

example, a review by N. M. Richmond, the radical WEA organiser, of John Strachey's influential *The Coming Struggle For Power*: 'these 400 pages bring a . . . feeling . . . that we are living on the verge of new ways of thinking and acting in the political and economic sphere.' Lowry himself reviewed *The Student Vanguard*, an English universities magazine with contributions by students who 'actually know something about conditions in Russia and spend their vacations investigating them further. . . . [It] is a darned good little student communist paper'.⁷⁷

Typographically, the last *Phoenix* was Lowry's best effort. While less exuberant than the previous issue, it is tighter, more assured. The title-page is divided by a point. Above it, ranged in three corners and justified on opposite margins, are the title and colophon all set in Gill Sans, from 18 pt roman to 36 pt caps. Below the point, white space. Within, text pages are 12 pt Caslon Old Face and 18 pt Gill Sans medium title. The dust cover is quite striking. On brick coloured paper the title and subtitle and publication details are in Caslon titling, with the phoenix device in between (Plate IX).

Lowry was now in a real dilemma. The Executive, prodded by Registrar O'Shea on the one hand, and Mason on the other, had clearly determined what the 'rightful printing' of a College Literary Club should be. This was not palatable to Lowry. Even though his aspirations still lay with the idea of a College printing press, his sympathies and, increasingly, his loyalties, lay elsewhere. He then printed an item which in its content and method of production, sealed his fate. Sometime in August Lowry designed and printed a ten page booklet by Sid Scott *Douglasism or Communism?* (Plate X). Its content was radical:

We are witnessing world-preparations for a final grand assault upon the working classes. The Soviet Union is itself in imminent danger of attack. The issue deepens, the rumble of war chariots becomes louder. Social strata are crystallising. Labourism, currency reform, Douglas credit. Soon these must gravitate to one side or the other. Those who are not with us are against us. Fascism or Communism? There is no middle path.⁷⁸

Lowry's role must have seemed unacceptably provocative to the already alienated Executive and College authorities. For the College the issues were clear; where, and at whose expense, had Lowry printed the booklet? The colophon states 'Printed by R. W. Lowry, 743 Manukau Road, Auckland', but Lowry had no printing press at his home address and it is probable that his critics now had sufficient ammunition to use against him. Indeed, evidence later furnished by O'Shea in November makes clear that the critics were right; not only had Lowry charged the job to the Students' Association, but the type 'was delivered by Mr Connelly [of Printers' Linotype Service] to the College'.⁷⁹

August and early September then must have been a miserable time for Lowry. He had broken too many rules, and action by the authorities was inevitable. Nonetheless, he continued to print. Mason was still