

THE YOUTH QUESTION

Editor, Daily Worker:

The letter from the National Committee accompanying the Draft Resolution refers to the omission from the Resolution of any significant mention of several questions. One of these necessarily omitted questions as that of the analysis of the past, present and future of the Youth question in our country.

The word "necessarily" is used advisedly. We recognize the enormity of each of the questions omitted and feel that it would take a great deal of work and discussion to undertake such an analysis.

But that such an analysis is necessary and urgent is an obvious truth. For where does the future of the left movement arise, but from the ranks of the youth of today.

However, these are not times to reformulate old clichés about the "future of the country" and

"fresh ideas" and "new blood", etc. The kind of estimate needed today should reflect the whole new experiences of today's youth—different from those of the 30's, different from the youth of World War II days,—products of years of cold war, relatively high employment, new educational opportunities, for Negro youth, etc., etc., etc. For this question, as in all the others, the Communist Party must undertake the most thorough analysis, estimate and program.

Because of this necessity, and because it was felt that the Party could not be expected to do this without the very active participation of the Party youth themselves, and because Party Youth alone cannot undertake such a full estimate, it is vitally important for EVERY Communist to speak out on it, but especially the youth themselves.

Further—although the largest

single group of new recruits to the Party in the past 10 years was among the Youth, facts today show that among this section there is at present a very high disorganization in the Party. Whole groups of Party youth have not been in a Party club for many years—many new recruits have never participated in a Communist Party meeting—many youth in leading positions in the youth movement have received no leadership, guidance or paid dues to the C.P. in all these many years.

The Party Youth in Manhattan, recognizing all of the foregoing, undertook to organize themselves into a Party Section (with the approval and agreement of our County Committee) for at least the period between now and the National Convention, to insure the participation of Party Youth in the discussion.

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now taking place, and the conventions on all levels.

In addition, we undertook to fight through on all levels for the fullest possible participation of Party Youth in all meetings, conferences, committees and conventions of the Party. We have thus far been successful in achieving recognition of the necessity for Youth per se to be represented at these functions, and are to be allowed delegates to the County and State and National conventions.

We would like to encourage by our achievements all other Party youth to make a like struggle in their communities all over the country, and voted at our last Section meeting to write this letter to so urge them.

This letter is also intended to urge upon the leading bodies of our Party everywhere, and especially the National Committee, the urgent necessity for the

participation of Party Youth in all coming Conventions, especially the National Convention, and if necessary, to make special provision for their participation. We also urge all State and District Committees to take this seriously into consideration in determining the breakdown of delegates from your area to the National Convention.

However, we feel that most essentially, any such achievement will only be accomplished if the Youth in the Party begin NOW to wage a struggle for their full participation in the discussion, in all levels of the Party, and in the Conventions coming soon.

We feel that only this way can the necessary omission be filled and our Party can thereby once again give leadership to the historically vibrant and revolutionary youth of our country.

Manhattan Communist Party
Youth Section