

*Workers' Ed*  
December 31, 1938

Dear Friend:

You have undoubtedly noticed the publicity in the newspapers about our Pittsburgh Workers' School.

We are enclosing a copy of the statement we have prepared in answer to the ridiculous charges.

The aim of the Post-Gazette is to end the existence of the School through its attacks. We regard this as a sincere compliment to the effectiveness of the school in clarifying present-day issues to an ever-growing student body.

The School has thrived in the past on the unfaltering loyalty of its students and supporters. This loyalty and support must increase now to guarantee the defeat of the Post-Gazette. We know that you will rally around now.

At a special meeting yesterday, the School committee made plans for the continuation of the School. We know that you will join the determination to have the school emerge as a bigger and stronger institution. You will be informed of developments as they occur.

We should like to stress two points: first, that our School has every legal, moral, and ethical right to existence; and secondly, that any individual in Pittsburgh has the right to spend his free time as he sees fit. Our student body includes students of every political belief.

Fraternally,

Pittsburgh Workers' School

## STATEMENT OF THE PITTSBURGH WORKERS SCHOOL

We believe and teach that prosperity should be defined not in terms of profits but of the well-being of the people. We therefore favor organization of the people to improve their living standards and increase their security.

We believe and teach the necessity of all peace-loving peoples uniting to halt the aggression of the fascist-controlled nations. In these teachings, we are in agreement with the overwhelming majority of the American people according to the Gallup poll.

We believe and teach that the chief issue in national and international politics is between progress and reaction. We believe that the forces of reaction desire to increase their wealth and power by worsening the conditions of the people. Our stand is with the majority of the American people on the side of progress and democracy.

We believe and teach that eventually the majority of the American people will turn to scientific socialism, the highest form of democracy, for the best solution of the problems raised above. We have sought to make clear in our classes that the issue today is not socialism vs. capitalism, but rather the defense and extension of democracy. Anybody who confuses the issue is helping reaction.

Our school was formed to provide facilities for the scientific study of these problems.

Among other subjects studied was the constitution of the Communist Party, the essence of which is expressed in Article VI, Section 1., entitled: "Rights and Duties of Members."

The Communist Party of the U.S.A. upholds the democratic achievements of the American people. It opposes with all its power any clique, group, circle, faction or party which conspires or acts to subvert, undermine, weaken or overthrow any or all institutions of American democracy whereby the majority of the American people have obtained power to determine their own destiny in any degree. The Communist Party of the U.S.A., standing unqualifiedly for the right of the majority to direct the destinies of our country, will fight with all its strength against any and every effort, whether it comes from abroad or from within, to impose upon our people the arbitrary will of any selfish minority group or party or clique of conspiracy.

The spirit of this quotation permeates all of our teachings. Why does Mr. Johnson distort our position?

As our brochure states, we employ the discussion technique in our school. All student are encouraged to think out all problems, discuss, and then to accept or reject the point of view presented. Mr. Johnson, for example, was given the full right to raise and insist on any questions that came to his mind.



We should like to remind the Post-Gazette that America has splendid educational traditions. The essence of this tradition is freedom of education. Our school is a legal educational institution with standards of instruction as high as those of any private school.

We are affiliated to Workers Schools established all over the country. Their right to exist is unchallenged.

Our School is open to any and all students who are interested in our curriculum. Mr. Johnson's articles paint us as a secret, sectarian school. We are an open institution and welcome as students any adult with mental capacity to read and study. The best proof of this is that our school was located right opposite the Federal Building.

We brand the Post-Gazette as un-American for using stool-pigeon methods which are repulsive to all decent people. The Post-Gazette attempted to blackmail Supreme Court Justice Black, an attempt that failed miserably. Their present attempt to blackmail the Workers' School will likewise fail.

The Post-Gazette would have gotten all of the true facts if it had cared to print our publicity releases sent out from time to time or had sent a reporter to interview us openly, as any decent newspaper would, rather than spying.

We should like to emphasize that the Post-Gazette series, ostensibly aimed at our small school, really attacks basic democratic rights and places every progressive person and institution in danger of similar attacks. In rejecting the slanderous attempts to distort our true objectives and functions, we are defending all progressive institutions from like danger.

Out of a simple landlord-tenant disagreement, certain persons in Pittsburgh are trying to whip up a campaign against the Pittsburgh Workers' School. As a matter of fact, Mr. Contis, the landlord was coerced into the actions he took and is taking by certain officious, little-minded, tin-hat would-be-Hitlers. We are prepared to name these men and to show that by threats of smashing his premises and ruining his business, these men forced Mr. Contis to act as he has.

Despite all attempts to stifle free discussion and study, the administration of the school assures all friends and students who have worked so hard to build and maintain the Workers' School that the School will continue to grow and develop as a factor in the democratic life of the community.