

# LOCAL LEFTISTS PLANS TO AID FRENCH REVOLT

The Young Socialist Alliance and the Socialist Workers Party have begun a campaign to gain support for the French students and workers.

The socialists are organizing leafletting at plant gates throughout the Bay Area. In their leaflets they point out that a similar sit-down wave in France in 1936 helped spark the sit-downs which swept 1,000 factories in this country in '36 @ '37.

The leaflets indicate similarities in the causes of the uprising in France and problems beginning to effect American workers-inflation, automation and speed-ups.

Referring to the situation in France, the socialists point out: "The general strike, backing the demands of the students, farmers and workers of France, poses another direct question: Why not a government of, by and for working people? Why should millionaires and politicians representing management control the government? Why not a government which will organize production according to human needs rather than defend a profit-oriented, private enterprise mismanagement of the nation's resources?"

Along with the leaflets, copies of the MILITANT featuring articles directly from student and workers in France are being sold at factories, shopping centers, campuses, etc.

YSA'ers selling MILITANTS at the Shell Oil complex in Emeryville were surprised by the interest among American workers in the events in France.

"I noticed workers with Mc Carthy buttons responded the best" explained one MILITANT salesman. "Maybe after reading the MILITANT they'll see what the French workers are doing and they'll forget about the Democrats and start thinking in terms of a labor party."

Collection cans for the French students have been set up in the book stores on Telegraph Ave. Home-made red flags are also being sold to raise money for the French students.

The socialist bookstore, Gramma, is offering 10% off if you purchase a one dollar trial subscription to the Militant during the next several special issues on France.

Derrel Myers, Berkeley organizer for the SWP, said, "We hope to educate many students and work-

ers on the meaning of the French revolution now in full swing. We hope to organize a few rallies and classes to help this along. Soon maybe the American movement can catch up and imitate the French."

The YSA'ers are claiming that their French counterpart the Jeunesse Communiste Revolutionnaire (Revolutionary Communist Youth) is leading the student actions. At least one independent source, the LONDON OBSERVER confirms his claim.

Those interested in helping in the leafletting of factories or other activities may call the YSA at 849-1052 in Berkeley and 552-1266 in San Francisco.

Part II of "France: a revolution without a cause."

Oh, what my wife (and last week's column) stirred up. This week, then, is a partial answer to a heated phone-call from Pete Camejo, the personal guardian of the revolution in Berkeley.

"Future historians might well conclude that the regime of Pres de Gaulle was saved -- if it is saved -- by the French Communist Party and the labor unions" - Paul Ghal, Chicago Daily News, May 26.

"The ILGWU, some 1200 of them, gave Pres Johnson a welcoming ovation that lasted more than 14 minutes. And they interrupted his remarks with applause about 80 times - making a din by clapping together wood blocks" - AP, May 26. (Their heads?).

Future historians might well conclude, in the United States, that LBJ's ass was saved by the trade unions, if not the American Communist Party.

At this moment, CPUSA doesn't know what to do about the coming elections. My guess it will end up by supporting (unofficially) a slate of Democratic politicians (you fill in the names, McCarthy, Kennedy Humphrey).

According to Pete Camejo, in France there IS a cause -- the cause of Workers Councils, or "Soviets." This is brought to light in Sunday's SF Chronicle 'This World' Section (page 22) May 26, in a full page article by Neal Ascherson, of the London Observer, titled "Student Power vs the Modern Society."

It is REQUIRED READING by all BARB readers. Its main thrust is that the trade unions and the CP of France are REJECTING "workers councils" or "soviets" because "a roaring mass of spontaneous student committees and assemblies are running their own revolution" in the Sorbonne.

"Already, the secondary network of workers councils is springing up across Paris. In Berlin, the Technical University, after Easter, housed the committee of workers, school children, and students, and here, too, the net of councils has spread across the city."

Ascherson asks the question, "How did it all get started?" He answers, correctly, "The great Berkeley upheaval in 1964 produced the phrase 'student power' and is now being paralleled at Columbia."

(This week, SF State - tomorrow, the World?)

The "Marcusian doctrines" mentioned in last week's column (student and worker alienation due to technology) "met with angry criticism this week" in Paris, says Ascherson. The students feel "they not only but perhaps can get through the factory door" to the workers.

This, then, is the revolution WITH a cause -- to reach the workers (once again) who are being established by the Communist Party of France.

"Red flags, with the fanatical boys and girls of the Rue Gay-Lussac who fought all night against gas and police batons, with the French workers occupying their own factories without union orders (hol), a new force has entered politics," states Ascherson.

It sure has. What this columnist wonders about, however, is: what is the slogan - the overthrow of the CP?

This just in from the Ny Times, May 28, after this column was written: "The negative vote of the workers came as a surprise to the labor leaders and shook their control over the movement..."

"Georges Seguy, secretary general of the Communist-controlled GCT, Benoit Franchon, one of the best-known officers of the politburo of the French CP, and Andre Jeanson, a boss of the Catholic-oriented Christian Democratic Workers Federation, all went before the workers to 'explain' the draft agreement with the government."

They got dumped. Also, French police "have started massive arrests" (Chan 4, May 28) to break the strike and the student protests.

"The Communist Party is supporting the strikers" says Chan 4. They had better - and also, they had better support the students if they want to remain any sort of force in the history of France.

It was reported this week that the French government is meeting with the trade unions "for the first time in thirty-two years."

THIRTY-TWO YEARS! No wonder the young students and workers are pissed off at their "leaders" in the CP and elsewhere. Denial through channels for over thirty years creates its own revolution.

G. K.