

MASS LINE IN CULTURE no. 42

MASS LINE IN CULTURE will report on the progressive intellectuals' struggle against the bourgeois, obscurantist, anti-people and anti-scientific world outlook promoted in American universities.

MASS LINE IN CULTURE rejects as erroneous the viewpoint of putting politics in opposition to knowledge or substituting politics for knowledge. It also opposes the line of elevating knowledge above politics. These are the leftist and rightist lines on academic professions.

MASS LINE IN CULTURE holds that in every academic field there is bound to be a guiding ideology which plays the leading role and that there is no such thing as "pure" academic subjects divorced from politics. Imperialist scholar despots give prominence to idealist and reactionary theories in order to protect the interests of U. S. monopoly capital and to oppose movements for change.

MASS LINE IN CULTURE undertakes the struggle against this bourgeois ideology in the academic disciplines as an integral part of the American people's valiant struggle against U. S. imperialism and for socialism and urges intellectuals to build anti-imperialist positions in their place of work.

INVITATION

MASS LINE IN CULTURE invites all progressive intellectuals interested in building organs of revolutionary ideological propaganda to attend a meeting of the supporters of LITERATURE & IDEOLOGY, an anti-imperialist critical quarterly. This meeting is being held in New York at the same time as the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association on December 27, 28 & 29, 1972. A representative from the editorial staff of LITERATURE & IDEOLOGY will speak on the experience of the four years of L&I; his report will form the basis for a wide-ranging discussion on the role of intellectuals in the ideological struggle against imperialist and fascist theories. (The meeting is open to everyone except known revisionists and trotskyites.) Those who wish to participate in this consultative meeting should write for details to MASS LINE IN CULTURE, P. O. Box 6225, Providence, R. I. 02904.

EXPOSE AND REPUDIATE "SHAM" MARXISTS at the MLA Meeting

As the internal contradictions of U. S. imperialism sharpen, it is inevitable that Americans take serious interest in Marxist thought as the theory of revolutionary change. This interest reflects their political desire to overthrow the evil rule of the monopoly capitalist class and to bring about fundamental change in the relations of production. Imperialism uses liberal and fascist methods simultaneously to suppress this movement against U. S. imperialism. Fascist repression is widespread in the United States. The liberal technique is to encourage intellectuals to utilize the bourgeois "freedom of expression" to investigate afresh the theory and possibilities of revolution without bloodshed. These ideologues declare that Marxism is obsolete and hide the reality of imperialist decay behind impressive terms like "post-industrial society." One segment of these liberal bourgeois dons the robes of "independent, non-dogmatic, democratic, humane and critical" Marxism to oppose Marxism and is presenting a forum at the 1972 MLA meeting. These "Marxists" use their professorial status to confuse people about the significance of ideological struggle against imperialism by raising bogus scholastic "theoretical" questions about this and that; they never take a definite position against imperialism.

Who are the so-called "Marxist" or socialist scholars at the MLA who are so intent upon developing "Marxist Teaching and Criticism"? They are different advocates of bourgeois ideology: Idealists, revisionists, trotskyites, careerists, and New Leftists. Their main task is to discredit Marxist theory and practice in the tradition of Bertrand Russell's diatribe against Bolshevism after the Great October Revolution. These "humane" Marxists have no support among the intelligentsia, but they use their positions in the universities to usurp leadership and pretend as if there were no

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Marxists in this country except for themselves. Whether one is a Marxist or not is first and foremost a question of one's ideological outlook. Since these sham Marxists uphold nothing but downright idealists, there is no basis for dialogue or contact with them. They must be exposed and repudiated for what they are. Marxist theory consolidates itself to the extent a mass movement is built against the imperialist outlook of idealism, revisionism, trotskyism, and careerism.

The dialectical opposite of these sham "Marxists" is the intelligentsia which has accepted the ideological leadership of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought and is creating the climate for a free and open discussion and dissemination of the philosophy of dialectical materialism and historical materialism. These intellectuals are refuting every shade of fascist and obscurantist ideology being imposed on students in American universities. (For a detailed analysis of the fascist ideological premises of the Modern Tradition in writers like . S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, William Butler Yeats, D. H. Lawrence, etc., see LITERATURE & IDEOLOGY, NO. 8, still available for 75¢ from The National Publications Centre, P. O. Box 727, Adelaide Station, Toronto 210, Canada.) Whether or not one is a Marxist in the universities depends on whether he favours a free discussion of ideas in the academic community and exposes thoroughly the theoretical postulates of fascism and imperialism.

Writing about "Party Organization and Party Literature" Lenin said in 1905: "In contradistinction to bourgeois customs, to the profit-making, commercialized bourgeois press, to bourgeois literary careerism and individualism, 'aristocratic anarchism' and drive for profit, the socialist proletariat must put forward the principle of party literature, must develop this principle and put it into practice as fully and completely as possible." These words of Lenin's explain concretely the task of American intelligentsia at present: Develop organs of ideological propaganda of the working class to repudiate the scholasticism and obscurantism of idealists, revisionists, trotskyites, and New Leftists. Arouse the broad masses of intellectuals on a mass scale against reactionary ideology; follow

the mass line in order to eliminate the pernicious influence of revisionism and trotskyism from the progressive. (For a condemnation and repudiation of revisionist theories in literature and art see LITERATURE & IDEOLOGY, NO. 14. L&I #7 also contains many articles on revisionist ideas.)

The Norman Bethune Institute, Toronto, and The Necessity for Change Institute, Boston, are mobilizing the intelligentsia on a mass basis against fascist and obscurantist theories in the humanities, the social sciences and the physical sciences. LITERATURE & IDEOLOGY, PROGRESSIVE SCIENTIST, MASS LINE IN CULTURE, SEEK TRUTH TO SERVE THE PEOPLE (a publication of the Progressive Intellectuals' Study Group, available from Literature & Ideology, P. O. Box 6225, Providence, R. I. 02904 for 35¢ a copy) and other publications of these institutes are the instruments of this mobilization. The attack on imperialist ideology, where U. S. imperialism is the weakest, has to be continued on a systematic and prolonged basis. Revisionists and trotskyites are the main carriers of imperialist ideology in the Left circles. It is significant to note that when the Institute launched its ideological and critical quarterly LITERATURE & IDEOLOGY four years ago, New Leftists, trotskyites and revisionists were organizing the New University Conference as a "radical alternative" to Modern Language Association. By the end of 1972, with the warm support of broad sections of the intelligentsia, LITERATURE & IDEOLOGY has established itself as an organ of anti-imperialist ideological propaganda and is vigorously serving the progressive cause in North America, Great Britain, Ireland (its readership is steadily growing in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and many Afro-Asian countries). The New University Conference has disappeared from the scene during the same period (its singular "achievement" was promotion of careerism through the election of one of its members to MLA Presidentship). The left-over pieces of defunct groups like the NUC are this year using the MLA sponsorship to re-form themselves into a sham Marxist group. The main lesson of the past four years is clear: Progressive intellectuals are growing in strength every year; revisionists and trotskyites are rapidly declining in influence.