
The Young Communist League of America.

Resolution Adopted by the

2nd Convention of the United Communist Party,

Kingston, NY — January 1921.

A document in DoJ/FBI Investigative Files, NARA M-1085, reel 940, document 679.

I. General Condition of the Proletarian Youth.

Under the capitalist system of society, the proletarian youth is subject to every form of economic exploitation and intellectual slavery to which the entire working class is subjected. The lot of the young people is an especially hard one on account of their defenseless position during the critical years of physical and mental development. Because of their immaturity, capitalist exploiters find among them a ready recruiting field of the various military institutions to be used in defense of the existing regime, and for creating White Guards to throttle the coming revolution.

II. The Communist Movement Among the Youth.

In order to free the working class youth from this intolerable situation, an independent organization, to be known as the Young Communist League, Section of the Young Communist International, shall be organized. Recognizing that the emancipation of the youthful workers is impossible without that of the working class as a whole, this organization (YCL) is officially recognized by the Communist International as an integral part of the worldwide Communist movement, for the Communist youth are a part — an essential party — of the revolutionary movement.

III. Mission of the Young Communist League.

The mission of the Young Communist League

is a special one, in that:

1. Its particular function is the Communist training of the young proletariat.
2. Its organization embraces a field of education that cannot be reached through regular party channels.
3. The young Communists will be the bearers of the Communist system of society.

The development of the Communist movement offers every evidence that only an independent organization of the young people can work successfully. Owing to the particular psychology of young people, a special organization, under the general supervision and direction of the Party, is required. The Young Communist League can carry on training and education among youth indifferent to our ideas, in a manner impossible within the strict jurisdiction of the Party organization itself, and can gradually direct them to the Communist movement.

IV. Duties of the Party Towards the Young Communist League.

The Party shall recognize the importance of a young people's movement. It is the duty of the Party to prepare them with all the means at its disposal. An intensive cooperation between both organizations is an absolute necessity.

A definite program of action for the Party in this respect shall be:

1. Immediately to prepare for the organization and furtherance of the Young Communist League of America.

(a) By issuing and distributing the Manifests,

Program, and Theses of the Young Communist International, together with decisions relating to it made by the Communist International. Also by issuing bulletins and leaflets dealing in particular with questions of national and international policy of the Young Communist League.

(b) By gaining control of the various independent organizations or units of the Young People's Socialist League, and organizing them into Communist groups.

(c) By organizing Communist groups among the independent organizations where control is not possible immediately, and making every effort to gain control.

2. Where no units of the League are in existence, the Party shall make every effort to form them.

3. The Party shall give every assistance to the League by:

(a) Affording it financial assistance whenever necessary.

(b) Furnishing it with lectures, speakers, and teachers.

(c) By allotting it space in the official Party organs.

(d) By assisting it to issue legal and illegal leaflets.

(e) By having all Party organizers devote a por-

tion of their time to organizing and developing units of the League in their territory.

(f) By directing their educational work under the immediate special supervision of the Party educational committees.

4. An organization shall be formed to carry on the legal work of the Young Communist League of America. It shall provide education, recreational, and social facilities.

5. The Party shall interchange representatives with the League and watch its every move and development.

V. Conclusions.

The young elements in the Communist movement in various countries have already proven their merit; the Party, therefore, shall consider the members of the Young Communist League as equals, pointing out to them that their responsibility is identical with that of Party members. The United Communist Party feels confident that the young Communists of the United States will not only be part and parcel of the Communist movement, but will through their activities and enthusiasm be inspiration not only to the Party in this country but to the whole world.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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