

THE WORKING CLASS NEEDS THE JEFFERSON SCHOOL

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

I WAS DEEPLY MOVED and disturbed by the announcement in the press that the Jefferson School has been forced to suspend operations for one week in order to rally 1,000 additional students for its classes.

The difficulty in which the Jefferson School finds itself is clearly to be laid at the door of McCarthyism. This fascist current in our nation's political life requires the regimentation of thought as the foundation for its existence. It is therefore no surprise that the McCarthyites, through Eisenhower's Attorney General Brownell, have singled out the Jefferson School for special attack.

What is surprising, however, is that the labor-progressive movement, and particularly the Communists in that movement, have permitted the School to be driven to its present dire straits.



THE NEED for Marxist-Leninist theory is one of the prime requirements of the advanced working class. This is especially true today, when the working class is called upon to develop a major counter-offensive against economic crisis, political repression and the danger of atomic war adventurism.

Only the clarity of Marxist science can enable the Communists and other advanced workers to give the necessary leadership to the growing democratic tide we see developing in the labor movement, the Negro liberation movement, and among the farmers.

It is an unfortunate fact that our movement has traditionally suffered from the "neglect-of-theory" disease. This disease must be overcome—and it must be overcome quickly.

AS MUCH as the McCarthyites need the destruction of the Jefferson School, the working class needs its continued existence. The present campaign for 1,000 students should receive the enthusiastic support of all progressive and advanced workers. The School's rallying call should be answered by a flood of students to its classes next week.

McCarthyism could get no better rebuff than the building and strengthening of this fine institution of workingclass knowledge.