

BETWEEN US

By Herndon J. Evans

Now that the "student invasion" is a thing of the past it will be well for some of the newspapers which seem shocked at the "outrageous" treatment accorded these schoolboys and girls to be advised of some of the real facts back of the trip.

Pineville has been patient with each successive group of investigators. Patience is about exhausted. Unfavorable publicity, loss of business, misrepresentation, financial loss through outside meddling, all have been taking their toll of Pineville's patience and good nature. We are not alarmists and we are hospitable down here, but we know when we've had enough.

As to the students. They sent their customary communistic demands and protests; they were addressed by Allan Taub, outstanding communist; they were met by National Miners Union "guides" at Knoxville; there they conferred with Workers International Relief leaders; while they were here communist organizations and leaders in the movement were wiring their customary demands and protests. Only part of the group were students. Presidents of the universities and colleges listed as sending delegates without exception denied any connection with the trip, official or otherwise.

As to the National Student League. In the "Student Review," official publication of the League, Volume 1, No. 2, under the heading, "A Suggested Basis for National Student Movement," we find these interesting statements:

"Because the Soviet Union is the only country in the world which has been able to avoid crises and to eliminate unemployment and mass poverty . . . the Soviet Union stands out as an inspiration and guide to us who in other parts of the world are experiencing and witnessing the social and economic evils which accompany capitalism."

"We demand unemployment insurance for all students graduating or leaving college who are not placed in positions." (Minimum salary of \$25 a week. No plan for raising the money.)

"The student realizes that democracy is a myth under capitalism" and "We propose to expose the sham of 'democracy' and the failure of 'representative government' to represent the interest of the working class under capitalism."

And so on and on. The same old communistic doctrine that has been fed to our people by the Dreisers, Waldo Franks, Allan Taubs, Doris Parks, and their followers. We do not fear that America will "go red;" neither do we fear that communists will control our particular section of the state or country. We do know however, that the activities of ten or twelve leaders in sponsoring various "investigations" have cost the coal operators and taxpayers of Bell and Harlan Counties hundreds of thousands of dollars that should have gone into productive channels during the last twelve months. Pineville is worn out with communistic investigations. We welcome any other.

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Charles Neville Buck, author of "The Call of the Cumberlands" and other good novels dealing with the Kentucky Mountains, has been a visitor in Pineville this week. Joe Green, staff correspondent of the Courier-Journal, Wilmer G. Mason, staff correspondent of the Cincinnati Enquirer, and Robert Talley, staff writer of Newspaper Enterprise Association, also have been in the coal fields endeavoring to get the truth of conditions here. Such investigation is welcome and every citizen will co-operate with these men to see that they get any information they desire.

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Who next?

First came Theodore Dreiser; next the National Miners Union representatives; then Waldo Frank and his sweetmilk brigade, and last, the so-called student investigators from the East.

The Sun will give a free trip to Cumberland Gap—and return—for the Pineville resident who correctly names the next group of investigators who will be here. Try your luck.

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The student investigators were strictly on a "sociological research" excursion. They certainly showed no interest in history or allied subjects. A correspondent who accompanied them told me they never once stopped to examine a road marker, visit a shrine or inquire about the history of any section they passed through, although their itinerary carried the party through the most historic sections of America.

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