

# College

# NEWSLETTER

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## A MEETING YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS Mass Rally

Joint Meeting of Locals 5 and 537 to discuss the threats to education from

1. THE RAPP-COUDERT COMMITTEE
2. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE AFT

### Speakers:

FREDERICK MYERS, National Maritime Union  
 LEWIS MERRILL, United Office and Professional Workers of America  
 MAX YERGAN, President, National Negro Congress  
 MARY FOLEY GROSSMAN, President of Local 192, AFT  
 JOSEPHINE TRUSLOW ADAMS, recently dismissed from Swarthmore College  
 DONALD OGDEN STEWART

MANHATTAN CENTER WEDNESDAY EVE., JUNE 11

*Come and Bring Your Friends*

This meeting will take the place of the regular June membership meeting of Local 537.

## Protests Swell Against BHE's Arbitrary Actions

### Political Rule Spreads Pall Of Intimidation in Colleges

The attack on education launched by the Rapp-Coudert committee is rapidly moving into its second stage. Following close upon the heels of the suspension of City College teachers have come attempts to intimidate and silence those who speak out, reprisals against those against whom no charges have been leveled, and the substitution of the principle of suspicion for the principle of merit in judging qualifications for appointment. At one of the city colleges a teacher who had addressed a student meeting was called into the president's office; he was confronted by a set of notes taken by an administrative officer at the time of his speech and questioned

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### 1,000 Educators, Writers, Clergymen, Protest to Board

Eight hundred and thirty-eight staff members of over sixty American universities petitioned the Board of Higher Education recently to recognize that punitive action against teachers "because of personal beliefs or legal political activity is inconsistent with the very principles of academic freedom. Some of the signatories were: Professors Wesley C. Mitchell, Frank Boas, and A. T. Poffenberger, of Columbia University; Henry P. Fairchild, of N.Y.U.; Harold U. Faulkner, of Smith College; Preston Slosson, of the University of Michigan; Robert S. Lynd, of Columbia; Browton Berry, of the University of Missouri, and Harold M. Groves of the University of Wisconsin.

• A petition affirming the rights of teachers as private citizens, and signed by 194 clergymen from all parts of the country, was also received by the Board. • Message: (Continued on Page Two)

## Coudert Drops Demand For Membership Lists

The Rapp-Coudert Committee has withdrawn its demand for the membership lists and financial records of Local 537. The demand was withdrawn on May 19, when Dr. Bella Dodd and President Speer turned over the minutes of the local. The withdrawal of its demand for membership lists by the Coudert Committee represents a signal victory for the local and indicates the growing support for the local in its fight against the unconstitutional methods of the Committee.

In an affidavit filed with the Court, Dr. Dodd pointed out that the subpoenas which formed the basis of the Coudert Committee's attempt to punish Dr. Dodd and President Speer for contempt, were an "unwarranted intrusion into the affairs of a trade union."

"However," Dr. Dodd continued, "in view of the aspersions cast upon our Union by the Rapp-Coudert Committee, we welcome this opportunity to open our min-

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## For Future Historians

### An Editorial

It is fitting, as the academic year comes to a close, to take stock of the present state of affairs. Difficult as the situation is which the Rapp-Coudert Committee has created, and disruptive as has been the activity of the National Council of the American Federation of Teachers, there is yet a bitter solace to be found in the very size of the guns that were required to disturb us.

From a long-range point of view this year will be seen primarily as a year of growing war hysteria and of resistance to war hysteria. Future historians will draw ready parallels between the fate of education in this war and the last—the cuts in educational budgets, the stamping out of academic freedom, the dismissal of teachers and the growth of widespread intimidation. The chief change has been the acceleration in the present war and the development of methods of total attack—mass suspensions aiming at mass dismissals.

But historians will also note a

remarkable difference in the way in which these attacks were received, not only by the teacher unions, but by large sections of organized labor. Instead of individual martyrdom there is organized resistance. The teachers unions predicted the character of the attacks and prepared to meet them by an energetic appeal to the community. Their work stripped the attacks of all obscuring issues and enabled the community to see straight through the smoke-screen of the red scare. Increasingly larger segments of organized labor and the public have voiced first their interest and then their vigorous protest as they have come to realize that the battle is their very own. Friends of education are contributing increased sums for the support of the victimized teachers in order that the struggle for free democratic education may go on.

The more acute historian will recognize that the very existence of such a vigorous and organized

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## CTU Rejects Charter Revocation 626 to 45

By an almost unanimous vote the membership of the College Teachers Union voted against the revocation of the charters of Local 537, 5 and 192 by the National Executive Council. The vote, announced this week to the press, was 626 to 45 against charter revocation for Local 537, and represents another indication of the membership's overwhelming repudiation of the Council's red-baiting charges and innuendoes.

Local 537 will send its delegates to the coming National Convention and demand that they be seated, no matter what the outcome of the referendum nationally. The Union will attempt, along with the other Eastern locals, to present to the Convention a sound program for teacher welfare and teacher protection in a time of national crisis.

## To Prevent a Blackout of Education—Join the Union NOW