

— THE —
MAGNET

For Men's Wear
144 Featherston St.
Wellington

Salient

An Organ of Student Opinion at Victoria College, Wellington N.Z.

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VUC Grads ask . . .

WHY DID WE CUT LOOSE FROM WFDY?

OPEN LETTER TO THE STUDENTS OF VUC

PARIS, September 1, 1950.

Fellow Students,

It was with considerable surprise that we learnt of your recent decision to disaffiliate from the World Federation of Democratic Youth. This decision was all the more surprising for the two of us who had been delegates to the 1949 World Youth Congress in that no requests for further information or clarification have been forthcoming, although this was suggested in our report of that Congress.

Our main concern, however, is with another aspect of the matter. It is quite clear from the other motions passed at the same meeting which voted the disaffiliation, but not communicated to WFDY by the Secretary of the Association, that Victoria College students have no disagreement with the aims of WFDY. We are at a loss to understand how Victoria College students, if they are conversant with the activities of the WFDY, can consider them in any way divergent from its aims.

We note that the motion was passed at a meeting which also substantially endorsed the Stockholm Appeal for the banning of the atom bomb, the collection of signatures for which is the main activity of the WFDY at the present time.

We note that the VUCSA Executive has since written to the WFDY Secretariat in a way which seems to dissociate the student body from the Stockholm Appeal campaign. In fact, the secretary went so far as to state that as a result of the Association's modification of the Appeal, "it would, therefore, appear that my Association does not view in a favourable light the activities of the World Peace Congress."

Yet the World Peace Congress was the organisation which first issued the Stockholm Appeal for signature by all people in agreement with it. To support the Appeal without signing it seems to imply a curious notion of its value. Moreover, the modification of the Appeal carried by the Association actually anticipated the action of the World Peace Congress Committee, which has since reaffirmed its condemnation of "all weapons of mass destruction." (See appendix). The Secretary's argument is therefore without foundation.

We note that since its disaffiliation the Association has carried further motions which are in agreement with the WFDY aims and activities, namely, the calling for a full meeting of the Security Council to settle the dispute in Korea, the request for NZUSA to take action for 10 per cent. increase in all bursaries, and the condemnation of the action of the Menzies Government in introducing the Communist Party Dis-solution Bill.

We note further that although the Association has not publicly justified its apparent dissociation from the aims and activities of the WFDY and World Peace Congress, the Secretary has suggested certain reasons in his letter to the WFDY. These reasons are ones on which some of us have many times expressed our views in communications to the Executive of the Association. As the Secretary has seen fit to reproduce them once more, we re-examine them in the present situation.

The Secretary alleges that "continual criticism is levelled at the methods of the western democracies in their activities concerning the future peace of the world, while no blame at all is placed on the countries of eastern Europe."

The reason for this is very simple.

At a time when all the efforts of the WFDY are devoted to the Peace campaign, and in particular to the campaign for the Stockholm Appeal, it is a logical enough course to judge governments and individuals (not "democracies" or "countries") by the attitude they adopt towards this campaign. It is undeniable that Mr. Dean Acheson has publicly stated that the weapons used in a modern war are of no significance. It is undeniable that men holding important public offices in western countries have publicly declared that the Stockholm Appeal runs counter to the policy of international groups like the Atlantic Pact countries. It is undeniable that the Stockholm Appeal is banned in Spain, Yugoslavia, Colombia and Western Germany.

It is also undeniable that the Stockholm Appeal has been officially endorsed and supported in the most public and official manner possible by the governments of the Soviet Union and "eastern countries."

It is undeniable also that the peoples of the world, whether their country or government be "western" or "eastern", are signing the Stockholm Appeal in numbers that grow from hour to hour. The present figure of three hundred and seventy-six million is a measure of the truth of this statement.

It is therefore understandable that the WFDY, in pursuing its campaign in support of the Stockholm Appeal, should use the Appeal as its criterion in judging the sincerity of those who proclaim their attachment to peace.

The WFDY noted that it is an American General who has declared that the Pacific Ocean is an American moat, that it is American and British Chiefs of Staff who have established headquarters in the territory of a foreign power at Fontainebleu, that it is President Truman who brandishes the atom bomb and Sir Duff Cooper who demands its immediate use on Moscow.

The WFDY has also noted that it is Joseph Stalin and Matyas Rakosi and Mao Tse Tung who have declared that the two social systems can peacefully co-exist, and that peace is the concern of all peoples and not only of arbitrarily determined geographic blocs.

The WFDY has therefore ample justification for "continual criticism levelled at the methods of the western democracies in their activities concerning the future peace of the world while no blame at all is placed on the countries of eastern Europe." But the Secretary proceeds as follows: "In fact the reverse seems to be the case." How can the Secretary, writing to the WFDY in the name of the Association, express an opinion which the Association has never put forward as its own?

The only justification the Secretary offers for the Association's disaffiliation is therefore arbitrary, or personal to himself. The Association itself in voting to disaffiliate merely stated the fact without reference to its reasons. This point also calls for comment.

The Association has been affiliated to the WFDY since 1946, and every year during the period of affiliation its relations with the WFDY have been fully discussed at Annual or Special General Meetings. The last of these voted to disaffiliate. In view of the four years' connection with the WFDY and the repeated endorsement of its aims by Victoria College students, bluntly to state the fact of withdrawal without explanation seems a rather cavalier way of breaking relations with the WFDY. We feel that the lack of all reference to reasons in the disaffiliation motion reveals both a lack of that good faith which is the essential foundation of international relations between two such organisations and a failure to understand the importance of the issues at stake. Disaffiliation from a body whose numbers and influence make it the major international youth organisation is not a matter which can be lightly treated by either side, yet the Association's disaffiliation as it stands shows little appreciation of this point. We feel that it is the duty of members of the Association to hold a further meeting for the determination of the reasons motivating their decision. The WFDY has nothing to lose by such an action, which can only lead to the clarification of its relations with Victoria College students. The Association has everything to gain by such an action, which can only lead to greater understanding of the problems involved in the establishment of a just and lasting peace, and of the role played by the WFDY in the campaign directed towards this end.

(Signed.):

K. J. Hollyman, M.A. (Hons.),
Dr. Univ. Paris. VUC representative
World Peace Congress, 2nd
World Youth Congress, 3rd IUS

Council Meeting, N.Z. member
WFDY Council.

Keith Matthews, LL.B. VUC representative
2nd World Student Congress.

A. O. McLeod, M.A., B.Sc. VUC representative
2nd World Student Congress, Vice-Pres. VUCSA 1946-48.

S. T. H. Scoones, M.A. (Hons.),
Dipl. Hautes Etudes (Grenoble).
VUC representative World Peace Congress and 2nd World Youth Congress.

B. J. Matthews, M.A. VUC representative
2nd World Student Congress.
Appendix

"The Defenders of Peace are resolved to pursue their campaign for the banning of Atomic weapons and they declare once more their support for a general reduction, under control, of every form of armament, the increase in which is rendering the war danger more acute and burdening the people with heavy sacrifices." —from the Appeal for the 2nd World Peace Congress, adopted by the Bureau of the World Committee of Defenders of Peace.—Signed by Jollot-Curle.

"I know that in speaking against us people are saying: 'Why are you condemning only the atom bomb?' I want to say we condemn not only the atom bomb, but war. Our name is not 'Enemies of the Atom Bomb,' but 'Defenders of Peace.'"

"We started on the atom bomb, because it is the most terrible weapon. Even badness has its different degrees and the atom bomb is worse than other weapons. Why don't we go all the way? We can't go all the way until we take the first step."

—Ilya Ehrenburg, in an address to the 2nd World Student Congress.

ISS Conference

DELEGATES from the various Varsity and Training College ISS Committees met at Canterbury College for the 2nd annual conference of ISSNZ during the August vacation. Dr. Hulme, Rector of CUC and President of ISSNZ was in the chair. The VUC Committee was represented by Messrs. E. K. Braybrooke and R. A. Matheson.

Because of the difficult conditions under which so many students in Europe and Asia are studying, the urgent problem of relief received particular emphasis at the conference. It was decided to continue the present scheme whereby each local ISS Committee was sending 50 per cent of its relief funds to a particular university in SE Asia, instead of sending all money to the central fund in Geneva, as was previously the case. VUC is sending funds to Punjab University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Letters were read from the various ISS Committees in the Asian universities concerned, including one from Punjab which expressed appreciation for the interest shown by VUC and gave the following details of the use of relief funds in a self-help scheme—"ISS gives refugee students stipends for a period on condition that, in addition to their university studies, the students are taught typing with funds provided by ISS. They are able to support themselves by clerical work while studying part-time. ISS undertakes to arrange suitable employment." This scheme should work well—if the VUC Committee can raise sufficient money.

Ways and means of helping those displaced persons within N.Z. who are interested in the university were considered. These people comprise two main classes—

- (1) Undergraduates and students possessing the equivalent of the "ZU Entrance Exam."
- (2) Graduates, at present working

on two-year contracts as unskilled labour.

ISS hopes to help those of Class (1) to study part-time. It was decided to investigate suitable employment for graduates, some of whom will be released from their labour contracts in June 1951.

It was felt that university students could give a much needed lead to the community by lending a helping hand to these foreign students who will be coming into the university.

Conference agreed that Mr. Braybrooke and Ellen Bertaud (Wellington TC) should be asked to interview members of the next group of displaced persons who will be arriving in October.

Merger

Coming merger of ISS, WSR and constituent organisations was discussed. A parallel was drawn between this merger and the formation of ISS 25 years ago, from European Student Relief, originally an offshoot of World Student Christian Federation. It was felt that the new organisation would be well equipped to carry on the work ISS has done during the past 25 years. It was decided to observe Wednesday, Thursday, Friday (September 27, 28, 29) as the 25th anniversary of ISSNZ. To mark the occasion the VUC committee will be having a collection in the college. All students who for so long have given lip service to ISS and other international organisations will then have an opportunity of giving concrete support to the work of ISS.

—A.M.

Salient

The Organ of Student Opinion of Victoria College, Wellington

Wellington, Thursday, September 21, 1950.

VISIONS OF THE FUTURE . . .

VICTORIA has usually made the news in not quite such a respectable way. But the paper has appeared with our future in perspective; our present dwarfed by the towering of buildings; our hopes concretised into six storied buildings and our wildest dreams all depicted in serried rows crowding the skyline from Salamanca Road almost to Aro Street.

Wellington's future appears to lie under the shadow of Victoria. Her Western Skyline, if the paper is correct, will be jagged with institutions of higher learning, to which the citizen in the street, going on his daily round to the office or the shop, will look up in awe and admiration. Overseas visitors will round the harbour to see the city dominated by its university. Over the commercial and political centre of New Zealand will brood, like an architectural form of Rodin's "The Thinker"—Victoria University College. It is a pleasant thought.

Victoria got here in the first place for reasons none of which had much to do with disinterested planning for the future. The clay of our foundations has never settled into a respectable and dignified soil; like the university itself, the foundations drew attention to the fact that there was a newness about it all. And the site, supreme though it may be over the city, while enjoying the advantages of closeness to the centre of things (for those inevitable part-time students who were so long-sightedly seen to be destined to take such a part in its life, this was its biggest advantage) was an awkward one which demanded that every advance and expansion should be hewn out of the ground as hardily as every advance of the college's name was hewn out of the distrustful minds of the commercial community. The site was not only inconvenient—it was laden with gorse, prickly and hard to get rid of; a plant with a sad habit of pricking hardest the most comfortable and of becoming firmly fixed in the most dangerous of grounds.

All in all, there was much in the site and its accompaniments which was shortly echoed in the spirit of the place: the emphasis on utility rather than looks; the uncomfortable habit of making hard the paths of the self righteous; the removal from the ways of the city.

But this, it seems is to go. Victoria looks rather as though it will become domesticated. Not only will it be up and above the city, but the city is going to look up to it. Not only will the site be subdued by the irresistible advance of mechanisation, but it is altogether to become something of which the city will be proud—a sort of refined form of the Lane's Emulsion advertisement at the entrance to Lyttelton Harbour. Victoria will become something which will demonstrate without doubt the striving of its community after higher learning.

The new Victoria, campus and all, looks as though it will have little in common with the rough and rude brashness of the present college.

Somewhere on this magnificent campus, we hope, there will be room for a little gorse and a few bare and uncovered clay banks. Then the students wafting aloft by lift to his lecture on the fifth floor, will look down at the gorse and remember that once Victoria was a bit like that—wilder and less relished by the community, but pricking hard the most solid citizens when they strayed from the narrow paths.

Wanted

APPLICATIONS close September 30 with the Hon. Secretary of the Association for the following positions:—

- Producer, Extrav., 1951.
- Editor, Cappicade, 1951.
- Editor, Spike, 1951*
- Editor, Salient, 1951*

(*Will be considered first by the Publications Committee.)

Visitors' Debate

"THAT THE PRESENT WORLD CRISIS CAN ONLY BE SOLVED BY CHRISTIAN PACIFIST ACTION."

Affirmative: Mr. O. E. Burton
Negative: R.S.A. Team.

The Little Theatre

8 p.m., Friday, September 22.

NO MAN'S LAND

Protectors?

SIR.—These remarks of Major General Smedley D. Butler, are interesting today. They are quoted in "Man's Worldly Goods" by Leo Huberman.

"I spent thirty-three years and four months in active service as a member of our country's (U.S.) most agile military force, the Marine corps. I served in all commissioned ranks from a second lieutenant to a Major General. And during that period I spent most of my time being a high class muscle man for big business, for Wall Street, and for the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer for capitalism.

Thus I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped to purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-12. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Honduras 'right' for American fruit companies in 1903. In China in 1927 I helped see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested. I feel that I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three city districts. We Marines operated in three continents."

Today "United Nations" troops protect U.S. investments in Korea; The Consolidated Mining Coy., New Korea Co., and tungsten ore deposits at Sangdong. The U.S.M.C. of course still protects America's other Asian investments.—W.M.

Infallibility?

SIR.—Canon Raven spoiled an otherwise outstanding address when referring to the Catholic doctrine on the Infallibility of the Pope he is reported as saying: "none of us who have received a liberal education could believe that human beings could measure up to the standard of infallibility."

When Catholics speak of the Infallibility of the Pope, they mean that he is infallible in matters only concerning faith and morals. He gives his decision only after considerable research, discussion and argument by Cardinals, Bishops and learned scholars. Surely people who believe in the omnipotence of God would not deny Him the power of appointing a representative on earth and the power to vest this representative with the power to safeguard His teachings and His Church. It is

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

NEXT THURS., 28th

To Re-affiliate to the WFDY.

a pity that Christians will not realise that it is essential to any society to have an authoritative head. Canon Raven would be first to admit that it is lack of allegiance to authority that has shattered the unity of Christians. It is mainly due to the doctrine of Infallibility that the Catholic Church has and will remain united when other churches have suffered internal strife.

Also, when Canon Raven maintained liberal education and belief in infallibility is he wishing to imply that those who believe in infallibility have not had a liberal education, or is he merely remarking on the shortcomings of a liberal education? —B.J.W.

THE CAF LOOKS UP

OUT of the Caf on recent nights have come slight men had forgotten to associate with VUC eating—satisfied smiles.

New order on the Caf front has seen things done a lot more satisfactorily from the consumers' point of view—which is, after all, the viewpoint which counts. A system which deals with things more efficiently and rapidly, meals served reasonably well and tasting quite a deal better, the chance of buying odd other things like cigarettes and chocolate and so forth—these are likely to make the Caf look up provided that students can give it a working chance of clearing expenses. The Caf, now taken over by a private, concern to be run for a trial period until the end of this term, will have a final chance of showing that it can justify its existence. Reports so far from consumers have been highly favourable, and we suggest that, if you are one of the people who in the past have done the odd moan and groan about eating conditions at VUC, you go along and sample the new order in things.

CONGRESS 1951

HAVE you made any plans for the Christmas vacation? If not, now is your chance to go to the big attraction which you have heard all your friends talk about. The third N.Z.U.S.A. Congress will be held at Curious Cove in the Marlborough Sounds from February 9th to 18th, and promises to be as great a success as in previous years.

If you are at all hazy as to just what Congress is, let us explain. It is a meeting of students from all the N.Z. colleges—there will be some Australian visitors as well—who have come together to listen to a series of addresses from some of our country's best men in their various subjects. We then have a basis for discussion and in informal groups we argue about what we have heard, and come to our own conclusions about the subject.

But this is not all—for there is plenty of time to enjoy all the pleasures that the Sounds offer to the summer holiday maker—swimming, fishing, walking or just lying in the sun. The lectures and discussions take place in the mornings and evenings, whilst the afternoons are free for you to do what you wish: There will be film shows, sport, and a whole day's trip, in which you will go for a launch trip through the Sounds.

The theme for Congress is a study of Western philosophy and civilisation

under the title "There is Still Hope," and talkers on various subjects have been approached. The subjects include the Arts, Science, International Affairs, Politics, Religion, Economics and Psychology. We have been successful in arranging a visit by Dr. Nicholas Mansergh, one of Britain's leading experts on Commonwealth Relations. He will address Congress on "The Pattern of Commonwealth Foreign Policy, 1936-50," and will also lead an informal session on the Commonwealth in Asia. These alone should be worth a visit to Congress.

Applications close on September 30, so hurry along to your Students' Association office to fill in your application form. There is a deposit of £2 to be paid and the remainder of your fee, £8 10s, is payable at Congress.

Be in early with your application, and we shall see you at Curious Cove next February.



Beaglehole Writes on . . .

Unesco Works for the World

ONE returns from the international conference with mixed impressions. There is the intolerable tedium of other people's eloquence. Why, one asks God at intervals, is this chap allowed to go on like this? And one reflects sadly that it is a plenary meeting, there is no time limit, and that the delegate feels it highly necessary to hold up the flag of Cuba, or Ecuador, or the Philippines, or Thailand; he is asserting the national self-respect, and will be able to go back and assert that the voice of C or E or P or T was respectfully listened to. And one learns to shudder when he hears the chairman announce "The delegate from XXX"; one knows there is nobody at the conference with anything like this chap's grip on the obvious, and that he will hold on for a remorseless twenty minutes explaining just why education and science and culture are important. And there are times, too, when one wonders just what new technique of running a meeting the chairman has got hold of, whether he was taught it at school or whether he has invented it himself on the spur of the moment. But one will not, if one is wise, make hostile remarks, even to oneself, about the debating habits of foreigners. One has too lively memories of what has come over the radio from Parliament Buildings at home; and one may have realised that the British is not the only way of doing things. And is not one also, with one's peculiar habits, in Paris or Florence, very much a foreigner? Nevertheless one's heart warms towards those excellent Scandinavians, who are so right, so just in their apprehensions and estimations, who agree so often—admirable people—with the New Zealander.

Difficulties . . .

The talk is bound to go on as long as conferences are held; for after all conferences are held so that people may be able to confer. There is bound to be even more talk than in a national conference or a national parliament, simply because of the nature of words and of the assumptions behind the words, which are different for New Zealanders, or Frenchmen, or Swedes, or Americans, or Ecuadorians. Even with the most skilful technique of translation, people are bound to get at cross purposes; and in the face of incomprehension there is bound to be intrigue, pacts about voting, struggles over non-essentials of phraseology, honest indignation. One could take half a dozen separate instances off-hand as the test for an improving dissertation on national psychology; and indeed, until one gets an awareness of this snag in the way of international co-operation, one cannot work to full value. The same thing, I understand, gets in the way of efficient functioning of the Secretariat; a man of large experience told me that no international Civil Service can hope to work with more than about thirty per cent of the efficiency of a national civil service. This may be an underestimate as far as the "hope" is concerned; after all, international civil services only go back to the League of Nations, and efficient national civil services have taken a long while to build up. The wonder perhaps is, that certain departments of the Unesco Secretariat work so well. I think inevitably of the Education Department, for that was knocked into shape by a New Zealander, Beeby, and let me remark in this place that the world was fortunate to get Beeby as Assistant Director-General in Charge of Education when it did. Those eighteen months made all the difference. Make no doubt about it, Beeby is an international figure of some note. Those hostile to our Education Department in New Zealand, please assimilate. The difficulty is to get similar men, at once

enormously able and quite disinterested, to run other departments. There are men, but they generally have other jobs already, and conflicts of allegiance arise continually. Until there is a first-rate team of such men, able, honest, diplomatic, and with a capacity for putting first things first, Unesco will not be working as it should.

. . . With Verbiage . . .

To return to words again, it was inevitable that a UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation should in its early days get bogged down. Talk about education, science and culture in any language and you get inevitably bogged down. In seven or eight languages you tend to take refuge in incantation, and there are undoubtedly some people at conferences who haven't got past that stage yet. Still, once again consider the part that incantation plays in the national scene before you tend to despair. The difficulty of course is to do anything solid about "Culture," to do something on an international scale which is not just propaganda, or professional liaison or simply rah-rah stuff without any significance whatever.

. . . Are Surmounted

The difficulty becomes all the greater, when one gets away from abstraction, and considers the twin purposes with which UNESCO was founded; for while the programme was aimed at carrying the world inheritance of education, science and culture to the total population of the world, in the faith that these things were ends in themselves, yet it was all to be done in the cause of "international understanding," of world peace. Now the twins don't necessarily run all the while in double harness. Take a long view, by all means; but remember that you have to get the governments of fifty or sixty member states to take a long view as well. Remember also that the USSR has never been a member state, and that the rest of us are

all by definition the hired lackeys of American Imperialism. I should perhaps add on that theme that in my experience, the lackeys have not been nearly worthy of their hire; they have really been remarkably insubordinate, independent and intransigent.

Subsidiaries

You can do specific jobs with education; if you don't do those, indeed, it's a bit silly talking about science and culture (in any non-anthropological sense) for what is still a very large percentage of mankind the work for "fundamental education"—i.e. the attempt to make people literate in which UNESCO is engaged is therefore I suppose more important than anything else. At the other end of the scale is the Council of Philosophy and Humanistic Studies, which UNESCO was instrumental in forming. Somewhere between those came the Field Science Co-operative Offices apparently very successful, and of increasing importance in, say, East Africa as clearing house for scientific information, particularly for the application of science to the economic and social problems of "undeveloped" (modern polite term) areas. In fact it is all, in one way or another, education. But then the scientists were anxious to get science in by name; and indeed my impression is that, with Julian Huxley as first Director General, they rather galloped away with the whole show. It has taken a good deal of setting-out and arrangement of "priorities" and hard experience to get a sense of proportion on top. And while all the

big new schemes were being thought up and "implemented" or knocked back, and while everybody was getting restive about another war, there was still the awful wreckage of the last war to be cleared up. I think UNESCO has done something useful; about all that in Europe. God knows there is still plenty to do, even in the re-building of primary education—quite apart from the provision of university libraries and microscopes.

Towards Peace

Education, science, culture, international understanding, world peace; they do hang together if we think of them as all ingredients of the civilised life. But the question of the double-harnessed twins comes up again, and brings up with it one of the regular causes of tension (favourite UNESCO word at the General Conference). Some of us, e.g. British Scandinavians, New Zealanders—regard world peace as an end product; let UNESCO get on with its day to day work, we argue, conscientiously, honestly, efficiently, without too much excitement, or wild enthusiasm, plodding seriously because it is a long journey with no short cuts, and one day we will find that it has done something appreciable to make people literate, tolerant, aware of other points of view; on that day international understanding, and the psychological basis for peace will be rather nearer than they are now. But for other—e.g. the present Director General, an able man, haunted with a vision of horrors, he considers the modern technique of war—that is not enough. It even seems cowardly.

UNESCO, they argue, should do something decisive, signal, dramatic, and do it now; something that will rouse and stiffen the conscience of mankind. What! A world congress of intellectuals to condemn atomic warfare? That has been suggested. But the plodders remain unconvinced. Preambles, manifestos, declarations, they have a part in the making of history, yes; but it does not seem that our generation is really suffering from too little eloquence.

So no doubt delegations will continue to argue at sessions of the General Conference, and the Executive Board will meet far into the night. Meanwhile it is important to note that while arguments are swallowing their billions of dollars, UNESCO is doing a number of wise and valuable things on eight million.

Salient Staff---1950

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KOREA"**

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and . . . Robeson****NO LOST WEEKEND**

LISTENING to an unusually brilliant galaxy of speakers, playing recordings of revolutionary songs by Paul Robeson and others, eating, and endless discussion, occupied the weekend 9th-10th September for the 30-odd people who came at different times to 5 Halswell Street to the Socialist Club's Fourth School.

Opening session, addressed by F. L. Combs, J. P. Lewin and K. S. C. Stanton, attempted a universally agreeable definition of Socialism, and description of how to get there. All speakers agreed that acquisitive individualism was the core of capitalism, and was the more or less direct cause of all the woes inflicting the world today. Comparison of China and Russia, and discussion of the role of the British Labour Government in nationalisation, foreign and colonial policy, were the main trends in the open slather following. Mr. Stanton launched his talk by quoting from John Strachey about 15 years ago; a comparison with the same gentleman's activities today occupied the gathering for some time.

Mr Lewin described six points which he considered the sine qua non of Socialism: they included social ownership and control, equality of opportunity and less disparity of wealth, and a measure of self-effacement and idealism. Mr Combs stressed the need for education in the struggle for a society of socially-conscious individuals.

How is the Empire?

James Bertram and Rona Bailey spoke on Saturday evening about "Socialism and Colonial Countries",—Mr Bertram dealing with the Far East he knows at first hand, and Mrs Bailey with youth movements in India, Africa and elsewhere, whose representatives she met at the WFDY Festival in 1947. The national revolutions of Malaya, Korea, China and the Philippines, protruded themselves as the main topics of the session. There was a general agreement that national self-government was a necessary prerequisite for peace and socialism and that Korea and the Philippines fell into a general Asian pattern of colonial revolt to these ends.

The late evening was filled with music—records of Robeson singing "Joe Hill" and "The Four Generals" being popular. There was also a record of Robeson delivering a magnificent address in London last February on the world situation—"The only thing that will work is Peace!" Every now and then, to press a point home, his voice would fade out, we would hear the voices of Wallace Roosevelt, or Foster Dulles; and as a general background and theme, welling up to a mighty chorus at the end of the fourth and final side, was Robeson with an American choir, singing the Anthem of the United Nations. The words brought back those wonderful, terrible years when the Nations were United in the fight against the Hitlerites:

"The sun and the stars are all
ringing

With song rising strong from
the earth.

The voice of humanity singing
The hymn of a new world in
birth."

to the old European folk-melody made famous by Shostakovitch's arrangement.

The Club resolved to have a copy made of these recordings, and a collection was taken up for this purpose.

Saturday night was spent by those faithful who stayed on the premises in a certain degree of comfort, despite a tendency in the small hours to mistake the sleeping-quarters for a circus tent.

**Horny Hands and Dog
Collars**

Next morning, Ted Matthews, Secretary of the Wellington Engineers' Union, spoke exhaustively on the role of Trade Unions in the struggle for socialism. He described the F of L—TUC split, syndicalist tendencies in

the latter body, and the bad influence of compulsory unionism and the Arbitration Court in New Zealand's industrial history. Despite relatively poor attendance, questions were many and well-answered.

There followed a song-session—"The Red Flag" and the Spanish Republican anthem "Himno de Riego" being favourites. Then came dinner, which, under the supervision of Harry Graves, was much appreciated—roast beef done to a turn.

Hiatus, semi-siesta. Towards 2.30 the clans began to re-gather to hear Rev. Gardiner Scott and Peter Johansen discuss "Socialism and Religion." The Christian and the Socialist, Mr. Scott averred, had many common aims, the establishment of a juster social order, the eradication of war, greed and cruelty. Some Socialists, however, had raised idealism into a tight dogma which rejected the spirit. Most socialists tended to be too optimistic about the chances of a millennium inside time, and saw the human heart as fundamentally good, whereas the Christian agreed with Jeremiah that this was not the case.

Peter Johansen traced the two tendencies in organised religion since the dawn of time—of service to the status quo, and of practical social application of religious ideals. He claimed that there need be no fundamental differences between the Socialist and the Christian in practice. For the rest of the afternoon and over tea, common ground was sought diligently, and often found, on a variety of issues. With some members of the S.C.M. present, it was felt that the foundations for future co-operation were further secured.

Whither?

The closing session on "The Student and the Socialist Movement," was led, in the enforced absence of Dave Cohen and Jim Winchester, by Conrad Bollinger and Ron Smith. A leavening of Council members of the N.Z. Progressive Youth League, in Wellington for their annual meeting, further swelled the audience and enriched discussion.

Conrad spoke of the orthodoxy of teaching in the university, its service to the status quo, and the historic role of heresy; he traced the two tendencies within our society—towards fascism and towards socialism, and of the tasks of students in struggling for the latter. Most entertaining section of the talk dealt with the history of the progressive student movement in VUC—culminating with "Freedom's" verbal vomit over the Student Labour Federation in 1948—"Teen-agers and Bobby-soxers Kowtow to Icons of Czar Stalin I." Ron added a few of his observations and experiences of students through the metal draping that splits Europe, and of progressive student movements elsewhere.

Floor discussion centred round policy and concrete activity for the socialist students and young workers in the immediate future—some decisions about peace and the Stockholm Appeal and such student needs as bursaries, textbooks, and hostels, being made.

Home was the caper well after 10 p.m. A full week-end, but certainly not a lost one. Special thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Piper for the extension of their hospitality, and to Mr. Neil Grange who did a fine job at the head of the Commissariat.

Extrav. Scripts

THE Hon. Secretary of the Association has announced that the closing date for Extrav scripts for 1951 will be
19th FEBRUARY, 1951.
ARE YOU WRITING?