

# College

# NEWSLETTER

Published by the New York College Teachers Union, Local 537, American Fed. of Teachers

Vol. IV—No. 6

119

NEW YORK, January 2, 1941

## Public Resists Threat to Schools

### "Taxpayer's Suit" Is Next Step in Growing Attack on Education

Mr. Irving B. Cohen, of Brooklyn, is suing to deprive YOU of your protection under the State Tenure Law—protection which you won after a long and hard campaign. Mr. Irving Cohen, whose attorney, Joseph Goldstein, was counsel in the suit to oust Bertrand Russell, has brought suit against the Board of Higher Education to dismiss six Brooklyn teachers, Elton Gustafson, Howard Selsam, Frederic Ewen, Maurice Ogur, Murray Young, and Harry Slochower. Although these are the only teachers directly named, the charges against the Board of Higher Education, if sustained by the courts, are such as to invalidate the tenure of every staff member.

The charges are the following:  
1—That the Board of Higher Education has been operating illegally because it has not made appointments through competitive examinations, as required by law. The appointments of the six named were therefore "illegal and were contrary to the provisions of the Constitution of the State of New York."  
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### How Long Will YOU Have Tenure?

HEAR HOW THE TAXPAYER'S SUIT AGAINST SIX BROOKLYN TEACHERS AFFECTS YOU!

Come to a JOINT MEETING of Locals 5 and 537  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1941, at 8:30 P. M.  
Stuyvesant High School, 16th Street and 2nd Ave.

HEAR: Dean Ned Dearborn, New York University  
Professor Howard Selsam, Brooklyn College  
Professor Robert K. Speer, President, Local 537  
and others.

### Defend Your Tenure!

### Old Laws Revived as Curbs at B'klyn Grow

The march of events on the Brooklyn College campus has been keeping members of the college community a little breathless. Attempts of students and faculty to defend their school have been met with a swift series of counter-attacks upon the defenders. The appearance of an old regulation: "that all classrooms be kept locked at all times when not in use . . ." and that "no student has the right to address assembled subject classes"  
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### Mulligan Exposes Coudert Technic

On December 26, Supreme Court Justice Dineen heard Mr. William Mulligan, union counsel, present a scathing denunciation of "Coudertism" as the Legislative Committee requested that five teachers at Brooklyn College, Howard Selsam, Murray Young, Maurice Ogur, Frederic Ewen and Harry Slochower, be cited for contempt, because they declined to testify, on advice of counsel, before an illegal one-man committee.

"There is a device that is new in Anglo-American law," said Mr. Mulligan, in describing one of the characteristics of Coudertism, "the device of taking clear-cut legal issues and presenting them in court in a setting of a Communist smear. When these things occur in the United States, the time has come for some judge to stand up and say No."

Mr. Mulligan called the court's attention to the unfair and improper procedure of the Coudert Committee in asking that the teachers be cited for contempt while the question at issue is in the process of adjudication in two other law suits: the Hendley case before the Court of Appeals and  
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### 6,000 at Meeting Hear Star Chamber Methods, Red-baiting Denounced

On Dec. 18, six thousand people jammed into Manhattan Center to hear all the evidence which the Rapp-Coudert Committee refused to admit into its so-called open hearings. Delegates from various trade Union groups marched to the platform under union banners to join the Executive Boards of Locals 5 and 537, the subpoenaed teachers, and the jury. Dr. Dodd conducted the colorful and dramatic meeting, at which the audience cheered speaker after speaker and during which greetings and pledges of active support were given by delegates from sixteen different trade union and civic groups.

Although such prominent persons as Harry F. Ward, author of the recent book, "Democracy and Social Change," Osmond K. Fraenkel, Clifford McAvoy, Robert Speer, Michael Quill, Helen Lynd and others spoke at this meeting, not one word of the proceedings found its way into the *New York Times*, and the *Herald-Tribune* buried the story in a few inches on a back page. This is in striking contrast to the three-day blast of newspaper publicity which featured the three days of "open" hearings—the "three-ring circus," as Dr. Dodd described it, held by the Rapp-Coudert Committee.

As the Unions' campaign progresses, heartening signs of labor, civic and community support continue to grow. The CDPE has received, to date, 60 requests from  
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### The Unions on the Air

CDPE is arranging for 13 weekly broadcasts throughout New York State beginning January 10, carrying the message SAVE OUR SCHOOLS to the people. Station and time will be announced. ARRANGE YOUR RADIO PARTIES NOW!

## Brave New Year

—AN EDITORIAL—

Ten new members were inducted into the Union at the last meeting of the Executive Board; one resignation was accepted. All hail to the new recruits to unionism; a bemused farewell to the rugged one who decided that he can defend and advance teachers' interests all alone!

Much is at stake this year in Local 537. Everything, literally everything, the staffs in the public colleges have won through years of struggle—with reports, and hearings, and committees, and bulletins, and delegations, and protest

telegrams, and more reports, and so on—is now under the sharpest attack the staffs have yet faced. In the private colleges, the steps that are at last being taken to achieve similar gains are also endangered by the same attack. Both the Carnegie Foundation and the Coudert Committee appear to agree on the dark proposition that there are too many colleges!

Led militantly by the Union, the municipal college staffs have won tenure under the state law; now the taxpayers' suit against six of  
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**Next Membership Meeting . . . January 11 — See Page 4**