

**Jobs,  
Not  
Guns!**

**NOT ONE CENT TO DEFEND  
WALL STREET PROFITS!**

**THE**

# CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

**Smash  
Fascist  
Gangs!**

**ORGANIZE WORKERS  
DEFENSE GUARDS!**

Vol. III—No. 7 (Whole No. 17)

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# LET THE PEOPLE VOTE ON WAR!

## Jobless Youth Hits Rods Again

NEWARK, N. J.—Unemployed youth are riding the rods again, hitchhiking, walking from small towns to the large industrial centers—in search of work. Railroad "bulls" of this city picked up three boys and two girls in the freight yards of the Pennsylvania Railroad and arrested them on charges of trespassing immediately after they alighted from box-cars which they had hopped in Johnstown, Pa. All five were headed for New York.

The boys, Martin Balon, eighteen, Nicholas Vuskavich, nineteen, and John Kline, eighteen, told bitter stories which are typical of millions of youth in the United States.

"My father was dropped from W.P.A. when the recent cuts

### SHEEPSKIN WON'T HELP

"The United States Department of Education had a message for graduates in both groups (high school and college—Ed.), a message less cheerful than those of most commencement speakers. It was this: Of those who have ended their school days and are now ready to go to work, only about one in every three or four, if recent experience means anything, will find a job immediately." (New York Times, June 11, 1939.)

went through. I left school three years ago to look for a job—and never found one. I'll take any kind of work," Martin said.

Nicky related that his father worked two days a week for Bethlehem Steel and with seven other mouths in the family to feed there wasn't much room around for him.

### Hunger at Home

"I set out for New York to get work," John explained. "Things are pretty bad at home. There are eight other kids home. But I guess we'll have to go back now."

The girls, Agnes Book and Helen Mechak, both seventeen, had jobs paying sweatshop wages when they bolted.

"I was working seven days a week, doing housework for only \$3 a week," said Agnes. "On my



day off I decided I had enough of that slavery and hopped a freight for New York. There are four other kids in the family and I gotta take care of myself."

Helen stated that she was making \$6 a week doing housework. "I had to go to New York for work," she said. "There are fourteen of us home. I just walked out."

Authorities, who arrested the five youth, stated that they had not seen such a wave of run-aways and "youthful vagrants" since the days of Herbert Hoover.

## Give Youth The Ballot At 18 To Vote On War

It is only twenty-one short years ago that the last great world butchery came to an end. The people of the world looked about them at the blood and filth, at the war cemeteries with their millions of white crosses, at the devastated cities and ruined country-side, at the widows and orphans, at the ravages of starvation and disease, and said: "Enough of war! Enough of slaughter! Never again! NEVER AGAIN!"

How can one explain, then, that the world stands once more poised to plunge into war? Have the people forgotten? Have the workers and farmers come to believe that war can bring them anything?

*Or is the young generation that grew up since the war eager for the experience of a blood bath?*

The open war-mongers, like Browder and the Communist Party, say the people of America are ready for war. They say this will be a war for democracy—a popular war.

Roosevelt — more cautious in his pro-war agitation—repeats again and again that when America goes to war it will be to defend "sacred ideals." He says it will, therefore, be a popular war.

If the coming war is going to be fought for such a just cause — if it is going to be so damned popular—why not let the people vote on war?

If the young generation—the young people who will have to do the fighting and the dying—if they are supposed to be in favor of war, why not give them the right to vote at the age of 18?

If the ruling class thinks the young worker or the young farmer is old enough to serve as cannon fodder — why isn't he old enough to vote on the question?

If the war being cooked up by the bankers and bosses is so popular—why this line-up of politicians ready to battle unto death to prevent the people from voting on war?

All the boss class politicians and their labor lieutenants are lined up to fight a popular vote on war. Alfred Landon, President Roosevelt, and Earl Browder—Republican, Democrat, and Communist candidates for President in 1936—join hands to prevent the people from voting on war.

Why this fear of the people—particularly of the youth—if the war is going to be so popular?

The ruling class is afraid to let the people vote on war, because they know it will not be a popular war. They know that the sons of the workers and farmers of America will have to be conscripted for war.

*But we the youth refuse to be driven to the slaughter pits like so many sheep.*

The Kaisers, Czars, and Kings of Europe made the mistake of putting guns in the hands of their unwilling slaves in the last war. Let the Kings of Finance, the Barons of Industry, and the Merchant Princes in America remember what happened.

Let the people vote on war!

Let the youth vote at the age of 18!

## Illinois Unemployed Endorse Jobs For Youth Campaign

### 'NYA Only Scratches Surface' - Official

The NYA has only "scratched the surface" in dealing with the problem of jobless youth, according to Miss Helen Harris, New York regional director of NYA. While there are 10,500 youth employed on out-of-school projects in New York, over 50,000 are certified as being eligible for such employment and "the rolls could be tripled without exhausting this reserve."

The pathetic inadequacy of NYA can also be seen from Miss Harris' boast that 1,630 NYA workers got jobs in private industry. When this puny figure is compared with the 50,000 New York youth who, she claims are eligible for NYA, it is seen that NYA has hardly even "scratched the surface" and that a much more comprehensive program, such as the 3-point program for jobs, is needed to solve the problems of American youth.

**Live, Fight, Conquer  
With the Y.P.S.L.**

### JOB CAMPAIGN BULLETIN

CHICAGO—The House of Delegates of the Illinois Workers Alliance has endorsed the Jobs for Youth Campaign and its 3-point program. This endorsement by the leading body of the Illinois unemployed organization comes

### 3-POINT PROGRAM FOR JOBS

1. Youth WPA Projects instead of NYA handouts; a 20 billion dollar housing program.
2. \$40 per month to needy college students; \$20 per month to needy high school students WITHOUT RELIEF BUREAU CERTIFICATION.
3. Transfer the two-billion dollar war budget to provide youth with jobs and a chance to live, instead of guns and death.

as a real impetus to the Jobs for Youth drive. It has taken petition sheets to be filled out by its locals in support of the 3-point program.

### 'Youth Less Romantic, Worried About Jobs'

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Most American youth consider economic security the basic problem of their personal lives, according to a survey of 20,000 young people, the result of which was made known at the recent convention of the Boys Clubs of America.

Howard M. Bell, director of the Survey of the American Youth Commission, disclosed these facts.

Three out of every ten youths in the labor market are out of school and totally unemployed, he said, while another is partially unemployed. The six others who have jobs work for a median weekly wage of \$13, while 43 per cent of those employed feel they are in dead-end jobs that offer no opportunity for advancement, he said.

In the light of these facts, Mr. Bell continued, "It is little wonder that modern youth have lost some of their traditional enthusiasm for adventure and are, instead, so preoccupied with the unromantic business of tomorrow's board and room."

## COUGHLIN BLINDS YOUTH TO ANTI-BOSS FIGHT BY JEW-BAITING LIES

### He Calls It "Social Justice", But Its Really Spelled: Concentration Camp

Scene I—The South Bronx—a Coughlin stronghold. A Coughlin mass meeting is taking place in the beginning of June. The speakers are continually attacking the Jews. Late that evening a group of Coughlinites, inflamed by the anti-Semitic poison of the meeting, see two young Jewish boys walking by. "Let's get them," yells one of the Coughlinites. They pounce on the two youngsters and beat them within an inch of their lives. This incident is not reported in the newspaper; some things never are.

Scene II—An Irish neighborhood in Philadelphia. A "gang" of boys, unemployed and without anything to do, is hanging around a street corner. An older man keeps talking to them every night about the Jews "making all the trouble in this country"

## Fake Job Agency Gyps Young Grads

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Hiding behind the phony name of "Employers Educational Exchange" a gang of shyster bosses located at 116 Nassau Street is working one of the slickest rackets that this racket-ridden city has yet seen. And that's saying something!

This gyp-joint sends letters to bosses which are signed by one Margaret Novack. She asks these bosses if they need young girls to work for them 4 hours every day for \$12 a month. These "apprentices, as they are called, are to do whatever work the boss may require. In return the boss is to pay their tuition of \$12 a month to the "secretarial school" — as the gyp-joint is called. The "student" gets absolutely nothing in cash! The "Employers Educational Exchange" gets \$12 per student. The boss gets free labor. And the young worker gets... experience. Boy, oh boy, what a racket!

In her letter to the bosses, this Novack woman writes: "Are you in need of someone to answer your telephone calls and meet people coming into your office when you are out? If so we can be of service to you." She then goes ahead to offer them her proposition: free office slaves if you pay their "tuition." And what's more, she says, we guarantee to provide either high school or college graduates.

If young people are going to depend on capitalist gyp-joints to get jobs, they'll get the kind of run around that the "students" of this "Employers Educational Exchange" get. If they go out and organize and fight for the 3 Point Program for Jobs, then they've got a chance to have a decent life with security and jobs.

### SLASH WPA

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Congress has just passed the "Roosevelt-Woodrum Starvation Bill" which means a cut of one million men from WPA rolls. The bill was introduced by Representative Woodrum, but the cut was previously proposed by President Roosevelt. This will mean tremendous hardships for the unemployed, many of whom will now have no means of subsistence.

### PREACHES ANTI-SEMITISM



and if it weren't for the Jews "you'd all have jobs." They fall for this line. One evening he inflames them to the point where they accept his proposal to go over to the Jewish neighborhood a few blocks away and pick a fight with some Jewish boys, unemployed, hanging around street corners with nothing to do.

These are not isolated incidents. They are typical of the actions of the Coughlin movement wherever it exists. Like his Fascist mentors across the ocean, Hitler and Mussolini, Father Coughlin has made anti-Semitism a vital part of his program.

### Appeals to Youth

Particularly does Father Coughlin try to use Jew-baiting in his appeal to the youth of America. It is the Jews, he tells them, who cause unemployment.

Not true, say the Coughlinites, Father Coughlin denies being an anti-Semite. Didn't he declare, they ask, on May 1, 1939, that "If and when anti-Semitism shows its ugly head here, I shall be the first to condemn it."

Well, let's look at the facts. Take, for example, the May 22 issue of "Social Justice" which has the headline: "Jews Boycott Hearst for Aiding aFther Coughlin." Again and again there are references to "Jewish-owned" radio stations, to "Jewish boycotts."

(Continued on Page 2)



# N. Y. Schools Choked by Boss Politicians

NEW YORK—The New York State Legislature will probably pass the ten million dollar cut in the education budget once more, Republican big-shots predict, and through the Moffat Bill will want the teachers to take a pay cut to make up for it. In a four-to-one decision the Court of Appeals decided that it is legitimate to do away with kindergartens in New York City. And the whole fight against the education budget cut will be lost unless we make the politicians eat their words.

These political big-shots in Albany and New York City don't think we need trade schools or evening schools. "We spend too much money on education," they say.

So two months ago Mayor La Guardia of New York City cut three million dollars out of the education budget. La Guardia is a New Dealer just like Roosevelt. And when the Republican bull-throaters in Albany read about it in the papers they said that if a New Dealer like La Guardia can take three million dollars away from the kids in New York City what's to stop us from taking away ten million more? And that's what they did.

**What Cuts Mean**  
If we don't smash this movement for cutting educational facilities most of us won't be able to go to evening school or to trade school. Any country that can spend two billion dollars a year on war preparations can afford to give us a decent education. If the politicians don't think so we have to make them see the light.

The first thing we did was to call for a meeting in front of City Hall. The Young People's Socialist League and the American Student Union turned out. But the leaders of the American Student Union didn't want to picket

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Speaking at the graduation exercises of Erasmus High School, Frank P. Walsh, Secretary of State of New York, declared, "I support the cuts in the educational budget passed by the New York legislature. Students do not have an inalienable right of education."

The politicians are funny that way. Just because they are ignorant, they want everybody else to be the same way.

City Hall because they didn't like to embarrass Mayor La Guardia. So they held their meeting in a park about five blocks from City Hall. It didn't get into the papers and we didn't get any results.

At Brooklyn College, where the American Student Union held a meeting right before that they invited speakers **WHO WERE IN FAVOR OF THE BUDGET CUT!** Its like playing baseball with a bunch of guys who play for the other side.

**Our Meeting**  
The Young Peoples Socialist League held another meeting at City Hall afterward. We explained to the students that you can't play ball with guys who have the umpire on their side. La Guardia has the courts, the government and the bankers. All we have is the power to organize and fight. That's what we have to do instead of playing with politicians.

But most of the organizations which are in the fight against the cuts don't understand that yet. The New York State committee of the CIO and AFL unions, the American Labor Party, the Teachers Union and many Parent-Teacher organizations are putting pressure on the Republicans in the State Legislature. But they don't say a word about the three million dollar cut by La Guardia.

The organizations that want to depend on the courts to win the fight for them are finding out on whose side the courts are. The Court of Appeals just decided that it's all right for the Board of Education to do away with kindergartens. The New York State Supreme Court, when it declared the "lump-sum" budget unconstitutional did not declare the education cut unconstitutional. Only mass pressure on Lehman by the workers forced him to open the education cut for reconsideration. Unless we organize to continue that pressure we're sunk.

The Young Peoples Socialist

## Bad School Food Poisons Children

NEW YORK, N. Y.—On Friday, June 23, Richmond Memorial Hospital at Princess, Bay Staten Island, was overcrowded with youngsters from 41 elementary schools who had been poisoned by lunches served in the schools of Staten Island. This food, consisting of a lettuce and tomato salad had been served that morning as part of the free lunch system for poor students.

When these several hundred children were afflicted with ptomaine poisoning by school food, officials in charge immediately attempted to white wash themselves. Dr. Samuel Frant, the chief of the Bureau of Preventable Diseases of the Department of Health, expressed his belief that the poisoning had been caused by a "benign" germ culture in the egg salad. Dr. Rice, head of the Dept. of Health, declared blandly that "the laboratory work is going on, the bacteriological tests are going on..."

But the fact remained undeniable that the students had been poisoned by bad food. Significantly enough this incidental budget of New York coincided with the cut in the educational budget of New York. It acted as a preview of what New York would see if it allowed the capitalist politicians to slash the educational system to ribbons. There is one consolation. Under the new budget children won't be poisoned by free lunches. There won't be any.

League proposes to:

1. Demand of La Guardia that he introduce a supplementary budget at a meeting of the New York City Board of Estimate to restore his three million dollar cut.
2. Demand of the Republican legislators that they restore their ten million dollar cut.
3. Demand that the New York City Council pass the bank tax proposed by the American Labor Party Councilmen and that a similar tax be passed by the State Legislature to provide any additional funds necessary. We are opposed to paying for ourselves through cigarette and sales taxes.
4. Urge every union, every parent-teacher organization and every youth organization to set up united neighborhood councils to fight the budget cuts.

### BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

#### GREETINGS FROM

##### NEW YORK

John Brown Unit

Spartacus Unit

John Reed Unit

Jamaica Unit

Day Branch, S.W.P.

Brownsville Branch, S.W.P.

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San Francisco Br., S.W.P.

\*\*\*

Chicago

City Committee of the S.W.P.,

Chicago Local

#### PERSONAL GREETINGS

Don Bergner

Leo Handel

R. Hill

J. and T. Huntington

J. Taber

## CAPITALIST EDUCATION



## COUGHLIN BLINDS YOUTH TO ANTI-BOSS FIGHT BY JEW-BAITING LIES

(Continued from Page 1)  
Prints Forgeries

In the summer of 1938, "Social Justice" carried the forgery, "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion," which are filled with vicious lies about the Jewish people.

On November 20, 1938, Coughlin broadcast a speech in which he defended Hitler. This speech came at the time of terrible Nazi pogroms against the Jews and showed fully on which side of the fence Coughlin stood.

When Coughlin spoke of usury at his lecture on December 11, 1934 he put across his anti-Semitic poison by mimicking a Jewish accent. The audience got the point.

When Father Coughlin attacks the international bankers, he continually mentions only the Jewish ones—Kuhn, Loeb, Straus—but somehow or other his memory always slips in connection with Morgan and Rockefeller.

In his book "Am I an Anti-Semite?" Coughlin copies on page 80 almost word for word an anti-Semitic document from the Feb. 15, 1936 issue of "World Service", published in Hamburg, Germany.

### Friend of Hitler

Is it any wonder that Hitler and Mussolini have taken him to

## YPSL TO PROTEST PERSECUTION OF FRENCH COMRADES

Members of the Young Peoples Socialist League (4th International) will participate in nationwide demonstrations on July 14, Bastille Day, protesting the arrests of their French comrades by the Daladier government on charges of opposing the preparations for a new boss war.

Among the Fourth Internationalist youth jailed in Paris is Suzanne Charpy, administrator of "Revolution", until recently the monthly organ of the French Fourth Internationalist Youth. She was sentenced to 10 months in prison for asking the French workers not to support the coming imperialist war. Comrades Morel and Boheys were arrested and jailed on similar charges.

Subsequently, comrade Steve was arrested on the charge of putting up a sticker which said, "This is not our war." Comrades Schmidt and Regal were also arrested for anti-militarist work.

The Y.P.S.L. will demonstrate on July 14 to express its solidarity with its valiant French comrades who have fallen victim to the reactionary measures of the Daladier government.

It will raise the following slogans:

Down with the Decree Laws which suppress the French workers!

Freedom to all victims of Daladier repression!

Long live the international solidarity of revolutionary youth in the fight against war!

their busoms? Thus, the N. Y. Times dispatch from Germany of November 27, 1938 states: "The German hero in America for the moment is Father Coughlin..."

And the Times of January 17, 1939 carries a dispatch from Rome stating that the radio priest "received fascist praise and thanks today from the Regime Fascista", a fascist newspaper.

Is there anyone who still doubts that Coughlin, both openly and through insinuations, is a rabid anti-Semite?

But why, you may ask, does Fascism have to use anti-Semitism? Because it needs a scapegoat! The troubles of the workers today, particularly of the youth, their inability to get jobs, is due to the collapse of our rotten economic system. People become desperate. They walk the streets—no jobs, no food, no homes. They begin to grumble. They begin to seek a means of ending their misery.

So the Fascists say to them: "Look, it's the Jews who make the trouble. Beat up the Jews and everything will be OK."

### Jew-Baiting No Answer

But the fact of the matter is that the problems of the workers and the jobless youth can't be solved without fighting against the bankers and the big industrialists. So the Fascists, with Father Coughlin in the lead, try to divert the people from their real tasks by building up the false issue of anti-Semitism.

Think it over! Will it help us get jobs if we beat up a young Jewish fellow who's probably in the same fix we are? Is it the poor Jewish family next door who exploits us when we work or is it the boss?

Ah, says the Coughlinites, "we're against the rich Jews." But when you fight the bankers and the bosses, it doesn't matter what religion or race they are. A Jewish boss is bad but no worse than a Gentile boss. The point is that we've got to fight the bosses and their system, without bringing in the issue of race or religion, because that issue is only used to hide the real issues. It's only the fakers, the Coughlins, who raise the issue of race and religion. Because, by their own admission they want to uphold capitalism. And there is no better way of saving the workers into racial groups and fighting on anything but the real issue.

We say: we have a real fighting program to solve the problems of youth. Our 3-point program is printed elsewhere in this paper. We must not let ourselves be fooled by the bull which Coughlin throws about the Jews. All he wants is to make America a hell-hole like Germany. We must say: we will fight shoulder to shoulder for a new world, where we, the people, will own and run things for our own benefit.

## IN THE LEAGUE

By IRVING BERN  
National Organizational Secretary

National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party—At the time this is being written flocks of comrades have arrived from all parts of the country. The delegates are enthusiastic, in a fighting spirit and determined to further entrench the Socialist Workers Party in the masses of workers and the trade unions.

Among the many visitors from out of town are members of the Young Peoples Socialist League who have come here to witness this Anti-War Convention of the only party that is seriously interested in fighting capitalist war.

At the opening mass meeting of the Anti-War Convention the New York Y.P.S.L. had a color guard, acted as ushers and had a display portraying the work of the Young Peoples Socialist League and another display of newspapers, leaflets and other material issued by the various sections of our Fourth Internationalist movement.

SUMMER CAMPS—The four regional camps to be held in the east, Ohio, Illinois and the west coast are well on the way. Chicago already has a camp site overlooking cool and beautiful Lake Michigan. New York has three different sites in mind. We hope they get one of them and don't lose them as they did the first one (again it was the capitalist system working against our organization.) Ohio has a very good site and is now en-

gaged in a camp fund campaign. The same on the west coast.

The programs for both camps will include plenty of recreation and education through the summer schools that will be held in connection with the camps.

TOUR—Nathan Gould is leaving from Chicago on July 19th for a coast to coast National Tour. He will cover every city where we have a Unit. The tour will be mainly organizational preparing the League for Special Anti-War work in line with the Party Convention and to see to it that we do not have a summer slump. Get to work and give comrade Gould a rousing welcome.

HERE AND THERE IN THE LEAGUE—Youngstown: A letter from Sam Silvers: "The spirit and enthusiasm is pretty high, partly due to us finally fixing up our headquarters in good shape. We now have an office, reading room, one couch, three overstuffed chairs, signs all over, and decorated tip-top shape. We have taken in three new good members..." Other Units take note. That's what we're aiming at—good headquarters.

Northern California Division: Welcome to the new Division Council elected at your recent convention. We expect great things from you. Especially R. Bates, new Division Organizer.

Newark—Fellows, recently of Wisconsin is now Division Secretary and Educational Director of Newark. Keep up the good work.



By the Business Manager

\$500 FUND DRIVE FOR THE TWICE-A-MONTH.—Well comrades, we've gone and done it. We're way over the \$500 mark. Just look at the figures below.

ADS AND GREETINGS:

Akron	\$5.00
St. Paul	6.30
Rochester	4.00
Youngstown	2.00
Fresno	5.00
Lynn	5.00
Boston	42.04
Reading	3.00
Los Angeles	49.70
Berkeley	14.25
Philadelphia	13.75
Ohio	3.75
Newark	20.90
Chicago	90.50
New York	175.15
San Francisco	35.85
Total	\$489.19

Boston	1
Chicago	6
New York	11
Minneapolis	2
San Francisco	2
Total	29
Amount	\$10.00

### SPECIAL OFFER SUBS:

	Amount	Subs
New York	\$36.55	104
Chicago	5.60	16
Newark	3.15	9
Los Angeles	1.05	3
St. Louis	.35	1
Lynn	3.50	10
Massachusetts	.35	1
Philadelphia	2.10	6
Fresno	.30	1
Boston	1.75	5
Berkeley	1.75	5
Total	\$58.20	166

(Since the July 1st issue)

Newark	7
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Now we add all three columns together and we get the total raised in our 500 dollar Sustaining Fund Drive for the TWICE-A-MONTH CHALLENGE: Ads and greetings \$489.19  
Subs 58.20  
Subs since July 1 issue 10.15  
\$557.54

WE MADE IT AND WAY OVER THE TOP!

NOW—Let's push the gaining of new subscribers. Let's go over the 50 mark for the next two weeks nationally. That's easy.

NEWS ON SALES: Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Paul—too slow. Some encouraging news. Newark: 90 CHALLENGES in two hours—one Saturday's street sales—over 100 next week. Simultaneously sold 150 Coughlin pamphlets.

New York: CHALLENGES moving very fast. Sold side by side with Coughlin pamphlets. Boy, are the Anti-Coughlin pamphlets going! Newark and New York sold and paid for 650 copies in four days!!

Into the streets. Boost circulation—get subs.

## CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

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# Stadium Vendors Tricked Into Lousy Conditions by Bosses

In a recent NLRB election held among the vendors, or "hustlers," in the Yankee Stadium and Polo Grounds—New York Major League ball parks, the vendor's union was defeated. Behind this defeat there is a story of skillful exploitation.

Nearly everyone is familiar with the fellow in the white uniform with the tremendous voice. The fellow who throws a bag of peanuts with such deadly accuracy. Hardly anyone is familiar with the conditions under which we work. Any early bird who bothers to go down to the ball park on Saturday or Sunday will see a near riot.

Hundreds of jobless youth fighting to push their way to the gate, fighting to get a job from Harry Stevens, Inc., who owns the concession. Of these jobless youth, a selected group will be picked. If you have a recommendation from a "reliable source" it helps.

The "hustlers" then begin to contribute "voluntary labor";

picking up empty bottles, packing peanuts, etc. for which we get no pay. A half hour before ball time we begin our real work, that of selling candy, peanuts, drinks, etc. for which we get 10% commission. The most you can usually make is about \$2.00, because of the large number of hustlers hired. After the game comes several hours of "voluntary work" cleaning up.

In order to avoid strikes, the management continually hires different boys each time. Another policy used to stifle any spark of protest is to hire young school kids who have recommendations from schools, churches or Tammany clubs. The management hires these kids because they are less inclined to be rebellious than are older men.

The major fight of the hustlers is for shorter hours, a regular wage, higher commission rates and a union hiring hall. This can be achieved only by wide publicity combined with militant strike action.

## WORLD OF TOMORROW?



# Pavement Pounding for Pennies Is Lot of Western Union Boys

By BEN RICHARDS

About 9 months ago I became one of several thousand walking machines, a Western Union messenger, or "Mutt" as they are nicknamed. And the experience was a revelation to my feet, my stomach, and my sense of justice. Up until then I had only heard about exploitation. Working as a messenger made me see it, and worse still, feel it.

I'll never forget the first week I spent on the job. I was welcomed into the office by a clerk whose favorite pastime seemed to be that of making life miserable for the messengers. As I entered the office, he was busy cursing some unlucky Mutt. For good measure he gave me a look that would have frozen a blast furnace.

Before I knew it, I was being hustled out on a call and when I got back there was another call. After a few hours of nothing but walking, my feet really began to get tired. They felt as though a few thousand knives were going through them. Once during the day I was foolish enough to ask the clerk if I could take a rest. He was about as sympathetic as a slate of marble.

### Some Wages

But the real eye-opener came when I found out about the salary. We were paid on a commission basis, making on an average of 2 to 4 cents a telegram. At that rate, if a messenger really knew the territory, and got plenty of breaks, he could make 25c an hour. But most of the Mutts make 20c an hour.

Obviously, the messenger's salary depended on the company's business. And it was just too bad about the messenger

who happened to work on slow days like Saturday. He just didn't make any money.

You can just imagine how we felt when the Wages and Hours law went into effect making the company guarantee us 25c an hour so that we were now working on an hourly basis. We really thought our troubles were over. But we thought wrong. First thing we knew the company was making protests to the government about operating at a loss. Tsk, tsk! They wrote up phoney expense accounts to "prove" it.

### Slash Jobs

When this didn't work, they really got down to business. They sent their efficiency experts into the offices and started cutting down on messengers. Little by little they got rid of a good many messengers. Before we knew it, there were considerably less messengers handling the same amount of work. In other words, the company got back the "increase in pay" by making the messengers work even faster than before, at a pace which killed your health.

The company continually opposed, and still does, all efforts to organize the messengers, resorting to such tricks as calling the union "Red" and where necessary giving the messengers some piddling concession to shut up complaints.

After about 4 months on the jobs I decided that I'd get a weak heart if I remained a Mutt. But the other guys who still have those jobs have got to organize into a clean and fighting union to fight for their jobs, if they ever expect to get decent working conditions.

# A CRISIS IN STALINIST YOUTH

By IRVING HOWE

The June issue of the "Young Communist Review", official magazine of the Young Communist League, contains two articles which reveal that the leaders have failed to convince a large section of the membership with their lie that "Trotskyites" are agents of fascism. The articles are written by two leaders of the Y.C.L.: Gil Green, the National President, and Joe Starobin, the editor.

These articles are the two major political summations of the lessons of the recent national convention of the Y.C.L. And what is their main concern? Trotskyism! This in itself is an amazing state of affairs. That at this stage of the game, after they had poured tons and tons of lies and distortions about Trotskyism down the throats of their membership, the membership of the Y.C.L. is still not convinced by the "arguments" of these leaders, is conclusive proof that many members of the Y.C.L. do express an interest in the program of revolutionary Marxism, i.e., Trotskyism.

### "Thorough Education"

Mind you, here is an organization which has been "thoroughly educated" in the "best tradition of our Beloved Leader, Comrade Stalin" against the "poisonous virus" of Trotskyism. It's national convention hears long tirades against Trotskyism. Inflamed delegates to the Y.C.L. convention even beat up—no doubt, in the democratic traditions of Paine, Lincoln, Jefferson, etc.—several members of the Trotskyist youth organization, the Young Peoples Socialist League (Fourth International) who distribute leaflets to the convention. But the Y.C.L. leaders must still return to the same theme: Why we are against the Trotskyists, why we do not associate with them.

More particularly, the Y.C.L. leaders are concerned with justifying the clause of their new constitution which provides for expulsion in case "a member associates with confirmed Trotskyists, Lovestonites, spies, stool-pigeons."

It is obvious enough that Green and Starobin are not writing to convince themselves or to convince those Y.C.L.ers who agree

### SORRY

Due to the press of business of the S.W.P. convention, comrade Gould was unable to write his column, "On the Youth Front," in time for publication. It will appear again in the next issue.

## LEADERS TRY TO SMEAR YCL'ERS WHO VOTED AGAINST ANTI-TROTSKYIST RESOLUTION

with them already. Nor are they offering arguments in favor of this clause in order to convince us, the Trotskyists, or what they would call the Y.C.L.ers who have been "poisoned" by our propaganda. They are writing these articles because they know that a large percentage of the Y.C.L. membership does not accept this new clause and that these members have openly expressed their disagreements in discussions at Y.C.L. branch meetings!

### 20% Opposed

For the first time in the last 2 or 3 years, the Y.C.L. bureaucrats suddenly found themselves in a situation where members of the Y.C.L. and delegates to their national convention dared to oppose the "line". And this opposition took most concrete form when over 20% of the delegates to the Y.C.L. national convention voted against the anti-Trotskyite clause. This is a fact that the Y.C.L. leaders cannot cover up by bleating about "Trotskyist slanders".

Further proof that such opposition exists is offered by Green himself. He writes: "Speaking of democracy, let me add a word on vigilance. You have many times before heard the phrase: Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. This is true for democracy in general and for our particular Y.C.L. democracy as well. Often this is forgotten. It was forgotten by those comrades who thought it inadvisable for this convention to amend the Y.C.L. constitution making fraternization with stool-pigeons, spies, and confirmed Trotskyists grounds for expulsion from the Y.C.L. These comrades have no use for Trotskyists and all fascist agents (sic!) but in the holy name of democracy they believe it better not to include this fact in our constitution." (My emphasis—I.H.)

And Starobin, writing of those Y.C.L.ers who believe that even if they disagree with the Trotskyists there is no crime in discussing politics with them, says: "And people who think that such tolerance is necessary in order to expose our enemies before the masses of youth, are in no condition themselves to carry out that exposure effectively. On the contrary, they are themselves succumbing to such alien influences!" (My emphasis—I.H.)

### Amazing Admissions

Amazing admissions! Green admits the existence of delegates opposed to the clause prohibiting association with Trotskyism, but

carefully omits any mention of how many there were. And then Starobin charges that this section of the Y.C.L.—represented by 20% of the delegates to the national convention—is itself under alien, i.e., Trotskyist influences!

And that this question is agitating the Y.C.L. may be seen from the fact that Starobin admits that it "will undoubtedly provoke discussion and thought throughout the League to an even greater degree than at the convention."

One more important point needs to be noted. And that is a slight difference that exists between Green and Starobin, a difference of long standing. Green is blunt: no association with

### This Explains It All . . .

"Today, we have dozens of volumes of the writings of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin. But often they are taken for granted. They are taken as matters of fact, but Comrade Browder did not have these at his disposal when he was young. Remember that. . ." (From an article by Gil Green in the June issue of the "Young Communist Review.")

Trotskyists and that's all. Starobin advocates a more subtle and "clever" line. Yes, he says, sometimes it's necessary to associate with these Trotskyists in order to expose them; sometimes it's even necessary to debate with them!

### A Point of Difference

Not that Starobin is any "friendlier" to the Trotskyists than Green. It is merely that he is more sensitive to the feelings of the rank and file. He realizes that blanket ultimatums, such as Green issues, will not serve the purpose. He does not dare express his complete opinion on this matter. The last time he did so, some two years ago, he held that the Trotskyists are not really fascists but merely objectively aiding the fascists. He received severe reprimands for his pains.

Still however, this difference of opinion as to tactics to be pursued towards Trotskyists reflects—in a distorted way, of course—the internal cleavages and fissures which are slowly beginning to grow in the Y.C.L. The desperate steps of the Y.C.L. leaders will not prevent these fissures. We don't claim that 20%

of the Y.C.L. believes in Trotskyism or is sympathetic to us. Of course not.

The point is that increasing numbers of Y.C.L.ers find it difficult to consider us fascists when they see that in actual practice we have been at the front of the anti-fascist fight. Can some people believe that we are fascists when they see us lead a tremendous demonstration against the Nazis at Madison Square Garden and then repeat similar demonstrations throughout the country?

### Unity in Action

And these Y.C.L.ers correctly feel that, even if they disagree with us for the moment there can be no harm in honestly discussing with us the political problems facing the working class. There can be no doubt that such fruitful and honest discussion will continue, anti-Trotskyite clause or no anti-Trotskyite clause.

To these comrades we say: We do not ask you to agree with our whole program in order to fight shoulder to shoulder. We believe that it is possible to engage in common united action. We are helping organize Labor Defense Guards against fascist hooliganism. Why shouldn't Y.C.L.ers support this movement and help in the fight against fascism?

And finally why shouldn't we jointly discuss working class problems? It is only those who are unsure of their program or unable to defend it that fear discussion. We believe that through joint action and friendly discussion we shall be able to hammer out our problems so that together we will be able to achieve working class victory.

## Quit Stalinist Youth Decide to Join YPSL

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Two members of the Young Communist League of New York have left that organization this week and have joined with the revolutionary youth of the Young Peoples Socialist League (4th Int.) They are Nathan Potashnik of the Steve Nelson branch and Joe Gordon of the Coney Island branch of the YCL.

Coming, significantly enough, on the tail of a wave of discussion on the Young Communist League on Clause e) which prohibits YCLers from "associating with confirmed Trotskyites" on threat of expulsion, these resignations are symptomatic of the growing tendency of the more militant members of YCL to look forward to the Fourth International youth for a revolutionary solution.

## YCL Supports Anti-Communist Program at Youth Congress

### BULLETIN

At the final sessions of the American Youth Congress, a resolution was unanimously passed condemning "all dictatorships, Communist or Fascist" for which the Young Communist League voted! This vote came after the Congress had rejected the resolution of the extreme right-wing, led by Ball and Lilienthal, leading to the withdrawal of the latter group. However, when a new anti-Red group was formed, at the initiative of right-wing Socialists and pacifists, the YCL backed down and supported the anti-Red resolution. The predictions made in this article in the CHALLENGE are thus completely substantiated.

NEW YORK.—The American Youth Congress, formerly the holding company of all the Stalinist youth "innocent" groups, is now going through a severe inner crisis at its second annual convention meeting here on the July 4th weekend.

A group of delegates is pressing a resolution condemning Communism and threaten to split if their resolution is not pressed by a large number of prominent capitalist politicians, including members of the City Council and State Legislature, some of whom were among the "respectable" sponsors of the Congress.

### In a Pickle

This anti-Red bloc is giving severe headaches to the Young Communist League big shots at the top of the Congress. They wish to stave off a split at all costs. They consider the participation of these delegates, headed by Alfred Lilienthal, of the First Voters League, and William Ball, of the "Young Americanist League," essential to their major purpose: corraling American youth to support the war plans of the Roosevelt government. On

the other hand, the Stalinist bigwigs would like to avoid the embarrassment of supporting a resolution which specifically condemns Communism and endorses capitalism.

The Stalinist youth leaders are caught between the fire and the frying pan—but are trying to work out a formula to escape from both.

At the first day's sessions they succeeded in having the anti-Red resolution referred to a committee, but it is believed that the question will have to come up to the floor where the anti-Red faction may succeed in rounding up a considerable number of votes.

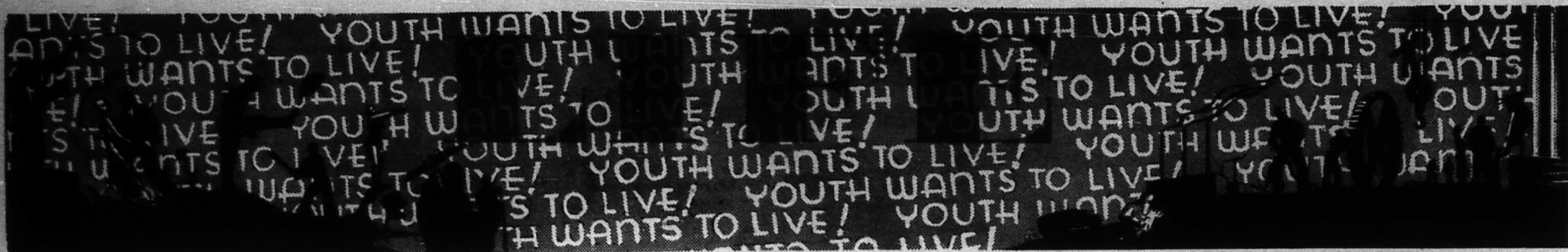
### Pro-Boss Resolution

The tactic of the YCL is to try to work out some compromise. So far, the anti-Red bloc is sticking closely to its original resolution which says, among other things: "The American Youth Congress states that its fundamental principles are based on a belief in God, the inviolability of human rights, private ownership of property . . . ; condemns communism, fascism, etc."

The YCL is attempting to get these delegates to accept an endorsement of "democracy" and may even go so far as to accept a condemnation of communism insofar as its purposes are contrary to those of democracy." But it is determined not to have a split in this most respectable of all "fronts," even if it has to lick dirt. The YCL figures that the administrative control it will probably retain over the organization, is worth more than a resolution or two.

In any case, there is little value for the militant anti-war working class youth at the Congress. Whether it is controlled by the direct representatives of the bosses among the youth or by their boot-lickers—the Stalinists, it will continue to function as a recruiting agent for the war plans of American capitalism and therefore as an enemy of American youth.





# Action -- Camera

By MARTIN EDEN

History on the make—and Hollywood is making us "America-conscious" again. This time it is Sam Houston, lusty Texan of some years back who is being crucified on the cross of movie distortion.

"Man of Conquest" it is aptly called. It is the story of the land-grabbing ways of the pioneer days. Richard Dix—he of the very masculine jaw and bleak stare—plays Sam Houston, pioneer politician who drinks, wrestles, and spels his way to the governor's seat of Tennessee. His marriage to a namby-pamby society gal doesn't pan out. She leaves him. This starts a whispering campaign against him. Sam is hit hard and turns to drink. He tours the taverns of America. A little bit drunk at each stop.

He is regenerated by an Indian tribe and becomes one of their braves. Representing the tribe in Washington, D. C., he is confronted by his old pal, Andrew Jackson. Jackson persuades him to return to civilization. Houston decides to do so, when someone puts a bee in his bonnet about "a new empire in the making—Texas."

## OFF TO TEXAS

So off he goes to Texas—jaw thrust out as usual. He is bitten by the bug of conquest! Gail Patrick pleads; "Old Hickory" remonstrates—but Sam wants power not duty! But the Texas settlers — sorely harassed by the nasty Mexicans—will not accept Houston on the power-hungry basis he demands. Finally the goodness in him will out! Texas must be wrested from Mexico for the good of humanity, not for Sam Houston!

Stirring scenes follow; the last stand at the Alamo; the strategic retreats; and the victorious charge to the tune of a gallant little piper boy. Very touching!

Santa Anna is crushed. Texas is saved. *But for whom?*

It's all a secret. Perhaps that is what is supposed to maintain the suspense in the picture. But being nasty-inclined, I'm going to let the cat out of the bag.

Houston was persuaded to go to Texas to create a new empire . . . by a bit-player who wasn't even listed in the cast. But he was very important to the plot. Because, this bit-player was portraying the huge interests who motivated the whole Texan, and later Mexican, grabs of 1835-50.

Recall your history—it was the Gadsden purchase that revealed the railroad tie-up with the romantic history of the West. They were seeking an easy route to the Coast. Mexico had it but that didn't stop them. Wasn't there always the army?

That's the real story. Hollywood gave it a sugar-coating. They make an honest man of the soil out of a rip roaring hellion. I didn't like the picture. And neither would Sam Houston have liked it.

But "Young Mr. Lincoln" is another story. "Man of Conquest" was a phoney amalgam of distortion, outright lying, and just plain ham acting. The Lincoln film is bolstered by a good cast and by less pretentious aims.

## PLEASANT PICTURE

True, it sets out to portray a sort of pastoral idyll. The honest character of one of our legendary historical figures is idealized, but in a pleasant manner. Lincoln is portrayed in his youth, a gawky, young man. The story revolves about Lincoln's career as a Springfield lawyer, focussing on his clever handling of a murder trial.

The climax of the film is the vindication of his defendants and his realization that destiny awaits him.

Pleasantly portrayed are scenes of rural humor, pie-eating contests, and Fourth of July bonfires. Henry Fonda is amusing and sincere as "Honest Abe." A capable cast is well directed into a pleasant performance.

## TO THE MERCHANTS WHO Poured THOUSANDS OF GALLONS OF MILK INTO THE SEWERS

(While 18,000 Families Hungered in Cleveland)

When the father reeled with hunger  
(The hunger that makes one drunken)  
And the baby's belly was bloated,  
And the mother's breasts were shrunken

You who had meat in your teeth  
And jam to cover your butter,  
Emptied the clean white milk  
Into the dirty gutter.

Milk is for those who can buy.  
Do you remember, brothers,  
The price you were asked to pay  
For the milk you got from your mothers?

—Jake FALSTAFF

# You're In The Army Now

By JOE CARROLL

After having been recruited in the army, and still a little dazed about what I had done, I safely arrived at Watertown. From there I was to take a bus to Sackets Harbor which is 15 miles from Watertown. While riding to Sackets Harbor, I started a conversation with the bus driver. I remember asking him a lot of questions about the army and how many fellows he drove like me every day. Smiling, he said that I was pretty lucky, that things could have been worse and from that point on I wondered just what the hell was going to be worse.

As we drove through the army post I asked him what building I should go to and he pointed to the guardhouse and said "Stay away from there, that's the wrong one", which evidently was my future home. Getting off the bus I was instructed by a sentinel to report at the headquarters. Not being very polite, I walked right into the headquarters without knocking on the door and the first kind words I heard were "Who the hell is there?"

## WHO'S THERE? IT'S ME!

I felt very embarrassed and in a quiet way answered, "It's me!" With a loud voice he told me to leave the room and to knock on the door and wait for an answer. Feeling kind of crappy, I did not have enough strength to argue with him. After I'd done what he asked, he told me to sit down and asked me what sort of trade I would like to learn. In a quick response, I answered, "I want to be a mechanic."

I was then assigned to my headquarters which was HQ. HQ. Combat Train. In other words, communication department. When I got there, I was told by the first sergeant to knock gently on the captain's door and wait for an answer be-

fore I even touched a nut. I did what he said and waited very patiently for the answer to my knock. Suddenly a voice hollered out: "Don't bother me." I didn't know whether to go in or not. So I returned to the First Sergeant and told him what had happened. His reply was "Don't mind him. He was out last night."

## WHAT NOT TO DO—IN THE ARMY

Hoping that he hadn't gone out the night before, I again knocked gently and in his cute way of answering, he loudly roared "Come in!" and took 3 large books from his shelf which consisted of thousands of little details of what you're not supposed to do in the army. Being very polite, I gently asked him: "Just what am I supposed to do?" With a smile on his face that would break a pane of glass, he said "Ah, you'll find out."

Then my troubles really began. I not only didn't have the stuff I was supposed to have but I was given another list. I finally got an order to receive my uniform. When I got to the commissary, the first thing that struck my eyes was the big sign saying: How do you want your clothes, too big or too small?

I asked the sergeant if it was possible to receive clothes without having to have them repaired and he answered: "How the hell is the tailor going to live?"

## ENEMY NO. 1—A GUN TÖTER

My next big surprise was when the sergeant shoved a 45 Colt Automatic in my mit and said "Be careful sonny and don't get hurt."

The first thing I did was to run to a mirror and picture myself as Enemy No. 1 with that gun in my hand.

Bringing all my clothes to the tailor I asked him how much it

would cost. He said not to worry, that it was coming out of my pay. Two days went by until I was able to put my uniform on and stand for my first inspection. Still being green behind the ears I waited for the lieutenant who was in charge of all recruits to inspect me. As he passed me, he mumbled and said "I want that belt to be white by tomorrow." Being kind of scared and still not knowing what the hell it was all about, I returned to my HQ. and found a message waiting for me to report to the hospital, for what they called the short arm test, which was very embarrassing.

Then some big bruiser grabs my arm and slaps a needle into my arm by surprise. By this time, I began to wonder what kind of a joint this was.

I returned to my HQ. feeling sick, not knowing what the hell was stuck in my arm and started to work on that god-damned belt. After 8 hours of hard labor, I was told to put salt on it and put it in the sun to bleach. Tired as hell, I went to bed.

## IN THE GUARDHOUSE YOU GO

Feeling pretty lousy, I dressed and went down for my daily inspection. This time the lieutenant passed me and again said "I thought I told you to get that belt white."

Feeling angry, I answered: "I worked on it all day yesterday and it looks pretty good to me."

With a quick reply he yelled: "Who the hell do you think you're talking to?" and said "The quicker you learn to receive and obey orders the quicker you're going to get along around here and furthermore to teach you a lesson," he loudly called "Corporal of the Guard!" and I was taken to the guard house with a guard behind me with a loaded gun just as if I were a common criminal.

(To Be Continued)

# Politicians Kill Theatre Which Gave Entertainment to Poor

By RICKIE SAUNDERS

In line with the recent slash in W.P.A. and relief appropriations jointly carried out by Congress and the Roosevelt administration, the Federal Theatre Project of the W.P.A. is now being cut to the extent where its future existence becomes doubtful. Already 400 actors have been fired from their jobs and an additional 1,100 are slated to be thrown into the streets where they will have to shift as best they can.

Beef-faced Congressmen have been making speeches attacking the Theatre Project as "Communist" and "seditious." And when the chance came to slice W.P.A. appropriations in order to have more money for war preparations (and also to teach the unemployed "self-reliance") they jumped at the Theatre Project with hammer and tongs. The results are the above cuts in acting staffs and the resultant decrease in the number of shows the project will be able to present.

## Called Frill

It is interesting to see the grounds upon which the Congressmen attacked the Theatre Project. Besides denouncing it for its "radicalism," they de-

clared that it was an "unnecessary frill" which was a mere extravagance, a waste of money.

What a typical example of the reactionary attitude which the boss politicians have toward the poor people, the ordinary workers! Here for the first time in their lives the working people were given a chance to enjoy the theatre which in the past had been exclusively reserved for the Upper Class. The W.P.A. Theatre with its 25c seat made it possible for the workers to taste a part of the art which had been previously reserved for the rich man.

Many of the acting companies performed in districts of the country and before people that had never before seen a show. Who has not seen the hundreds of working people, tired from the day's work, and mobs of youth and children eagerly waiting for the free performances of the Theatre Project in the parks of all the large cities? And it is this first acquaintance with the culture and the pleasure of the theatre which the peanut politicians in Congress denounce as "Communism" and as a "frill!"

If you take a look at some of the plays produced by the W.P.A. Theatre you will find

that they were among the best of the time. It was the W.P.A. Theatre which first used the technique of the Living Newspaper in "Power," an expose of the utility corporations.

Just as it was an innovator in novel theatrical techniques, so did the W.P.A. Theatre present the great classics, especially Shakespeare, to the people. Those who have seen the outdoor productions of "Midsummer Night's Dream" will not soon forget how the "ordinary people", the people who never had a chance to get college educations, were enchanted by Shakespeare's comedy. Here was a concrete illustration that the people wanted culture, wanted drama if only they could afford to get it.

Yet—despite these, and many, many more achievements—the Theatre Projects will be closed. "Sure", say the pot-bellied Congressmen, "let the youth of America hang out in pool rooms, let them roam the streets with no place to go and no money to pay for regular entertainment. It's not our job to give them culture and entertainment. Our job is to get them ready for a juicy little war to protect Morgan's profits and democracy."

# BOOKS... and their authors

By IRVING HOWE

## ADVENTURES OF A YOUNG MAN, by John dos Passos.

Reviewed by W. K. MANUEL

In writing "Adventures of a Young Man," John dos Passos has done such a sloppy and superficial job that the end product bears a far greater resemblance to an outline for a book than to a finished work. What makes this fact even more saddening is that he has selected a theme which is both pertinent and important. Here dos Passos is writing of the disillusionment of a militant revolutionist with the policies of the Communist Party, the party which is eventually responsible for his physical annihilation.

Glenn Spotswood's political development progresses from Henry George to liberalism, finally to communism. Shortly after his conversion to the revolutionary movement, identified here with the C.P. in its "third period," he receives the first body blows to his faith. Dispatched to terror-ridden Harlan County, Kentucky, as a party organizer during a coal strike he witnesses the petty sectarianism and opportunism of the party bureaucracy.

## CHANGES POLITICS

In February, 1934, he is shocked by the criminal disruption of the Austrian Revolution Memorial Meeting in Madison Square Garden by the Communist party. His protests lead to his expulsion from the party. He finds a paper devoted to "workers unity" and a programless splinter group, both of which are doomed to quick extinction. At the outbreak of the Spanish civil war he goes to Spain as a volunteer in the International Brigade, where he is arrested by his former comrades as an organizer of the Barcelona May Days and as the emissary of the Trotskyist organization in America. A GPU tribunal sentences him to imprisonment.

When two machine-guns defending a salient from the oncoming Franco troops require water and no Stalinist can be found to risk his neck, it is Glenn who is drafted for death. He goes up to the hill with a pail of water in either hand, bravely, willingly, anticipating the bullet which will and does cut him down.

## REASON FOR FAILURE

To all appearances, the book was written hastily, rushed into print while the tragic memory of the Spanish events is still fresh in the public mind. This (and dos Passos' limitations as a writer) probably accounts for the tremendous gaps in the narrative, gaps which leave untouched and unexplained the effect of political events on the mind and heart of the central character. The reader desires something more than a skeleton outline of a political biography. In reality, what dos Passos has written is a half-baked, fictionalized, political tract, and its hero is merely an excuse for tracing the developments of a political career. Under these circumstances it is no puzzle that Glenn Spotswood is a shadow of a shadow, his emotions, reactions and ideas understated to a point where he barely exists.

The incidental characters are a crew of unconvincing types who serve to fill up the pages between the steady march of disillusionments. This book could have been a powerful tragedy, a human document of disappointment, disillusionment, even bitterness. As it stands it has tragic elements which derive inevitably from its material, but then a factual expose of Stalinism in pamphlet form would have conveyed the same sense of tragedy and a hundred times more effectively.

The effect of Stalinist betrayals upon dos Passos is apparent enough, even though they are not on his "Young Man." He writes as though someone stuck a pair of pliers deep down his throat and yanked out his guts.

By affixing his name to the Committee for Cultural Freedom, dos Passos has traded his genuine disillusionment with Stalinist politics for the grand illusion of liberal democracy. Having escaped the guillotine, he now risks suffocation by the hot air of stale and out-moded panaceas. Let us hope that dos Passos, unlike his "Young Man" will yet escape from both the disillusionment of Stalinism and the illusion of democratic capitalism. For there is a third Socialist way of which he is not totally ignorant.

## LOU COOPER SAYS . . .

Fascist Coughlin hates to see a young fellow get a sweatshop job. He might catch the boss reading "Social Justice".