

LEFTIST SCHOOL WILL CLOSE SOON

Jefferson Trustees Charge 9 Years of 'Persecution,' Tell of Recent Losses

The Jefferson School of Social Science, which has been held by the Federal Government to be a "Communist front," announced yesterday that it would close at the end of its current term in mid-December.

The board of trustees asserted that nine years of "unwarranted persecution" had caused loss of income and heavy legal costs. The school was said to have had 120,000 enrollments at its main center, 575 Avenue of the Americas, in its thirteen years, but to have fallen off from a 1946-47 peak of 14,000 students to 400 this term.

The school was first included on the Attorney General's list of "subversive organizations" in December, 1947. On April 22, 1953, Attorney General Herbert Brownell Jr. filed a petition to have the Subversive Activities Control Board classify it as a Communist front, which would require it to register annually and file financial and other reports.

Called 'Training Ground'

After hearings the five-member board issued a registration order on July 1, 1955, in which it described the school's activities as follows:

"Under rigid party control, it is utilized as the Communist party's principal training ground for effective membership and leadership therein."

Yesterday's statement by the trustees said the order was still under appeal to the Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington. They described it as "an order grossly violating rights of free speech and assembly guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States."

However, they said the order's effects had been "catastrophic and irreparable" with thousands of persons deterred from enrolling "by fear they might lose their jobs or suffer other political reprisals."

Formed in 1944 Merger

The trustees asserted the adult education center had "made notable contributions in interpreting Marxist socialist thought" since its founding in 1944 as a merger of the Workers School and the School for Democracy. Besides students at the main building, they said it had taught other "thousands" in extension classes and annexes in the five boroughs and suburbs.

The trustees said they were confident that "new agencies and institutions for the furtherance of Marxist education" would appear.

Present trustees were listed as Herbert Aptheker, Robert W. Dunn, David Goldway, William A. Hunton, William L. Patterson, Dr. Howard Selsam, Alexander Trachtenberg and Doxey A. Wilkerson.

The school has twenty-five faculty members. Courses include histories of the United States and "the Jim Crow system," "The Soviet Union Today," "Teen-Agers and Their World," and "Guitar Playing and Song Leading."

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