ROBINSON MUST GO!

The Alumni Association has joined the fight against Robinson. After a year of investigation, its Special Committee reports (Finding No. 26: "The President lacks the human qualities necessary to achieve the widespread confidence of his faculty and his student body and to provide genuinely inspired, resourceful and socially imaginative leadership.") The report was approved, on January 27, by a vote of 519 to 217. The Committee recommends "appropriate action" in connection with this Finding, and specifically says (Recommendation No. 9): "A Committee should be appointed by the Associate Alumni to present this report to the Board of Higher Education and to do all that is proper to have its conclusions and recommendations effectuated."

This is the culmination of a long series of events. For ten years the students have been carrying on the fight, until recently almost unaided. Always they have found Robinson against them, leading the regime of reactionary terror: scores of expulsions, countless suspensions, meetings prohibited and broken up, papers confiscated, etc. Always in the thick of the fight, leading the anti-revolutionary forces, were the young Socialists and Communists; always since their formation, the SLID and the NSL. Robinson and his Hearst allies have tried to make it appear that only the "radicals" attack him, but this has never been true. The truth is that from the beginning all liberals fought him; that the successful candidates in the Student Council elections a year ago ran on an "Oust Robinson" platform; that, on April 12, in the Great Hall, 1393 students voted against the retention of Frederick B. Robinson as President of the College, with only 237 for his retention.

ROBINSON—REACTION

Gradually the conviction has spread outside the College walls that the reason for Robinson's reign of terror against those who have fought against military training, against war, against curtailment of student liberties, against educational retrenchment, is precisely that Robinson stands for military training, for war, for curtailment of student liberties, for educational retrenchment. And of course he has been especially violent against the radical organizations because they have been the leaders and organizers of the fight against these things.

First some of the class organizations, '18 and '28, for instance, and Phi Beta Kappa, denounced him. Finally the Alumni Association took up the matter, with the result that has been reported.

It is thus as old fighters in this cause that we Communists, and Y. C. L.'ers, both students and Staff members, welcome the Alumni's action. But as old fighters we know that it would be folly to depend on the Alumni Association alone to carry this fight to a successful conclusion. The campaign must be strengthened, broadened, unified.

First, there are grave weaknesses in the Alumni Report. Finding No. 3, for instance, praises Robinson for his "recognition of the community's educational needs" whereas his policies have been controlled rather by a recognition of the desire of the taxpayers to have the College run as cheaply as possible. More serious is Finding No. 22: "The President has earnestly endeavored to solve the vexing problem of promotions, selection of department heads and adjustment of the salary difficulties of the institution. Such dissatisfaction as exists is for the most part confined to members of the staff who do not seem to appreciate the difficulties in the way of the President in bringing about a prompt solution of these problems." To the members of the Instructional Staff Association this will seem like a bad joke, for they have proved over and over that the "difficulties" in the way of the President are exclusively of his own manufacture.

REJECT LIBEL ON ISA

Heaven alone knows what led the Alumni to this conclusion, but it is a libel on the ISA, the majority of the Staff, and must be repudiated. It is part of Robinson's reactionary policy to be hostile to the ISA, which he has called a pack of "greedy or misguided" young men, because it is fighting for decent salary and tenure; just as he is hostile to the Anti-Fascist Association of the Staffs, which sees in educational retrenchment a move towards fascism. Certainly the Alumni should not support Robinson in this.

But the gravest weakness of the Report is that it does not clearly show Robinson for what he is: the leader and the agent of reaction. That the Alumni recognize him for such was proved at the January 27 meeting by the deafening applause Dr. Henry Neumann received when, referring in debate to Robinson's association with Hearst, he quoted Charles A. Beard's famous words: "No person with intellectual honesty or moral integrity will touch Hearst with a ten-foot pole for any purpose.

Some of the most telling evidence against Robinson was brought out by his defenders. Typical was Albert A. Cook, '92, who began by saying that the College had graduated "generals, leaders at West Point, barristers in London: everything that is important in the life of our community." Everything that is important to a fascist, of course. Mr. Cook explained approvingly that in expelling the Jingo Day demonstrators in 1933 the President was only yielding to the threat of the Commandant of the Second Corps Area that if this were not done he would seek to have the College closed. Mr. Cook, who is a lawyer, also explained that Communism and Socialism "up to the present time are contrary to the laws of the United States Government."

This is the kind of reactionarism Robinson stands for, in only slightly more subtle form, and this is what the Alumni Association must make clear it is combating. Already there are powerful forces in the field. The New York Evening Post and The World Telegram have called for Robinson's removal (The American and the Tory Sun and Tribune support him); the American Civil Liberties Union and the Teachers Union are against him; the Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists and Technicians has condemned him for anti-Unionism; the Campus and the Columbia Spectator have condemned him.

WHAT CAN AND SHOULD THOSE WHO ARE IN THE COLLEGE DO?

1) Alumni: Keep after the Association; see that it does not slow down its attack. Join your class organization. Pass resolutions demanding the removal of Robinson and send them to the Board of Higher Education. Press for a secret poll of the Staff that will expose the letters of confidence the President has been frantically circulating.

2) Members of the ISA: Call on the Alumni Association to repudiate Finding No. 22 as inconsistent with the facts.

3) Members of the AFA: Support the ISA in this action, which is a fight against educational retrenchment.

4) Members of the Teachers Union: Bring the whole weight of the organized labor movement into this struggle.

5) Students! You who have fought so well for so long unaided: Keep up the fight. Call on your parents to support your struggle. Vote to oust Robinson in the Student Council referendum.

6) Everyone: Write to the press, to the Board, to the Mayor. Strive to bring together into one Committee all the organizations that have entered and will enter this struggle. And remember: Every move against Robinson is a move against reaction; every move against reaction is a move against Robinson. Therefore: Students, into the American Student Union, the leader of the anti-reactionary struggle. Staff members: Into the AFA, the leader against every threat to academic freedom.

ROBINSON MUST GO!

Communist Party Unit of City College Young Communist League of City College