

THE CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

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Two Cents

OUR PROGRAM
For the Fight Against Fascist Gangs

1. Workers Defense Guards
Organized by the trade unions—Disciplined and trained for combat—Mobilized on an hour's notice—Supported by legal defense machinery with competent lawyers and adequate bail.
2. Defend Labor Movement.
On guard at the union headquarters, and all workingclass meetings.
3. Smash Fascist Meetings!
Carry the fight into the camp of the enemy—Stamp out the vermin before they grow.

SMASH FASCIST GANGS!

Convention Adopts Fighting Policy

The youth of America must be mobilized today in a fighting organization to help the working class make the Socialist Revolution or they will go down tomorrow under the heel of fascism and be butchered in the next capitalist war!

Moved by this consideration, the delegates to the Tenth National Convention of the Young People's Socialist League, held in Chicago over the Thanksgiving Day weekend, went on record for the immediate rebuilding of our organization into a colorful, fighting movement that will everywhere stand in the eyes of the working-class as the opponents of fascism and boss war, the defenders of the economic rights of youth, and the undying foes of the present system of hunger and misery.

"Take to the Streets"
The determination to build a fighting movement was summed up in the resolution on the "Role of the Y.P.S.L." This resolution calls for the Y.P.S.L. to "take to the streets" in the fight against fascist gangs and to break the capitalist's lock-out of the young generation from factories and offices.

It provides for a semi-military uniform for the members, drum and bugle corps, training in self-defense, a year 'round program of sports, and other features designed to express its character as a fighting youth organization.

HEADING FOR A TOUCHDOWN!



Chicago Youth Break Up Silver Shirt Meeting

Special to Challenge

CHICAGO—The Chicago branch of the labor-hating, Jew-baiting, fascist "Silver Shirts" is holding a special meeting for its national "führer", Roy Zachary. The latter is in the midst of his speech, spewing forth hatred upon the CIO, the "reds", the Jews, the Negroes, and promising to "clean up" this country when the fascists take power.

"This is a white man's country," shouts Zachary, "a rubber hose and castor oil will teach the radicals and Jews their proper place. Once we're in power . . ."

Ohio Union Guards Rout Silver Shirts

With "Offense is the best Defense" as their motto, a group of union defense guards stormed a meeting of Silver Shirts in Sharon, 15 miles away, recently and put a speedy end to the gathering by routing the fascist hoodlums.

This action was taken upon the example of Local 544 of the Teamsters Union in Minneapolis which has led the way in the creation of union defense guards as a method of fighting fascism.

Full speed ahead in the creation of Union Defense Guards in every city! Fight the Fascist menace!

Suddenly outside the meeting-hall, a 100 cars converge from different directions. Five hundred boys get out and rush into the hall. Armed with rubber hoses, sawed-off cue-sticks, baseball bats, and other such weapons, they begin flaying the fascists left and right. One group starts at the front of the halls, beginning on Zachary himself. The other group takes care of fascists making a hasty departure through the rear doors. Meeting Smashed

The police arrive and arrest a few of the boys but the Silver Shirts have been scattered far and wide with no hope of hearing the rest of Zachary's poison tonight.

This is an action picture of the new, sensational organization of Jewish youth in Chicago, the "Vigilantes" which has broken up some five Nazi and Silver Shirt meetings in the last month. The movement has a simple program, "Break up the anti-semitic meetings." It has only one means of organization, phone calls from pool room to pool room giving the time and place for the attack.

This movement is the result of the lessons that the Nazi campaign to wipe out Jewry has taught the Jewish youth in America. They feel that the time to stamp out the fascist vermin is now—before they become too powerful.

Unfortunately, a group of cheap, ward-healing politicians, who run the corrupt Arvey machine on the West Side, are cashing in on this sentiment of the Jewish youth by assuming the leadership of the movement. They have tied up the movement to the Arvey-Kelly machine, notorious for its police brutality to strikers. They keep their hold over the movement by using their "pull" to release any of the boys that are arrested.

FREE GRYNSZPAN!

At the Chicago convention of the Young People's Socialist League, a resolution was passed calling for the freedom of Herschel Grynszpan, a Jewish boy of 17 years. Grynszpan shot a Nazi attaché in Paris in a fit of rage at the persecution his people are suffering in Hitler Germany. While disapproving of individual terrorism, the convention declared that Grynszpan was moved by genuine anti-Nazi sentiments and should be freed.

CONVICT YOUNG HUNGER FIGHTERS IN FRAME-UP

See story of one of the convicted Hunger Fighters on back page.

Will Lubin, jobless youth, Ben Herman, and Ernest Torione have been convicted on framed-up charges of assaulting a police officer during a demonstration at a Brooklyn relief station in an attempt to secure relief for Lubin. The court is awaiting the report of the probation officers before passing sentence.

The three hunger fighters, together with thirteen other participants in the demonstration, await trial on the additional charge of disorderly conduct.

The District Attorney based his case on a hysterical denunciation of "agitators." In his instructions to the jury, Judge Fitzgerald, famous for his electrical ear, denounced the accused as agitators who had come all the way from Manhattan to agitate in Brooklyn! If he were Mayer, he said, there would be no unemployed organizations.

How he would get the unemployed to starve peacefully was not explained.

Kent Y.P.S.L. In Free Speech Fight

KENT, Ohio.—A leaflet distributed by the local unit of the Young People's Socialist League protesting the suppression of free speech on the campus of Kent State College created quite a stir here when it made the daily press in Cleveland and Akron.

The leaflet was the answer to Dr. Liebeck, president of the university, who banned an Armistice Day anti-war meeting because the Y.P.S.L. was to be one of the participants.

TRUTH WILL OUT

Speaking in Akron, Ohio, Secretary of War Woodring said: " . . . Franklin Roosevelt has the toughest job any man ever had in his efforts to keep the confidence of the great bulk of the people in the PROFIT SYSTEM. He is the strongest protection for the way of life we have."

Be there any so naive to think it an accident that the Stalinist Daily Worker, ardent supporter of Pres. Roosevelt, "neglected" to print the above quotation even though the speech was front page news in all the other papers?

"Challenge" to Be Issued Twice Monthly

The National Council of the Young People's Socialist League has approved of the recommendation of the National Bureau to initiate a drive for a \$1,000 fund to rebuild the organization along the lines of the convention decisions.

One of the goals of the drive is a reserve fund to permit the CHALLENGE OF YOUTH to publish twice a month. Other objectives are uniforms, new membership books, a series of pamphlets, stickers, a manifesto to the youth of America, and three additional field organizers.

All members and supporters of the Y.P.S.L. are being asked to make every possible effort to attain the quotas being assigned to divisions and units.

For Unity In Action!

TO THE YOUNG ANTI-FASCIST FIGHTERS OF CHICAGO:

Greetings! And congratulations on a job well done.

You are using the only method that can stop the fascist gangs—smash them wherever they raise their heads.

If the German working class had done the same when the Nazi movement started, their unions would not have been smashed and their best fighters would not be in concentration camps today.

Instead of direct action, the German workers formed a People's Front with the liberal politicians—"democrats" like Hindenburg. These fakers always sell out the anti-fascists at the first opportunity. Daladier, the former People's Front leader, is doing it in France today.

We must learn a lesson from this. DON'T TRUST THE OLD PARTY POLITICIANS. They will use us for their own ends and then kick us out on our ears.

Roosevelt poses as an enemy of fascism. But when put to the test, his anti-fascism is only skin deep. WHY DOESN'T HE OPEN THE DOORS TO THE REFUGEES FROM FASCIST TERROR? All he wants to do is use the anti-fascist feeling of the people to build a big army and navy which will be used to protect Standard Oil Co. property in China, United Fruit Co. plantations in South America, and Wall Street investments in Cuba.

Jake Arvey also poses as an enemy of fascism. But how can he successfully fight fascism when he supports Mayor Kelly in brutally smashing strikes and weakening the labor unions? Isn't this exactly what the Nazis and the Silver Shirts and the labor-hating capitalists who finance them want?

Was it not the Kelly-Arvey administration that brutally massacred the steel strikers on Memorial Day of 1937 and dealt a stunning blow to the C.I.O. movement in Chicago?

The main purpose of fascism is to smash the trade unions and lower the wages of the working class. That is why the German capitalists supported

Hitler. The issue of anti-Semitism is used to divide the workers and the middle class along racial lines.

THE BIGGEST OBSTACLE IS A FIGHTING LABOR MOVEMENT. IF THE TRADE UNIONS ARE WEAKENED, THE FRONT LINE DEFENSE AGAINST FASCISM HAS BEEN UNDERMINED.

BEWARE OF ATTEMPTS TO USE YOUR MOVEMENT AGAINST THE C.I.O., THE A.F. OF L., OR THE "RADICALS". If you are used for this purpose, you are opening the gates for fascism. Zachary and his Silver Shirts will follow you in and "clean up" on everybody—including yourselves.

In Minneapolis, the truck drivers' union, Local 544, answered the organization of a Silver Shirt gang by organizing a Workers Defense Guard. YOU MUST UNITE WITH THE PROGRESSIVE UNIONISTS IN CHICAGO AND DO LIKEWISE.

This is the only way to forge a solid fighting front against the fascist gangs.

This is the only way to prevent the fascists from making it merely an issue between Jews and Gentiles.

This is the only way to strike at the money-men who finance the fascist gangs—for a strong labor movement will raise wages and reduce the profits of the bosses.

We offer you our out-stretched hand of friendship and all the help we can give toward realizing the above aims. Our Chicago comrades—Jew and Gentile, black and white—stand ready to the last man to fight in your front ranks. We offer you the services of our lawyers and our legal defense machinery. Our members in the unions will demand that labor support your fight.

LONG LIVE WORKERS DEFENSE GUARDS!
LONG LIVE DIRECT ACTION AGAINST FASCIST GANGS!

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST LEAGUE
(FOURTH INTERNATIONALISTS)

Build the \$1,000 FUND

Forward to the TWICE-MONTHLY "CHALLENGE OF YOUTH"!

Millions For National Guard; WPA, Relief Cut

The enormous cost of the National Guard in New York as a preparation of the youth for the coming war and as a strike-breaking agency was made clear by the recent annual report of its chief, Major Albert Blanding.

Major Blanding reported that over 200,000 men are now being trained by the National Guard. The cost of armory drills in the last fiscal year was \$14,062,500, an increase of one million over the preceding year. The cost of field training rose to \$9,200,000, an increase of 2 million over the preceding year.

Cut Relief

It is not an accident that the same day as Major Blanding made his report public—an obvious play for getting increased appropriations—reports from Washington announced sharp WPA cuts in order to "economize." That is typical of the New Deal administration: cut relief to the bone, let jobless youth go hungry; but prepare them for death in a coming boss war.

The Young People's Socialist League says: "Not a cent for the defense of Morgan-Rockefeller America! All war funds to the unemployed! Not a cent for the union-busting National Guard! Build houses! Build schools! Feed and cloth young America!"

Pickets Defend Mooney

CHICAGO.—The Young People's Socialist League threw a picket line around the office of the Daily Tribune recently in protest against its editorial blast against Tom Mooney.

The picketing, conducted throughout the afternoon, was well received by the passing crowds. After much hesitation, the cops decided not to break the picket line and had to be content with just standing around and making faces.

NATIONAL GUARD: STRIKEBREAKERS!



When Iowa National Guard smashed Maytag strike

Teaching Kossarev Not To Gape

MOSCOW.—Another Soviet leader has been removed. This time it is Kossarev, leader of the Young Communist League of the Soviet Union.

According to "Pravda," he was demoted on charges of "gaping about." That is all the specific information provided.

Exactly what the nature of the crime of "gaping about" is has not yet been explained. That it is serious can be seen from the fact that it led to the dismissal of one of Stalin's favorite flunkies.

It is expected, however, by the best informed circles that Kossarev's infamous crime of "gaping about" will be shown by the G.P.U. to have some sinister aim. If that be so, the fate of young Mr. Kossarev is not to be envied.

Composition Of Y.P.S.L. Convention

The report of the credentials committee at the recent National Convention of the Young Socialist League showed the following composition of the convention:

- Present—
- 63 delegates, of whom 3 are party representatives.
- 11 alternates.
- 18 fraternal delegates, of whom 11 are members of the National Executive Committee.
- The delegates came from 22 cities, 11 states and Canada.
- Sex: Male, 57; female, 29.
- Average age: 20.7 years.
- Members of the Socialist Workers Party (dual membership), 49.
- Employment:
 - Industrial workers, 12; white collar, 27.
 - Government projects: NYA, 2; WPA, 5.
 - Unemployed, 20.
 - Trade unionists, 39, of whom 3 hold office in their union.
 - Full-time functionaries of the Y.P.S.L., 4.

"NO FOOD, NO WORK"

THE DRAMATIC STORY OF A STRIKE IN A CCC CAMP

The day after we arrived in camp, 10 of us rookies were bundled into an army truck and transported to our first job—weeding at the Painted Post Nursery. The Nursery includes a large area devoted to small seedlings, row on row of these close-packed trees, some rows extending hundreds of yards in one direction. Each morning we would file into the tool-shed, receive our pails and weeding knives and go forth to ferret out the little weeds that infested the rows. Now imagine kneeling over a six-inch tall 'tree,' moving your hands through a mass of black earth, discovering a pica-yune blade of grass or an incipient weed from time to time, and going through these same motions for seven hours a day! This wasn't lawn-weeding by a long shot; if any of us would change our kneeling position to a half-sitting one in order to relieve the aching in our legs, we would receive a surly rebuke to "get off your behinds" from the sergeant or assistant sergeant who watched us and prodded us like overseers in a reform school.

BLISTERING HEAT

After a while a fine spirit of solidarity and good-fellowship grew up amongst us boys. We appreciated the brutal nature of the work, tried to laugh off our sore distress, but deep down many of us were burning with dissatisfaction. Soon the cool Spring days gave way to the blistering heat of June and July and the drudgery of the weeding work became almost unbearable. Lack of shade, the frequency with which the water tank ran dry, the wracking routine—these would have been enough to drive older men to rebellion. But these inexperienced youths stood in fear and awe of the government; "you can't strike against the Army" was their usual reply to any suggestion that we do something to improve our lot. Eventually we were to "strike against the Army" in protest and grievance against an intolerable condition.

We carried canteens and cups with us on the truck. At noon we would line up for lunch and a mess of beans, bread and coffee would be dished out to us. It would be beans one day, watery stew the next, spaghetti on the third, then the cycle would begin again. On scorching days, steaming food slopped together in a grimy mess kit is slightly short of appetizing—and with only a half-hour allotment to get the grub, eat it and rest up before returning to the grind, resentment began to simmer in our minds. However, any open expression of discontentment was done in a gay, inoffensive manner, in a way that prevented official lighting from descending on your head. A serious outburst would bring an outcry of "Agitator!", the worst term of denunciation in camp.

STRIKE AGAINST ARMY

The food was getting worse each day. Some of the boys wouldn't touch their food, bringing candy bars for lunch. Others gulped down their food without tasting it and heaped curses on the

cook. Finally, one noon-time, when most of us had tried to down a miserable concoction of alleged goulash—and failed—our feelings burst into the open like a geyser. A dozen boys broke for the trucks with the howl "No food, No work!" The strike-movement caught on quickly even though we were completely unprepared for it. There was a rush for the trucks and the original strikers were joined by a majority of the boys who took up the cry "No food, No work!" It was time for the work whistle to blow and a few boys had already started weeding.

No effort had been made to organize, to establish a set of grievances, or to appoint a committee of enrolees to lead and direct the movement. My suggestion that we prepare for any that we were through with work for the day and eventually with an organization met with no response. I pleaded with the fellows in my truck to slough over their holiday spirit, to sober up and realize the serious nature of our strike and prepare for our meeting with the supervisor and camp officials, but they insisted that all that was necessary was to "stick together".

DELIVERS ULTIMATUM

When the superintendent of our project saw wanted to return to camp immediately, he called us into the barn and delivered several ultimatums, charging us with gross insubordination. Two fellows yielded to his threats of dire consequences, but the rest of us answered with a firm "aye" when the super asked us if we still refused to work. Seeing that we meant business, he began to shake in the knees and big beads of sweat formed on his forehead—this was a reflection on his powers of management and he would probably get blazes from his superiors. "O. K., back to the trucks," he shouted, "and now you can lay the whole business in the lieutenant's hands."

We dashed for the trucks, got set for a wild ride back to camp. But the super stalled, cleverly trying to dispell the strike spirit, or at least to subdue our militancy. When we got going, it was at a snail's pace, so that we could avail ourselves of the opportunity of mulling over our audacious act. This tactic proved effective. No one said much on the return trip; all were gravely concerned over our reception in camp; no light hearted spirit of mischief now. One could sense the spreading fear and regret that was sprouting in some minds.

FACE MILITARY MAN

When we arrived at camp, we marched into the assembly hall and there the Looie stood before us on the raised platform, looking grimly and severely at the group. Here was no minor overseer who worked for the Department of Agriculture, but a military man, a representative of the Army—and remember, "you can't strike against the Army." The sentiment of the boys slowly changed. The confinement did not liberate the same rebellious spirit that the great outdoors did.

(Continued on page 3)

BUILD THE \$1000 FUND! FORWARD TO THE TWICE-MONTHLY "CHALLENGE"

School for Suckers

or HOW FREE ARE THE FREE JUNIOR COLLEGES IN CHICAGO?

By AL LIEBICK

Two men—as honest as your grocer's scales—run the not so fair city of Chicago. They have a finger in every gambling joint and a hand in every shady deal; they maintain a strangle-hold on every two-by-four company union and give well-heeded advice to the heads of both A.F. of L. and C.I.O. unions; they control all of the city's boards and departments and their personnel as well. In short, they run everything but the elevators in the city hall—for this they use relatives of the precinct captains' and hand-picked ward heelers!

These two most capable men are Ed Kelly, personification of the city's 'I Will' spirit, who 'serves' as Mayor, and Jake Arvey, boss of the local Democratic Party and alderman from the notorious 24th Ward, whom the Stalinist DAILY RECORD proudly hails as an excellent representative of 'Humanity in Government'.

Arvey: Educator!

Alderman Arvey also has a special interest in Education. It surprises one to find with what breath-taking speed friends of Mr. Arvey are graduated into the school system as teachers. But Jake is also an expert magician. Why, for a grand or so and a promise of votes, anyone with a college degree is liable to become a principal before you can spell corruption!

Proof of Ed Kelly's and Jake Arvey's particular affection for educational work may be found in the situation existing in Chicago's junior colleges.

A student in his last semester at high school is handed a beautifully printed booklet, profusely illustrated, explaining the wonderful opportunity that lie ahead for any high school graduate desiring a higher education at the city's expense. The average student is taken in. He realizes that jobs are scarce so he decides to continue his education. There's a sucker born every minute and Jake Arvey knows that some of them are simply bound to graduate from high school—and bite at the idea of a FREE college education.

School For Suckers

The unsuspecting student chooses Herzl Jr. College, which, the booklet has told him, is beautifully located, has a swell swimming pool, an excellent gym with the latest equipment, a well-known staff of instructors—and—NO TUITION FEE.

When he starts attending the college he gets a slightly less pretty picture. When he registers for swimming he discovers that through an unaccountable error the swimming pool is just about three blocks down the street in a privately operated social center. That well-equipped gym is nothing

more than an enlarged kiddies play-room minus the toys. Locker and shower facilities are hopelessly inadequate. As for the teaching staff, there are a few really good ones, while the rest are undistinguished except by their connections with the political "ins."

The Crowning Blarney

The crowning piece of advertising blarney is contained in the 'absolutely no tuition fee required' blurb. Nominally, there is no tuition fee, but how fast the student's money does a disappearing act! First he is hooked six dollars worth for a 'registration fee.' Then he plunks down a dollar for a gym fee. Next are books—there are no free books—but you can buy them just across the street.

These cost approximately twenty-five dollars a semester. Prices are in most cases exorbitant and some books can not be resold because there are marginal notations to make and pages to be torn out for grading. There are fees for chem lab and physical science. He even has to shell out for the dances and social events that he'd thought were covered by the registration fee.

Without outside help, the poorer student is likely to experience difficulties with his studies. He becomes disgusted with school and his desperate efforts to scrape and save. N. Y. A. jobs are as scarce as the hair on Alderman Arvey's head.

He hangs on, but all his thoughts keep saying, 'Gee, I'd like to get the hell out of here, then go to night-school—if only I could get a job . . . god-dammit, a job . . .'

Fakers Try to Sell Lemon to Jewish Youth

Out of all the noble speeches, resolutions and editorials which the capitalist world has uttered on the persecution of the Jews in Nazi Germany, only one concrete plan to "help" the Jews has been produced. That is the plan of the British government to send some of the young—remember that word: young—Jews to its African colonies, Tanganyika and Kenya.

That the reactionary British government is not making this suggestion out of humanitarian motives can easily be seen upon investigation. The British empire is today in a state of impending revolt. Britain is not at all sure of her ability to keep control over her colonies. The natives are becoming increasingly restive. The British government, therefore, figures that if the German Jews were sent to the colonies they would, out of a sense of gratitude, act as loyal agents of His Majesty's Government. And that is why they want them young—so that they will be available for military duty. The old Jews in Germany who couldn't serve British imperialism—let 'em die.

That this analysis is not far-fetched may be seen from the declarations of George Robles, head of the Evian committee for refugees, that colonization was being planned for young Jews mainly. This plan is very similar to that

of Japan which is sending 30,000 young farmers into Manchukuo in order to have trusted agents to suppress the Chinese.

No! The plan of British imperialism is not the answer to the Jewish problem. The problem of the refugees can be solved, in part at least, by action of the workers and the youth in America. We must in a mighty united cry raise the demand—as many trade unions have already done—OPEN THE DOORS OF THE U. S. TO THE REFUGEES!

That is the real solution to the problem. America has sufficient resources to take them in. The cultural, scientific, and craft knowledge they bring to our shores will more than pay for their upkeep. A half million more added to the 12,000,000 jobless won't worsen anyone's lot.

President Roosevelt must be put behind the eight ball. Let him increase the immigration quotas so as to allow more refugees to enter or shut up whining sympathy for the helpless victims of Hitler who pound at our doors.

We must not only sympathize with the Jews; we must act for them. In every organization, wherever you are, raise your voice to demand that the American government OPEN THE DOORS TO THE REFUGEES.

Youth Respond To Y.P.S.L. Program

NEW YORK.—The tremendous appeal that the new program of demands for youth, which the Young People's Socialist League adopted at its recent convention, can have was seen by an occurrence at a panel discussion held here on November 27 by the Stalinist-dominated American Youth Congress.

During the discussion on unemployment the Stalinists brought forward their routine proposals of: (1) a youth unemployed census; (2) canvassing of local shopkeepers to find jobs for youth; and (3) conferences between labor and industry to arrange for youth jobs.

One of the delegates, a member of the Y.P.S.L., then declared the above points ridiculous, especially the last two, and briefly suggested some of our demands as a basis for fighting for youth jobs. He particularly raised the slogans of Youth WPA for all unemployed youth, the transfer of youth on supplementary relief to WPA jobs, and the maintenance of union rates on such jobs.

Favorable Response

To the consternation of the Stalinist leaders, some of the delegates responded quite favorably to our comrade's proposals. Then the chairman, a Miss Janet Feder, a Stalinist whose profession during the last few years has been that of being a "youth leader," nonchalantly declared our comrade out of order and succeeded in preventing any further discussion.

Youth Steals To Feed His Hungry Family

NEW YORK—Sixteen-year old Dominick Graziano was an honest lad. No wonder his neighbors were surprised when he was arrested for the burglary of a grocery store on November 27.

But they understood when the following story came to light.

Dominick's father is sick. The breadwinner of the family is his brother, a WPA worker who earns \$40 a month. Since there are 10 in the family, they need a large apartment and \$36 of the \$40 goes for rent. This doesn't leave enough for them to live on.

The family existed on a quart of milk and a loaf of bread a day for three days. Then Dominick decided to get something to eat by hook or crook. The attempted burglary followed.

Driven to Crime

Now Dominick's picture and finger prints have joined those of hundreds of thousands of other boys in the rogues gallery, who, like he, have been driven to crime by poverty.

But Dominick is no criminal to us. We have a place for him in our movement—the movement to destroy a system that plows under wheat and destroys unsold milk while millions go with too little to eat.

In our movement Dominick will learn that the expropriation of a grocery store will not solve the problem of his hungry family. Only the expropriation of the 60 families who hoard the wealth of America will begin to provide for the millions of jobless. Only the expropriation of the whole capitalist class and the organization of industry on a Socialist basis will permanently solve the problem of unemployment.

Cuban Students Honor Martyrs

Thousands of Cuban students poured into the streets of Havana last month in memory of those students who had been killed and imprisoned in the struggle for Cuban liberation. The demonstration, culminating in a tremendous parade through the streets of the capital, was a reminder to the



"BATISTA THE BLOODY"

Cuban people that their struggle for freedom is by no means over. Dictator Batista, who makes "democratic" speeches, spread over the pages of the N. Y. Times and Daily Worker, had scores of people arrested in Havana at this same time for the terrible "crime" of collecting money for loyalist Spain.

New Style "Democrat"

Dictator Batista, the representative of Wall Street interests to the tune of \$1,500,000 is out to see to it that no one threatens those interests. That is why, after smashing the workers' general strike in 1935, he murdered, tortured and in one case—Oscario Segle—burned to death every anti-imperialist student and militant trade-unionist who refused to bow to his bloody rule.

A. S. U. To Drop R. O. T. C. Fight

AN OPEN LETTER TO JOE LASH

On the 1938 A. S. U. Convention

This is not a personal letter. I am not even bothering to send a special copy to you. I am sure that you, like the other Stalinist leaders, read our press.

Your political evolution is of interest to the mass of students only because it is so typical of what happens to well-meaning foes of imperialist war who don't think it necessary to base themselves upon a firm Marxist analysis.

Your case is of further interest because it so faithfully mirrors the development of the American Student Union itself—from the Oxford Pledge in 1935 to open jingoism in 1938.

The convention the ASU is to hold during the Christmas week in New York, will mark the end of another transition period for the ASU.

Just as the last one, with the adoption of the policy of collective security, was the first step of the ASU on the pro-war path, so this convention will mark the maturation of the ASU into a full-fledged jingo organization. Those few pretenses at anti-war planks which you retained in your program when you made the ASU into a defender of the "democratic" capitalisms—such as opposition to the armament budget of the Roosevelt government and the fight against ROTC—will now be dropped and you will stand openly and unabashed as the student section of the Roosevelt war machine.

THOSE ANNOYING "TROTSKYIST" PREDICTIONS

The logic of politics, Joe, is inexorable. Do you remember only a year ago at the Vassar ASU convention when you denied—oh, so indignantly and eloquently!—that collective security meant support of a big navy and of the ROTC? Well, there were a few "Trotskyists" there. I remember arguing with you; how red in the face you became when I said that pretty soon you'd be supporting the Big Navy, and how, when you denied it, all I could say was: "Wait and see." And that was what we said in the bulletin we distributed to the delegate: If you are actually to carry collective security into effect—if you are to get the "democratic" capitalist nations to act jointly against the fascist capitalist nations—then you must be for the arming of these "democratic" capitalist nations.

And its funny, isn't it Joe, that despite your protestations, and the protestations of your Stalinist side-kick Celeste Strack, that the predictions of these terrible Trotskyists came true to the letter. For, only about 2 weeks ago, at the Philadelphia ASU convention, you came out and said that the ROTC wasn't so terrible (see article elsewhere in Challenge) and the convention passed a recommendation that the national convention omit opposition to the ROTC and to the armaments budget from the ASU program. Now this wasn't an accident. It was a deliberate, conscious prelude and test-balloon to similar action which you will take at the national convention. Has this step occurred to you as being peculiarly coincidental with the pronouncement of Earl Browder in favor of a navy second to none?

DOES THE ASU FIGHT WAR?

Now just what does your opposition to war come down to? You want Morgan-Rockefeller America to take joint action with the other "democracies" the quaint name you apply to the British and French empires) against their Fascist rivals. Now what do you back up action with, if that action is to consist of more than speeches? You have to back it up with armed force—war. That is precisely the meaning of your collective security program—support of one set of capitalist robbers against the other. So that your position for a big war budget is quite logical. After all, if we're going to have a war "for democracy", we might as well be prepared with two ships instead of one. And we might as well have the training in patriotism the ROTC provides.

Dou you remember the editorial which you wrote in October 1935? You wrote:

"This is not a 'different' war. A war 'Against Fascism' in 1935 is the counterpart of a war 'For Democracy' in 1927. Defense of Ethiopia is not the real issue. Fascism can be fought only by displacing capitalism of which it is a form. In the words of Eugene V. Debs: 'There isn't enough difference between any two capitalist nations to be worth fighting about.' The League of Nations, once the hope of millions, invokes sanctions only when they serve the interests of the victorious Versailles powers. Secretary Hull's plea for every 'practical' measure to maintain peace repeats the professions of the Democratic officials in 1914-1916. Only one certain weapon remains for the youth: their mass refusal to support war. Fight war effectively on every front, and you will find yourself fighting for Socialism."

PERIODIC CRISIS AGAIN HITS NORMAN THOMAS JUNIORS

The optimism of their public reports increasing in direct proportion to the decrease in their actual activity and morale, the youth section of the American Socialist Party (affiliated to the Second International) is living through another of its comic opera faction fights.

The present inner, factional flurry is caused by a referendum which the S.P. is holding in New York which will mean virtual liquidation into the American Labor Party. In view of the fact that even the leaders of the supposedly left-wing "Clarity" faction—including Herbert Zam—are supporting this resolution, along with the

Norman Thomas right wing, it is almost certain to pass.

This, plus the shy flirtations of the S.P. with the "Old Guard" Social-Democratic Federation, has filled considerable numbers of the youth militants with a feeling of disgust.

There is only one movement for them to go to if they are serious in their intention to build a revolutionary party—the Fourth International. The Young People's Socialist League (Fourth Internationalists) welcomes them to its ranks. Only in our organization can they find the program and the people to do serious work.



HAVE CONDITIONS REALLY CHANGED?

Not bad, eh Joe? It almost smacks of Trotskyism. But, you will protest, conditions have changed. How? Doesn't capitalism still breed war? Has the not quotation from Debs the same validity? Did the Munich pact show the "democracies" to be defenders of peace? Has not the government of "democratic France"—and of the former People's Front angel, Daladier—signed a pact with Hitler? Have not the occurrences in France shown the utter futility of depending on liberal capitalism to fight Fascism?

It is worth examining the concrete results of collective security as regards the ASU:

You stand together with the Roosevelt war machine and capitalist press in favor of large armaments.

You no longer oppose the campus form of militarism—ROTC.

You have stifled the truth about a war for democracy for despite your paper opposition to M-Day, nowhere in your activity or propaganda can one find any condemnation against the War Department's M-Day plan.

You cannot, because of your Roosevelt support, conduct an effective struggle against Fascism. Dare you tell the students that Roosevelt bears the responsibility for inflicting and preserving the embargo on Loyalist Spain or that Roosevelt is a political ally of Fuehrer Hague?

You no longer support the Loyalist struggle in Spain without reservations. In the recent Armistice Day mobilizations, the Brooklyn College ASU collected money for BOTH sides, Loyalist and Franco.

You no longer fight against American imperialism, but by supporting Roosevelt's "Good Neighbor Policy" you support American oppression of millions of South American natives, you support the puppet dictatorships of Batista, Vargas and Trujillo.

That's not a very good record. In fact its a record of, not anti-war activity, but plain old-fashioned jingoism. The ASU is now on the other side of the fence: with the war makers.

THE MAIN ENEMY AT HOME

A long time ago, I remember, Joe, when you came back from a Socialist congress in Europe you spoke to some of us who were then working together with you. You told us how patriotic propaganda can sweep even the most sincere radical, how it was necessary to always tell the workers the truth even if that truth was unpleasant, and how it was always necessary to emphasize the great slogan of Liebknecht as the summit of anti-war work: *The Main Enemy Is At Home.*

That speech of yours made a tremendous impression upon me—more so, I fear, than upon you. For I think that I, and my comrades of the Fourth International, have remained true to the real fight against war. We, unlike you, do not tell the workers and the youth to die for "democracy." We, unlike you, tell the truth about the war budget, about M-Day, about the ROTC, about American imperialism. That is why we think the workers will adopt our policy as the way to end the misery of capitalism and establish their own society. Because we tell them the truth. Yes, Joe, you were right: The Main Enemy Is At Home! But today, you have become one of his agents.

IRVING HOWE.

Lash Announces New Policy At Philly Meeting

PHILADELPHIA.—The final step in the development of the American Student Union into an open supporter of American imperialism was taken here when Joe Lash, A.S.U. national secretary, stated that the A.S.U. would no longer oppose the R.O.T.C.

Speaking at the Pennsylvania convention of the A.S.U., Lash said that: "If military defense is necessary in this world, along with a foreign policy which insures peace, then the R.O.T.C. is not the worst aspect of the defense program."

Pro-War Line

In the past year, since it adopted the jingo policy of collective security, the A.S.U. has continually travelled toward the goal its Stalinist sponsors desired: the left-wing campus recruiting agency for the Roosevelt war machine. It has come out in support of Roosevelt's "Good Neighbor" policy of imperialism in South America; it has opposed the movement for a popular war referendum. It has given up opposition to the Roosevelt war budget.

Now the A.S.U. is dropping all anti-war pretenses. The decisions of its Pennsylvania convention to omit opposition to the war budget and to the R.O.T.C. from its platform is only a preliminary to similar action at its national convention during Christmas week.

The A.S.U. role on the campus is now hardly distinguishable from that of the R.O.T.C.: training ground to prepare the students to die in the coming boss war for profits . . . and, oh yes, for "democracy."

us with his "reasonable" personality, but never relaxing his grip for a single moment. The food had lately? Well, certain restrictions were being carried out in the kitchen due to the latest additions to the camp roster and the failure of new government allotments to come through. Suddenly he challenged any of us to speak out in defense of our strike. After several boys made timid suggestions, I rose and delivered a blast at the whole luncheon set up, the poor quality of the food, the lack of variety in diet, the short lunch-hour. I spoke again and again thereafter, trying to show the boys that I was willing to lead them in an open struggle for the demands we raised. But nothing doing. The backbone of our strike was broken. The Looie had cajoled the boys into believing that everything would be settled in a peaceful manner.

Work Extra Day

To prove he was our buddy, the Looie did not punish us. But we would have to make up the lost afternoon by weeding on the next day, our free day, Saturday. No word of dissent. With a sigh of relief that the whole business was over the cowed groups slunk off to their barracks to forget.

The next day we made up for the time lost during the strike. Our relations to the leaders and supervisors and sergeants had not changed one iota. They pretended that the fine demonstration of revolt and solidarity of the previous day had never occurred. They went about barking orders as before. Amongst the boys there was no more talk about the strike; complete obliteration of the weird affair from memory. The rest of the camp called us screwballs and suckers for attempting such an action, never for a moment realizing that its success would have meant improvement of the camp, menu and breaking the dictatorship rule in camp.

Some of us, however, will never forget the spontaneous, electrifying spirit of the strikers, the spirit that compelled each to jump into the trucks, excited, aggressive, exultant. We won't forget the gleam of hope that flashed in our eyes, the will to be liberated from the dehumanizing monotony of weeding, the demonstration that we weren't slaves and could kick back to redress grievances. We're just beginning . . .

BUILD THE \$1,000 FUND!

Forward TO THE TWICE-MONTHLY CHALLENGE

"No Food, No Work!"

(Continued from page 2)

The Looie's tactics were polished to a shine. First, he split our solidarity by separating us into groups. Then he appealed to our "sportsmanship", demanding to know why there was no protest about the food previously, chiding us for taking such drastic action when we could have dropped in to his office at any time to talk things over in a nice, friendly way. Why, after his super-human efforts to spread the limited funds given to him by the government, should we have attempted to stab him in the back? And so he continued in the same vein, spraying

THE CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

Young People's Socialist League of America

(Affiliated to the Youth Section of the Fourth International)

Editor: ERNEST ERBER

Associate Editor: IRVING HOWE Business Man.: RUTH JAEGER

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OUR WORLD CONGRESS

Hounded by Stalin's hired assassins and the secret police of the most democratic of the "democracies," meeting illegally under the most trying circumstances, the representatives of our revolutionary youth movements in Poland, Austria, Belgium, England, France, Holland, and the U. S. A. met in Switzerland to found the Youth Section of the Fourth International.

The fact that they met in September, during the nationalist hysteria preceding Munich, to pledge undying loyalty to the cause of internationalism, is a harbinger of the role our international movement will play.

If the next Munich crisis ends in war, it will find in our Youth International the revolutionary spark which will flame into the mass movement of youth streaming home from the trenches to finish the real enemy—the ruling class at home.

THE "TIMES" SPILLS THE BEANS

We have repeated a thousand times in our arguments against the Stalinists and other advocates of a war of the "democracies" against the fascist powers, that the result, no matter which side wins, will be to introduce fascism into the "democratic" nations.

Modern wars, we argued, require the maximum of regimentation. America, its economic life already controlled by the Sixty families, would emerge from such a war under the heel of a dictatorship as totalitarian and as ruthless as that of Hitler.

This argument was bolstered with evidence from an unexpected source when Arthur Krock, political commentator of the New York Times, revealed last week that Roosevelt was studying proposals to regiment the CCC boys into the national defense apparatus as airmen and mechanics in the same manner as Hitler has done with German youth.

"It is based on observations made by its authors in Nazi Germany, and they propose to take a leaf from Hitler's book," says the blunt and unabashed Mr. Krock.

Pointing out the merits of the system, Mr. Krock describes the "happy" lot of the German youth as follows:

"At the end of their courses they are assigned to manufacture or maintenance. They live in good buildings, have rest and planned recreation periods, are well fed and well clothed and given a little money by the government."

Well fed, well kept—cattle.

And that is what all of America will look like if the workers willingly bow their heads and support the government in a war in defense of Morgan-Rockefeller investments, disguised of course, as "a war in defense of democracy." Except that those not in the army won't be well fed and well kept. The ordinary working stiff will just have to pretend he is contented and let the bosses milk him dry.

FEEDING YOUTH—ONCE A YEAR

It is the custom of politicians, society ladies and newspaper editors to suddenly become aware of the plight of the "unfortunate poor" a few days before Thanksgiving Day. These "people of good will" scrape together a few homeless boys on Thanksgiving, feed them some turkey and go home contented with the feeling that they have done their good deed for the year. That these boys have to eat on the other 364 days of the year never bothers our worthy citizens.

A particularly callous example of this was given this Thanksgiving by the NEW YORK TIMES in reporting the story of Leonard Yoak. This 19 year old youth for the past year "rode the rods" from St. Louis to Indianapolis; from there to Cleveland; from Cleveland to his West Virginia home town; and from there to New York. In none of these places could he find a job.

Finally, hungry and desperate, he was taken into a New York newsboys' home, which provided a turkey dinner and promised to keep him for six days. Immediately the TIMES rushed into print with a feature story pointing to this incident as an example of how America provided for her needy youth.

The TIMES is now invited to answer one little question: What is Leonard Yoak going to do after his six days are up? Where are the boys who got free meals going to eat until next Thanksgiving Day rolls around?

There is only one place for Leonard Yoak and for the millions of other Leonard Yoaks who roam the city streets and the countryside in search of work—in the ranks of the Young People's Socialist League. We ask you in—not for a day or for six—but until we have crushed the parasites who stand between us and the idle wheels of industry.

Leonard Yoak—we have a place for you. We welcome you with a warm hearted comradeship. We offer you a brotherhood of arms in the struggle against the capitalist exploiters and their fascist gangs. We offer you an ideal that will give your life a purpose. We offer you a cause—the great cause of the liberation of mankind from hunger and misery—a cause worth giving your life for. Together with you, Leonard Yoak, and your million cold and hungry brothers, we will conquer over the forces of darkness and reaction. Together we will plant the liberating banner of the Fourth International on the foundations of the new world of peace and plenty—the world of Socialism.

LIVE—FIGHT—CONQUER with the Young People's Socialist League.

The Real Face of Democracy



New York Police Brutality Caught by the Camera in Recent Jobless Demonstration.

**Minneapolis Labor Unions Support
New Jobless Youth Organization
In Fight for NYA and WPA Jobs**

MINNEAPOLIS.—The powerful organized labor movement of this city threw its support behind the fight for independent relief status and WPA jobs for youth when the last meeting of the Central Labor Union endorsed the Youth Section of the Federal Workers, relief and WPA organization affiliated to Local 544 of the truck drivers union.

The endorsement was backed up with the appointment of a committee of prominent trade union leaders to work with the jobless youth movement.

At the first open meeting called by the Youth Section about three weeks ago, 250 youth attended to discuss ways and means of obtaining jobs. Among the speakers were Walter Frank of the Building Trades, Miles Dunne, representing the Teamsters Joint Council, and Oscar Kohler, secretary of the Youth Section. At the meeting, it was determined that the Youth Section would make a drive for 100 per cent organization of the 1,200 youth working on the NYA works projects, an organization of a large percentage of the 30,000 unemployed youth in the city.

Handle Youth Grievances

The Youth Section has already become well known not only in the trade union movement itself, but also among wide sections of the unemployed young people throughout Minneapolis. Not a day passes but that dozens of youth come to the headquarters of the organization—situated in the Driver's Hall

—bringing their grievances against the relief department or the National Youth Administration. Each grievance, whether a case of discrimination by the relief department, a "403" by the NYA, or a complaint that the individual has found it impossible to be placed on the NYA, means individual investigation and action by the Youth Section. For the first time, the youth in this city are finding that with an organization in back of them, it is possible to stand up to the relief and NYA authorities and fight for their rights.

To Take Militant Action

More and more of these youth, however, are realizing that simply taking action on each individual grievance as it comes along is hardly sufficient—that drastic action is necessary to force the municipal, state and federal authorities to appropriate money for decent jobs for all the unemployed youth. The Youth Section will undoubtedly take militant actions in the very near future to force the new "liberal Republican" Governor Strassen and newly elected congressional representatives from this area to make concrete their lip service to the principle of the "right to work."

In addition to the above activities, the Youth Section has organized a basketball team, which has been entered into regular tournament play. The team is a strong one and has a good chance to win the city championship in its first year. In its first game, the Youth Section team defeated the Bakery Drivers' outfit by 30 to 9.

**Police Can't Bribe
Hunger Fighters**

NEW YORK—Led by a 15 year old member of the Young People's Socialist League, six youngsters, ranging in age from 14 to 16, picketed the home of Mayor LaGuardia in connection with the militant fight of the Jamaica Unemployed League for shoes and clothing for the children of relief clients.

Several police squads rushed to the scene and speedily arrested the young pickets. At the police station the police were unsuccessful in their various attempts to pry the names and addresses and information as to who told them to picket from the youngsters. The YPSL member was isolated from the rest in an attempt to break their resistance.

They scornfully refused the police offer of candy and a quarter each if they gave the desired information and repeatedly answered:

"Nobody sent us. We can't give you our names. We don't want any candy. We want clothes and shoes for all boys and girls on relief."

The police finally gave up and released them.

Their first "run-in" with boss law and police made them more determined than ever to continue the fight. Several of them have indicated that they will join the YPSL.

BY A HUNGER FIGHTER
We who went through the Lubin case have discovered what the "democratic" Government of the U.S.A. really looks like. We now know what Lenin meant when he spoke of the "state."

We were arrested on September 1. At the police station we had occasion to meet some of New York's "finest." We were fingerprinted almost immediately. Later we asked one of the fingerprint men, "What happens if we are not convicted. Can we get our fingerprints back?"

He laughed. "Sure! You can get a copy if that will make you feel better. But as soon as they grab your prints they send hundreds of copies all over the country."

The police at the station house treated us like dogs. We refused to answer any of their questions.

"You 'sons of bitches' ought to have the stuffings knocked out of you," said one. "It's too bad we can't do it here. But some day when we get hold of you, you'll be sorry that you were born."

"Hague knows how to handle you boys," said another. "A good stick across the mouth."

Later, we were taken down to the criminal alien squad. Again we refused to answer questions.

"You fellows are getting away with murder today," we were told. "But just wait, it won't be long before we do what your friend Stalin or Hitler would do to your kind."

CALLED FILTHY NAMES

We were shoved into the lineup. They all called us filthy names. Our coats, our papers, our books and lunches were thrown on the floor and trampled upon.

Three days of this. We hadn't been declared guilty. Are you innocent until you are proven guilty? The law says yes. But the police and courts say no. If we hadn't been bailed out we'd have been in for three months awaiting trial.

We watched how the courts work. Huge bails set for poor kids. Some of them stay in jail for 6, 7 and 8 months before they are brought up for trial. What if they are found not guilty? So what.

Most of those who have been arrested are too poor to hire a lawyer. Ham lawyers are assigned to their case by the court. These novices try to cope with the clever, highly trained and highly paid Assistant District Attorney, who has millions of dollars and a tremendous machine to summon witnesses and experts.

They are doomed in advance. The defendants go down, one after another, ground beneath the powerful legal machinery. Are they illegally convicted? Appeal is impossible for a poor man. It costs hundreds and hundreds of dollars to fulfill all the intricate legal requirements, even in a small case.

The juries, somehow or other, are composed overwhelmingly of business men. In the court itself, reactionary prejudices reign. Negroes haven't got a chance.

This is the real government of the United States. A star-chamber government that functions in secrecy. The President, Congressmen, and Senators? These are only puppet actors. Presidents may come and go. Democrats and Republicans or what have you. No matter what takes place before the eyes of the people... the police, the courts, and the jails remain. Information is quietly gathered. Jails fill. Yes, this is the real government, reactionary to the core. Dedicated to safeguarding the property of the capitalist class. And this is what we are going to tear out by the roots.

How One Girl Got A Job

Readers of the New York Post were startled recently by a prominently featured front page "Letter to the Editor" from an anonymous 17-year-old Jewish girl who predicted that on the following day she would throw herself under a truck because she had been unable to find a job.

She related her fruitless efforts to get employment in a city of 350,000 idle youth and the discriminatory practices of many employers against Jews in a country reputedly free from racial oppression. Seeing no hope for the future and seeking to relieve her family of the necessity of feeding another mouth, she said that she was taking the way of suicide as the only road out.

The Post offered to help her if she would appear at their of-

fices and identify herself. Job offers from readers poured in. On the fateful day no suicides were reported by the police. The girl lost her nerve and on the morrow identified herself to the Post business office and got a job.

The girl has a job. The Post the good will of its readers. But what about the other 349,999 youth who are seeking employment in New York City?

THE THREAT OF COMMITTING SUICIDE WON'T SOLVE THEIR PROBLEM. ONLY WHEN THEY UNITE TO KILL THE SYSTEM OF CAPITALISM AND ORGANIZE INDUSTRY ON A SOCIALIST BASIS WILL THEY SOLVE THEIR PROBLEM.

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