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1st Congressional District - Special Election (1949)

Communist Party

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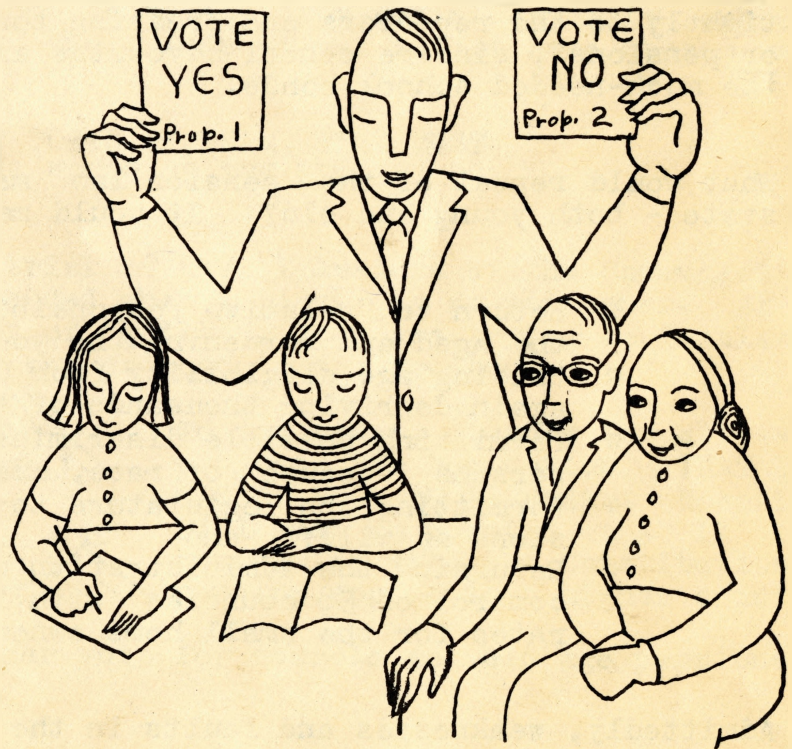
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YOU can cast a ballot for opportunity for the young, and security for the aged

VOTE for SCHOOLS *AND* OLD AGE PENSIONS

vote
“YES”
on #1
vote
“NO”
on #2



Special Election, Tuesday, November 8th, 1949



With indecent haste following passage of the 1948 pension law, Big Business launched a campaign for its repeal. A deal was cooked up between Gov. Warren and some legislators making a school bond election necessary. Thus the repealer could be slipped onto the ballot without risking exposure before the oldsters of the state.

Among organizers and financial backers of repeal are:

- * Calif. State Chamber of Commerce
- * California 's largest corporations, banks and public utilities
- * The Farm Bureau Federation (led by Associated Farmers)
- * Most newspapers, local and city.

In addition they have had the help of top leaders of the P-TA who have stifled discussion and debate and have presented the members with a ready-made decision. By allowing themselves to be tied so tightly to the repealers and creating the false issue of "schools or pensions", sincere school advocates are endangering passage of the much-needed school bonds.

What would repeal of the pension law mean to the people of this state - both young and old? It would mean:

- * Return to "relative responsibility", shaming the aged and burdening the young;
- * Raising age eligibility from 63 to 65 years, again depriving thousands of the pension;
- * Permitting possible discrimination against persons because of race, creed or color;
- * Permitting the Legislature to lower the pensions at will; and
- * Returning the administration of aid to the control of 58 counties with increased tax rates for the small home owner.

Admittedly, weaknesses and faults in the pension law and in the McLain forces do exist. But these weaknesses must not be allowed to obscure the facts:

THE ELEMENTS BACKING REPEAL ARE THE ONES WHO ON ONE PRETEXT OR ANOTHER HAVE FOUGHT ALL PENSIONS, ALL SOCIAL SECURITY, ALL PROGRESS!

It is NOT true that Americans must choose between schools and pensions. Another choice confronts us today.

Wall Street, the Big Brass (each branch demanding the star role in the "dance of death"), and their puppets in government circles, are toying with the idea of atomic war.

The billions that are being spent for war (\$1,314,010,000 just spent for arming Europe) COULD be used for the benefit of the people.

History has proven that a nation must choose between armaments for war and the necessities of life—we cannot have both.

The people have always fought for the latter. And the Communists have ever been in the forefront of that fight: for housing, jobs (with guarantees of Fair Employment Practices), for social security, schools and for decent pensions. But the rulers of our nation have chosen war.

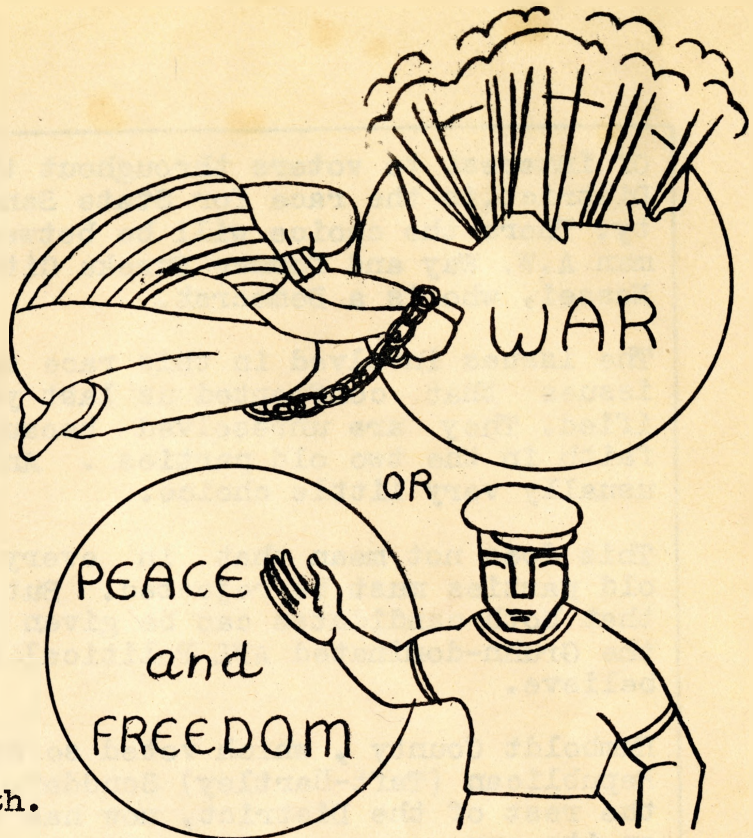
AND TO CARRY OUT THEIR PROGRAM, THEY MUST
FIRST SILENCE THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE!

That is the meaning of the trial of the 11 leaders of the Communist Party, one phase of which ended when a jury, in an atmosphere of hysteria, rendered a verdict of "guilty". They are trying to "outlaw" the Communists so that they may proceed to gag you too.



To win peace, liberty for all, and progress for the nation, THAT DECISION MUST BE REVERSED! Meantime BAIL must be granted the 11 in conformity with the Constitution pending appeal to a higher court.

You will be casting a stronger vote for schools and old age pensions, if you also



DEMAND OF PRESIDENT TRUMAN THAT THE
PROSECUTION OF THE COMMUNISTS BE HALTED NOW!

Of interest to voters throughout the First Congressional District, is the race for State Senator in Humboldt County. There the choice will be between Republican Assemblyman A.W. Way and former Eureka City Councilman Anthony Massei, who is a Democrat.

The issues involved in this race are the same unresolved issues that confronted us last year - only more intensified. They are unresolved because the people still put faith in the two old parties. And between them there is usually very little choice.

This does not mean that in every case candidates of the old parties must be rejected. But neither does it mean that both candidates can be given "equal endorsement" as the Gruhn-dominated AFL Political League would have you believe.

Humboldt County, which voted so strongly in 1948 against Republican (Taft-Hartley) Scudder, but was out-voted by the rest of the District, now has a chance to make good on its own.

Candidates for state as well as national office must be judged within the framework of the intense struggle which is in progress today:

- * The struggle between those who are trying to cripple the Trade Unions, and the workers who are fighting for economic gains;
- * Between the power monopolies who use the national resources for private profit, and the small farmer who is fighting to keep his land;
- * The struggle between those who gain economically through oppression and division of Negro and white, and those who are justly demanding equality of opportunity;
- * Between those who fear freedom, who institute witch-hunts, un-American Committees and thought-control, and the common people who need freedom so that mankind may continue to advance.

In this election, Humboldt County can lay the foundation for victory by the people of the First Congressional District in the elections of 1950.

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