

THE

CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

For Peace
Through
Socialism

We Won't
Die For
Boss Profits

MAY 1, 1941

Monthly Organ of the Young People's Socialist League (Youth Section, Workers Party)

Price 2 Cents

Youth's Answer to New Draft Proposals:

OLD ENOUGH TO FIGHT AND DIE, OLD ENOUGH TO VOTE!

May Day Is Labor-Youth Holiday

May Day came this year, 1941, at one of the darkest periods in history. War, fascism, capitalist oppression—every political and social curse conceivable inflicted on the workers and youth of the world.

And yet, despite the fact that there were hardly any REAL May Day demonstrations anywhere in the world, the tradition of May Day, as the day of working class celebration and freedom, still lives.

The fascist enslavers of labor and the Stalinist betrayers of labor both still have to try to utilize May Day for their own reactionary purposes.

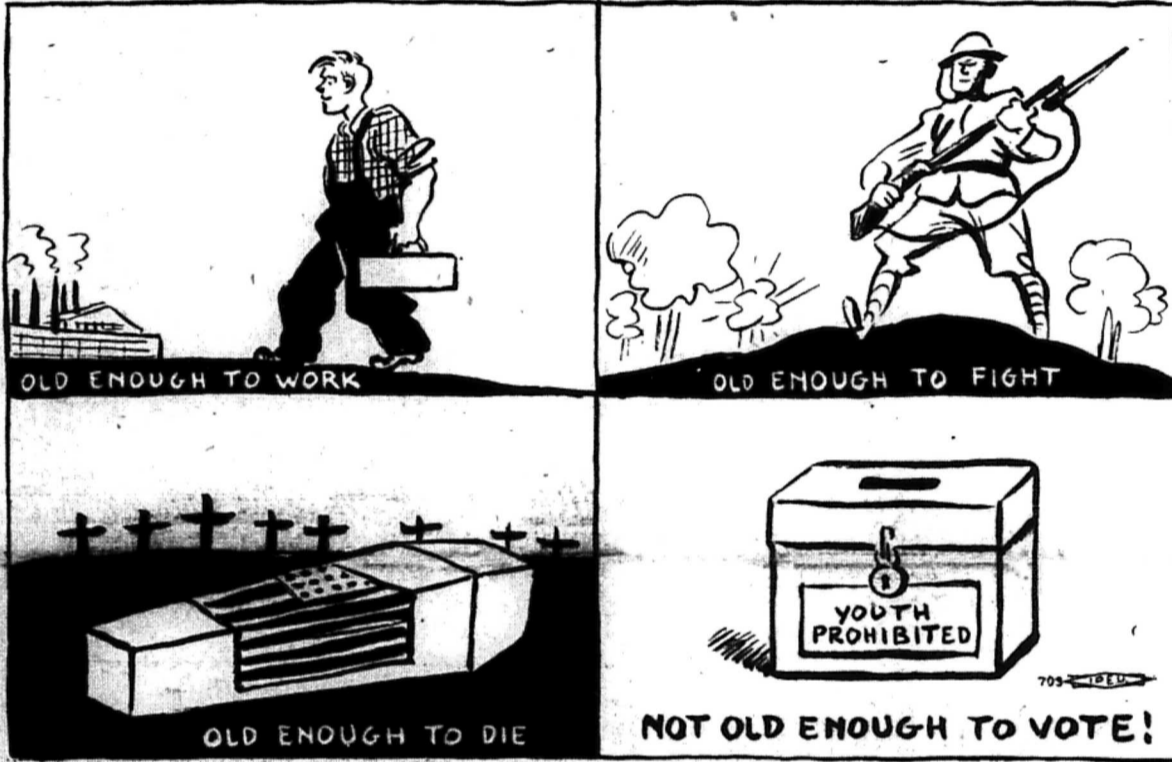
They both realize that May Day has such an unperishable tradition among the working class of the world—a tradition of freedom, a day of hope signaling the aspirations of humanity for liberty—that they must try to capitalize on May Day in order to fool the masses of the people.

But May Day has a life and tradition of its own. May Day belongs not to the fascists, nor the "democratic" capitalists, nor the Stalinists.

May Day belongs to the oppressed everywhere—the exploited workers, the enslaved Negroes, the locked-out youth. And they will yet make of May Day a day of international celebration which will symbolize the liberation of all humanity.

The faint-hearted may despair; they may retire to their private isolation, or they may surrender to reaction.

But we, the militant young socialists, remain proud of and firm in our convictions—we stand for the international socialist revolution. That is where we stand; that is where we shall stand!



Labor Pays for Boss War

New Taxes Hit Those Least Able to Pay

By BILL HAINES

Everybody knows that wars cost money. However, we seldom realize their full cost until we actually pay through taxes and higher prices. Last summer, while Congress was merrily appropriating 28 billion dollars for "National Defense" and again three months ago when Congress approved an expenditure of seven billion dollars for "aid to Britain," the costs of the war seemed far away.

Our first sharp reminder that the war costs money came July 1, 1940. A new law went into effect, increasing the federal taxes on ra-

dios, autos, gasoline, cigarettes, playing cards and toilet preparations, and reducing the exemption on the 10 per cent amusement tax from 41 cents to 21 cents. Our next reminder came this past March 15, the deadline on payment of federal income taxes. If we were fortunate enough to earn enough money to pay a federal income tax, we had to pay an extra 10 per cent tax this year. And if we earned \$800 to \$1,000 during 1940, we had to pay an income tax for the first time in our lives, due to a reduction of the personal exemption from \$1,000 to \$800. These taxes were paid in order to

help meet the costs of "national defense."

But these taxes are as nothing compared to what's in store for us starting July 1, 1941, if Congress approves, as it probably shall, the recent recommendations of Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau for a new record-breaking tax program designed to raise an extra three and a half billion dollars. This program drastically increases every existing federal tax, and, in addition, puts into effect a whole series of new excise taxes, never used since the First World War. It proposed a 5% tax on candy and chewing gum, a tax of 1 cent a bottle on soda, 2 cents per 1,000 matches, 5 per cent on transportation, \$15 per bowling alley or billiard table and taxes on 30 other products including checks, tires, jewelry, telephones, furs, photographic apparatus, toilet preparations, clocks, musical instruments and suitcases. So many items are taxed that the tax is almost as bad as a general sales tax, the worst possible tax for a poor man.

Income Taxes

But it won't be until next March 15, when we again pay our income taxes, that we will really appreciate the tremendous cost of this war. For at that time we will have to pay income taxes about four times as much as we paid this year. Morgenthau's proposals call for an increase in basic tax rate from 4.4 per cent to 16.5 per cent. And he has already warned that "the taxes might even have to be made more drastic next year."

It is thus obvious who will have to pay for the cost of the war. The working class, those who can least afford it. The Roosevelt Administration.

(Continued on page 2)

Washington, D. C.—Revision of the Selective Service (Conscription) Act, eliminating as Army candidates all men in their late twenties or early thirties but including all males above the age of 18, was forecast by President Roosevelt in a recent press conference.

Probably by mid-June, Congressional leaders, at the bidding of the White House, will perfect new draft legislation which will make the drafting of all males above the age of 18, into a permanent institution in America.

Mrs. FDR Wants To Draft Girls

Following on the heels of the propaganda campaign to put across the proposal of labor camps for America's youth, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt has declared herself in favor of drafting girls for a year's service. More than that, she thinks the girls "should be placed on exactly the same footing as men, and they should be given the same subsistence and the same wage."

Aware that this proposal would be attacked on the basis of its being akin to Hitler's way, Mrs. Roosevelt says that youth who do this are "ignorant of the principles of democracy." She compares being drafted in the army for a year as equivalent to compelling "our own children for their own good to go to school." Mrs. Roosevelt evidently doesn't know that education is for a socially useful life and not for the nightmare of the death and misery producing capitalist wars.

There is one proposal in her statement that can be subscribed to one hundred per cent. Mrs. Roosevelt says that she is in favor of "giving the people of the United States an opportunity to decide at the polls." We hope she convinces her husband of this. The practice these days is to run for office on a different program than the one you actually put across. She might also propose that the girls who will be "drafted" this way also be given a chance to vote on this matter.

But it's our opinion that Mr. Roosevelt pays very little attention to Eleanor in these matters.

President Roosevelt made clear that the Selective Service Act was merely a temporary expedient and that he now envisaged a permanent state of militarization in America, thus giving the lie to the plea that he made, at the time of the passage of the Selective Service Act, that conscription was merely an emergency measure. American capitalism has decided to permanently militarize its youth.

OUR PROGRAM FOR THE CONSCRIPTS

- 1) Increase draftees' pay to \$60.
- 2) Complete voting rights for the draftees.
- 3) Abolish Jim-Crowism in the Army.
- 4) For right of draftees to retain trade-union membership.
- 5) For the right of draftees to receive any kind of literature and to hold their own political forums and discussions.
- 6) For right of draftees to negotiate collectively with officers on camp conditions.

Indicative of the fact that American imperialism is preparing for a long range war that may last years is the reason President Roosevelt gives for conscripting 18 year olds. People today at the age of 25 or 30 will be 35 or 40 in ten years from now, he argued at his press conference, and hence will be unable to fight by that time!

Another franker indication of (Continued on page 2)

No Convoys! No AEF!

The country rocks on the issue of convoys. The prostitute boss press whips itself into a lather of hysteria, urging that we convoy ships to Britain.

All the war committees, composed of nice old ladies of both sexes who think it would be just ducky if American boys were shipped across the ocean and about a half million of them murdered in a war, are also screaming for convoys.

But convoys mean war!

Everyone understands that, and that's why the majority of the American people are against convoys!

Do you want proof that convoys mean war? Listen to this statement:

"Convoys mean shooting. And shooting means war."

That statement was made by none other than President Roosevelt. And this very same President Roosevelt also said in his pre-election speeches that he would never send any American boys across the ocean to fight in a war.

Now we want to ask President Roosevelt: Why do you permit your Secretaries of State and Navy to make statements that hint that the government will use convoys? Why do the New Deal Senators

kill a bill which would prohibit convoys?

AND WHY DO YOU YOURSELF KEEP SO QUIET ABOUT CONVOYS, ALLOWING ALL SORTS OF RUMORS TO SPREAD IN THE PRESS THAT YOU ARE PLANNING CONVOYS? IF YOU REALLY WEREN'T PLANNING CONVOYS, YOU COULD JUST SQUELCH ALL THESE RUMORS WITH ONE WORD!

The fact of the matter is that your government, Mr. Roosevelt, is planning convoys and that, you yourself have said, means war!

Election promises are cheap, aren't they, Mr. President? But American youth is determined today as it was at the time you were elected that it refuses to die in an imperialist war. We see no reason why we should be slaughtered in China, or in Egypt, or in whatever part of the world it may suit your imperialist interests to send us!

We intend to hold you to your promises. We want no part of this imperialist war. It is a war of the bosses of all countries which helps the people of none.

Don't pull a Wilson on us, Mr. President. We don't intend to push up poppies in any Flanders Field.

Moscow Pacts Reveal Stalin's Anti-Working Class Policy

By MILTON MILLER

Bloody Joe Stalin did it again. After months of rumors and counter-denials, he has concluded a non-aggression pact with the Mikado, the immediate significance of which has been a tremendous blow to the morale of the Chinese masses in their struggle against Japan. The pact comes after eight years of protracted warfare between China and Japan. In signing it, Stalin has recognized

the puppet state of Manchukuo. This means he has recognized it as a "legitimate" country and acknowledged Japan's act of invasion and subjugation.

Needless to say, the Stalinist boast of the aid that the Soviet Union gives to the "oppressed colonial peoples" is revealed as a lie.

Just as in the shipping of oil to Italy, Stalin has betrayed their interests again. The local American communists are rehearsing a different tune these days. For months previous these stooges of the Kremlin yelled for a "Moscow-Chungking-Washington" axis. If democracy (Continued on page 2)

On the Youth Front

THE YCL SPILLS A FEW BEANS ABOUT THE AYC

by IRVING HOWE

The holding company of all the stooge organizations...

During the period in the history of the Stalinist movement...

AFTER THE LINE WAS CHANGED

After the Hitler-Stalin pact, the YCL changed its line...

But how is the YCL to explain the rôle of the AYC...

Max Weiss, president of the Young Communist League...

A very interesting, a very cynical and a very untrue observation...

THE YCL IS WORRIED

It would seem, from the "Clarity" article of Carl Ross...

Over a period of time the Trotskyist groups have been systematically attempting...

A NIFTY ITEM

Here's a little nifty, clipped from "SOS," the paper put out by Joe Lash's Student Defendent of Democracy...

Poor Pay Taxes to Support Bosses War

(Continued from page 1)

tration is going to place the heaviest load on the backs of the workers...

Table with 2 columns: 1941 net taxable income, For 1942 multiply 1941 taxes by

This table shows that the lower income groups, up to \$4,000, will have to pay four times as much...

Increased Taxes

At the same time that the Treasury proposes to increase the tax rate on the poorest income groups...

they even voted for resolutions which were passed at AYC congresses...

The AYC was controlled, lock, stock and barrel, by the Young Communist League...

the Stalinists of two years ago, who got very indignant when we told it to them at the time...

Two years ago, they were the most ardent defenders of the program of the AYC...

Of course, Weiss could inform us that two years ago the bourgeoisie had a program which DID meet the needs of the youth...

Workers Party had official representatives.

That such a gang of disrupters and enemies of the labor movement could emerge even for a minute from their deliberate concealment...

Sorry, Mr. Ross, but we'll be there next time also.

still motivated by the same high principles which have given him such eminence. But he is.

Now is there anyone who isn't convinced?

example of favoritism to the rich was a bill recently passed by Congress REDUCING the excess profits tax...

The task confronting us is therefore clear. We must fight against any attempt to shift the tax burden onto the shoulders of those who can least afford it.

Our demand is: "Soak the rich." The big-wigs in Washington say they are for "democracy" and that's why we have to aid Britain...

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The War Hits the Campus With the N. Y. High Schools

No Jobs for Prospective Teachers High School Democracy Is Victim of War Drive

By PHIL YOUNG

"Openings for teachers in the New York City school system have virtually disappeared..."

This report, coming on the heels of an announcement by the Board of Education several months ago that no new teaching licenses would be issued this year...

With the academic high school field now closed, and with the elementary schools having been closed since 1929...

The simple truth is that American capitalism can offer no hope for a future or career to its youth.

High school students are often told that this war is "different" from the last imperialist World War...

In De Witt Clinton High School in 1917, three teachers were expelled because they were socialists. The charges against one was that he had given his class a "subversive" reading list...

In Brooklyn Commercial High School a teacher was expelled for stating to his pupils that he did not believe that Lenin and Trotsky were German agents...

Throughout the country, money was taken from the high schools, colleges and other educational institutions and used for the production of guns, ships and other military equipment...

In New York today, after 25 years of "progress" under capitalism, the situation repeats itself on a more terrible scale...

ism, the situation repeats itself on a more terrible scale. Students still sit two on a seat in overcrowded, stuffy classrooms...

The educational budget has been cut by the "liberal" La Guardia administration. An attempt is being made by the National Association of Manufacturers to censor social science textbooks now used in the schools...

In every large high school in New York City, student progressive and anti-war organizations are strictly illegal.

Townsend Harris High School, a school for bright students, is to be closed permanently because of a budget cut, despite vociferous protests by parents, students, teachers and even the newspapers...

All of these things are part of the drive to war, the drive to dictatorship. High school students must realize that they are the workers and farmers of the future...

Jingo Drive Hits De Witt Clinton High

Principal A. Mortimer Clark of Clinton High in New York believes in "democracy."

During recitation periods students listen to jingoism mixed in with chemistry or mathematics, while sitting two in a seat...

The school budget was decreased. There is a lack of textbooks, writing paper, etc. Naturally there is enough money to bring back the ROTC on the campus...

Job opportunities for students are very bad. The NYA quota for Clinton is too low to meet the needs of all who apply...

He might do a lot better if he taught the students of Clinton to organize a fight for real democracy. The kind of democracy that is embodied in the program of the YPSL...

Stalin Hurts Workers by Jap Pact

(Continued from page 1)

racy was to be "saved," only such an alliance could "save" it. But Stalin double-crossed them and is committed to a "non-aggression" pact with Japan...

It is really funny and tragic to follow the Stalinists on their dizzy merry-go-round in this war. They follow the same dishonest policy in the Balkans...

Look at Yugoslavia

But look at Yugoslavia. It signed a pact with the Soviet Union. The government didn't "enrage" the Yugoslav people...

This constant policy of lies and betrayal will reveal to the workers and peasants of the Balkans that their liberation from their own ruling class and the German imperialists can come only by pursuing the independent policy of the socialist revolution...

Youth Says: Old Enough to Fight, Old Enough to Vote

(Continued from page 1)

why the conscription process is being jumped up so fast was seen in a speech a few days later by Secretary of War Stimson...

In concrete opposition to the latest proposal the DEMAND of American youth must be for the right to vote. It's summed up in the slogan: IF WE'RE OLD ENOUGH TO FIGHT, THEN WE'RE OLD ENOUGH TO VOTE!

We're entrusted with the "right" to go across somewhere and get our guts shot out on some foreign battlefield. We ought to have something to say about that!

WE DEMAND THAT YOUTH, TOGETHER WITH THE ENTIRE POPULATION, HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE ON WAR.

The President is moving nearer and nearer toward war entry. WHY NOT POSE THE QUESTION IN THE FORM OF A NATIONAL REFERENDUM WHICH WILL ALLOW THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT THEY SHOULD GO TO WAR?

These demands are perfectly reasonable. They are the natural rights of American youth. They must be fought for and won.

FDR Trifles With People

An indication of how the present Roosevelt Administration trifles with the American people can be seen in how the proposal for an 18 year draft is being handled.

Like all legislation which he feels is dangerous and which may antagonize the American people, FDR first allows one of his lieutenants to put himself out on a limb with the proposal.

Seeing that the proposal didn't exactly meet with a favorable response from the public FDR had his General Marshall deny that the whole thing is being proposed!

must be to fight against the entry into the European war. Secondly, fighting to improve the conditions and safeguard the rights of conscripts, as indicated in the Program for Conscripts published in this issue of The Challenge of Youth.

While some naive people may have had illusions about the draft being merely an emergency measure, these illusions have been dispelled by this latest move. It becomes increasingly clear that America is headed toward some native form of totalitarianism under the guise of fighting to protect "democracy"

Hitlerland

Berlin, Feb. 24—A United Press dispatch of this date reports: "Twenty-seven persons were sent to concentration camps last week on charges of spreading false reports, the Strassburger Zeitung today quoted the police as announcing."

Four others were arrested on accusation of making malicious remarks against Germany. This is a concrete indication that the fight against Hitler goes on in spite of all attempts to stifle it.

Step Toward War

Youth must therefore consider: the conscription bill that was passed some months ago is now seen, as was then predicted by The Challenge of Youth, to be a step toward dictatorship and war. Its only result is to disrupt the lives of American youth.

Today the main preoccupation of American youth, since the conscription bill has actually been passed...

Fat Banker

The National City Bank of New Rochelle recently opened a new branch office. Everyone was preparing for the appropriate ceremonies. But one little incident spoiled the entire ceremony. The president of the bank was too fat to get through the door of the bank.

WOW!!

Members of the YPSL were selling copies of the new penny pamphlet entitled "Jim-Crow Is the Enemy" on the streets of Harlem. Along came one of New York's finest. He saw the pamphlet cover and listened to the shouted slogans. Approaching the salesman the cop asked "Who's that guy, Jim Crow? What did he do?"

Continue the Fight - - Jobs for Negroes!

The agreement won in Harlem with the bus company is a signal victory. Not only because it will help a few hundred Negro families get better living conditions; not only because these families will be able now to have a little money to pay for their clothes and food. That in itself is important; that in itself means a lot. The important thing is that the united effort of Negroes and whites is the road to victory over Jim-Crow!

Thousands of Negro people picketed the bus lines, people who never had a chance to get a job as a bus driver. They were fighting not for jobs for themselves, but for the right of their people to have jobs, for the dignity and freedom and equality of the entire Negro people.

And that's why they won. The entire population of Harlem was active or at least actively interested in this issue. The people of Harlem understood that this issue affected them as a whole, even if they, as individuals, had no chance to get the jobs as bus drivers.

There are many lessons to be learned from this campaign. Our parent organization, the Workers Party, has published a special pamphlet on this question, called "Jim Crow on the Run." Here we only want to list a few of these lessons, and also to discuss what has to be done in the future.

The Lessons of the Campaign

1) *The Campaign Was a Fighting Campaign.* The Harlem people didn't send petitions to Congressmen; didn't fool around with endless conferences with the big shots and the bosses. They went out and fought; they participated in militant actions. First they fought; then they negotiated. They backed up their conferences with their picket lines. They understood that only by a show of their strength could they win.

2) *The Campaign Was a Campaign Allied with Organized Labor.* The attempts of the union-busting bus company at the beginning to drive a wedge in between the Negro people and the Transport Workers Union were smashed by the fact that the Negro people cooperated with the Union when it held its strike and then the Negro people, in turn, were helped by the Union. Both groups understood that only by Negro-labor unity could they achieve their objectives. If the bus company had been successful in its attempt to split the Negro people and the Union, to make them fight against each other instead of fighting together against the company—then the Union might have lost its strike and the Negroes might have lost their campaign. Together, they won both.

3) *Both Negro and White Participated Together in This Campaign.* From the Workers Party and its youth section, the Young Peoples Socialist League, came volunteer pickets, both Negro and white. In this fact, that Negro and white workers fought together, is the greatest hope for the future.

What Must Be Done Now

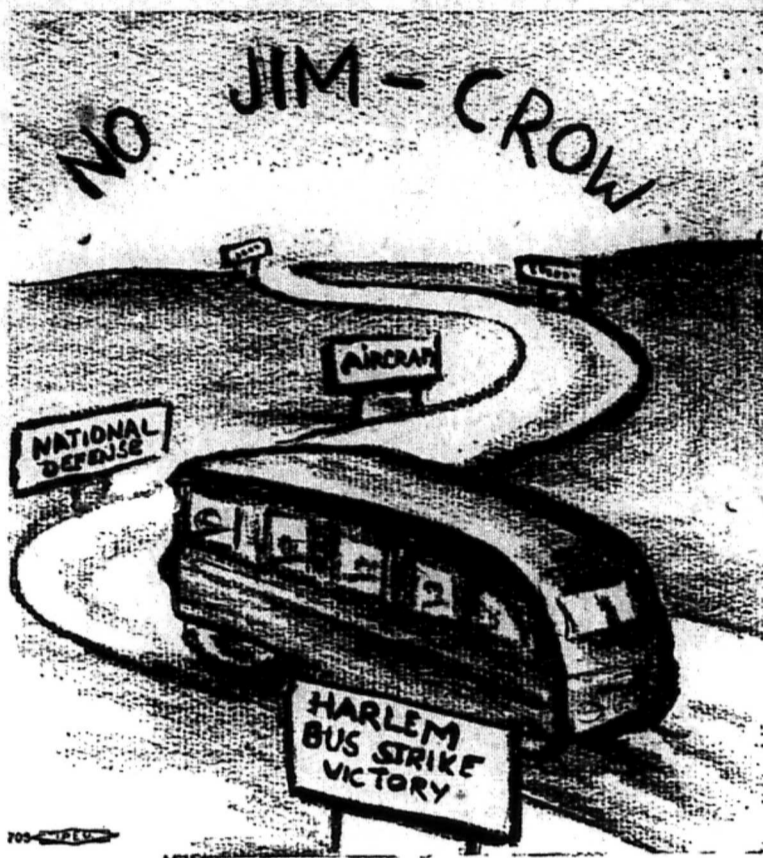
The campaign must not end now. In fact, it has only begun. The bus jobs are, after all, merely a drop in the bucket. There are still thousands of Negro workers and youth in Harlem—and throughout the country, for that matter—who are locked out of jobs by Jim Crow. In its pamphlet, the Workers Party has suggested that the campaign be continued to force the utilities companies to hire Negroes. This is a good idea. We must hit hard to force the utilities companies into a contract similar to the bus contract.

But even that isn't enough. It's necessary to hit the big "defense industries." There are many large plants throughout the city which are producing for the government armament drive. They say it's for "democracy." All right, let's see them give a little democracy right here at home by hiring some Negro workers. We must not fall into the trap of trying to get jobs for Negroes only in those places which Negroes patronize directly. Negroes deserve jobs everywhere, wherever they are technically qualified.

And we have another suggestion. There are thousands of Negro youth who have special problems. They've never worked at anything, many of them. They've never had a chance even to learn a trade. We think the United Negro Bus Association ought to establish a youth committee, in which all Harlem youth organizations could participate, which would take up the special youth problems, like getting job training, etc.

These are some ideas for future work. There are probably other suggestions to be made. But one thing is certain. The campaign must be continued. It must be enlarged. It must continue to be a militant, aggressive campaign. It must continue to be a pro-labor, united Negro and white campaign.

Harlem Bus Victory Is Blow at Jim-Crow



HARLEM WAS ON THE MARCH TO WIN JOBS FOR ITS SONS

NEW YORK—The drive to break down the bars of Jim-Crowism in industry has won its victory. A small victory, it is true; but a very important one nonetheless.

The campaign to get jobs for Negro bus drivers in New York ended here on April 19, when an agreement was signed between the bus corporation, the Transport Workers Union and the

United Negro Bus Association, the latter organization being the one which conducted the struggle to get jobs for Negro bus drivers.

The campaign was first suggested during the famous bus strike in New York, which was conducted by the Transport Workers' Union. After the TWU won its strike, which was supported by the overwhelming majority of Harlem workers, a movement began in Harlem to get jobs from the boss corporation for Negro drivers and mechanics. At first the bus corporation stalled and hemmed and hawed. It tried to play a nasty trick by making it appear as if the Transport Workers Union was responsible for its Jim-Crow policy. In this way it figured that it would distract attention from itself by trying to manufacture dissension and quarrels between the union and the Negroes.

But neither the union nor the Negroes were to be fooled. The union made it clear that it supported the drive to get jobs for Negro bus drivers and the Negroes made it clear that their drive was directed against the company, and not against the union. The great majority of Negroes marching on the picket lines of the campaign made it clear that they were pro-union.

The bus company was caught hands down. It was losing thousands of dollars each day, because Negroes refused to ride on the buses. The United Negro Bus Association threatened to establish its picket lines in the downtown Times Square area in addition to the picket lines already established in Harlem.

Harlem on the March

All Harlem was on the march. Thousands turned out to the mass meetings which were called by the United Negro Bus Association. Hundreds picketed daily. These Negro workers understood that they were fighting not only this local, small battle against Jim-Crowism, but also that this was a test case, which would be the beginning of greater things to come. They were fighting for the dignity and freedom of their people; that is why so many pitched in, even though only a few could expect to get jobs.

Finally, the bus company knuckled under. It had no choice. It agreed that the next 100 drivers to be employed and the next 70 mechanics to be employed should be Negroes. After that there will be employment of one Negro for each white until 17 per cent of the working group is Negro (this percentage is the proportion of Negroes in New York City). This means that there will eventually be some 500 jobs for Negro workers.

The Workers Party and the Young Peoples Socialist League participated actively, day after day, in the campaign. Both the WP and the YPSL ran special mass meetings on the problem in which both Negro and white adults and youth participated.

On this page *The Challenge* prints an editorial which gives the position of the YPSL on further activities in relation to the campaign for jobs for Negroes.

... frightened and lost and angry, like you were. But the day those millions... those millions of poor men make up their minds... begin to believe in themselves." Here Max stops.

But we of the Young Peoples Socialist League draw the logical conclusion. When those millions of poor men, black and white, understand, make up their minds, and begin to believe in themselves, then they will join our ranks in the army of revolutionary socialism. Not confusion and fear, but understanding and confidence—that is the lesson of Native Son.

To Our Readers—

This is your page.

Why not write for it, then?

Why not write in and tell us what's happening in your section of the country, why not tell us what you think about the problems of Negro youth, why not tell us what you think of our paper, where you agree or disagree with us on the problems of Negro youth, or for that matter on any other question? This is your paper. Write for it!

Supreme Court Decision Maintains Discrimination

"Court Backs Negro Rights on Trains." This was the heading of the article that appeared in the New York Times after the recent decision in the case of Arthur W. Mitchell, Negro congressman from Chicago. This statement was repeated by Mr. Mitchell himself when he said that the decision was "a step in the destruction of Mr. Jim Crow himself." A glance at the facts reveals that the New York Times, Mr. Mitchell and everybody else who says this is lying.

The story happened this way. Mr. Mitchell was riding in a Pullman railroad car. When the train came to the Arkansas border, Mr. Mitchell had to go into a second-class Negro car. This car was "filthy and foul-smelling," according to Mr. Mitchell. The fact that he had paid for a Pullman ticket didn't make any difference. In the South a Negro's money is not as good as a white man's because of the Jim Crow practices. Mr. Mitchell took the case to court and the Supreme Court ruled in his favor. A man who pays for a Pullman ticket must be given his rights. He has to get Pullman accommodations. This is what is considered a "victory over Jim Crow."

As a matter of fact the company has already revealed how it is going to treat this "victory." Mr. Mitchell won't have to go into the second-class Negro car any more. Now he will be accommodated in a Pullman coach Negro car. The company has built a "modern, all-steel, air-conditioned car divided for Negroes and whites." The "victory" turns out to be nothing at all.

The railroad companies will continue their policy of SEGREGATION. That's the real issue that is at stake. The Supreme Court decision does nothing but establish this discriminatory policy as legal. The issue is not "question of segregation," according to the Supreme Court. It is not interested in that question.

I AM INTERESTED

in receiving more information about the YPSL.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____

The Negro people are interested. That's why the Mitchell case was important. Negroes want full social, economic and political equality. The Supreme Court of the United States just like the government of the United States, won't solve this problem. They have shown this to be true by their actions, past and present.

The road for victory over Jim Crow is organization. The Negro people must organize and fight for

their rights together with their white brothers. They cannot depend on the Supreme Court to help them in this task. Those who practice Jim-Crow won't end it. The Negroes must say to the New York Times and Mr. Mitchell and everybody else who tells them about the "victory" they won: "We know the truth about this case, and we won't be satisfied until our own government rules in Washington and in the South. That's when we will really have a victory celebration."

"Native Son" - - the Tragedy Of a People in Chains

Those readers of Richard Wright's best selling novel "Native Son" who were anxiously awaiting the novel's dramatization by Orson Welles can be assured that the play now showing on Broadway does full justice to the book. From the point of view of drama, it ranks with any play presented on Broadway in the last few years.

Uniformly excellent acting, effective staging and sound effects and clever direction combine to produce a dynamic play which keeps its audience tense at all times. In a word, the play is magnificent.

The plot concerns the unintentional murder of Mary Dalton, a beautiful white girl, by her chauffeur, Bigger Thomas, a young Negro, and his subsequent capture and trial. Bigger Thomas symbolizes the frustrated Negro youth of today growing up amidst poverty and discrimination. The play's opening scenes vividly portray Bigger's life; the way he sleeps on the floor in a rat-infested single room apartment called home by his mother, sister and brother; his irritation at chronic unemployment and sister's consequent nagging; his humiliation by a relief investigator; his alley haunts in Chicago's South Side slum area.

Meets Upper Class

Subsequent scenes depict his introduction into upper class white society as the chauffeur of Mary Dalton, the daughter of his landlord. Mary tries to win Bigger's confidence, but succeeds only in increasing his resentment because of her patronizing manner. Bigger says, "She made me feel like a dog, I hated her." Later when Mary comes home drunk at night, she forces Bigger to escort her to her room. The actual murder occurs purely accidentally when Mary's

blind mother enters the room and Bigger, in a panic of fear lest he be found in a white woman's room, smothers Mary with a pillow to keep her quiet.

Whose is the guilt for this tragic murder? In the words of Max, the defense attorney, "Poverty, idleness, economic injustice, race discrimination and all the squeezing and oppression of a ruthless world—the frustrated way of life intensified by the cruelty of a blind and enslaving industrial mechanism. It is that way of life which stands on trial today in the person of Bigger Thomas. He represents but a tiny aspect of a problem whose reality sprawls all over this nation—in the Jim Crow corners of our buses and trains, in the Jim Crow army, in the Jim Crow navy."

The Real Tragedy

The tragedy of Bigger Thomas lay not in the fact that he committed a murder, but rather the fact that he struck back at his oppressors in a blind, irrational manner, born of confusion and fear and hatred. American Negroes will not repeat Bigger's mistake. When they fight back, it must be based on analysis and understanding of the economic system which exploits them; it must be in a disciplined and organized fashion.

Bigger Thomas made another mistake; he identified his hatred of society with a hatred of all whites, not realizing that there are two classes of people, workers and capitalists. Again in the words of Max—"No, that's not it, Bigger. They (white people) are men like you, like me. But as long as a few people hold all the power in the world and rule and regulate the lives of millions of their fellow men... just as long as that, those millions of people will keep groping around