

Sl/Red Bk

Wkr-Student Action Committees, France, May 1968, by R.Gregoire & F.Perlman

Supposedly you become creative/only against concrete obstacles, not when you join a "movement", become "passive" and "dependent on an inexistent power." From Introd. dated Feb. '69.

Part I is entitled "The 2nd Fr. Rev." & starts out well enough "The major factories of France have been occupied by their wkr.. The universities are occupied by students...The transportation & communications services are paralyzed."

5/10 ths. of students JOINED BY YNG WKRS construct over 60 barricades. L'Humanite until then called them "tiny groups" & "adventurist extremists" but after police repression of 5/10 CGT called for general strike protesting brutality of police

5/11 mln. people demonstrate in Paris.

5/14 movement flows beyond universities as AIRCRAFT PLANT SUD AVIATION, mfr. of Caravelle IS OCCUPIED BY ITS OWN WKRS.

5/15 students & wkr. take over Oden & SAME DAY NUMEROUS PLANTS THRUOUT FRANCE ARE OCCUPIED by wkr. incl. RENAULT.

5.17 Sorbonne students organize 6 mi. mar. to demonstrate solidarity with wkr. In large factories like Citroen conflict bet. Fr. wkr. & foreign wkr.

CITROEN ACTION COMM. --I (article pub. in Guardian, 1/29/68) reports:

5/21 - Citroen strike comm. called for strike unlimited by how long to be out. appeal to foreign wkr. & assure them for full rts. to "foreign". This is the concrete basis for int'l'ism. ("Travailleurs Etrangers." Comite d'Action, Censier.) "All strikers, unionized or not, unite in a Permanent General Assembly."

CITROEN ACTION COMM. --II (published in Intercontinental Press, 7/29.68)

Citroen employs 40,000 wkr.; 1500 are in unions; 60% of wkr. are for. Living quarters of for. wkr. managed by Citroen so exploitation doesn't stop at factory door.

The Rank & File Committees

went to the Censier Center to seek contacts with the action committees and all the wkr. transformed the character of the Citroen Comm. & they OPENED PERSPECTIVES for org. & action by wkr. themselves in factory." est. at the Rhone-Poulenc chemical plant."

IT WAS THE WKRS. WHO RAISED QUES. OF INT'LISM IN FACT BY GOING TO OTHER COUNTRIES. Some members went to Turin to est. contacts with the Wkr.-Student League grouped around Fiat. And Italian coms. came from Milan to learn from Citroen & est. contacts. & Some members of Citroen went to England & USA "in order to generalize int. contacts."

p. 39: "Students have discovered that the div. of social tasks among specialized groups is AT THE ROOT OF (1st) ALIENATION." (also cf. pp. 36-37 where "THE NEW" that is listed are: (1) "handful of madmen"--a la Cuba & Vietnam--WHAT ABOUT "VANGUARD" saying same? (2) "a new social form--wkr-student action comm." as against defeatism (3) "Each action is designed to go beyond itself." (4) The occupation of Censier is a BREAK WITH CONTINUITY -- (5) HS youth "His action & his behavior are the only answer to the drivel about highschoolers being irresponsible brats."

The problem is to communicate, to spread consciousness of general interest beyond the union. Censier exists as a place & as an ex.

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Part II. Evaluation & Critique. Limits of Escapism. p. 70ff

P. 70 "For ex., YWG. WKRS from a pvt. printing school announced that they had thrown out their director & were about to occupy the "school" & wanted to put the press ^{at} at the disposal of the people gathered at Censior. However, Censior militants were not as as these wkrs; 'illegally' occupying.....

Final section entitled "The Partial Character of Rev. Theory."

"This reflects a lack of theory. They go to wkrs as if the wkrs. did in fact represent a separate group which ~~must~~ define its own separate a separate group which must define its own separate strategy of liberation...."

SAINT "JUST "CEUX QUI FONT LES REVOLUTIONS A MOIGNE
FONT QUE SE CREUSER UN TOMBEAU"

("Those who make revolutions half-way
merely dig their own graves.")

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