

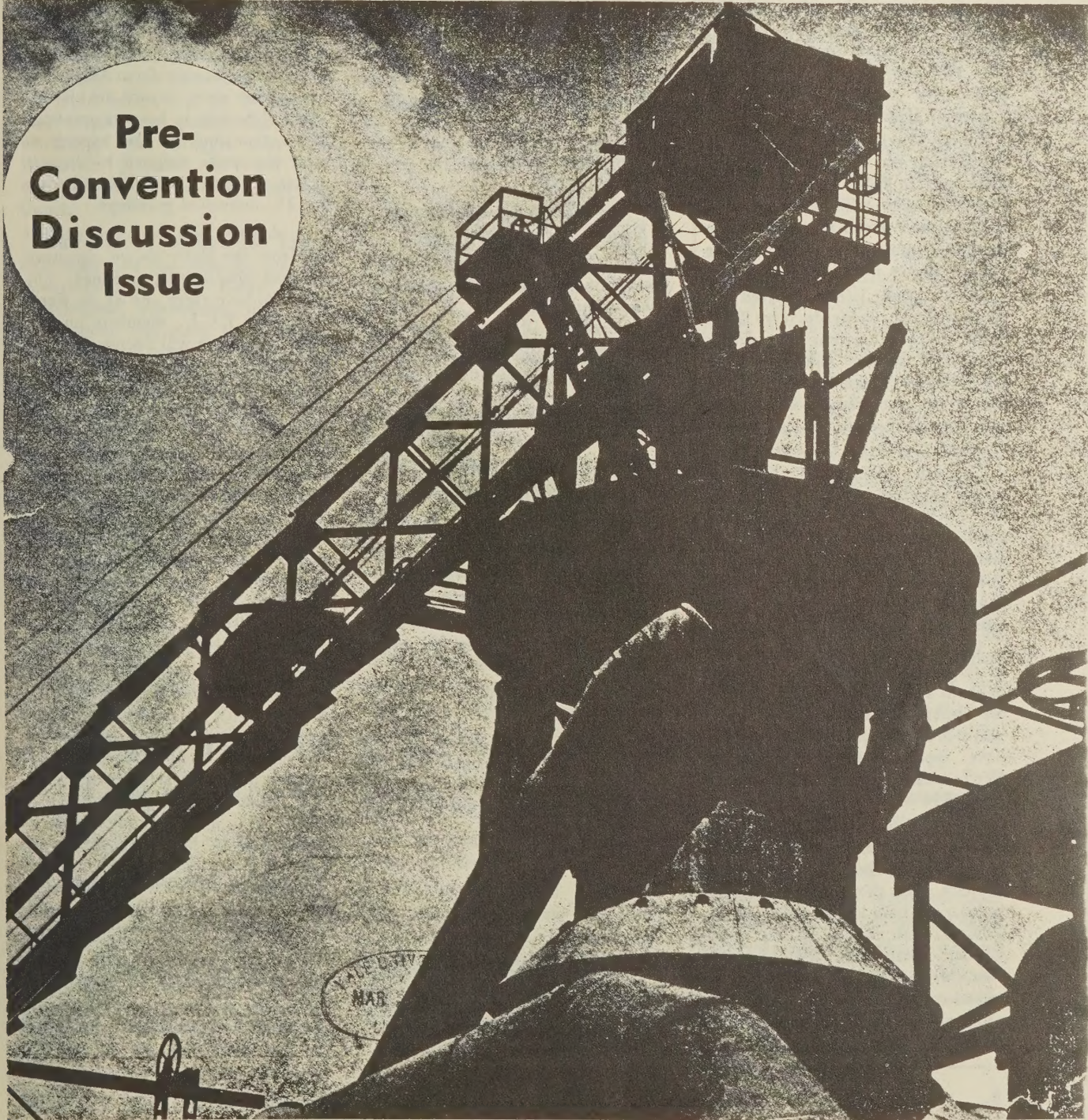
Young Communist **REVIEW**

March

5 cents

1937

**Pre-
Convention
Discussion
Issue**



ROUND TABLE

IF you thumb through this issue and miss our monthly features don't become alarmed. We've eliminated the drama, music, "Around the League" and "How Much Do You Know" sections of pre-convention discussion articles submitted. Beginning with the next issue, in addition to our previous features, we will have two new ones: a sports section and a page of Men and Events in American History.

Jimmy Wechsler, whose article on the Trotskyites in the youth movement was to have appeared in this issue, has been busy working on a pamphlet and was unable to meet our deadline. Jimmy promises to have the article for our next issue.

We're proud. We've received our first fan letter. Comrade Jerry Cook of St. Louis thinks our magazine is swell, well written and good looking. We don't like to boast, Comrade Jerry, but pretty soon we hope to make the *Review* one of the best youth magazine of the country.

Comrade Hennie of Brooklyn makes some pertinent remarks about the *Review* in his pre-convention article appearing in this issue. He thinks our magazine is snappy but. . . . Well, you better read the article yourself and let us know what you think of it.

We have two articles on our work in the South. We believe that both of them are corkers. More than that, we believe Comrade Henry Winston's article is one of the finest to have appeared in our magazine. We're willing to bet that Henry was inspired by his subject.

This information is for you big city slickers and farm boys. The picture on our cover is the top of a steel blast furnace. We thought it appropriate because we have a fine article on the League work in one of the South Chicago steel mills. The comrade who wrote the article (his name must remain anonymous for obvious reasons) is one of the most active workers in the steel drive.

Young Communist Review

GEORGE POOLE, Editor

March, 1937

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The YOUNG COMMUNIST REVIEW is published by the National Committee of the Young Communist League, 50 East 13th Street, New York City. It is distributed free to all dues paying members of the League.

CONVENTION NOTES

WE are happy to report that plans for the year-book are making splendid progress. Many district organizers have written us in regard to the efforts they are making to gather material and secure greetings and ads for the year-book. We can expect the best efforts of the Y.C.L. in making our year-book a success. Leo Turner from Minnesota writes that every branch in his district will be sure to have its greetings in on time and he also expects to meet the quota assigned to districts of one signature for each member on the 25c individual greetings.

A plan has been worked out to get aid from the Party on the signature lists and also branch greetings. The plan is to have every unit of the Party visited by Y.C.L. members on one night, where we will discuss the plans for our convention, what we expect to accomplish by it and some proposals that we expect to bring to the convention. At the same time we can ask for individual greetings from members of the branch and a one dollar greeting from the branch itself. An autographed copy of the year-book (Earl Browder and Gil Green) will be sent to all Party and Y.C.L. branches that send greetings to the year-book.

THE DRAFT PROGRAM AND CONSTITUTION

of the

Young Communist League

Will be printed for the first time in the

April issue of the

Young Communist Review

The Supreme Court

An Editorial

THE elections are over. But the issue facing the American people during the last election campaign, is still before the nation.

Fascism or democracy — progress or reaction—that was the alternative we faced before and on November 3. Now, the same question lies at the bottom of the struggle over the Roosevelt proposal to curb the usurped powers of the Supreme Court.

This year we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the adoption of the American constitution. There, at the constitutional convention, in 1787, the proposal was made to grant the Supreme Court power to nullify laws passed by Congress. Three times the proposal was made. Three times it was defeated by overwhelming vote.

No clause, not one phrase, not a single word in the American constitution grants the Supreme Court the right to vote and nullify congressional legislation. This power was usurped by Justice Marshall, many years after the Constitution was adopted. Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln all believed that the Supreme Court did not have the right to nullify laws of Congress. Jefferson said that if the Supreme Court were given the power to declare laws unconstitutional, that "would reduce us to the despotism of an oligarchy." Andrew Jackson openly defied the Supreme Court decision on the setting up of a U.S. bank. Abraham Lincoln, answering Stephen Douglas who was defending the Supreme Court Dred Scott decision upholding slavery, stated:

"The sacredness that Judge Douglas throws around this decision is a degree of sacredness that has never been thrown around any other decision . . . and General Jackson said that the Supreme Court had no

right to lay down a rule to govern a coordinate branch of the government."

Now when the proposal is merely one to limit the court by granting the president power to appoint new justices for those over 70 who do not retire, the forces of reaction raise a hue and cry throughout the length and breadth of America.

All the discredited forces who were defeated in the last election have gained a new lease on life. They hope to nullify the results of the election by preventing even the slightest attempt to curb the nine man autocracy. Gerald K. Smith who is trying to organize storm troop groups among the youth, Father Coughlin, the Liberty League boys, Hearst, and the whole kit and kaboodle of fascist minded men are out to defeat the proposed curb on the Supreme Court.

The youth of America are vitally concerned about this issue. They knew that the American Youth Act and other progressive legislation, will be doomed at the hands of the nine senile monarchs.

Throughout the youth movement, and in the Young Communist League there is not sufficient alertness to the need of putting pressure on the men who are supposed to represent us in Congress. We dare say that there are many Y.C.L.'ers who don't even know the names of their representatives and senators. Every Y.C.L. branch and unit, every youth club and organization, every individual should send letters, postcards, resolutions, to the congressmen who sit in Washington as representatives from their neighborhoods.

This campaign will help stimulate

the movement for independent political action among youth. It will be decisive in the formation of a peoples front, and Farmer-Labor Party in America. Youth must be heard on this question!

We are striving to help unify the ranks of American youth in a youth division of a Farmer-Labor Party. That is why we must see that the outcome of the battle to curb the Supreme Court will to a great extent determine the rapidity with which such a united organization is established. Within the Democratic Party there is a deep-going division between its reactionary and more progressive sections. This split extends to the deep South and throughout the land. And this differentiation is of cardinal importance in the building of an American Peoples Front. We know that the millions of toiling youth who follow the Democratic Party must and will participate in the building of a united organization which will defend the interests of youth. We know that these young people will collaborate with other organizations to back the proposal which Roosevelt has made, to clip the claws of the Supreme Court dictatorship.

In view of these considerations, we cannot for a moment delay in taking action on this issue. Even though Roosevelt's proposal does not go far enough, it must be supported. The enemies of the proposal are the same gentlemen who received such a sound thrashing last November. They are back again. And they must *now* receive such a *knockout* blow, that they will not recover so easily.

The Mid-West Builds The League

DULUTH

by

Signe Santabarka

THE Young Communist League of Duluth, within the last few months, has grown from a small branch of seven or eight people to one with 45 members. It is today one of the leading youth organizations of the City. What have been the reasons for this growth in the membership and activity?

First, the League members have been among the most active young people in building the Junior Farmer-Labor Clubs and in campaigning during the elections for the Farmer-Labor ticket. It was through the efforts of the leading Junior Farmer-Labor Club members, aided by Young Communists, that the youth movement made a place for itself in the Farmer-Labor Party.

Second, dating from the victorious strike of 800 young workers in the Coolerator Plant, led by the C.I.O., the workers of Duluth have been on the march. Strike after strike, most of them involving many young men and women, have hit the town. New life has been poured into the labor movement, and to the degree that the Young Communist League and the Junior Farmer-Labor clubs have aided the strikers by relief and picket duty, they in turn have grown and gained in prestige. The necessity of reaching the young steel workers, young miners and lumber workers is clearer than ever, and is a basic job for the Young Communist League in this area.

Third, the Young Communist

League has improved its own activity by introducing skits, socials and other features into its meetings and activities. Educational work has been improved to some degree and a week-end school is being planned. These activities have attracted many youth who up to this time have been outside of the League.

New problems in turn have arisen that our Pre-convention discussion must answer for us. On the basis of careful analysis and application of our experiences in Duluth and the rest of the State we hope to solve them.

The development of a strong Farmer-Labor youth movement has brought with it the development of many lighter features such as dramatics, socials, skits, etc., in the Junior Farmer-Labor Club. Growth of the Young Communist League to a large branch has been on the basis of similar activities. From the beginning it has become clear that a young person cannot very well act in plays in the Junior Club and also in the Young Communist League, neither can they very well play ball in teams in each organization at the same time. An apparent contradiction exists in the activity of the youth movement insofar as the Young Communists are concerned. The problem to be solved is to have in the Y.C.L. such activities, as well as to educate the members for Communism as rapidly as possible while allowing the members time and energy for participation in the work of the Farmer-Labor Clubs. If this is done, then the Young Communists can contribute to the building of the Juniors to a greater extent than now using their energies in developing cultural life in the Junior Clubs. In all events the dangers of liquidating either the Young Communist League or the Juniors must be carefully guarded against.

ST. LOUIS

by **Jerry Cook**

“HOW can we best build a broad League which will answer the problems and needs of young America?” you ask. The St. Louis Central Committee of the Y.C.L. has arrived at a conclusion which will be proposed at a conclusion which will be proposed to the city membership this Wednesday. It is being suggested that monthly city-wide meetings be held concurrently with weekly meetings of divisions of this central branch. It is planned that the branch meeting be devoted partly to dancing and entertainment, partly to educational talks and discussion, and partly to dues-paying and literature buying. It is intended that there will be a student division, etc. wherein more specialized activities will occur by groups of about ten or more.

I approve heartily of this plan because I believe such a system will increase our membership and influence. New members desiring to give only one evening a month to the Y.C.L. may do so by merely attending branch meetings. Those who are not attracted by the work or personnel of the Y.C.L. of their neighborhood may become acquainted with a greater variety of work and people by attending the monthly meeting—and hence become active in another division. Dues-paying and literature distribution will become easier to manage and systematize. Members of small units will gain that “club” feeling more readily in the larger group. Our routine officials—treasurer, chairman, secretary, literature agent—will be our most efficient comrades. In short our League work will be more efficient, our members will have greater choice in selecting friends and activities, and our quickened inner life will have a greater appeal to St. Louis youth.

Youth Committees in the Steel Lodges

The League in a South Chicago Mill

IN South Chicago, under the guidance of the Party, a Youth Committee was set up in the oldest Union lodge of the mill. The executive board of the lodge appointed a young comrade as a Youth Director. He in turn drew around him young workers he had previously contacted. The committee was enlarged as the union grew. This arbitrary way of setting up the committee was warranted at the time because the lodge was weak, meetings were small, and elections could not be held. Some of the fellows, as individuals, carried on some activity in the name of the Youth Committee.

We tried, first, to adopt a new agitational approach. The Y.C.L. introduced into the union propaganda a series of stickers, which later the Steel Workers Organizing Committee adopted and had printed for distribution. They had snappy slogans, such as:

1. The Union ends our days of fear
It brings the time of plenty near.
2. Don't be a sucker all your days
Join the Union and get a raise!
3. Knock, knock. Who's there?
Bill. Bill who?
Build the Union.
4. Join the Union and have your say,
For shorter hours and better pay.

A four-page cartoon leaflet was also drawn up. Although accepted by the Steel Workers Organizing Committee as politically correct in its special appeal to the young worker, they decided against issuing it because of the prohibitive cost. However, we feel that, such a leaflet in the form of humorous, but constructive cartoons, might be proposed for issuance nationally by the Steel Workers Organizing Committee to young steel workers during the remaining course of the drive.

Efforts were made to bring youth work and the Youth Committee forward in lodge and mass meetings. At one of the latter, the Committee organized a parade and led mass singing, with effective response from the assembled workers. Recruiting into the union was undertaken as a Youth Committee function, with its members taking cards as voluntary youth organizers. Two young union members, representing the Youth Committee, went as delegates to the Cook County Conference of the American Youth Congress, and petitions were circulated for the American Youth Congress. Other activities were carried out in the name of the Youth Committee.

In this work, however, a weakness in structure was apparent. Not enough of the youth activity was carried on by the Youth Committee as a body. The work was done by individuals acting in the name of the Committee. There was no great responsibility felt by the majority of the members of the Youth Committee directly to the Union, and there was poor representation on the Committee from all the departments. It became necessary and possible (now we have a list of 64 young union members who have signified a desire to serve in some capacity on a Youth Committee) to have official elections in the four lodges which have been established in this one mill since the original Youth Committee's inception. We have already proceeded to carry out these elections. We will have a joint Youth Committee, five delegates elected from each lodge in the mill, thus making a Committee of twenty for the single mill as a whole.

There were, however, two exemplary features in the work of the Committee. And they indicate two lines along which we must work in our youth activity: (1) Development of sports activities among the youth in steel, making the Union the center for sports, as well as educational, and cultural interests. (2) Broadening out into the community, reaching both steel and non-steel youth, building sentiments for and holding mass delegated conferences of youth in the steel centers.

In regard to the first, a smoker and boxing affair led to contact with the Amateur Athletic Union, with gratifying results in line with the progressive developments of the Amateur Athletic Union nationally. The Amateur Athletic Union in Chicago cooperated, to our surprise—since Avery Brundage hails from Chicago—with us, sanctioning the affair, and agreeing to the following tentative prospectus: The Amateur Athletic Union organizing sport classes for the children of union members and conducting boxing tournaments between the unions.

This can be the beginnings, if full advantage is taken of them, of making the sports activities of the community gravitate towards the Union. It can help to draw away youth from the company union sports. Of course, this will not be automatic. It will be necessary, perhaps, to establish sports leagues in the company unions which will participate in our activities and be influenced by us.

All of the boxers were leading Catholic Youth Organ-
(Continued on next page)

Youth Committees in the Steel Lodges

ization members. One was CYO boxing champion in 1934, also a member of the American Olympics team last year. The 1936 CYO champ participated. All of them are local fellows working in the mill and connected with the Polish Catholic parishes in the community. The pledge of their leader, after the smoker, to cooperate with us in the future, presents the opportunity of approaching the CYO organizationally and of contacting young Catholic workers in the area.

The Youth Act

In connection with the campaign for the Youth Act, the need for strong trade union support, especially from steel, is obvious. Such problems as apprenticeship, for which the American Youth Act provides a Federal apprenticeship system, with trade union control, is of direct concern to the working as well as unemployed youth in the steel areas. Steps must be taken to insure that lodges of the Amalgamated Association send representatives.

In conclusion, I wish to recall the fact that it was a decision of the Steel Commission of the National Conference of our League that where lodges of the Amalgamated Association exist, youth committees should be formed; that where no lodges exist, the youth committees should be organized in the mill, in the department committees, and in some cases they could be youth committees of the regional Steel Workers Organizing Committee. These committees can take different forms, as the situation requires. For example, in Chicago Heights a Youth Committee of seventeen is composed of lodge members plus members of the Women's Auxiliary. But in almost every form, however necessary, the value of such youth committees becomes apparent. Their functions and purposes can be categorized as follows:

1. Recruiting young workers into the union.
2. Developing special youth activity in the union, making it the center for sports, cultural, and educational activities with the perspective, for example, of such fine developments as that on the Pacific Coast among the marine workers, where a huge Recreation Center has been established, mainly through the initiative of the youth.
3. Winning the whole community in support of the steel drive and reaching all youth organizations in the community. Taking up such community issues as the need for an industrial school. In South Chicago, this is a real issue. The business men of the community, with the endorsement and backing of the company officials, are considering the establishment of an industrial school run in their interests. Calling of youth conferences, with such objectives as having the delegates carrying on educational campaigns among their own organizations for the steel drive, and aiding in direct recruiting into the union—e.g., making the organizations the centers for organized delegations going into the homes of steel workers to recruit them into the union.

We started with four League members at the begin-

ning of the steel drive. In South Chicago we have since recruited eleven young steel workers. In Gary there is a Young Communist League of twelve members, and in Chicago Heights there are seven.

At the beginning, because of their small number, the young comrades met as a "Youth Committee" of the Party, attending all Party meetings, and taking an active part in them. As such, they held a couple of meetings of a broader nature with speakers invited to talk on subjects as "The Soviet Union and Steel," and "The Future of Youth." This led to a small recruitment into the Party, and warranted the setting up of a Y.C.L. unit.

We have now set up an experimental form of branch organization that we hope will not only guarantee a close contact with the Party and its policy in the mill, but at the same time will link up the immediate Young Communist League tasks in steel with the activities of our neighborhood branch. We are considering a merger of the neighborhood branch with those Young Communist League members working in the mill.

This neighborhood branch has been concentrating on steel work and this amalgamation would bring their work closer to that of the comrades in the mill. This arrangement will necessitate a joint monthly meeting, having as its dominating note educational, social and sports features. These types of meetings will be an agency for broadening the activity of the Young Communist League in steel and serve as an inspiration for new recruits.

Coordinating Our Work

A separate meeting will be held at least once a month of those Young Communist League members who are actually working in the mill for the purpose of discussing immediate youth problems in the shop and for developing union youth activity. The Party members in the Young Communist League, who are working in the mill will attend the Party mill unit meetings at least once a month.

We feel that this experimental form will serve four purposes. First, it will actively involve the neighborhood branch in direct assistance to work in steel. Second, it will help organize the youth in the whole community to back the steel drive through these broader "lighter" meetings which will feature attractive youth activities. Third, since this branch will take those girls, sisters and sweethearts of the steel workers, who would be eligible for the Women's Auxiliary, it would serve as an organizing center for the youth work in the Auxiliary. In addition, having girls in the branch would add to the inner life. Fourth, this set-up will effectively relate the Party and League mill units.

The formation of a Calumet Steel Commission of the Young Communist League, representing Gary, Indiana Harbor, Chicago Heights, and South Chicago is being considered. This would serve to coordinate the work of the district as a whole. This Commission might undertake to issue a Calumet Young Communist League steel bulletin.

Never More Shall We Be Slaves

The Story of the All-Southern Negro Youth Conference

by **HENRY WINSTON**

THE Southland was astir again. In the capital of the old Confederacy, Richmond, Va., the All-Southern Negro Youth Conference convened on February 13th and 14th. Young men and women, 534 of them, representing 250,000 organized youth, gathered to discuss the common problems of Negro youth and to effect organization to advance their common interests.

The Conference showed that a new spirit is arising among Negro youth, a spirit of "not to take it lying-down," but one of a determination to fight. Before the Conference, this new spirit expressed itself in the scores of strikes on Negro camps of the South. Indeed, the simple issue of better food for the students was the cause of many of these strikes which involved the whole or the majority of the student body.

Beginning on the Howard campus, the strikes spread spontaneously like wild fire into the heart of the solid South. Although, they started on the question of food, they soon branched out bringing forth all of the basic issues confronting the student body. Those included self-government, academic freedom, Negro history books in the schools, Negro heads in the colleges, (all Negro schools of higher learning, have at their head white presidents.) Young Negro workers played an active role in the Gulf Coast Maritime Strike and in the drive to unionize steel, in Birmingham, Gasden, and other centers. Make no mistake about it, the Negro youth are fighting, organizing, and more of them will fight when proper leadership is given them.

Coming to this Conference were young colored people who were breaking away from the old tradition of "wait and see," the policy of gradualism which inferred that all of the Negro's problems will be solved solely by education. Facing facts realistically, seeing schools closing around them, and seeing young graduates with nothing to do, gave impetus to the desire of the Negro youth on the camps, in the churches, in the mines and mills, to help solidify their ranks. Herein lies the significance of the All-Southern Conference.

The delegates came from the following organizations:
Churches or religious organizations 110



Fraternal	27
Fraternities	21
Recreational	28
Athletic	1
Boy Scout	1
Trade Unions	16
Social	14
Civic	65
Social Welfare	7
Girl Scouts	11
Miscellaneous	15
Political	16
Student	108
Women	16
Farm	7
Interracial	5
Y.M.C.A.	18
Y.W.C.A.	56

From the above figures one can readily see that represented here was a cross-section of the Negro population of the South. A cross-section which gave to the Conference its people's character and naturally brought forth all of the democratic issues which confront the Negro people. The largest delegations of young people came from the churches and colleges. At this conference we had the beginnings of an all-inclusive people's movement of the South, uniting young people, regardless, of

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race, color or creed, for the advancement of the interests of the Negro youth. In a sense, though independent of the general progressive movement in America, the Conference can be considered as an extension of the general movement of the American people for progress.

This Conference is all the more significant because for the first time in the history of the South it has given expression to the economic, social, and cultural aspirations of Negro youth. It united young Negro people from the churches, colleges, fraternal and sport organizations and political bodies, with youth from the mines, mills, and farms. And it brought together Negro and white youth, breaking through the old traditional policy of disunity. More than that, it was a movement which saw the need of unity of Negro and white against the idea of race separatism. The conference showed that Negro youth is conscious of the fact that not alone must they organize, but that they must cooperate with friendly white groups for the successful solution of their problems. More important, I feel safe in saying, is that the white delegates at the Conference, expressing the sentiments of a large section of white Southern youth, reflected a new attitude towards the problems of Negro youth. The young white people have learned a great deal in the past few years. If their problems are to be successfully solved and a successful fight is to be waged against the semi-feudal backwardness of the South, unity of action with the Negro youth is necessary and imperative.

Unity of Religious Youth

The Conference, for the first time in the South, united into a permanent organization, youth of various religious faith. These religious groups recognized that their problems were the common problems of all Southern youth and therefore could be solved through common efforts and a common organization. They understood, that their particular faith or belief must not become a barrier to unity of action. It is interesting to note that out of 534 delegates at the Conference, only 89 were not identified with the church. The majority of the Southern youth are connected with the church, the center of their social and cultural life. This is due in no small measure to the fact that in the South there is an almost complete lack of community or recreational centers for the Negro youth.

What were the reasons that brought these young people of different religious and political convictions, of different stations in life, together for the first time? Mr. Edward Strong, National Chairman, of the Youth Section of the National Negro Congress, gave the answer when he said:

"We have come, first of all, seeking the rights to creative labor, to be gainfully employed with equal pay and employment opportunity—economic security. Amongst us are those who would be artists or writers, those who would enter the professions or a literary field—for them we want cultural

opportunities. The new Negro youth of the Southland is rising to manhood without the right to vote—for him we seek opportunity of political expression. And finally, we seek an existence free from the threat of mob violence, free of judicial caricatures."

This was the tenor of the discussions at the Conference. Conscious of their desires and aims these youthful leaders of the Negro people began to work out, at their round table discussions, a program which would be the basis of their activity for a long period of time to come. It can be said that this conference will be remembered by future generations as a landmark in the development of the liberation movement of the Negro people. We must emphasize time and again the responsibility of the general movement of the American people towards this new organization.

The Opposition

But if there was rejoicing, there was also opposition and discontent in certain quarters, even at the idea of such a conference. Among the opposition was Ben Fischer, National Secretary of the Young People's Socialist League. Let it be understood that the majority of the Negro people and the progressive and liberal whites of the South, who do not call themselves Socialists, welcomed such a movement. Who were the opponents of this movement? The landlords and plantation owners of the South, and the whole network of oppressors and lynchers of the Negro people.

It is unfortunate that Ben Fischer did not align himself with those people sponsoring the Conference but on the contrary, gave comfort to those who practice barbaric and medieval oppression in the South. Yet he calls himself a Socialist. It is without apology, therefore, that one must take sharp issue with him. Fischer does not express the sentiments of the American people nor the opinion of his own membership. What objection did he have to the All-Southern Youth Conference? In a typical left-demagogic fashion he sets out in a statement to give the conditions of Negro Youth in the South which everyone knows—only to conclude that the Y.P.S.L. cannot support the Conference. I quote in part:

"The All Southern Negro Youth Conference called for Richmond, Virginia on February 13th and 14th is an attempt to organize Negro youth on a racial basis to discuss solution of their problems. Its basic slogan is 'Negro Youth Unite!' Because of this very fundamental disagreement with the basis and tone of this conference, the Y.P.S.L. of America gives no support. . . ."

Criminal! to say the least. It shows a complete lack of understanding of the basic problems of Negro youth. If Ben Fischer does not understand this key question, how can he understand the general problems of American youth? He fails to understand the artificial barriers that exist in the South, were not created by the Negro youth, nor by the organization of the Southern Confer-

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ence, as he would like to imply, but by the employers and plantation owners of the South. He states that history has taught him, that "the theory of racial unity is sharply opposed to the truth; that only as Negro and white workers unite can they become effective in the fight against the evils of present day society." In applying this to the South, we can say, that this is partly true, but not the whole truth and incorrect because it fails to see the Negro people as an oppressed nation in the South. The unity of the Negro and white workers must attract to it the non-proletarian strata, if their fight against the evils of present day society is to be successful. But, if history taught him even this half truth, he has certainly not learned how to perfect this necessary unity. It would be well for Ben Fischer to see that it is precisely through the organization of such a conference that the question of unity is speeded up.

The First Step

We are able to understand this truth, because of the fact that history has placed the Negro youth in a special position whereby they can become the inspirers and leaders for this necessary unity. Negro youth acting in their own interest will serve as a stimulating force among the white youth thereby helping to clear the existing artificial barrier. Fischer's position is one of passivity, of taking no action, of maintaining the *status quo* among Negro and white youth. Fischer therefore commits a sin against the entire labor movement. It is easy to understand the smallness of Negro membership in the ranks of the Y.P.S.L., because of their approach to the problems of Negroes. Such a position smells of the Trotskyite influence in the Young People's Socialist League organization. It is interesting to note that only from the Y.P.S.L.'ers among the youth organizations was there a negative response to the Conference. But in the eyes of everyone present and the entire progressive movement this conference was an historic success. Recognizing the need for unity of Negro and white the historic proclamation issued for the Conference states:

"We realize that the majority of white Southerners are not responsible for the conditions under which we live. These conditions are caused, not by the many, but by the few, those who profit by putting white labor against Negro labor, to the harm of both. To all white youth of the South, we extend our hand in warmest brotherhood. For we know, and we would make them know, that as one rises all must rise, and as one falls, all must fall. The right to live as citizens, the right to education, the right to all the benefits of life in a democratic land, cannot be fully theirs, unless these things are fully ours. We would be friends with them, friends in the deepest sense of word, working together for our common good."

Getting down to work for two days the assembled delegates thoroughly discussed and outlined a program

on all the basic problems confronting Negro youth. One question, however, dealt with inadequately was the problem of farm tenancy—but a question which will be given more prominence, more attention in the course of the organization's work.

The following topics were discussed:

1. Youth as a student.
2. Youth on the job.
3. Youth as a citizen
4. Youth and the social integration.
5. Youth and the social basis of interracial understanding.
6. Youth and peace.

In the center of discussion was the problem of Negro youth and education. This problem was tackled from several important angles: text books in Negro and white schools dealing with the problems of Negroes; Federal and State aid for needy students; building of new schools for Negro children; transportation of students to and from school; discrimination in salaries to Negro teachers.

How Minds Are Molded

The Inter-Racial Committee, headed by R. B. Eleazor, in examining twenty texts in American history used in fourteen Southern states found that seventeen of the twenty books leave the students in complete ignorance that Negroes ever rendered the slightest service to the flag of the country; while the other three give but the faintest suggestions of these facts.

Under these circumstances we can see how the American people remain ignorant of the Negro's contribution to the growth and development of our country. The solution of this problem rests not alone with the Negro students, but depends a great deal upon the support given it by the white students. It was with this understanding that the Conference came to the following conclusions:

1. To wage a campaign for the teaching of Negro history in both Negro and white schools—with textbooks giving a correct appraisal of the role of the Negro in American history.
2. For the withdrawal of all textbooks that distort Negro history and propagate the idea of race superiority.
3. For the examination of all textbooks by the boards of education and an advisory committee of both Negroes and whites.
4. To wage a campaign for the inclusion of Negroes on the various state and city boards of education.
5. For an extensive system of school buildings manned by competent teachers receiving pay equal to those of white teachers. And for the wiping out of illiteracy among both youth and adults.

In addition to the above resolutions the Conference went on record for the extension of the National Youth Administration to assist needy students. A large number of Negro students enrolled in schools are forced to attend irregularly because of their lack of food and clothing. In line with this, a demand was made for an amend-

Never More Shall We Be Slaves

ment to the Harrison-Black Bill, now before Congress, to make special provisions for the Negro students. The Conference recognized the need for increased pressure, for greater appropriations on the Federal and State governments which invariably discriminate against Negro schools. Likewise a demand was raised that cities and states assume responsibility for the transportation of students to and from school.

The Negro Teachers

A good deal of attention was given to the problems of the Negro teachers. Their average wage is \$372 per year—this is in large cities, not small towns and villages where it is considerably lower. A teacher poorly clothed and ill fed cannot do the utmost for his students, especially so when they themselves are more often in worse circumstances than he. It is no wonder that the Conference met with a wide response among teachers.

The problem of the Negro students received a great deal of attention at the Conference because it is of major importance to all Negro youth. But against the old idea that the solution of this problem was the "cure of all," the Conference recognized the need of finding a solution to the economic problems of the Negro youth.

The question of jobs was approached from the point of view of the right of Negro youth to work on any job, anywhere; equal pay for equal work; the right to work on skilled jobs on the basis of qualification and not race; and, of the highest importance, the Conference went on record supporting the drive to organize the basic industries conducted by the C.I.O. in steel, auto, rubber, textile, where there are a large percentage of Negro youth. Together with this social security for the young generation was demanded. The American Youth Act was unanimously adopted.

It was sharply brought out by all the delegates that no serious attempt could be made to abolish crime among the youth, without giving jobs to youth, without a whole network of community centers and recreational grounds, which now are completely lacking in the South, and training of Negro leaders for these institutions. In addition to this the need was stressed for young people's cultural and social opportunities.

All the delegates recognized the deep desire and love of the Negro youth for peace. Among the Negro youth there exists a tremendous peace sentiment. That is why without a dissenting vote the Conference went on record against war and fascism, for peace and freedom, and to cooperate with all organizations working in the interest of peace. The Conference further endorsed the student peace activity on April 22nd.

The participation of the white youth at this Conference signified the dawn of a new day and indicated the intensification of efforts for inter-racial understanding and cooperation. It was agreed that forums should be organized to discuss this problem, to establish inter-racial groups in the various cities of the South, to support the C.I.O.

campaign to organize Negro and white into one union, to stimulate an interest and desire among white youth to study Negro history, life and the Negro's contribution to American life. In approaching this problem a program was mapped to carry forth among all groups an enlightenment campaign on Negro life and to stimulate unity of action on all problems.

Following these questions was a discussion of the Negro youth as a citizen. The conference went on record demanding the right to vote, abolition of poll tax, grandfather clauses, the right to serve on juries, to run for office, civic improvement and better housing for the Negro people.

The Embryo of a People's Movement

Here we have the embryo of a real people's movement developing first among the young people. Its basic program is such as will enable it to grow into an organization of millions within the shortest period of time.

The Communist Party therefore has the utmost responsibility in such a movement, helping to guide it into such channels as will constructively advance the interests of the Negro people in the South.

While working to extend the All-Southern Negro Youth Congress among the youth the Party must show the necessity of building up a movement of like character among the adults, where possible to assign people to this most important work, so that these democratic problems facing the Negro people will be tackled along all fronts.

Of prime importance to us is the fact that already we see the beginnings of a working class leadership, rising and shaping itself in this people's movement among the youth. To extend this working class base in the Congress becomes our supreme task. We must show the youth the importance of winning the working class strata to such a movement by taking practical steps to draw in youth from the trade unions: steel, mine, textile and marine. We must work in such a way as not alone to make the working class youth a part of this general movement but to put them in a position to play an advance role among the youth. The party therefore has a big job of helping to educate these young people politically as well as organizationally, showing them how to organize, in brief to serve as an all around educational center to develop this democratic movement. Among these young there are hundreds of advance youth ready to join the Party. The building of the Party among the youth in the South will alone guarantee the success of the Congress and its work. In line with this we have the task of convincing the youth of the need for the existence of the Communist Party alongside of this movement.

The Young Communist League greets this movement, as an epoch making event—a landmark in the liberation movement of the Negro people. We wish it success and pledge our full support to it.

A People's Movement in the South

Shall Negro Communists Enter The Democratic Party

by FRED COX

I WISH to briefly criticize the Communist Party Plenum reports and then using them as a basis, go on to discuss the perspective for work among Negroes in the South in the Democratic Party.

Comrade Browder's main report listed six major advances in regard to independent labor and farm action in the election (Minn., Wisc., Wash., Epic, A.L.P., and Labor's Non Partisan League). Equally important in its far reaching consequences was the tremendous realignment of the Negro voters. This was a seventh major advance strengthening the movement toward a People's Front. I did not find in Comrade Browder's report even a general short discussion of this historic fact. Perhaps, it was understood that this question was to be dealt with entirely by Comrade Ford in his report: "The Negro People and the Elections."

But in Comrade Ford's report, I find principally a description of the tremendous shift of Negroes to the Democratic Party. His report seemed to me to lack two essential points:

1. What are the political forms of the next period to be among the Negroes? Are we to concentrate on developing a powerful united front movement that will find its logical expression in building a progressive bloc in the Democratic Party? I would think so, but Comrade Ford failed to touch this question.

2. Comrade Ford failed to discuss the specific peculiarities of Negro political action in the South, its perspectives, its forms.

I am raising these problems for the Young Communist League because they arose in my mind in regard to Comrade Gil's beautiful report to our Young Communist League Conference in January. In his report Comrade Gil said: "In this stage of the Farmer-Labor movement, it is necessary to find those intermediate forms through which to develop the Farmer-Labor youth organizations Furthermore, in those parts of the country where progressive sentiment is accumulating within the confines of the old parties and is leading to the formation of definite groupings, we must be able to make use of such developments. *This is especially so in the South. In this section of the country progressive sentiment is beginning to express itself within the Democratic Party itself.* (my emphasis—F.C.)

Here we can aid in the establishment of intermediate youth organizations such as Progressive Young Demo-

crats, Modern Young Democrats, etc. We may find that such intermediate forms will play an important part in not only creating a Farmer-Labor youth organization, but in hastening the whole process of political alignment among the masses."

Comrade Browder at the December meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, said: "We must soberly estimate, however, the moods and trends among the broad progressive ranks. We must find the way to unite the movements already outside of and independent of the Democratic Party and Progressive Republicans together with those that are still maturing within the old parties, and are not yet ready for full independence. This means that we must conceive of the People's Front on a broader scale that will unite the forces in the Farmer-Labor Party and other progressives together with those forces crystallized in some form or other but not yet independent of the old parties."

Those two quotations both emphasize the same points:

1. The transitional forms of united political action leading to the People's Front.

2. That we *must* work within both Democratic and Republican parties for this purpose, with this aim.

Comrade Gil's quotation emphasizes that in the *South especially* we must work in the Democratic Party. I submit that *both Negro and white comrades should work for a progressive, class-struggle bloc and program in the Southern Democratic Party.*

The political situation in the large majority of the Southern States can be put simply: *a one party system with the real political issues, if any, being voted on in the Democratic primary.* For the following historical reasons, as well as class reasons, it is impossible for the Republican Party ever again to play a progressive role in the South:

1. Its position of fairly complete isolation from the white masses.

2. Its complete dominance by business men, or other wealthy men.

3. Its outspoken contempt and desertion of the Negro people in the South.

At present the Democratic Party in the South is dominated by the business men and landlords. But in this party are the white masses, whether voting or not. And the last elections showed that in *no ultimate sense has the*

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A People's Movement in the South

machine a strangle-hold on their minds. With tacit opposition from the machine, with the Negro issue (Roosevelt's concession to Negro people) being played up for all its demagogic worth, with wealthy, powerful Democrats organizing a heavily-financed Landon drive under the slogan of Jeffersonian Democracy—despite this, the masses of whites voted heavier than ever for the Democratic ticket. *The vote in the South as throughout the nation was a class-conscious vote, in addition to its traditional character. And this is the point—without fighting its traditional forms, we must reach these class-conscious masses.*

My point is that this can be done by running candidates, Negro and white, as Progressive Democrats in the primaries of the Democratic Party.

The perspective for a Farmer-Labor party in the South seems to me to be fairly clear. First, we are not going to fight traditional forms, *i.e.*, we are going to work within as well as without the Democratic Party. Second, the masses of Progressive Democrats will come from the textile mills of Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia, from the steel mills and iron mines of Alabama, and from the sharecroppers, Negro and white. Hence, we can see the absolutely crucial importance of the coming United Textile Workers organizational drive in the South, the crucial importance for the achievement of the C.I.O. program. If the oil workers of Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, if the textile workers of Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, if the steel and coal workers of Alabama—if all these are organized—the C.I.O. and the labor forces for a Labor Party will be the dominant labor groups in these states. These workers will be part of the basis for the Progressive Democrats.

The Tenancy Problem

And we must *consider that Roosevelt, if he is pushed left, will be forced to attack the tenancy problem in a big way.* These tenants, black and white, will be Progressive Democrats. Both of these prospects are well within the possible. Those politicians who think the South is solid, that it is totally reactionary, that the next four years are just another four years—don't look at facts. The worker's problems are more intense in the South and the terror against class struggle is greater. But this only sets the scene for a more rapid telescoping of the problems if a Farmer-Labor class-conscious bloc is organized in the Democratic Party.

This brings me to the point that the speculation about C.I.O. and tenancy does not logically conclude with no political action. Rather, we must understand that a Farmer-Labor Party does *not* arise *mechanically* after, and only after unions and farm organizations are built. We must understand that we can strengthen and help to build these basic economic organizations if we here and now carry on class conscious political activity within the Democratic Party. Within the economic organizations we now can carry on that interacting process by which our

political activity will strengthen, and extend its economic basis and vice versa. One of the ways of building the C.I.O. and of forcing Roosevelt to attack the tenancy problem is to build a Progressive Democratic bloc in the primaries in the South.

Comrade Ford in his report "The Negro People and the Elections," made several references to the mass movement of Negroes in the South in the support of Roosevelt. He mentioned that a Negro Democrat was elected justice of the peace in Raleigh, that two Negro Democrats were elected magistrates in Durham. I want to describe, as well as I know how, just what the real situation is. *The crucial thing about the Negroes in the South is that they not only voted for Roosevelt, but they are pouring into the Democratic Party organizationally.*

New Alignments

In short, all the evidence I know says that the Negroes of the South are breaking away from the reactionary Republicans, that they are going into the Democratic Party and that they expect to fight for their rights and for progressive policies in general in the Democratic primaries. If Roosevelt undertakes even to fiddle with the problem of tenancy, this movement will be accelerated. If he is forced to really tackle the problem, we can see how a powerful base for liberal policies, for even a Farmer-Labor party would be established within the ranks of the Democratic Party. We must give leadership to these masses in the Democratic Party. Our Negro comrades, wherever possible, must enter the Democratic Party and run as progressives in the primaries. We must seek and unite with the progressives among these masses in the primaries. The progressive fight to be waged in the primaries seems to me to be the political transitional form to the People's Front in this period in the South.

Finally, I want to discuss some related points. Some say, if you cannot capture a party, why enter it? This is a false position for a Communist to take. We enter every *democratic* organization. We must stick with the masses. Upon occasion we may enter even limited democratic organizations; upon occasion, fascist organizations.

In working in the Democratic Party in the South, we emphasize the fight for democratic rights. *We have a legal movement.*

As happened in the last elections, the reactionaries are forced to split, they are forced into aggressive reactionary action. This is one of the greatest strategic values of the People's Front, it puts us in the position of defending a tradition, of defending democratic rights, of defending legality. Stalin points out in "October Revolution" that all the aggressive actions of the October Revolution were carried out under the slogan of defense. The People's Front carried on an aggressive class struggle line under the slogan of defense. The middle classes psychologically *will defend*, but they will not attack. Under the People's Front strategy we are in the position

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"Our Power Lies in Unity"

by MICHAEL WOLF

(Speech of Comrade Michael Wolf, Secretary of the Young Communist International at the United Socialist Youth League convention held in Valencia on January 17, 1937.)

PERMIT me, in the name of the Executive Committee of the Young Communist International, from the bottom of my heart to greet you comrades of the heroic United Socialist Youth League. You represent the noble Spanish youth who from the first days of the struggle for freedom fought with arms in hand the Spanish and foreign fascists and manned the most dangerous positions on all fronts in this fight for a free and happy Spain.

The Young Communist International is proud of the fact that the United Socialist Youth League, which grew out of the combined Socialist and Communist youth organizations, has given so many true heroes to the Spanish people.

The youth of the world will learn from these new young heroes how to fight for unity. Only a united youth can save itself from fascism and war.

The historical significance of your conference lies in the fact that though you are meeting in the midst of a war you are raising the banner of unity of the whole Spanish youth. Under this banner you will march to victory and end the war which the agents of Mussolini and Hitler have started.

The report of Comrade Santiago Carillo, your General Secretary, pointed to the path of victory. He has made it clear that only a unified youth at the side of the Spanish people and its Republican government can lead to victory.

Unity at the front! Unity in the rear! Unity in the factories! Unity everywhere and above all for a democratic Spain is your guarantee for victory.

Your organization began with the unity of the Socialist and Communist Youth. But Comrade Carillo is absolutely correct when he says that this unity is no longer sufficient. The future of Spain demands more. It demands the unity of all Spanish youth into a single unified youth organization, a people's organization of the Spanish youth.

Such an organization can be created. This organization should, as Comrade Carillo stated, be formed jointly with the republican, anarchist, nationalist and the freedom loving Catholic youth.

Perhaps some will ask, "how can a unified organization be created out of so many different political organizations?"

To them we must answer that despite their different political tendencies the Spanish youth have a great cause

in common, a cause which unites them in life and death. We must remember the iron will of the Spanish youth to create a free, independent Spain comes from an indomitable love for their country. The entire Spanish youth, with the exception of a few sons of the rich landowners and large industrialists, have these aims.

These great ideals and hopes for the future unite them all regardless of what political movement they adhere to. Tell me comrades, is this not the time when all other interests must be subordinated to this great ideal?

The Young Communist International is overjoyed and proud that your organization courageously and with great maturity has declared itself ready, jointly with other organizations, to create a people's organization of the Spanish youth.

You comrades and friends, are the bearers of the future of Spain. With this in mind you must create this unified youth organization, to serve the Spanish youth, its people and its democratic parliamentary People's Front Republic. The creation of this organization will make more certain your final victory over fascism.

The war instigated by the German, Italian and Spanish fascists threatens not only your freedom and democratic rights, but also the freedom, democracy and peace of the rest of the world. This is one reason why your heroic struggle is being followed with the greatest sympathy by the rest of the world. While you are fighting for your freedom, you are at the same time fighting for the freedom, the democracy and the progress of the rest of the world.

You know of the great campaign of support for the Spanish people undertaken by the Soviet youth. In the land of the Soviets, where under the leadership of the beloved Stalin, Socialism is being built, the young workers in typical Stakhanovite fashion quickly organized the sending of butter, clothes, preserves, flour and all sorts of necessities. Soviet ships were manned mostly by Young Communists who considered it a matter of honor to work day and night in order to bring rapid help. All of Spain knows of the heroic crew of the Soviet ship "Komsomol" who perished when she was sunk by the fascists.

In other lands—France, England, America, Sweden, Czecho-Slovakia, Belgium, Holland, Norway and even Austria and Germany—Communist, Socialist, republican, liberal, democratic and Catholic youth are doing

(Continued on next page)

TRIFON MEDRANO

their utmost to aid the Spanish people. They are collecting money, clothing and medical supplies. They are spreading wide the ideal for which the Spanish people are fighting so bravely. Spontaneously, these freedom loving youth from the entire world come to your country and take their place in the International Brigade, side by side with youth.

The recent International Youth Conference for Spain, held in Paris, was a noteworthy expression of the deeply felt solidarity of freedom-loving youth of twenty-four countries. The significance of this conference was immeasurably increased by the participation of the Socialist Youth International.

We, of the Young Communist International, feel it is our duty to let you know that the work we have done among the young people in developing solidarity actions is still insufficient.

It is insufficient because in most instances it has not been unified. Lacking this unity it was weak and could not encompass the broad sections of young people. But unity can be attained.

Comrade Carillo is absolutely correct, when he, in the name of the Spanish workers, demands that the Socialist and Communist Youth Internationals unite for the purpose of giving greater aid to the Spanish people.

I can answer in the name of the Young Communist International. We want this unity. Unfortunately all of our attempts in this direction have failed.

True there are differences between our organizations. But let us forget them for the moment in the interest of democracy, freedom and the peace of the world. Let us set aside our differences. Both our organizations are impelled to help Spain. Why then can we not work together?

Thousands of heroic Spanish young people are calling for this united action. The soldiers at the front call for unity. The memory of the thousands of our comrades who died in battle and the Madrid children who were murdered by the Italian and German air raiders must impell us to consummate this unity.

For our power lies in unity.

I can say, dear comrades of the Socialist Youth International, we want united action between our two Internationals, if only to help the Spanish youth.

We will accept all of your proposals for joint help to the Spanish youth. We hope through this unity only to serve the Spanish people. We are earnest and honest in our desire. The fate of the Spanish youth—in fact of democracy and world peace—depends upon it.

Let us unite together to form a mighty column of democratic and anti-fascist youth of the entire world to help Spain. Our unity will act as a magnet and attract the entire freedom loving youth of the world.

Long live the heroic Spanish youth!

Long live the international unity of the Socialist and Communist Youth Internationals!

For the victory of the Spanish democratic republic!

Salud Camaradas!

COMRADE Trifon Medrano, Second Secretary of the Unified Socialist Youth League of Spain, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Spain and member of the Executive Committee of the Young Communist International, is dead.

Comrade Medrano, only 26 years old, was struck down by a bursting shell while fighting fascism at Bilbao.

The Young Communist League of the United States lowers its fighting banners in salute to Trifon Medrano, our comrade, and in his death mourns also the death of thousands of other young comrades who have been killed while defending Spanish democracy.

Medrano is well-known to us. As Secretary of the Young Communist League of Spain, he was always in the forefront of the struggle for the rights of the younger generation. He was among the first to show the young people of the world the path to unity, for it was the Young Communist and Young Socialist Leagues of Spain that came together to found the Unified Socialist Youth League, which has broken a path that is being followed by the youth of the world.

When the fascist generals, aided and abetted by Hitler and Mussolini, and their Trotskyite advance-guard, raised their criminal war against the democratic government of Spain, Medrano was not found wanting. Together with hundreds of thousands of members of the Unified Socialist Youth League, he took his rightful place at the front. He fought bravely on the Asturian front, as befits a Communist.

In life and in death Comrade Trifon Medrano set us a thrilling example. To him, on guard with the fighters forever, we pledge that we will not rest until fascism has been driven from the face of the earth.

The following cable was sent to the Executive Committee of the Young Communist International.
E.C.Y.C.I.

MOSCOW, U.S.S.R.

WE JOIN YCI MOURNING UNTIMELY
DATH OUR LOVED COMRADE TRIFON
MEDRANO KILLED BY FASCISTS STOP AS
SECOND SECRETARY UNIFIED SOCIALIST
YOUTH SPAIN MEMBER EYCI HIS BRIL-
LIANT WORK AIDING UNITY YOUTH AND
COURAGEOUS STRUGGLE AGAINST FAS-
CISM TROTSKYISM FOR DEMOCRACY LIB-
ERTY IS EXAMPLE TO YOUTH ALL WORLD
STOP MEDRANO IS DEAD HIS CAUSE LIVES
ON STOP PLEDGE TO INCREASE OUR
WORK BUILD MIGHTY MOVEMENT
UNITED STATES AID SPANISH PEOPLE.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE YCLUSA
GIL GREEN, SECRETARY

"I Am a Member of the Lincoln Brigade"

A Letter from Spain



Dear Comrades,

I would have written sooner and sent you my Spanish address had not a fever laid me low. It was not a serious illness, but enough of a flu to confine me to our hospital for eight days. Our hospital is the former residence of a Madrid gentleman who came to this small town to escape the metropolis—this gentleman is now fighting with the fascists.

So I've had the dubious pleasure of a long rest from ten days of arduous drilling and our more arduous all night train rides, and have been sleeping between a Marquis' sheets in his former palace. But I'll be back drilling and learning field maneuvers in a few days—which will suit me O.K.

By the way, my good right eye had me rated 100 per cent in machine-gun aiming. So maybe when I get back to my squad I'll become a machine gunner. We are in training and will continue same for several weeks. Then comes the front—provided all the rigid examinations are passed. I'm hoping I'll make the grade because this is what I am here for. If I don't there are all sorts of jobs to be done around a military camp.

However it looks as if it will be machine-gunner ————— from now on. The International Brigade, that is its various sections, goes to the front for a week or ten days and then back to camp for two weeks rest.

We were joined the other day by a second group from America and a large group of Irishmen. With the international composition of our group there are plenty of stories going around the barracks of life here in Spain, in South America, India and in fact every part of the world. The hospital cook has served all over the world in the British army. The doctor is a Canadian who once was an official in the American Medical Association and the hospital orderly is from Glasgow. I've talked with men who have been in the Reichsweher and in concentration camps and who now are very happy to have the opportunity to fight back against the fascists.

When we came here we rode with men from all over Europe—Czechoslovakia, France, Italy and Germany, and we have two men with us who spent three days trying to get past the border patrol in the Alps. Both of them traveled more than fifty miles on snowshoes before they got here. There are many young intellectual and young workers among us.

I was particularly interested in talking with the English, Irish, Welsh and Scots. Those accents, them brogues. Recently we held a Lenin memorial meeting at which a very young Irishman gave a brilliant analysis of conditions past and present in Ireland. The Irish, even the radicals, don't get along very well with the English because of the centuries of ill feeling between them. But they are all learning fast. It certainly is interesting to get the lowdown on Europe in this intimate way.

We paraded in Barcelona and got a big reception from the people. Incidentally, if I haven't told you yet, I'm in the Lincoln Brigade. Everywhere in Spain there are swell posters which call the people to increase production, volunteer for service and generally aid the fight against the fascists. In one street in Barcelona we saw at least one hundred different ones and more than a thousand in all.

We are now located in a town of about five thousand people. The place reeks with evidence of a thousand years of Feudal oppression. With the exception of a few shopkeepers everyone worked the land for the blooming Marquis and were kept in the most horrible poverty and ignorance.

The people who have only recently become independent, thinking, beings are learning rapidly. There are as yet no newspapers, no hospital, no bathhouse—nothing of that sort. But there are radios in the club rooms requisitioned by the Popular Front and used by the various trade unions and political parties. Every evening groups of Spanish men gather around to hear the news. I hear English broadcasts and news from all over Europe.

The people show the bitter signs of their former poverty. But Spain is a very rich country, having unexploited oil, copper iron and coal, as well as a soil which can grow everything from wheat to coffee to cotton. And when this battle is over it will come to the forefront in a very short time. I forgot to mention that the land in this section has been divided and each peasant and his family now have their own little farm.

The people in the town are very swell and have taken very kindly to the American boys. The Popular Front Committee which governs the town, looks after us and provides us with everything we need. Things which they themselves haven't touched they freely offer us. The town used to be in the hands of Fascists but the International Brigade drove them out.

Well, this letter is already too long. Regards to all.

—WALTER

Winning Youth to Trade Unions

(Resolution adopted at the last National Convention of the American Federation of Labor.)

WHEREAS, A large number of youth have recently entered labor's ranks, finding employment in various industries; and

WHEREAS, Among these young people there is a sturdy and growing tendency to enlist in the organizations of labor; and

WHEREAS, Many efforts, such as the following, are being made to endanger Union standards: Government-sponsored NYA and CCC projects establish wage levels far below prevailing levels; special apprenticeship systems are being set up to get young people to do the work of and displace adults at apprenticeship wages; company unions are developing athletic and cultural activities with the hope of weaning young people away from the bona-fide trade union movement; and

WHEREAS, Various International and Local Unions, recognizing the need of developing Union consciousness among the youth, have instituted, as a regular part of Union procedure, cultural and athletic activities, thus winning large numbers of young people to their ranks; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor now in Convention assembled, undertake a campaign to promulgate union consciousness among America's young people and raise among its members the slogan: "Win your sons and daughters for the Trade Union Movement."

Your committee recommends concurrence with the resolution.

The report of the committee was unanimously adopted.

A People's Movement in the South

(Continued from page 12)

of carrying on an aggressive "defense." This can also be our position in the South; we can defend the Democratic Party against the Jeffersonian Democrats, kick the splitters out, force them into an aggressive reactionary position of *independence* and *isolation*. We must not only crystallize the labor and farm forces of the Democratic Party into independent action; we must also keep the democratic middle classes from going fascist. We can do this by forcing the Jeffersonian Democrats to split, thus putting labor in the position of defense, rallying around it the middle classes already in the Democratic Party.

I am thoroughly conscious that we are a weak Party, and doubly weak in the South. The recent Southern Youth Conference is a tremendous demonstration of what can be done in the South with small forces and little preparation. If we only had the forces,—and we must get them. The Party is the only beacon of light, the only clearly class-conscious force in the South. The problems are ours, may our Young Communist League convention find the ways and means of tackling them!

May I add, that I have only dealt with the question of work in the Democratic Party, simply because I think our perspective for united front action through the Youth Conference and our secondary political activity through democratic clubs, voting societies, etc., is very clear. I do not want to overemphasize the point made in this article. It is more a perspective than an immediate pressing issue. Our immediate and crucial task in the South in regard to the Negro is follow up on the Youth Conference and our *farm work*. However, this coming fall, all through the South, Negroes will be preparing to fight for the right to vote in the primaries, and even to run as candidates. We may not have the forces now, but the masses have. We should not be taken by surprise by this mass movement and its approaching consequences.

THE FUR FLOOR BOYS

The League in a Youth Union

by LEON STRAUSS

THE Fur Floor Boys Union in New York has 1,500 workers who have benefited from unionization by receiving \$6,000 in weekly wage increases, a 44-hour week and the security of their jobs. These are the major accomplishments of the union. These results have been achieved only because of the complete unity of the workers in the union. Young Communists have worked in harmony with Young Socialists. We have not allowed the disruptive influence of Trotskyism to creep into our union. We have worked with young Democrats and no-party youth on an equal plane. We have involved in the work and the leadership of the union, all progressive elements. This unity can be credited to the work of the Young Communist League in building a powerful union. This, more than anything else, is the lesson we have learned in the successful organization of youth in trade unions.

One most important force in the creation of a unified union was the Y.C.L.'s approach toward the Negroes, who constitute 20% of the workers in our industry. Through the union we have shown our desire on picket lines to organize the Negro youth and help them win the benefits of trade unionism, equally with white workers. We have welcomed their desire to participate in the union. We have offered them every opportunity to exert leadership in the union among both Negro and white workers. We now have 5 Negroes on our executive board, and the vice-president of our union is a Negro. In this manner, and only in this manner, have we been able to gain the confidence and faith of both Negro and white workers, solidifying our union against the bosses.

Hundreds of workers on strike and in mass picket lines—thousands in demonstrations. These are accomplishments that prove that our union is becoming a determining factor in the working conditions of fur floor boys.

But economic struggle by itself, will not guarantee the continuance of a youth union. We must have a union that reflects the life of each and every union member. We must have a school of workers education. We must have a dramatic group, a band, etc. We must have every phase of sports in our union. Sports are an integral part of the life of New York's youth and they must occupy the same place in the life of New York's trade union youth. In our union we are beginning to see how our basketball team, a squad of 15 boys, is creating more and more loyalty to the union.

I cannot emphasize too greatly how important a part sports must play in any union that wishes to win the youth. It is not phantastic to state that some phases of sports will even help organize shops, and guarantee the success of strikes.

Our fur floor boys waited many years for the Furrier's Joint Council to organize them. They finally went out and did the job themselves, with the complete cooperation of the Communist Party and Furrier's Joint Council. Our Party, because it is the leader in the struggle for the best interests of the workers, has been, and is always willing to help in the organization of youth unions in youth industry. But by itself, leaning down from another section of the industry and giving a helping hand upward, it cannot accomplish this task. The Y.C.L. in the industry, with the militant

workers, themselves, must be the builders of their own union. With the progression of actual deeds, we will convince the Party of the need of working with us and helping us. It is also true that there would never be a Fur Floor Boys' Union were it not for the aid, the leadership, the guidance of the Communist Party and its leader in the fur industry, Comrade Gold. They were able, on the basis of our carrying out our tasks, to give us this aid and make our union shine out as an example of organization of youth. We received their help because we did not in the ordinary every day way, that the League does ask for help,—because we did not beg and plead, because we did not appeal—but rather because we went out and convinced our Communist Party members with deeds. We have in our industry the finest of relations to be desired between the Communist Party and the Young Communist League. And we would like to point to the Communist Party of the fur industry and to Ben Gold, as one of the best examples of C.P. work among the youth.

The League has learned a great deal. Our job is in the union, as the best union men. Our League members have become the leaders in their shops, and as a result, the leaders in other shops have become League members. So we now wield a powerful influence in the union. We do not dominate any of the union's actions. We mold a unified group that leads the union.

The Y.C.L. in unions, cannot take the same character, as the League in street branches. For there the task of the Y.C.L. is to have every phase of the life of young people among
(Continued on page 19)

What's Wrong With Our Review?

Plenty of Pep But Not Enough About Our League

by H. HENNIE

ALMOST a year ago, the *Young Worker* ceased publication—it closed shop at the height of its ascendancy. In its place, the Young Communist League began distributing the *Champion of Youth*. Although I disagreed with the discontinuance of the *Young Worker*, and although I think the *Champion* has not yet found its stride, yet I do recognize the important work the *Champion* has done and the more important work it still has before it. But with the continually new and increasingly difficult problems faced by the membership of the Young Communist League the *Champion* is obviously unable to meet the needs of the Young Communist League as a separate and distinct organization.

Nor does the *Young Communist Review* fill this need. This magazine is alive and snappy—but it is too insufficient. *Written chiefly by functionaries, it does not provide that necessary forum for the open discussion by our membership.* For instance, many branches became cognizant of great organizational weaknesses during our recent registration period. But where are we to find an exchange of opinions and experiences between our branches on these vital problems?

Last year, on the return of our delegation from the Young Communist International Congress, our entire organization hummed with discussion. The *Y.C.L. Builder*, the *Daily Worker*, *The Communist* and the *Communist International*—all helped in stimulating this fruitful discussion. The main lesson we learned then was to change our methods of work in accordance with our perspectives.

This question of “perspective”—of “Where are we heading towards?”—is often lost and forgotten in the bustle of intensive activity. And yet it is essential to keep it before us if we are to achieve clarity in our work.

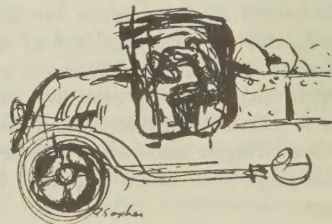
Our tendency in the past has been to emphasize this important question only in the period immediately preceding or following the holding of national conferences and conventions—at other times, it is overlooked in the lower organizations. To illustrate—from September 1936 up to February 1937 there was only one article in *The Communist* on the Young Communist League—no discussion article in the *Daily Worker* and none in the *Communist International*. (The inadequacy of the *Champion* and of the *Review* have already been mentioned.) This at a time when our units and branches were having loads of new experiences carrying on work around the election campaign, the American Youth Act, Spain, etc.

I therefore offer the suggestion that we transform our present organ, *The Young Communist Review* into a magazine that will truly become the voice, the education and organizer of our membership. *It should encourage letters from our membership throughout the country, should include a monthly chat from our National Committee on our problems, (and let's not hide the names or the pictures of our leadership), should have short illustrated sketches on our League in action, and lastly it should emphasize that woefully neglected part of our program—our internationalism, our being a part of an international youth movement.*

Our remodeled *Review* should give us colorful and educational resumes of the work of Young Communists in other countries—it should aid in the setting up of an international Young Communist exchange. How our membership would like to get some stories about our French comrades, our British, our German, our Spanish, our Soviet comrades! How many valuable lessons we could learn—what a stimulus and inspiration in our work this would provide!

Lastly, the Communist Party should give more attention to the Young Communist League in its press—in the *Daily Worker*, in the *Communist*, in the *Party Organizer*. The problems of the Young Communist League must be kept not haphazardly as heretofore, but *constantly* before the eyes of the entire Party membership. This point has been emphasized constantly—it must now reach fruition in actual practice.

I am sure that if these suggestions are carried out, we will be able to achieve much more clarity in our work, to avoid mistakes by learning new approaches to the youth from the experiences of others, to build up a pride in our organization and to emphasize the international character of the Young Communist movement—to extend the feeling of international solidarity.



A More Abundant League Life

How to Make Our Branches Youth Centers in the Neighborhoods

by ALICE GOLDBERG

TO whom can youth look to today, to help them solve their problems? The Young Communist League must show the youth that only under socialism will they be provided for economically, socially, and culturally. We must mobilize all our young people and fight with them against the war makers and Fascists, their exploiters. We must offer the youth a Young Communist League, that will lead them on to a better and happier life. Of course, it will be a large task to win all young people to our side. But by helping them solve their problems and fighting with them we will become their leaders.

This is what I propose:

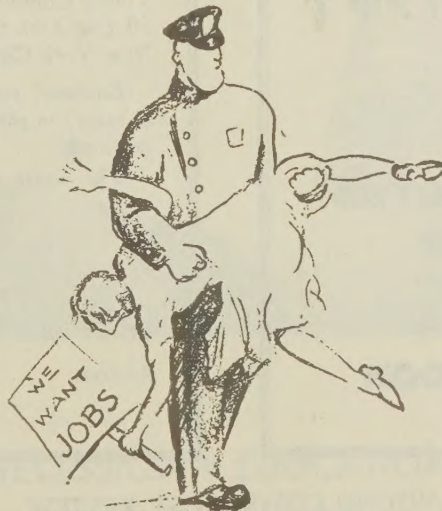
1. We must build up strong branches with a good executive that can lead the branch both politically and socially. Each branch should study its neighborhood and the youth in their vicinity.

2. We must make our activities appeal to the youth. Let us on a certain issue, such as the American Youth Congress or Spain, build a United Youth Front. This is possible in Albany Park, with high schools, churches, temples, field houses, each having their own youth groups. We must speak to these youth and find out their problems and what they desire socially and educationally.

3. Youth are looking for places of recreation. Therefore we must build a youth center. We could organize a fine arts collective—where we would have choral, drama, science and discussion groups; a library where all young people could come and read our books and literature and form a study circle; a room to play checkers or ping pong; a dancing group where they could develop socially.

The center should be a place where the young people can have some personal problems solved and be given a clean and clear conception of sex. Perhaps we can offer vocational training; some comrades teaching accounting, or radio. We could have a press group that would stir up initiative in writing articles, poetry, skits, etc. Those interested in art could aid in publicity with posters and signs. And last but not least to get to know our city by having tours through the slum districts, the stockyards, or to the factories where they are making war implements.

In our branch we have many comrades capable of carrying out these plans. We have the youth in the neighborhood. We can get the finances for keeping up a center. What more do we want? But this means work, responsibility and cooperation on the part of our comrades. Our branch will thus grow politically, socially, and rally the youth nearer to us in the struggle for socialism. athletic group with weekly sport



The Fur Floor Boys

(Continued from page 17)

whom it works directly in the branch. But the Y.C.L. working in unions, must have as its task making the union that place where every expression of the young workers is poured forth. The union must be the center in which we have baseball teams and dramatic groups and dances, and the League in the union must throw itself with all its vigor into the union's activities.

In this way, the League will carry out its purpose to be of service to workers and to workers' organizations. In the carrying out of the union's tasks, in every sense, we will aid the workers in the solution of their problems. We will play no small part in directing the workers to the solution of their problems through path of a Socialist society.

We look forward in our union toward being one with the Furriers' Joint Council; a part of the Furriers' International of the A. F. of L. after its May convention. And our League, in the carrying out of this major task, must continue to grow ever stronger. In this manner will we be able to accomplish our part in the struggle for industrial unionism, and for the unionization of American working youth, and in marching one more step forward to a free, happy Socialist America.

ANSWERS

To last month's "How Much Do You Know?"

- 1.—1.
- 2.—4.
- 3.—3.
- 4.—1 and 4; 2 and 5; 3 and 1; 4 and 6; 5 and 3; 6 and 2.
- 5.—3.
- 6.—5.
- 7.—1 and 4; 2 and 6; 3 and 1; 4 and 2; 5 and 4; 6 and 7.
- 8.—1 and 3; 2 and 4; 3 and 7; 4 and 6.
- 9.—3.
- 10.—2.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING . . . THE
AWAKENING OF AMERICA'S
YOUNG GENERATION

THE BIGGEST EVENT
in the
BIGGEST HALL
Eighth National
Convention
of the
Young Communist
League

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shops, from the social clubs and ships . . .
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delegates and fraternal delegates are
coming . . . and 20,000 friends will greet
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MAY 2nd, 1937

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EARL BROWDER
GIL GREEN
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ANGELO HERNDON

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The record of Young America in the
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