

STUDENT SOCIALIST

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Socialist Youth League

690 VOTES THE UACAF AN ANALYSIS

FOR THE FIRST TIME in many years Cal students had the possibility to register vote for Socialism. The Socialist Youth League candidate Maurice O'Connell was the only campaigner who openly declared his political affiliations, and surprised the entire campus by receiving 690 votes.

THE DAYS wherein the students who were seeking a radical solution to the problems of society were forced to turn to the Stalinists are over.

THIS VOTE shows that there has again been established a socialist tendency at Cal, a tendency that is vigorous and growing.

BY THIS we do not mean to claim that all 690 voters are socialists. Rather that the voters ranged from those liberals who cast a secondary sympathy vote for the SYL candidate to a smaller number of conscious socialists willing to vote socialist under any conditions.

AND to the extent that sections of the student body look to us as the real left force at Cal, do we bear a reciprocal responsibility to justify our actions both before and after the fact. For it is by showing the functional superiority of our ideas and program to those who constitute our audience that we will win over individuals to the cause of socialism and, simultaneously, increase the number of those willing to at least listen.

THROUGHOUT the two weeks of campaigning, candidates and student leaders complained about student apathy. Why this pronounced apathy? The reasons are not hard to find; the frat dominated ASUC and Judicial Committee are not in favor of an alert and participating student body. If they were they would fore one, hold well advertised, 11 am, ASUC election meetings in the Greek Theater and do a host of things to help breathe life into the election campaign. Instead, they were content with a minimal effort in this direction.

NEVER have the candidates had the opportunity to debate issues before the student body - unilateral statements alone being available. We charge that if the situation had been such as to force the candidates to raise and discuss political issues - such as academic freedom, civil liberties, housing and Rule 17 - there would not be such a poor turnout at the polls. When one compares the
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SEVERAL WEEKS AGO the Socialist Youth League determined that the United Action Committee for Academic Freedom was defunct as a committee of united action and publicly withdrew its support. Since then two other organizations have also pulled out. In view of these facts it is imperative that an analysis of the moribund status of UAC be made, and it falls particularly to the SYL, an original founder of UAC, to make that analysis.

THE UAC was formed on March 15, 1950, to urge the student body to join the battle over academic freedom, which the ASUC - the students' nominal leadership - refused to encourage them to do.

ORGANIZATIONALLY the UAC was apparently a federation of political, social, religious, and living groups with one vote per group. FUNCTIONALLY it was a United Front, a joining of competing political tendencies who agree in times of emergency upon certain common actions which they carry out together. Each tendency preserves its organizational independence and its right to criticize the United Front, while it may put forth a program of its own outside of the United Front.

THE TENDENCIES represented in the UAC were: Socialist, Liberal, and Stalinist, and although delegates were selected by each participating group there was a marked disposition to vote along political lines, with occasional exceptions. That is to say, while the delegates were responsible to their respective organizations, their thinking and voting could not be separated from the general political views with which they approached any public issue, such as the loyalty oath in this case. This is a description rather than a criticism.

ALL ACTIONS carried on by UAC were directed at mobilizing broad student support in back of the faculty, to help it resist the pressure of the Regents and newspapers toward signing the oath, and if possible, to get it to repudiate the policy from which the oath flowed - political tests for University employees. The street meetings, leaflets, "stop" cards, etc. were all given meaning by this goal of strengthening the faculty's stand.

THE CAPITULATION of the faculty, heralded in advance by their endorsement of the Regents' policy while resisting the
(cont. p. II, Col. II)

690 VOTES: (cont.)

small vote of 7000 out of almost 20,000 cardholders. (less than 30%) to the high percentage of voters at the University of Chicago or New York it is evident that campus political democracy is not functioning.

PETE GOLDSCHMIDT'S election as ASUC prexy was a victory for liberalism over conservatism, but is not representative of the student body which overwhelmingly expressed its opinion by not caring to vote. It is Goldschmidt's responsibility to vitalize and democratize student government and activities.

TOWARDS MASS student participation in the ASUC government, the SYL will contribute much of its time and energy; it will put forth general and specific proposals of its own - such as against militarism on all university campuses, and against compulsory ROTC on the U.C. campus in particular.

WE HOPE in this way to offer a consistent radical program to those who look toward us for leadership in resolving present and future dilemmas at Cal. (end)

THE UAC: (cont. from next col.)

prominent in the group's activities. If its ideas dominate the group it means that the leadership of the SYL has been accepted by the others in an open and forthright manner. However, THE SYL DOES NOT TRY TO FLOOD A UNITED FRONT GROUP WITH PEOPLE WHO WILL RAISE THEIR HANDS TO VOTE BECAUSE THEY HAVE ALREADY ACCEPTED ITS POLITICAL PROGRAM BEFORE ENTERING THE UNITED FRONT!

2-It hopes to show its ability to analyze events and act correctly, and thereby to induce people to join the SYL afterwards on the basis of its program, beliefs, and actions as openly stated.

WHAT MUST BE DONE is that the Academic Assembly and Academic Senate, plus all non-academic university employees should unite against the Regents' contract oath and STRIKE against their EMPLOYERS - the Regents - should they carry out any dismissals of non-signers. With the funds promised by the University of Chicago and other universities this action is possible and would succeed.

TO SUPPORT THIS ACTION a NEW UNITED FRONT of students would be formed to picket, withdraw from classes, do the other tasks required, etc. with the FOLLOWING PROVISION to avoid the last mistake: Let each political, social, religious, and living group send one delegate to the united front to represent them and take part in the United Front's discussions, plus anyone else who would volunteer his ideas. HOWEVER, EACH TENDENCY WOULD HAVE ONE VOTE WHEN IT CAME TO PASSING ON SOME PROPOSED MOTION! Any group which is sincere in its desire to aid such an action would not hesitate to join this United Front. (labor donated (cont. mid, next column)

THE UAC; An Analysis: (cont.)

specific oath, was consummated when they accepted the contract oath or Alumni "compromise" which gave them the right to police themselves and avoided, for the moment, the Regents' right to fire all non-signers without reference to the Tenure and Privileges Committee of the Academic Senate.

THE REGENTS would not rule on the status of non-signers before June 15, when most of the students would be gone on their vacations. Thus with action possibilities being absent, UAC no longer had any purpose. Accordingly the Socialist Youth League, the North Gate Students for Academic Freedom (Cloyne Court), and Dinshore Hall have withdrawn from UAC.

THERE IS no other basis for diverse political tendencies to exist in the UAC but action. Does the SYL or the SDA agree with the Stalinists? Of course not! ...otherwise they would merge with the Communist Party. These various and opposing tendencies can get together only temporarily to act in concert over a particular issue. Certainly they cannot "educate" the students with mutually contradictory programs. Political tendency united fronts to "educate" end up as captives of the most unscrupulous group.

THE STALINISTS now have a working majority within UAC and thus their line - not as crudely as usual, perhaps - will be given in speeches and leaflets. What has taken place has been a successful fight for organizational control on the part of the Stalinists. The PUBLIC display of this ALREADY KNOWN fact took place at the election of new officers in UAC, on May 2nd, and was revealed in the manner these candidates were selected.

When a leader of the Stalinist tendency in UAC nominates three candidates, one of them being virtually unknown to the group, and all three are elected with a comfortable majority--it is quite evident what is taking place.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE for any Socialist or Liberal to function freely and democratically in a Stalinist controlled group. In such front groups they will be ridden over roughshod by the bureaucratic procedures of the leaders, or as in UAC, by the claue voting of the Stalinists. This is a lesson learned through bitter experience on this campus, other campuses and in one after another "peoples' committees" which the CP has operated in.

THE ROLE OF THE SYL in a United Front, such as the UAC was, is quite open and acknowledged:

1-It puts forth plans for action which it thinks will best carry out the struggle being waged - in this case to get the faculty to resist the Regents' demands - and if possible, to have its suggestions