridge Long, for·
ter Assistant Secretary of State, who as Ambassador to Italy has learned the details of Fascist plans and techniques, President Roosevelt, Secretary Hull, Senator Pittman, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and Senator Borah have been impressed by the growing con·
viction that the arms embargo on Spain is “one of the most tragic mistakes of American foreign pol·
icy,” repeat the “Merry-Go-Round” authors.

In addition, several prominent Senators, including Borah, Nye and Clark, chief authors of the Neo·
trality Act, and Thomas and King of Utah are reported as having given

 private pledges that they would

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 4)
A. S. U. BULLETIN

Special Strike Issue

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THE FIGHT FOR PEACE

The one million students participating in today's demonstrations want first of all that the United States keep out of war. Secondly, by taking part in the peace strike, they indicate that they are prepared actively to engage in the struggle for peace. These things are the twin aims of the student anti-war forces.

When it comes, however, to the problem of how to keep our country out of war, we find the same cleavage of opinion that is present in all walks of life. It would be idle to deny this cleavage, just as it is malicious to exaggerate it and use it as a pretext for shattering the unity of the student anti-war forces.

One peace policy states that if we reduce our troops from the plans they look upon the latter as a means by which we can be involved in war. Some of them, however, who still want to consider themselves internationalists, supplement this program by urging popular aid to the victims of aggression and popular boycotts of aggressors.

In the opinion of the American Student Union such a program will neither halt aggression nor keep the United States out of war. It is well and good to favor a popular boycott of Japan, or even, stopping the policy of real effectiveness to assert that the boycott should not be extended to the nation and taken over by the government. It is splendid to raise money for Spain, but it is stopping at the decisive step not to urge lifting the embargo on Spain. It is well and good to picket German consulates; it is inconsistent, however, simultaneously to oppose sending the German ambassador home. If one recognizes, by supporting the boycott, aid to Spain, protest action, etc., that the international fascist offensive against peace is also a threat to the peace of the United States, then one should be prepared to carry through an anti-aggression program consistently and courageously.

The advocates of this program may concede the inconsistency, pleading in extenuation, that our primary job is not to keep this country out of war. But will their program accomplish this? Would their program save Czechoslovakia today? Would it save China from invasion and Spain from martyrdom? Should France demolish the Maginot line to save herself from war? If so, does this policy not overlook the brutal and real fear of fascist aggression?

The advocates of this policy may then argue that their program only has validity for the United States, and not for its unique geopolitical position. In that event, however, we are entitled to refer to the policy as isolationism. Once it is conceded that fascist aggression is a reality and that collective security may be a necessary palliative, the question is not of plain isolationism. Yet isolation is not a uniquely American phenomenon. France thought she could shield herself from the war in Spain and initiated the policy of non-intervention, thus assuring Germany and Italy military dominance of Spain. England has pursued a policy of isolation with respect to central Europe, and assured Nazi dominance of central Europe. Isolationism has played right into the hands of fascists, and has brought Europe today to the brink of a general European war.

American isolation will have the same consequences. A victorious Japan will be used by some of the same people who today urge "no entanglements in the Orient", such as Hearst, to spread chauvinism and militarism in the U. S. from the dental jaw "yellow peril" route. A reacionary Europe dominated by Germany and Italy will intensify its intervention in Central and South America. Does the idea of a Nazi-dominated Mexico sound far-fetched? Wouldn't anyone have believed that Spain would be conquered by foreign fascist legions? It is the interest, therefore, that we have just plain isolationism. Yet isolation is not a necessary policy elsewhere, the U. S. has Just introduced for membership in the American Student Union since the last peace rally. Have you signed up?

JOIN THE A. S. U.

More than ever before, the student strike this year is a signpost rather than a focal act. We live at a time when all the currents of world affairs are unsettled, when the uncertainty of American foreign policy abets instability throughout the world. This year's demonstration has a deeper serious mission than to voice the fond hopes and aspirations of a peace-loving generation; its responsibility is to demonstrate the growth of American opinion for international cooperation to stop the

The A.S.U. is international; its ties are international; its outlook is international; its activities are international. The Student Union, more than ever, is the dynamic expression of student opinion. It has become the voice of a "war policy"—just as Chamberlain has sought to discredit the critics of his shambles foreign policy by labeling them "war-mongers." But we know today that the fate of war and peace is international, that there is no such thing as immunity from the horrors of general war, that the future will be determined by our ability to stem aggression now. The Student Union reflects the sentiments of those students who have fought most ardently for peace on all fronts.

The A.S.U. is International. Its ties are international. Its outlook is international. Its program protests upon the conviction that America must play a genuine role in shaping the destiny of the world. Those who strike on April 27 belong in the Tapes, wherever their private views on a hundred different issues, they belong here if they are prepared to dedicate themselves to the struggle for international peace.

JAMES A. WEGSCHER

THE AMERICAN STUDENT UNION
112 East 19th Street, New York City

COLLEGE APPLICATION CARD

Name (Please Print) ____________________________
College ____________________________
City ____________________________
State ____________________________
Home Address ____________________________

[ ] I apply for membership in the American Student Union and enclose $5 as annual membership fee.

[ ] I also wish to subscribe to "The Student Advocate," the Union's magazine, and enclose $1.50 for a year's subscription.

[ ] Joint offer of membership and subscription for $6.00.

The American Student Union 112 East 19th Street, New York City

A PEACE FIGHTER JOINS UP

Wednesday, April 27, 1938

An A.S.U. Pledge for Peace

Because we want to keep America out of war, we pledge to make our government a force for peace; because fascism would destroy our freedom, we dedi cate ourselves to the struggle for democracy.

JOSEPH P. LASH

The American Student Union 112 East 19th Street, New York City
We've been talking about boycotting Japanese goods for some time now. We have not been talking loudly enough. Moreover, we have been talking in such a way that our listeners don't stop buying silk stockings after we have stopped talking. In some circles, there is a feeling that yes, the war in China is a horrible mess and we ought to help the Chinese people, but after all what good will it do if a few of us stop buying silk stockings?

So it is time we started talking facts and figures.

Of course, we'll continue to popularize our slogan, "MAKE THE STYLE!" but we'll back it up with PROOF that our efforts will really weaken Japan, prevent her from getting money from us for war matériel, and actually aid the Chinese people in driving imperialism out of their country.

A Pair of Silk Hose

When the average woman buys a pair of silk stockings, what is she doing to denounce Japanese imperialism?

FIGURE: 95% of the raw silk used in this country comes from Japan. In December 1937, 89.4% of all silk imported into the U.S. came from the manufacture of silk stockings.

Can our friend make a dent in this figure by refusing to buy silk stockings?

FACT: Of the 55 cents which she spends for a pair of Japanese stockings, 11 cents goes toward Japanese imperialism.

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The League of American Writers, The American Student Union and Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade OFFER

ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS in Prizes

For the Best Stories, Articles, Poetry, Scripts about the ANTI-FASCIST STRUGGLE IN SPAIN

R U L E S :

1. ELIGIBILITY: Any undergraduate registered in American or Canadian universities, or in elementary schools during the academic year 1938-1939, is eligible.

2. PRIZES: First prize is $250. There are other prizes of $150, $75, and $50.

3. SUBJECT: The work must be on the "anti-fascist struggle in Spain, and its relation to the general welfare of the American citizens of tomorrow." This does not have to be the title for the work.

4. MATERIAL: The writer may send in either poetry or prose, film or radio script, fiction, or essays. No limits are set as to length.

5. JUDGES: Eliot Paul, Donald Ogden Stewart, J. B. Story, University of N. Y., Karl Malamud, Robert Muna Lovett, Clifford Odets, and Conservators Tagged will be the judges, and their decisions will be final.

6. SUBMISSION: All manuscripts must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. The writer is responsible for getting his work to the judges.

7. RETURN POSTAGE should be provided with all manuscripts. Manuscripts may be returned to writers, but the name, address, college or school, and class should accompany the manuscript in a sealed envelope. This rule is copied from the American Legion, which in the following words, "No writer will be sent a manuscript until he has paid the cost of postage, which is $0.15 and an additional $0.15 for return mailing, to be paid in advance."

8. RETURN POSTAGE should be provided with all manuscripts. Manuscripts may be returned to writers, but the name, address, college or school, and class should accompany the manuscript in a sealed envelope.
A Compact Analysis of War 
And Their Causes Helps to Explain A.S.U. Peace Program

A Program for World Peace

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 1) 
A policy which makes no 
adjustments are made.

A.S.U. Leader Captured by Spanish Rebels

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 3) lov~d the insurgents for three days and two nights, as their enemy pushed forward into Loyalist ter-

itory. That was the only way in which the Americans could locate their own front lines.

Once they went through a fascist camp without being detected. They spoke Spanish, the rebels spoke German.

In their last dash for Loyalist lines, they were under fire many hours.

Some of the remaining members of the party were able to cross the Ebro in boats, but Watt, Gates and Heath had to swim through the cold waters.

Melnichon saw action at Fuens-

terr and Segovia with the battalion. Before departing for Spain, he was president of the Ober-

college chapter of the A.S.U.

From Spain, Watt wrote: "full support to the April Peace Strike from the 77 American students in the Spanish Republican Army. For world peace, lift the embargo on Spain, put it on Germany and Italy, and call the O'Connell Amendment."