

*JULY, 1938*

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# YOUNG COMMUNIST **REVIEW**



DAVE DORAN  
1910-1938



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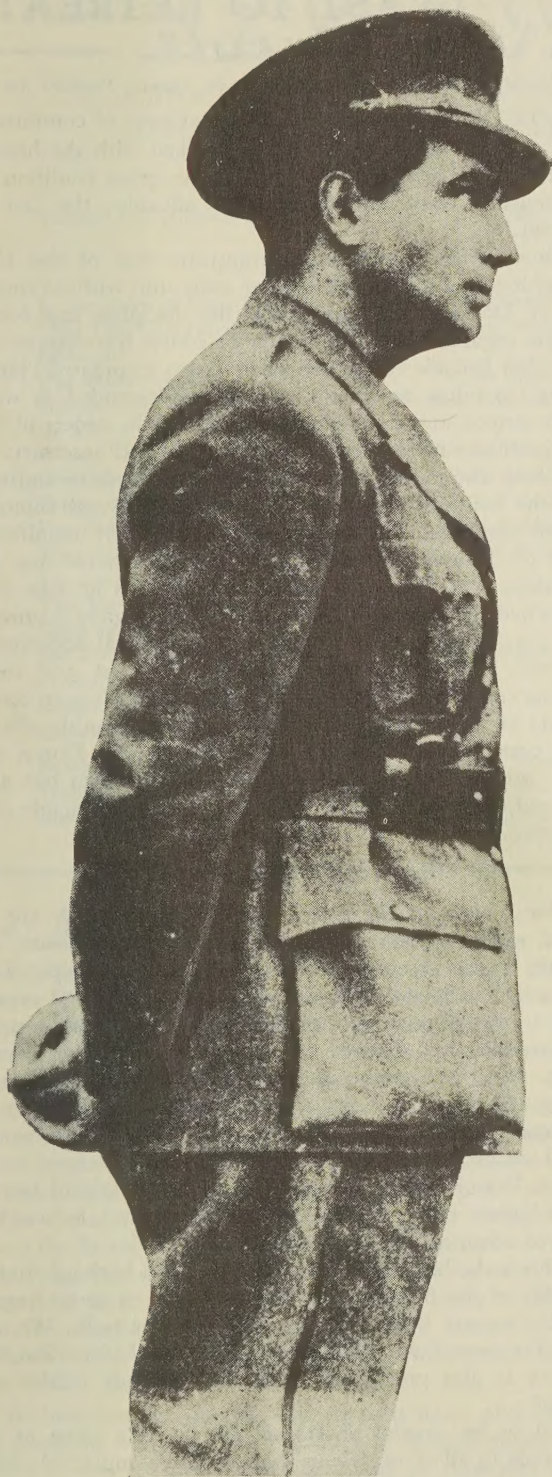


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# In the Spirit Of Dave Doran

*By GIL GREEN*

**D**AVE is gone. For those who knew him this seems impossible to believe. One never associated Dave with death—only with life. His sparkling eyes, his swinging gait, his ringing laughter, his bouyant spirit, all seemed to radiate the eternal rhythm of youth in the melody of life.

Dave came to us in 1930. Even this was characteristic of him. This was a year of growing mass unemployment, of starvation and wage-cuts. It was a year of Hoover and Hamilton Fish, of clubs and bullets for the hungry and prison sentences for the militant. It was a year of struggle. That is why Dave came to us, for he gravitated towards struggle like steel to a magnet. His heart beat with a passionate love for the working class and all oppressed peoples, and with a deep hatred for those who profited by exploiting them. His mind stirred with thoughts of a new and better world. By analyzing his own experiences as a worker, by reading and study, he became a young Communist in thought and action.

## TROUBLE-SHOOTER

In his years in the Young Communist League, Dave was always a "trouble-shooter." He went to the centers of stubborn struggle, to the spots of greatest danger. The very year he joined he went down South as an organizer. He and Harry Sims were the first to build the Young Communist League in the heart of the terror-ridden South. Harry also gave his life for his devotion and courage. He was killed by the bullet of a company thug during the Kentucky coal strike of 1931-32.

When the workers in the basic industries of this country began their great organizing drive, Dave was one of the first to enter the Western Pennsylvania steel and coal



regions. He came to build the trade unions and to lead the work of the YCL. As a member of the new steel union, he was known and loved by tens of thousands of workers throughout the industrial heart of America. His last assignment in the United States was that of Trade Union Director for the National Council of the Young Communist League. In that capacity he functioned as a member of the National Resident Board and guided all the trade union and industrial work of the organization. He was one of the outstanding leaders of our League; one of those most known and respected by the young industrial workers of America.

Dave was a native son. He personified the best traditions of the American people. Dave was also an internationalist, a son of world humanity. In his years of toil as a seaman, he sailed the oceans of the world, visiting and living in strange ports among strange people. He learned to respect their national cultures and understand their problems. He went further, and learned how those problems were related to the questions facing the American people. The war in Spain therefore struck in him a responsive chord. He saw in it more than the fight of the Spanish people for independence and democracy. He realized it was the fight of all progressive humanity to defeat world fascism, to preserve world peace. It therefore was the fight of the American people—his fight.

#### DAVE IN SPAIN

In Spain, Dave joined the Washington-Lincoln boys of the International Brigades. He joined as a private. As a soldier in the ranks, his sterling qualities of political leadership and personal bravery combined to make him the outstanding leader of the Brigade. As his comrades-in-arms have since stated in tribute to him: "He was first to advance, last to retreat." He was an example of a true Communist leader.

Our League, our Party, the American working class, have lost a young Communist of unusual ability. We who were closely associated with him have lost one of our dearest comrades and friends. Dave is gone, but the cause for which he fought and died lives on in each one of us; in millions of toilers the world over. *Chapayev*, popular hero of the Russian Civil War, did not live to see the victory of his army and his cause. But they were victorious, and his name lives on. Likewise with Dave. His army, his cause, will also be victorious. And his memory will be loved and revered by all who cherish human dignity and freedom.

The flag which Dave held so proudly aloft must be grasped by thousands of new young hands. The gap in our ranks must be filled by the winning for our League of thousands of new recruits; by training and educating them in the spirit of Dave Doran. We mourn the loss of our comrade not by weeping, but by gritting our teeth and clenching our fists in determination to carry on where he left off. Everything must be given, everything possible must be done for the victory of Republican Spain! Each of us must feel a greater responsibility to build the Young Communist League!

Dave would have wanted it so.

## "FIRST TO ADVANCE, LAST TO RETREAT"

By JOHN GATES

(Political Commissar of the 15th Brigade, Spanish People's Army)

**D**ORAN was a member of that great body of commissars whose names are inextricably linked with the history of the Spanish People's Army—of the great tradition of commissars who were the first to advance, the last to retreat.

One cannot speak of the transformation of the 15th Brigade into a disciplined regular army unit without speaking of Doran. Today we accept the discipline and forms of the regular army as a matter of course but veterans of the 15th Brigade remember when it was considered "bourgeois" to salute an officer, officers condescended to wear their stripes, and uniforms, morning parade, orders of the day, military instruction were not considered necessary.

Doran also made great contributions towards strengthening the bonds of unity between the Spanish and International comrades. He fought and exposed any manifestation of chauvinism against the Spanish, against any intimation that Spaniards are inferior. It was he who first launched the slogan of making the 15th Brigade a university for Spanish officers, of each International adopting a Spanish brother, pointing out that the best and most lasting contribution the Internationals could make in Spain would be to leave behind a great body of Spanish officers and commissars trained by the Internationals. Doran not only instilled this idea in the minds of the men but also showed example by being the first to put his principle into practice.

#### MILITARY COMMANDER

Doran was one of those rare commissars who are as good military commanders as they are commissars. At Caspe, in the absence of Brigade Commander Copic, Doran acted as Brigade Commander for two days and organized a resistance which made the German fascist press declare later had delayed the whole fascist advance several days. Again as commander of the Batea sector, Doran, using the Lincoln Battalion as his main base, set up a successful line of resistance that halted the fascist advance until orders were received to retire—a retirement from which Doran did not return. Truly it can be said of Doran (the highest praise any commissar can receive) he was the first to advance, the last to retreat.

This is the heritage Doran has left us—a heritage that is the life of the Brigade itself and that we can never forget. Today we are faced with new and greater tasks. We are in a far more favorable position than ever before. But the enemy is also preparing: hard and difficult battles are ahead.

Let us be worthy of Doran. Let his life serve as an example to all of us. Let us share Doran's implacable hate towards fascism that caused him, an outstanding leader of the Young Communist League of the U.S.A., to come to Spain and give his life that democracy might live.



# YOUNG COMMUNIST REVIEW

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• **A**LL ROADS lead to New York. On the highways and water-ways of the world, young people will soon be converging upon the United States. From the war-torn land of Cervantes; from the France of Victor Hugo, Pasteur and the People's Front; from the beautiful Switzerland with its snow-covered Alps; from the Nordic Peninsula of the ancient Vikings; from the many small states of central and eastern Europe that go to make up the geographical and political crazy-quilt of the old world; from the far flung lands of Socialist prosperity—the Soviet Union; from the Near East and Far East—from Turkey, China, Korea and the Philippines; from the British Empire, its colonies and dominions—India, Australia, Canada, Ireland; from South Africa and South America; from Mexico and Cuba; from every corner of Mother Earth, representatives of young humanity will come to convene the 2nd World Youth Congress for peace and social justice.

As host, young America will open its heart and extend its hands in welcome. The hundreds of foreign guests who come to this congress know something of America. They speak in awe of our sky-piercing buildings, our mighty industries and great scientific achievements. But they also have mistaken views of the United States. Many of them

think that all Americans are cold, grasping people, interesting only in accumulating riches. They often think of us as boastful, loud-mouthed and unfriendly. That is because they are separated from us by two oceans—because they judge us by Hollywood caricatures and by the only Americans they get a chance to see in the flesh—America's rich.

This is an opportunity for them to see the real America—the America of the common man, the America of the melting-pot. This is an opportunity for them to see the growing progressive movement of the American people and its youth; to feel our spirit of internationalism; to understand our problems.

The Young Communist League will do all in its power to help make the 2nd World Youth Congress which opens its sessions with a gigantic mass rally on August 15th, a mighty demonstration of international solidarity. It will help make the youth of the world see in America and its people powerful forces for international peace and brotherhood.

To achieve this, little time is to be lost. The American Youth Movement faces the task of raising some \$25,000 in the next six weeks in order to cover the expenses of the Congress, in order to feed and house the delegates from foreign lands. For this purpose, and as a token of friendship to the youth of the world, the Arrangements Committee for the World Youth Congress is conducting a campaign for a minimum of one hundred thousand signatures to be part of a *Book of International Fellowship* which will be presented to the Congress in the name of America's youth. Each signature for this book must be accompanied with a minimum contribution of 10c. By helping to get these signatures, the YCL will do its part in greeting the delegates of the world, will help raise the necessary finances for the successful completion of the Congress, and will help acquaint, and in a small way involve, large numbers of America's young people in the work for the World Youth Congress,—in the great undertaking for the preservation of world peace.

Has your branch or organization taken Pages for the *Book of International Fellowship*? How many signatures have you obtained?

Make America's Good-Neighbor policy a living one!

Help to prepare a huge welcome for the foreign guests!

All eyes to New York!

• **I**F WE are to make the Young Communist League "the best organization in America for giving training in the principles of American citizenship," we must train both national and local leaders who are real experts in matters of local and national politics and of foreign affairs. It is to begin to train such expert leadership that we will hold our National Training School this fall. This school will commence about the middle of September and will continue for a period of eight weeks. We plan to select 25 of the most promising YCLers for this training. Each of our concentration districts—Pittsburgh, Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago, New York—is asked to send two students. Other districts are being asked to send one each.



Expert leadership for us means a variety of things. We must be as familiar with all the complexities of local politics as any little local political boss. The traditions of our people must be a part of our very bones. We must know Jefferson, Lincoln, and all the heroes of our history, almost as well as we know our grandfathers, for example. But mere knowledge of local politics and the events of American history would not differentiate us from any member of the D. A. R. We must be masters of Marxism in order to give this knowledge perspective. In fact, only Marxism can give us insight into local politics and American history, just as only through physics can we understand any phenomenon in the physical world. On the other hand, we can never become real Marxists if we attempt to study Marxism without a study of local politics, and the history of our country. Marxism is a continuous and merciless criticism of existing conditions (including our own weaknesses) and we cannot criticize what we do not know. Therefore, the study of Marxism *demands* that we study what the non-Marxist masses are saying and what our enemies are saying.

As Comrade Browder has emphasized, we must so master Marxism and the knowledge of existing conditions that when we meet a completely new situation (and every situation is completely new), we must be able *all by ourselves* to know how to meet it.

In order to train such Young Communist leaders as these, we are holding our National Training School, where we shall seek to show the comrades selected as students how to undertake the mastery of Marxism and the study of developments in America and the world. All our members should be giving careful thought as to what comrades from their states are to be chosen as students for this school.

• **T**HE meeting of the National Council of the Young Communist League on June 2-3 was very practical, as was the convention of the Party, which had just preceded it. Inspired by the manner in which the Party Convention had grappled with the intricate problems of American politics in order to assist in the forging of a front of all who uphold American democracy, the YCL Council meeting sought to apply the general aims adopted by the Party Convention by working out methods of winning the youth for the democratic front.

The most important outcome of the whole Council meeting was the sober realization that the YCL must enter politics, that it must undertake seriously the high, democratic—and revolutionary—task of training in citizenship. This does not mean merely indulging in general and abstract exhortations to support progress against reaction. We must specifically enumerate who the progressives are, viz. those who support the Jobs-Recovery Program, the Wages and Hours Bill, the Farm Tenancy Program, the TVA, and similar legislation. We must show *how* to support these measures by serious education in the *elementary principles of American civics*, such as the two-party system in Amer-

ica, all the intricacies of *local politics*, how to register, for what primary to register (since this varies in different states and localities), and how to vote in both primary and general elections.

This council meeting stressed more than in the past the necessity for stress on general as well as youth issues. While the latter must receive primary emphasis, young people do not like to be regarded as children and wish to concern themselves with *all* the political problems facing the entire nation. The same is true of our members in the trade unions. It was, therefore, stressed that all youth issues must be carefully related to the general problems of the democratic front.

While turning its attention so soberly to the internal domestic scene, this council meeting opened on a high note of internationalism, saddened by the news of the death of our beloved comrade, Dave Doran, and of comrade Irving Keith, who had but recently left for Spain. The problem of increased aid to Spain and China by the widest possible humanitarian appeal on behalf of the victims of the wars was the first point in the order of business.

In honor of Dave Doran, a campaign to recruit 5000 new members in his memory was launched. It was constantly emphasized that our broad activities in training for citizenship through participation in local politics in support of the growing democratic front will be the best method of building and consolidating our League as a real force in American life.

• **T**HE message of the Young Communist League is finding a receptive and responsive attitude everywhere. Jim West's speech to a group of students at the Seattle Catholic College printed elsewhere in this issue is a splendid example. As Comrade West, Northwest organizer of the YCL, said, "more such inter-change of opinion is necessary, for through it, through common understanding, we can achieve that unity of the people the world needs so much today."

For our part we stand ready at all times to engage in frank and open discussion with Catholic young people and their organizations, especially on those problems that are of common concern to all of us. Such discussions can serve to clear away misunderstandings and can pave the road to co-operation between the great mass of democratic Catholic youth and young Communists. It is well to remember that Catholic and Communist youth already stand shoulder to shoulder in the trade union movement, particularly in the CIO, in defense of their living standards and rights. It is well to bear in mind that to an ever greater extent the need for unity to defend democracy and peace becomes apparent and must lead to a better mutual understanding and more cooperation between all youth, including Catholic and Communist.

We hope that this discussion with our Catholic brothers in Seattle opens the road to many more of its kind.





• **G**REETINGS to the American Youth Congress on the eve of its 5th birthday. From a lusty youngster the Congress has rapidly grown to a maturity far beyond its years. Not only has it won recognition in America, but as a host to the world's youth at the coming World Youth Congress it will assume a rightful place as an outstanding section of a world-wide movement.

Appropriately enough, this birthday is being observed by a conference of youth leaders called together by the AYC at Borea, Ohio, as a planning conference for bigger things ahead. This conference is an important one, as it comes on the eve of the World Youth Congress and will discuss the attitude of America's representatives at the Congress. It will help to shape the future course of the Youth Congress movement. Plans will come out of the Conference for the 1939 Model Youth Community planned in conjunction with the World's Fair. The Congress is to be commended on this bold scheme of taking advantage of the Fair for the building of the youth movement.

As we look back on the last year's work, since the Milwaukee Congress, we can note that much progress has been made in putting into practice the findings of that meeting. However, in at least one field the Congress has not been sufficiently consistent in carrying out the opinions voiced by the delegates at Milwaukee. The Congress endorsed a commendable peace position, but it has not carried it out in practice. The Young Communist League was one of many organizations, for example, that voted last winter in a referendum of national organizations for a boycott of Japanese goods, but that proposal was defeated though it is included in the records of the Milwaukee Congress. It is our opinion that that would have been a first step towards correcting a serious shortcoming, towards conducting a systematic and consistent struggle for a program of concerted action for peace.

Let us wish the American Youth Congress well for the future, and hope that in this coming year it will continue to grow both in size and influence, to become even more representative of all youth and their organizations.

• **E**VERYONE recognizes the need for new and better youth literature . . . and we know that our obligation is to fill this need. For several months now, the YCL has suspended the regular publication of youth pamphlets, and it is time to begin again.

The pamphlet on the Life and Death of comrade Dave Doran marks the beginning of our publication project for the year. Selling for 5c, published on a large scale, it is of the utmost importance that this pamphlet reach the thousands of young Americans. For it is not only the life of Dave Doran; it is a powerful appeal for membership in the ranks of that organization to which Dave Doran was devoted.

It is a story that will illuminate a way of life for thousands more who come to take Dave Doran's place.

On the 25th of July or thereabout, the YCL will publish a pamphlet on the problems of the Farm Youth, written by a well-known figure among young farmers. Selling below a nickel, our plans are to penetrate the farm areas with the message of this pamphlet, thereby beginning our work among this decisive section of American youth.

About a month later, the National Literature Department will have prepared a pamphlet on Youth and the Elections, by our National Executive Secretary, Carl Ross.

Timely and essential for building the democratic front in 1938, this pamphlet will sell for 3c or less, and must get into the hands of all of the leading forces in the democratic, trade union, and Youth Congress movements.

• **B**OURBON JUSTICE has spoken again in Alabama. Again it calls for the death of Clarence Norris. In a shameful verdict handed down by the Alabama Supreme Court, Clarence Norris, one of the remaining five Scottsboro boys, is sentenced to die August 1st. But just as the American people were able to snatch four of the framed youths from the shadow of the electric chair, they can and must free the remaining five. The decision of the Alabama court can be reversed. But only by an aroused public opinion asserting itself in their behalf. For seven years these boys have suffered incredible tortures and mistreatment at the hands of the prison authorities. The shooting of Ozzie Powell, beatings, constant threats of lynching, have haunted them daily. Now Alabama is prepared to revenge its defeat suffered when forced to free four of the boys.

Lynch justice in Alabama knows no bounds. Let an aroused public act at once to reverse this shameful verdict and wrest from the hands of the lynchers, Clarence Norris and the remaining boys. Telegrams and letters should be sent to Governor Bibb Graves demanding a stay of the death sentence. Funds should be sent at once to the Scottsboro Defense Committee at 112 East 19th St., New York City. Public meetings should be held throughout the country to protest the criminal decision of the Alabama reactionaries.

What is necessary is action and more action. Not a day, not a minute is to be lost. All of the boys must go free! That is the cry of all progressive America.



# Our Fourth of July

*The struggle for Democracy today, says the Michigan State Secretary of the YCL, is a natural stage in American Revolutionary tradition*

WHEN President Roosevelt reminded the Daughters of the American Revolution that their ancestors were revolutionists and immigrants, there was consternation among the "Daughters." Those who were horrified by this reminder find it much easier to trace their intellectual heritage to the Tories of '76, than to the men and women of the *revolution*.

The American Revolution was part of a world-wide series of social transformations. For hundreds of years the regimes of feudal Europe had been decaying. The power of the aristocratic landowners, who ruled as lords of their domains, was challenged. As trade and commerce grew, a new class of city dwellers, merchants and handicraftsmen, challenged the sway of the feudal nobility and the institutions which had kept them in power. After centuries of oppression, the farmers, artisans and traders rose up to free themselves from their rulers. This epoch of bourgeois revolutions cleared the way for the growth of commerce and industry. Under the pressure of the common people, these revolutions raised democratic slogans and demands.

## MERCANTILE CAPITALISM

Capitalism in its earliest phase was based mainly on the development of trade and commerce. At the time of the American Revolution, England had not yet gone through the industrial revolution which brought into existence the factory system. Contrary to the capitalism of the industrial epoch, merchant capitalism exercised the strictest controls over commerce and hated the latter-day slogan of the industrialists, "free trade." According to the economic philosophy of the merchant capitalists, "mercantilism," the wealth of a nation was measured by the amount of precious metals, gold and silver

that could be accumulated within the country. One way of accumulating such wealth was by selling more goods abroad than were bought. Colonies especially were looked upon as the sources for such accumulation.

Great Britain played an important role in founding the American colonies, but as time passed she began to hinder and prevent their independent growth. The causes of the American Revolution must be sought for in the growth of an independent economic system in America and the resulting conflict with Britain, who attempted to steer American economic life only along such paths as would benefit England. America had outgrown her relationship to Britain.

## COLONIAL EXPLOITERS

But the American Revolution was much more than a struggle between American merchants and planters against British merchant capitalists. The revolution was a struggle of masses of common people against their native oppressors. The revolution was made by the poor people; the small farmers, mechanics and tradesmen. Without the initiative and pressure of the toiling classes in the colonies, those merchants who smarted under the restrictions on American commerce would never have carried through the revolutionary measures which brought freedom and independence in their wake.

Our school books usually deplore the drastic measures of the Great French Revolution. The "historians" who adopt such a self-righteous attitude fail to see a striking similarity between the

French and American revolutions in this respect. They forget that there was a radical and conservative wing in our revolution too, and that it was the "radicals" who guaranteed victory. They forget that the American revolution was not merely a struggle against foreign oppressors but against American Tories.

By examining the course of the revolution in Pennsylvania, we can see how the internal colonial class struggle merged into the struggle for freedom from England. A prominent Pennsylvania Tory, Graydon, thought "it scarcely necessary to mention, that the spirit of liberty and resistance drew into its vortex the mechanical interest, as well as that numerous portion of the community in republics styled the People; in monarchies, the rabble or canaille." This same Tory referred to the revolutionary movement as "anarchy, since hallowed by the phrases of Equality and the Rights of Man."

## NATIVE TYRANNY

For the common people of Pennsylvania the revolution was a struggle not so much against "taxation without representation" practiced by the British parliament, as against the denial of representation in the Pennsylvania legislature which taxed the people. The Colonial Assembly in Pennsylvania was dominated by a small group of Eastern merchants and financiers. The people of the Western counties were denied their proper Representation in the Assembly, and the men of small means were forbidden the right to vote in the city of Philadelphia. Thus, long before 1776, a struggle raged between the

By JOE CLARK



Western farmers allied with Eastern mechanics and small traders against the wealthy Eastern merchants. A typical protest against tyranny in the colony itself appears in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* on September 27, 1770. Drawn up by a number of small tradesmen, the protest says:

"It has been customary for a certain company of leading men to nominate persons and settle the ticket for Assemblymen, commissioners, assessors, etc. without ever permitting the affirmative or negative vote of a mechanic to interfere . . . this we have tamely submitted to so long that those gentlemen make no scruples to say that the mechanics (though by far the most numerous, especially in this county) have no right to be consulted. . . .

"Let us reflect," they continue, "on the distress our parent country has brought not only upon herself, but on her American children through the same misconduct. It behooves us to be tenacious of such privileges, and by no means give up our liberties for the sake of a few smiles once a year."

#### REVOLUTIONARY ASSEMBLIES

Whereas the Virginia and Massachusetts Assemblies became actual organs of revolution because they were more democratic, and dominated by the radical wing, in Pennsylvania it was necessary to overthrow the Assembly in order to strike out along the revolutionary path. In this struggle against the aristocracy of wealth which dominated the Assembly, the common people created those revolutionary organizations and "illegal" instruments of government, which served a similar role in the struggle against the British.

Every popular and revolutionary movement requires leadership and organization. In uniting the colonies and organizing resistance, Samuel Adams, Thomas Paine and Thomas Jefferson played the leading part. They helped organize "Patriotic Clubs," "Sons of Liberty" and Committees of Correspondence, which carried out the gigantic task of unifying the diverse elements which opposed the British. In Pennsylvania, such organizations were formed to oppose their own Pennsylvania exploiters. The *Gazette* reports in an August issue, 1771, that "the

"I would join the D.A.R. . . .  
but I don't like the word 'Revolution' "



Gardner Rea, Courtesy *New Masses*

Patriotic Society" was formed, "in support of our just rights and liberties" and for "preventing any . . . practices to obstruct the freedom of voting." This revolutionary vanguard had the foresight to realize the link between their struggle against their American oppressors with the fight against England. They therefore resolved to "preserve our just rights and privileges to us and our posterity against every attempt to violate or infringe the same, either here or on the other side of the Atlantic."

#### TORY OPPOSITION

In the beginning, the rich merchants of Pennsylvania joined in the boycott of British goods as part of the struggle

against the restrictions on American commerce. But these same merchants were the first to renege on the non-importation agreements. The mechanics and farmers and their organizations were left to continue that agitation. In the critical days of '76 the rich and the conservatives fought tooth and nail against putting Pennsylvania on the side of independence. Analyzing the reasons for this opposition, "A Tradesman" says in the *Evening Post* of April 30, 1776, that "they (the rich) get all the profit and will soon reduce and control the people as the East India Company controls the Bengal." This same writer also quotes the conservatives to the effect that "they have



openly said they would fight rather than agree to independence, and that the Patriots of the State ought not to complain if they are finally hung."

The control of government in Pennsylvania by the reactionary Assembly was at last broken when the revolutionary Committees and Societies were finally successful in calling a Constitutional Assembly which adopted a democratic constitution and set up a legislature dominated by the democratic wing. Illegality? Usurpation? What was the answer of the revolutionists to the charges of the Tories? The present gov-

"On my right hand were ranged all the people of property . . . and on the other all the tradesmen, etc. who thought it worth their while to leave daily labor for the good of the country. The mob begins to think and reason. The gentry begin to fear this. . . . I see, and I see it with fear and trembling, that if the disputes with Britain continue, we shall be under the worst possible dominion. We shall be under the domination of the mob."

Another aspect of the first American revolution, which present-day Tories wish to forget, is the development of

"At a time when our lordly masters in Great Britain will be satisfied with nothing less than the deprivation of American freedom, it seem highly necessary that something should be done to avert the stroke, and maintain the liberty which we have derived from our ancestors. . . . That no man should scruple, or hesitate a moment, to use arms in defence of so valuable a blessing, is clearly my opinion."

A number of historians have discussed the role of that one-fifth, possibly more, of the American population which sided with the British. But few historians have traced the full record of those spies and agents of the British who often wormed their way into high positions in the American government and army. The foreign service of revolutionary America was shot through with such spies and traitors. Just as agents of the fascist powers today try to place their creatures in the diplomatic and foreign service of the democratic governments, so did Britain during the American revolution. On March 3, 1776, the Continental Congress set up a Committee for Secret Correspondence, and appointed Silas Deane as its representative. He was to go to Paris in order to secure arms and supplies for the revolution. In his instructions to Deane, Benjamin Franklin (whose brilliant work in securing the aid of France for the American revolution was a key factor in bringing victory to the Americans) told him to "procure a meeting with Mr. Bancroft in Paris." Bancroft was supposed to act as the Paris and London contact for the American mission. Throughout the long negotiations, Bancroft was turning over all information he secured to the British whose spy he was. However, to make his position seem authentic, Bancroft went to the length of having himself arrested in London as a sympathizer with the Americans. Silas Deane immediately wrote to the American Secret Committee of Correspondence, informing them that "this worthy man is confined in the Bastille of England . . . I feel more for Dr. Bancroft than I can express—he deserves much from us." And all the time, this "worthy man" was keeping the British government informed of every move made by the Americans to



Washington at Valley Forge

ernment, they said, "is not competent to the exigencies of our affairs," and they assembled for "the purpose of forming a new government in the province on the authority of the people only." For helping the Pennsylvanians against England, the Tories threatened to assassinate Samuel Adams. They accused him of "interfering" with Pennsylvania affairs, and called him an outside meddler, much in the language used by Hague of Jersey City today.

#### "MOB DOMINATION"

The State of New York also offers a fruitful field of research, showing how the class struggle within New York was transformed into international terms in the war against England. A conflict between the radical and conservative wings came to the fore even in the elections for the Committee of Correspondence in New York City in 1774. Describing an election meeting for this Committee, Gouverneur Morris wrote:

the idea of the right to revolution, and the democratic functions of government. Drawing upon the works of the revolutionary thinkers of England and France, especially Locke and Montesquieu, Thomas Jefferson and others developed the theory that governments are established among men to protect certain "natural" rights. In the words of the Declaration of Independence, "all men are created free and equal" and governments have the object of insuring "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" to all. Whenever any government ceases to serve the people in that way, it is the right of the people "to alter or to abolish" such government, to "throw off" the oppressors and establish new guarantees for the peoples' safety and happiness. Writing long before the revolution, April 5, 1769 (letter to George Mason), George Washington defends this revolutionary viewpoint in the following words:



solicit French support. The remarkable sequel to this story is that in 1780, the trusted American agent, Silas Deane, himself turned traitor and fled to the Netherlands. Appropriately enough, he became a close friend of Benedict Arnold, the Trotsky of the American revolution.

The harsh measures necessary to defeat the conspiracies of spies, traitors and Tories can be seen in this typical edict of the revolutionary government of New Jersey during the war: "Whereas divers persons, subjects of this State, have in a traitorous manner joined or taken refuge with the army of Great Britain . . . be it enacted by the council and general assembly of the State . . . that each and every subject of this State . . . who has aided or assisted the enemies thereof, or who has voluntarily gone to, taken refuge or continued with or endeavored to continue with the enemy . . . shall be and is hereby declared to be guilty of high treason against this State, and being thereof legally convicted shall suffer death without benefit of clergy."

Samuel Adams, ever vigilant against traitors, continually aroused the revolutionists to firm measures to weed out treason and betrayal. In a letter to James Warren, February 16, 1777, he warns that "Boston has its full share" of Tories, and "yet I do not hear that measures have been taken to suppress them. . . . Can a man take fire into his bosom and not be burned? Your Massachusetts Tories communicate with the enemy in Britain as well as in New York. I am told they socially enjoyed the success of Howe's forces in Jersey before it happened. Indeed, my friend, if measures are not soon taken, and the most vigorous ones, to root out these pernicious weeds, it will be in vain for America to persevere in this glorious struggle for the public liberty."

History is a weapon of struggle. Bringing to light the traditions of revolutionary America exposes present-day Tories. In 1776 our forefathers united against reaction and defeated it. Today their descendants are uniting against a new form of reaction. The struggle for democracy today is a natural stage in the great American revolutionary tradition.

# SCIENCE AND CAPITALISM

## *The Battle for Reason*

**By Francis Franklin**

*(The second of a series of articles on the development of modern science and its relation to the social order, written by members of the Editorial Board)*

**C**APITALISTS are by nature worldly-minded. All their wealth comes from sailing the seas, searching the entire surface of the globe, digging into the bowels of the earth, moulding ore into strange mechanical monsters, transforming materials gathered from all corners of the world into every conceivable kind of article.

The feudal aristocrats did not like the earthy-mindedness of the rising capitalists. They feared that the capitalists would wrest all wealth and power from them. This searching into the secrets of the earth too frequently proved that the theories by means of which feudalism maintained its sway over the minds of the masses were false and absurd. The feudal theologians, therefore, condemned as evil all efforts to explore the mysteries of nature. "Delve not into the mysteries of the Most High." "Lean not upon thy own understanding." Such were favorite admonitions. The natural scientist was looked upon as a blasphemous agent of Satan. Had not Adam been driven from Eden for eating of the Tree of Knowledge? A stigma was put upon all healthy interest in the material world. The familiar world of matter was branded as crude and base. Only the ignoble, lacking in all finer sensibilities, would give a thought to anything so crass. Men of fine soul would turn to "higher things."

### SCIENCE VERSUS DOGMA

Science and Black Magic were practically the same. It was only through the aid of the imps of hell that

scientists could make their discoveries. Such men were one with witches and other evil spirits. When a discovery of science contradicted a "truth" taught by the priests, it mattered not how undeniable was the evidence of the scientific discovery. That evidence was put there by Satan to test the faith of believers. Faith was the highest virtue—even in the face of the obvious. In fact, it was better to have faith in what seemed absurd, for such faith was more difficult. Had it not been said by the Saint, "I believe *because* it is absurd"? Therefore, anyone setting forth a scientific discovery in defiance of an existing doctrine of the church was an agent of the devil, seeking to drag mankind into hell, and no punishment—slow burning or any other torture—was too severe for him.

Men in all ages have sought to understand the world. Wonder and desire for knowledge are as much a part of human life as our hands and brains, which distinguish us physically from the lower animals. A certain amount of knowledge is necessary for the production of our daily needs. But it is only after the slow accumulation of knowledge that it can be systematized and thus put into scientific form. The most primitive tribes possess some elements of scientific knowledge, but it is not until the development of relatively high civilizations that thinkers begin to arrange it systematically.

### ANCIENT PRIESTHOODS

The priests of ancient India, Babylon and Egypt began to systematize their knowledge of mathematics and the movements of the stars. But at the same time, they ruled by means of superstition, and likewise systematized their superstitious doctrines, so that science and superstition were developed simultaneously and intertwined the one with the other. These priests sought to keep all science within their own hands, so that society would depend upon them for control of floods, the development



of agriculture, the construction of great buildings. They also feared that if others developed science, the superstitious doctrines through which they maintained their power over the minds of men would be destroyed. Science was thus the private property of the priestly class.

It was not until the first appearance of merchant capitalism in ancient Greece that science began to be developed independently. There was no empire in ancient Greece comparable to those of Babylon or Egypt. No vast unified religion such as that of India or these oriental empires had arisen in the Grecian city-states. There was thus no vast all-powerful class of priests. Feudal chieftains ruled in most Greek cities when their earliest written history commences. But there soon arose a class of merchants who began to carry on a thriving commerce along the shores of the Mediterranean. During the five or six centuries before the Christian era, these merchant capitalists carried out a whole series of revolutions against the feudal chieftains, and established democratic republics, in which freedom was limited to the wealthy, who employed slaves, but who sold the products of their slave-labor as merchant capitalists, even as did the landlords of the plantation South before the Civil War. These were turbulent years of plots, intrigues, and rapidly succeeding revolutions and counter-revolutions.

#### MERCHANT CAPITALISM

In the midst of these battles, the merchant capitalists needed knowledge of mathematics and physics for purposes of navigation and warfare. Thus mathematics was developed to systematize the hurling of projectiles and the construction of military fortifications, ships and buildings. There arose the great mathematician, Euclid; the great physicist, Archimedes; the great physician Hippocrates. Aristotle, "the most encyclopaedic intellect of all antiquity," as Marx called him, began to develop biology and psychology, and to systematize various sciences. Especially did he develop logic and scientific method. These thinkers liberated themselves from the crude superstitions of

the priests, upon which they heaped the greatest ridicule.

The science of Greece was taken over by the Romans, and Roman philosophers also devoted themselves to scientific pursuits. But when Rome conquered all the known Western world, she was unable to impose capitalist productive relations on this vast territory. The means of production had not been developed sufficiently. Capitalism was still merchant capitalism. Nothing like the Industrial Revolution of our own era had begun.

In Italy itself, the slave-owning planters wore out the soil even as did our Southern planters. Slave-labor became unprofitable, and the slaves were converted into serfs, so that on their own little plots of land they could raise their own food and thus not be dependent on the landlords. Thus feudalism arose in Italy on the ruins of the slave plantations. In the barbarian North, the Roman conquerors likewise developed feudal relations. The first appearance of capitalism on the shores of the Mediterranean became a mere memory.

#### EARLY CHRISTIANITY

After numerous rebellions on the part of the slaves and oppressed masses of the Roman Empire had been crushed, the toiling classes began to flock to the new Christian religion, which damned the wealthy and powerful as evil and which extolled the poor and oppressed as righteous, as those who would see the kingdom of God. Christianity swept throughout the entire Roman Empire as a vast movement of passive resistance. Its symbol was that of the cross, upon which rebellious slaves had traditionally been crucified. Its earliest converts "left the world," pooled all their goods, and established little communistic communities, in which all men lived together as brothers, sharing all thing in common. Through these communities, Christianity sought to bring about the Kingdom of God on earth.

At first, the rulers sought to crush this new religion of the toiling masses with frantic persecution. Thousands upon thousands of Christians were thrown to the lions, burned at the stake or forced to take refuge in the gloomy catacombs. But these early

Christians went to the stake or the lions refusing to renounce their faith. Rather than betray their religion, many of them had their tongues pulled out or their eyes gouged out. But their movement could not be crushed.

#### BORING FROM WITHIN

Upon realizing the impossibility of destroying this movement of the poor, the wealthy rulers adopted other tactics. Becoming "converted" themselves, they "bored from within," captured the movement, obtained leading positions in the church, and created a new state-church, with bishops and priests completely subservient to the rule of Rome. The power of Rome had long felt a need for a universal religion as a means of dominating the minds of its subjects. The newly-formed Catholic Church gave it just the instrument it needed. The church continued to make use of the teachings of Jesus, but gave them a new emphasis. It continued to assert that it was the poor and oppressed who were good, but stressed that they were good *because* they submitted to their oppression. If they did not resist, then they would receive their reward after death. But if they rebelled against their exploiters, then they would inherit eternal damnation. In this way, the rulers of Rome converted the gentle religion of Jesus into a new instrument of domination over the poor. The new ruling-class church, following the path of the hierarchies of ancient empires, developed in its own turn an intricate system of theology, through which the feudal landlords maintained their rule over the minds of the masses until the rise of modern capitalism. The Church ignored or kept hidden the natural sciences which had begun to be developed in the ancient world.

#### RENAISSANCE

When the modern capitalists began in their turn to study this material earth, they found standing as a bulwark against the development of natural science the whole power of the Medieval Church. Throughout the Middle Ages, lonely individual thinkers had sought to develop science. But they had been crushed by the might of the universal church, and there was no





Galileo Faces the Inquisition

class to give them aid. However, when merchant capitalists began to thrive and dream of greater wealth and power in the cities of Europe following the thirteenth century, such lonely seekers for knowledge began to find a class whose economic interests demanded just such probing into the mysteries of the earth. In other words, the thinkers found support in their search for knowledge of the material earth.

The first step in the development of modern natural science consisted in uncovering and bringing to light again the science of ancient Greece. This was the glorious Renaissance (or re-birth) of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. In the words of Engels, it was "an age which required giants and produced giants"—Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Copernicus, Kepler; men who were geniuses in every field, the arts, literature, science, philosophy and practical life. Copernicus, Kepler and Galileo picked up the science of mechanics where it had been left by Archimedes of ancient Greece, and thus laid the basis for modern physics and modern astronomy. Their theories concerning the laws of motion were later systematized by the genius of Sir Isaac Newton.

This early development of physics in

modern history played the same role as in Greece. The rising merchants were then storming the citadels of the city-aristocracies and forming bourgeois republics in the Italian city-states. They required a science of motion in order to manipulate their catapults and early cannons. They required astronomy to sail the seas. They needed geology to obtain ore. Many of the early scientists were also military strategists, builders of fortifications. The discovery of gunpowder and the compass gave the whole bid for power on the part of the merchants great impetus. It was the age of explorers in search of new trade routes. In their explorations, they uncovered new continents, discovered the shape of the earth, and laid the basis for a sounder approach to the whole study of the planet on which we live.

Because the new truths discovered contradicted the doctrines of the church, the latter opposed the development of science with persecution no less cruel than was used against the early Christians. Because of this, and because the doctrines of the contemporary church favored feudal rule as opposed to bourgeois power, science was frequently developed as a conscious fight against the doctrines of the Medieval Church.

The bourgeois revolutions, at first mere seizures of power in city-states, became national in scope. With the Protestant Reformation, all Northern Europe severed its connection with the universal feudal church, and new state-churches, dominated by the rising capitalist classes, were established. There followed the Cromwellian Revolution in England in 1648, and then the Great French Revolution of 1789.

## MATERIALISM

As capitalism developed, the theoreticians of the bourgeois revolution became bolder. Many of the revolutionary thinkers of the eighteenth century discarded all religion and boldly proclaimed themselves materialists.

However, once the capitalists were safely in the saddle, they found that, while they still needed science for the development of industry and commerce, they also needed state churches and doctrines of superstition of their own as means of maintaining their sway over the minds of the people. Thus, after the French Revolution, the bourgeois thinkers for the most part ceased to be materialistic and became frank supporters of religion—not as conceived by Jesus, but as conceived by the new exploiting class of capitalists. However, they had already destroyed the one universal church. There were now innumerable sects and denominations, and many were outside the fold of any church. Furthermore, the seeds of doubt had been scattered widely and could never be recalled.

There was one glaring weakness in the development of science under rising capitalism. The early scientists had studied the physical earth, thus giving aid to mining, navigation, and manufacture. They began the development of biology, and therein aided agriculture and medicine. But the vast realm of human society remained largely outside the bounds of scientific investigation. Within this realm, it was still possible for doctrines of the wildest superstition to flourish luxuriously. The reasons for this metaphysical approach to the enormous field of sociology we shall analyze in the next article of this series.



# In Memory of Irving Keith

*A YCL leader who died on  
the battlefields in Spain*

IT'S a long road from a tenement in the Bronx to the battle fields of Spain. Irving Keith traveled that road, followed all its bypaths, and it was the natural path for him. He was more at home on the unblazed trail than on the broad highway. He never knew ease, rest or comfort, but he knew deep satisfaction and the weariness that comes with hard toil.

His father died when he was a kid. A worker doesn't save very much so Irv's mother went back to the shops, and Irv went into a Hebrew Orphanage.

Only a youngster, he was forced to find a job in a familiar neighborhood, the garment section of New York. He carried heavy bundles through the streets. He shoved a truck loaded with dresses through traffic and up steep inclines. In the summer he tore the sleeves off his shirt. In winter he wore a light sweater. The freight elevator, the back entrance, the crowded subway, were Irv's home. His hands were hard from the friction of rough twine.

## LEAGUE BUILDER

When he lost his job, he didn't loaf. He kept on the move. From city to city he traveled, often tired, always hungry. At length he found another job. A steel mill in Baltimore.

Irv's background among class-conscious garment workers had not faded from memory. He was already a member of the Young Communist League. Now he organized a branch of the League in the steel mill. Irv knew how to organize. He built to last. The YCL needed him. He was asked to give up his job to accept the uncertain and hazardous life of a YCL organizer. He accepted without question.

As District Organizer of Boston, Irv continued along the rocky path he had chosen. He suffered hardship and imprisonment and then went back to work more determined than ever. There's a powerful Textile Workers Union in Massachusetts now. It didn't grow from barren soil. The earth had already been spaded and prepared by Irv Keith. Irv knew how to plant.

## IN THE USSR

Irv did finish his academic studies. But not in America. He was sent to the Soviet Union, and worked and studied there for eighteen months. Now he knew not only what he was fighting against, but what he was fighting for.

Irv lived a life of peril, unrest and satisfaction. He was shifted about from one danger spot to another. He was District Organizer of the League in

Philadelphia, and earned the love and respect of all with whom he worked.

In Detroit he threw his energies into building an American Youth Congress.

In the Pittsburgh area, Irv was made section organizer of Kensington, a steel town. He knew his job. Again he built the League. Again he broke ground for the CIO, in its mighty drive to organize steel.

When the war broke out in Spain, Irv was working with the New York County of the Young Communist League. He knew he faced his toughest assignment. But he didn't wait for anyone to ask. He volunteered. He had spent his short lifetime fighting reaction in America. Now the road led to Spain but Irv's feet did not falter.

## BEHIND THE LINES

Irv was a gifted teacher. Long years of dealing with young men had taught him infinite patience, tact and wisdom. In Spain, they didn't send Irv to the front. They stationed him behind the lines to train the men who were to go to the front. Irv did his work and did it well. But in his letters home, he complained (the only complaint he ever made) that each time the boys left for the front, he felt as though he belonged with them. "The front seems like home," he wrote.

At last, on March 15, 1938, Irv Keith was given his chance. On that day he left for the front.

He didn't come back.

He lies somewhere out in Spain, in the good company of Comrade Dave and the other American men who gave their lives to make things a little easier, a little happier, for people they had never seen, to make Spain a "tomb for world fascism."

Irv Keith is home.





# Recent Trends Among Negro Youth

*Reviewing some of the most recent developments among Negro young people all over the United States*

By CLAUDIA JONES

FROM the heart of the Southland to the industrial North, from the sunny shores of California to the rocky coast of Maine, conferences of Negro youth are signs of the times. Negro youth are coming together to discuss their common problems and find solutions as never before.

Significantly, these conferences are not only *forums* of youth, but *spokesmen* for Negro youth. These youth come together not only for "council" but "action" as well. It is especially necessary therefore, to appraise these movements carefully, for they are but a reflection of the strong progressive currents among the whole Negro people.

The National Negro Congress has been in the forefront of the struggle to unify the Negro people for their democratic rights. During the past year, in its local councils, the Congress has more than often initiated and taken part in community movements for jobs, relief and all the other local needs. And the youth divisions of the Congress have played an important part in rallying the youth in these struggles.

## PICKET LINES

But the activities of the Negro people are taking form and shape today in a different manner than heretofore. During the lowest point of the economic crisis, in 1933, in all of the Negro communities, picket lines were thrown around the local businesses, directed mainly against white people in the community, demanding jobs for Negroes.

Today, we are entering a new economic crisis and the picket lines are forming again in Negro communities. But this time, they are directed against Big Business, particularly, the utilities.

The outstanding example of this is the Greater New York Co-ordinating Committee for Employment in Harlem, which has initiated a Job Campaign that rallies hundreds of Negro people

in Harlem in a fight against the utilities. Interesting methods of struggle are being evolved. For example, the entire community goes down to the utilities office together for the paying of bills. Before dialing a call, all telephone users call central operator first. Daily picket lines are thrown around the utilities local offices in Harlem. The Job Campaign Committee is getting results, uniting the people in a struggle which the progressive movement can well support.

## JOBS FOR NEGROES

Similar developments can be noted in other Negro communities. In Newark, N. J., the campaign to secure jobs for Negro salesmen and shop girls in the local F. & W. Grand store is recognized today as the mainstream of the progressive Negro movement. Similar developments can be observed in Brooklyn, N. Y. where during the past year, the Citizens Civic Affairs Committee, representing the major organizations in the Negro community conducted a campaign for jobs in the local theatres, threw picket lines around the utilities buildings, and were able to secure jobs for the Negro young people.

Significantly enough, even the reactionary mouthpieces of big capital take note of the developing unity among the Negro people. An example of this is seen in the article, "Black Omens" by Stanley High which appeared in the March 21st issue of the *Saturday Evening Post*. High declares that while no one knows where the Negroes of the North are going, it is certain "they are going there together." The main purpose of the article was to reveal the growing progressive outlook of the Negro people in every field of endeavor,

in every sphere of their existence. Today the Negro people have new heroes to worship and now more than ever these heroes are trade unionists, and progressive clergymen.

These trends among the Negro people as a whole today, are reflected among the Negro young people of America. Let us review a few of these conferences, their composition, their themes, their decisions.

Last fall, in Illinois, we saw the establishment of a broad, progressive movement, uniting all strata of Negro youth around their elementary demands: for jobs, educational opportunity, security, improved health facilities, against discrimination. This conference was called at the initiative of the National Negro Congress youth division in that state. This movement involved the major organizations among the Negro youth of Illinois: religious, fraternal, student, social and political. Seeking not new frontiers, but new methods of uniting the youth to achieve their ideals, the Conference called for "Chicago's youth to re-awaken the spirit of 'old Chicago'." They established a permanent movement now symbolized in the Illinois State Youth Congress.

## MISSOURI CONFERENCE

Further southwest, in the brewery city of St. Louis, Missouri, we find development of this same kind. There the St. Louis Youth Conference April 29-May 1st, resulted, attended by approximately 100 delegates, representing 47 organizations, with a total membership of 2,500 youth. These young people deliberated for three days on all questions facing the Negro people—and youth in particular. One of the things



which created the most interest in the conference was a symposium led by the dean of the church cathedral in which the conference was held, who spoke on "If I were a Negro" with a young person taking the counterpoint, "If I were White." Thus brought out in a dramatic fashion the reality of what life is like for the Negro.

#### ST. LOUIS FEDERATION

Equally important to note is that in all these conferences, there is a general acceptance for white delegates and the feeling for further cooperation with white groups on specific questions. This, in itself, is a significant sign that Negro youth are aware of the need for more and more cooperation with other groups in order to broaden out their own movement for unity; in order to establish their proper relation to America's young people as a whole.

Labor and local church representation were also at this conference which established the St. Louis Youth Federation. Among its purposes, it wishes "to institute an educational campaign to educate the youth in intelligent usage of the ballot . . . that the Federation shall attempt to register all youth of whom the Federation can and will influence."

While the Federation is non-partisan, it is not necessarily non-political and is free to endorse and support candidates who deserve youth support by their actions and past records.

The outstanding development among the Negro youth is the Southern Negro Youth Congress which convened for the second time on the edge of the deep South in Chattanooga, Tennessee, April 1-3. This movement, speaking for 383,000 organized Southern young people, primarily of Negro youth, represents the growing unity among the Negro youth of the south to solve their manifold problems.

The answer to "Why a Southern Negro Youth Congress" is the answer also as to why on a local scale many Negro youth today are coming together to "council and to action."

Edward E. Strong, National Executive Secretary of the Congress explains its purpose. In his annual report he declares:

"We wanted a vehicle of cooperation

for Southern youth. This special instrument was needed because Southern young people face special problems, problems which arise out of the historical development of our nation. The peculiar feudal economy of the South was emphasized by President Roosevelt in his Gainesville, Georgia address of March 23rd. Only to the extent that there are sectional problems in the South, may it be said that the Congress is a sectional institution. Fundamentally, our horizon is as broad as all humanity."

The keynote of the conference was citizenship. Showing that it recognized the trends in the country, the powerful currents of progress stirring the American people, the Conference hails the fact, "that this powerful sentiment on the part of America to move forward the frontier of democracy is now entering our Southland."

The Conference resolved to "organize poll tax paying clubs . . . and registration centers in every neighborhood," thus assuring the maximum vote polled under existing conditions and helping to defeat poll tax disfranchisement, corrupt and anti-suffrage laws.

It was around such practical questions that the young people formulated a program of action for the coming year.

The Southern Negro Youth Congress expresses the social, economic and cultural desires, not alone of the Negro youth of the Southland, but of the entire Southern people, Negro and white. In every panel, the discussions and resolutions passed by the Conference were not alone concerned with problems facing the youth, but the adult Southern people as well.

#### IN HARLEM

In the largest Negro community in the world, in Harlem, too, young people are coming together to make their efforts more effective. On May 13-14, the first All-Harlem Youth Conference was held, representing approximately 200,000 youth from 102 organizations of every type of youth group in the Harlem area. Attended by 211 delegates, the main purpose of the conference was to evolve a program for cooperation and coordination of youth

activities, for the creation of a better, more wholesome community life.

It is important to record the participation of the young people in the panel discussion groups, since this indicates the major trends among the Negro youth today.

The overwhelming majority of the delegates to the All-Harlem Youth Conference attended the job security panel. "Jobs" is the burning issue before all young people today, especially Negro young people and a struggle must be carried on to win jobs for the Negro youth, if we would win them to the progressive movement.

#### RESOLUTIONS

The Conference went on record endorsing the President's Recovery Program and urged the NYA, WPA and CCC appropriations be increased. While the Conference delegates came overwhelmingly from religious organizations, the orientation was toward economic betterment and security.

The Conference rejected the idea that citizenship means formal citizenship or citizenship by birth alone. Citizenship was defined as the devotion to those ideals of democracy on which our country was founded and by which we hope to attain a better life for all the people.

Resolutions were passed endorsing numerous progressive proposals on education, against discrimination in all fields, for support and joint action of those organizations working for adequate and just employment of Negroes in Harlem, for support of the efforts now being made within the AFL and the CIO for a unified labor movement. The Conference condemned the policies of those public utilities and private corporations which discriminate against the Negro in employment. They went on record, endorsing the O'Connell Amendment to the Neutrality Act, to lift the embargo on Spain.

A permanent committee for the Coordination of youth action in Harlem was established. The committee represents a cross-section of youth organizations, and it is assured that the expression of all points of view and coordination of efforts of all of Harlem's youth will result.

These are some of the main confer-



ences that have been held within the last year or so among the Negro youth. But these development are not limited alone to Chicago, New York, St. Louis, or the South.

In Boston, a Negro youth parley was welded around planks already mentioned. In Southern California, Negro youth are coming together in an effort to unite the Negro youth on the coast. In Washington, D. C. a national conference on the Problems of the Negro and Negro Youth, was held on January, 6 - 8.

The Washington Conference was restricted however, "to formulating objectives which can be accomplished in whole or in part by action of the executive and legislative branches of the Government." It requested "that the Federal Government as guardian and protector of all the people take the lead and set the example by abolishing racial segregation in all of its departments, divisions, and branches. . . . Meanwhile, wherever racial segregation exists at present under authority of law" the conference asked "assistance of the Federal Government in obtaining for Negro citizens equality of opportunity with other citizens of the United States."

#### NEW DEVELOPMENTS

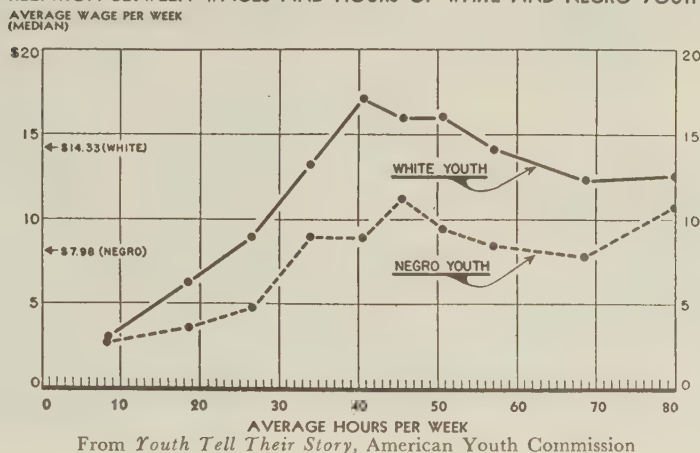
What conclusions can we draw from these developments among the Negro youth? What do they show?

These movements have three things in common. The movement for the right to vote—the most elementary right of citizenship is an inherent part of all the movements, but is especially symbolized in the Southern Negro Youth Congress. It shows that Negro youth are more politically-minded than they were two years ago. Negro youth are standing up and fighting for their right to live today, for full citizenship rights, as never before.

Secondly, this movement of Negro youth for democracy embraces the fight for economic security, for jobs and against discrimination.

Thirdly, we see the orientation of all the Negro youth towards culture, "youth's common heritage." This is a medium that will bring rich rewards to the Negro youth movement, since the glorious traditions of the Negro people

#### RELATION BETWEEN WAGES AND HOURS OF WHITE AND NEGRO YOUTH



are evident, not alone in the field of song and dance, but in folk art, folk lore, and other cultural fields.

If we take all these movements and analyze them carefully, we see that today on a national scale, that Negro youth are moving in the direction of a unified national movement. While it is true that they have not yet been brought together, we see a developing movement for national unification among them.

Is it not possible, therefore, to call together these and other movements to really form a united front of the Negro youth of America? The similarity of purpose and aim of these movements certainly gives them this possibility.

Moreover, because of this broad movement for democracy on the part of the Negro youth, to make wide gains among them and win them for our YCL is now possible.

In our united front activity, we always are able to contact and work with the progressive and active young people in the progressive youth organizations. But we do not go far enough. Our failure to recruit our progressive and active contacts into the YCL is more than often the case. We are known among the young people in our community as the most advanced youth organization, fighting for full equality for Negro youth. Why do we not begin to utilize this fact, to recruit the Negro youth we work with?

The coming 1938 elections, of major importance for all progressives of America, is doubly important to Negro youth. We will witness, as never be-

fore, the coming forward of Negro youth organizations to demand that special planks be placed in the election platforms to benefit them. Job security, full citizenship rights for Negro youth, must be fought for as vigorously as all other planks in the youth election programs.

#### DEMOCRATIC FRONT

We know that full citizenship rights are impossible for all the people if one section of the people are oppressed. The rich traditions of the Negro people, in building America to what it is today, the best traditions of Negro culture, their folk art and heroic struggles for emancipation, should be familiar to every YCL'er and progressive person.

It is our task to help this Negro youth movement to achieve the ideals that they cherish. That is why it is necessary that white youth become informed of the struggles of the Negro youth in order to make for the closest cooperation between Negro and white youth organizations.

No longer do Negro youth accept the position as step-children of this rich, resourceful nation. To the extent that we bring into our organization such people, to that extent will we be able to rally the Negro youth for continued progressive action.

These movements of the Negro youth, with their advanced programs for citizenship, the right to vote, abolition of poll tax laws, for job security, for peace, puts them in line with the developing Democratic Front.



# WHY SPAIN WILL WIN!

*A National Council member just returned from the Spanish battlefield sees no grounds for pessimism, calls for more help to Loyalist Spain*

By JOHN LITTLE

**T**HROUGH the medium of the *Young Communist Review* I want to convey the warmest greetings from the American volunteers fighting in Spain and of the heroic Spanish people to the members of the YCL, progressives and anti-fascists who are aiding democracy.

I want to extend their profoundest appreciation for the work that our League and the American people have been conducting in their behalf. They look forward to even greater aid—for the lifting of the embargo, which would enable them to surpass the present arms superiority of the fascist invaders.

For anyone that spends some time in Loyalist Spain, sharing with the Spanish people their difficulties and sufferings, two features strike a vivid and lasting impression. The first one is the solid unity that binds the Spanish people—a unity in action that has been forged during the

many crucial moments, amidst the most brutal and barbaric fascist onslaughts that humanity has ever witnessed.

Lack of unity at the beginning of the war caused considerable harm and even unnecessary loss of territory. But since then the Spanish people have come a long way in drawing the necessary conclusions; so much so, that today they stand before the invading fascist armies as a solid mass, a single will. The fruits of this unity can be seen especially within the trade union movement. The closest working agreements have been developed between the CNT and the UGT on all major problems. Republicans, Anarchists, Socialists and Communists today stand united within the trade unions, as well as in the People's Front movement, with the utmost confidence that victory rests with them. United they fight for one goal—victory.

## FRUITS OF UNITY

The second outstanding feature of the present situation is the development of the Spanish popular army and its unified command. Whereas previously the Loyalist forces consisted mainly of volunteers, directed by their own organizations without a general plan of action and without coordination, today there exists a unified trained and steeled army, numbering over one-half million men, and with the capacity of increasing its size to more than one million whenever necessary.

Under the previous conditions, with their devotion, courage and high morale, the Spanish people were able to withstand the highly mechanized army of the fascist invaders and today with the same enthusiasm and political consciousness, plus a popular army and unified command, providing for more effective resistance to the fascist offensive, they have the deepest assurance of ultimately driving Fascism out of Spain.

Wherever one goes, among the soldiers, the peasants, the workers and especially among the war-torn civilian population of the cities, constantly under the cruelest bombardments, one witnesses the highest morale and the best spirit. Nowhere does one encounter false optimism; but neither is there doubt, hesitation or pessimism. They are fully conscious of what is happening and likewise fully conscious of the ultimate outcome.

## REPERCUSSIONS OF PESSIMISM

The defeatist and the pessimist campaign regarding the present Loyalist situation, developed directly or indirectly by the enemies of Republican Spain, has found echo in

## YOU CAN HELP THE BOYS IN SPAIN!

**Here are some of the things they need and want!**

Army shoes, pants, underwear, shorts, light-woolen socks, gun-cleaning kits, pocket knives, flashlights and bulbs, Ingersoll non-radium dial wristwatches, chocolates, and equally as important as all the rest: cigarettes and tobacco

**WHY NOT DO THIS TODAY?  
WHY NOT HELP NOW?**

Send all tobacco through the

FRIENDS OF THE  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE  
125 West 45th Street, N. Y. C.

Everything else:

Name of Volunteer .....

Address: FRIENDS OF THE  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE  
c/o Comite International D'Aide de Peuple Espagnol  
#1 Cite Paradis, Paris, France



America. Many newspapers are prophesying that the war in Spain is coming to an end. This defeatist campaign has its repercussions even among many sincere friends of Spain. The chief argument presented by the fascists and reactionary spokesmen is that the wedge driven to the sea marks the beginning of the end. Spain is divided in two and the collapse of the Spanish government is only a matter of time, they reason. This is essentially a pro-Franco argument and is purposely used to disarm the supporters of the Loyalist government.



From left to right: JOHN GATES, BOB THOMPSON, AND DAVE DORAN

No one denies that the recent military advances of the fascists, their wedge to the sea, have caused inconveniences and added difficulties for the government. Nevertheless it is completely false to conclude from this, without taking into account surrounding factors, that the government is in a desperate situation. During the history of this war the government has surpassed and overcome many more really critical periods, as for example in the defense of Madrid, when the fascists were at its gates.

Today the government has the greatest advantage since the war began, since it can rely upon the complete support of the people, its unified army under competent military leadership, and a rearguard and armed staff, cleansed of traitors, cowards and of Trotskyite-Franco agents. The government is now building and perfecting its war industry in order to be adequately supplied and able to match the arms superiority of the enemy. These prerequisites are more essential in deciding the final outcome of the war than the momentary arms superiority of the enemy and its recent advances.

#### FASCIST OFFENSIVE STALLED

The recent major offensive on the Aragon front, hailed and ballyhooed by the fascists as an outstanding victory by Franco, failed to accomplish its purpose. The military objective of the fascists was to end the war by quickly reaching Barcelona and Valencia. They were stopped long before they came anywhere near this goal. Immediately after, in order to appease his desperate followers and masters, Franco declared that his objectives "were not to conquer the big cities until the Fall, due to the acute shortage of food." (Sic) Upon the heels of this statement he again appealed to Fascist Italy and Germany, requesting more ammunitions, more planes and troops, in order to carry on his offensive. The rising tide on the side of the Loyalist government throughout the democratic world, on one hand, and on the other, the fact that both Italian and German fascism are encountering great and greater difficulties supplying troops and materials, demanded from their point

of view, a speedy conclusion of the war.

At the outbreak of the war, instigated and plotted in Rome and Berlin, it was their belief that Spain could be conquered with relative ease and swiftness. Events have proven otherwise. This explains their desperate efforts to become quickly "masters of the Spanish Republic."

The cutting of the Barcelona-Valencia highway has created some additional, but not basic hardships for the government. The idea that the Southern sector of Spain can now readily be starved into submission also does not correspond to reality. The facts are that all military supplies, ammunitions, tanks, food, and man power continue to go to the southern sector, and communications are functioning as they did normally. The government is so aware of these problems and so carefully prepared to face them, that one is proud to state that heroic Madrid is ready to withstand a seven month siege without receiving any supplies if the necessity should ever arise. Since the cutting of the road in April, the fascists have not made any appreciable advances, despite all their desperate and barbaric efforts. The government resistance was so effective on the Aragon front, that they were compelled to shift their offensive from Catalonia to the southern sector, towards Valencia. The recent capture of Castellon de la Plana was the net outcome of an intensive drive since the middle of April. It has cost them millions of dollars and tens of thousands of men.

#### TO RESIST IS TO WIN

The government fully realizes that the fascists cannot continue in this manner indefinitely. Thus, the policy of resistance employed by the government is the only policy that will ultimately result in victory for the Spanish people. "To fortify is to resist, to resist is to win," is the chief slogan of the government.

Frequently in estimating the course of the war some people tend to look only at the problems within Loyalist Spain. Insufficiently do they endeavor to explore the cir-

*(Continued on Page 29)*



**T**HIS month I would like to pose and discuss some problems connected with the coming Congressional and State elections. It is necessary for all of us to formulate collectively correct policies, to work out a well-rounded program, and to think out slogans that will catch the ear and fire



the imagination of the masses of young men and women who can be won to the democratic front. I hope that these suggestions will help stimulate discussion in all the branches and leading committees of the YCL. Such a discussion, I am sure, would give the lead to our election activities so that the League can become an important factor in determining the outcome of the elections.

We are all agreed that the youth of the nation want action, and that the great majority is ready to join in the democratic front, to throw its weight into the scales of history on the side of democracy and progress—against the forces of fascism and reaction.

It is equally clear that the central purpose of the Young Communist League today must be to win these young people to the democratic front, to organize and rally their forces, to unite them behind one progressive candidate for each office in the 1938 elections.

Therefore, although we realize that in actual fact we are a comparatively small minority of the young people, we should present for the consideration of the youth of America a program that the majority of them can accept. Around such a program could be established that unity of purpose and action that is needed to safeguard our inalienable rights, to defeat reaction and block the road to fascism and war.

The problems of the youth of our country cannot be solved apart from the problems of the people as a whole, for the fate of our generation is bound up with the destiny of all Americans. Therefore it is logical for us to endorse the general program of the democratic front, *the 1938 election platform of the Communist Party*.

Since we recognize in the Communist Party the foremost champion of the rights of the working people we should endorse its program which "represents the life needs of the workers, farmers and middle classes today" and "expresses the aspirations and meets the approval of the majority of the American people."

Doesn't this platform of the democratic front also point the road to **SAVE THE YOUNG GENERATION**? Won't the millions catch up and echo its appeal, which goes direct to the hearts and minds of youth?

Our problem, however, is to elaborate this platform further, to indicate those points that most directly concern youth, and to work out the concrete proposals for solving their specific problems. But is it enough to have a correct program? In my opinion we need more than that. Above all, we need a live, vivid way of presenting our program in such simple direct language that all will understand what we are driving at. I am quite certain that we can develop these methods if we begin to tackle the problem collectively.

**F**IRST, we need a general slogan to sum up the main principles of the democratic front, and to relate the present welfare of the youth with the future of the nation as a whole. For such a slogan we might very well use "**SECURE AMERICA'S TOMORROW BY SECURITY FOR YOUTH TODAY! FOR JOBS, SECURITY, DEMOCRACY AND PEACE!**" Jobs and security for a generation that seeks

opportunity, democracy for a generation that faces the threat of fascism, peace for a generation whose very lives are at stake if we cannot maintain world peace!

Security and opportunity are undoubtedly the main concern of young people today. Therefore such a slogan as "**LIFT THE MORTGAGE ON OUR FUTURE—PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY, EDUCATION AND WORK FOR YOUNG AMERICA NOW!**" should occupy an important position in our platform. This slogan refutes those reactionaries who charge that a program of relief and recovery such as proposed by Roosevelt would "mortgage" the future of youth, that youth would have to "pay the burden of taxation."

It is necessary for us to insist on our right to Education, to prepare ourselves for a useful life as citizens in a democracy, on our right to jobs and security. The answer is outlined in the demands, "**PUT AMERICA BACK TO WORK!**", "**PROVIDE JOBS OR ADEQUATE RELIEF FOR ALL!**" and "**MAKE THE RICH PAY THE COST OF THE CRISIS!**" In addition, however, certain specific planks should be put forward showing how we prove that opportunity is possible only through security. The most important of these planks should be:

Legislation directed toward realizing the principles of the American Youth Act, which remains the most comprehensive and adequate piece of youth legislation.

Extension of the National Youth Administration as a permanent agency to assure jobs and education for all youth of city and farm.

Expansion of the CCC program under civilian administration, with the inclusion of a democratic program of education and vocational training.

Co-ordination of the NYA and CCC and other youth aid programs under a single youth administration as proposed by the President's Advisory Committee on Education.



**A**MERICAN tradition demands that education should be free and available to all, that educational institutions should be controlled by the people, and that the schools should teach youth in the spirit of democracy. Instead of curtailment of educational facilities and opportunity, it is necessary to rescue the educational system of the nation, to build new schools, to extend the possibilities of education to all. This can be indicated by a slogan such as, "THE SCHOOLS BELONG TO THE PEOPLE—MAKE THE SCHOOLS A FORTRESS OF DEMOCRACY!"

This particularly means that we support a program of federal aid to education as proposed by the President's Advisory Committee on Education which provides equality of opportunity for Negroes and rural areas.

**E**VERY vital problem of the people concerns us, and no problems are of greater importance than the family, home, and moral life of the youth. We have been attacked as enemies of the family, but quite the contrary is true, Communists are the best defenders of the home and family, insisting that only security and opportunity can make possible a happy and clean life for all young men and women. The extent of this problem is indicated by the following facts from the *Maryland Study* that can be taken as an indication of the problem over the country as a whole.

"Do youth live at home? In view of the fact that the median age for all youth interviewed was 20.4 years, it is rather remarkable that four out of five were to be found living within their parents or relatives. Even more remarkable, however, is that fact that almost half (46.4 per cent for men and 40.2 per cent for women) of the 3,000 married youth were living with their parents or relatives. This situation is perhaps the more significant when it is realized that a period of economic recovery was well under way when they were interviewed."

These cold figures give one a graphic picture of the inability of hundreds of thousands of youth people unable to marry; while *nearly one half of the young people who do marry, are unable to have their own homes!* The stability and future of the American family and the moral standards of

youth are jeopardized by a situation of this kind.

Can we not propose a program to "GIVE AMERICA'S FUTURE FAMILIES A BREAK NOW! HELP AMERICA'S BOY AND GIRL BEGIN LIFE TOGETHER!" Isn't it reasonable that the government assume responsibility by a program of federal and state legislation to provide financial assistance for young people to marry and establish homes?

**O**UR platform would be inadequate indeed if we did not remember the young people on America's farms, for their future is bleak and clouded indeed. The land of their fathers is being taken from them to meet mortgage and debt payments. The giant monopolies are pressing the farmer to the wall. The young people see little prospect of building farms and homes of their own. Opportunities for a full social, recreational and cultural life have always been limited for farm youth—today even these opportunities are being curtailed and nullified.

Isn't it time for us to say, "RURAL YOUTH MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN YOUTH! SAVE AMERICA'S FUTURE FARMERS!" What specific planks shall we write into our platform to meet this problem? In my opinion, to guarantee our future farmers, a future as farmers, they must be given governmental assistance in making land purchases, the farmers must be guaranteed cost of production prices, the rural and farm communities must be provided with libraries, recreation, sports facilities, and further opportunity for education. Such proposals would supplement the proposals of the Party that "the American government must continue and extend further aid to the seven million farmers of America and their families" and "farmers and tenants should be guaranteed the possession of their land, their homes and their chattels."

**T**HE Young Communist League has always maintained that full social and political rights cannot exist for all the people so long as any section of the population is denied these rights. Too long have the Negro youth of the nation been denied the elementary needs

to which they are entitled. Segregation and discrimination block their every path, in the North and in the South, and they are often denied even the elementary right of citizenship—the right to vote.

We should write into our electoral platform our condemnation of the discriminatory practices that make all Negro youth potential Scottsboro boys, and the abuses that exclude Negro youth from obtaining employment; that keep them from taking their place as full citizens in the life of America. We Americans have one standard of public rights, duties and privileges for all American citizens. This standard must include Negro youth as well.

**W**E need new slogans that will express our full endorsement of the stand of the Communist Platform and will emphasize our proposals for giving full economic, social, political and cultural rights and opportunities for Negro youth. Proposals for such slogans would be welcome. I suggest "OPEN THE DOOR OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR NEGRO YOUTH! NEGRO YOUTH HAVE A RIGHT TO LIVE! FULL EQUALITY FOR JOBS AND EDUCATION—FULL USE OF THE BALLOT AND CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS FOR NEGRO YOUTH!"

**I**S your health of deep concern? Of course it is, we all desire to lead healthy lives, we all want to be assured health and long life. Yet the health of millions of young men and women is endangered and undermined by inadequate medical and dental care. This is particularly true of the rural areas and the Negro youth.

Aren't the advances of medical science and the available skilled doctors and nurses adequate for the health needs of the people? In fact it's common knowledge that doctors have a shortage of patients with ability to pay, and millions needs the advice and service of these doctors.

Saving the health of the people is the most important conservation problem of the nation so it is appropriate that we should state, "CONSERVE AMERICA'S WEALTH — ENSURE YOUTH'S HEALTH!" A healthy



youth is a happy youth as we all realize. Since the happiness and health of youth is so important to us, shouldn't we demand that the federal government in cooperation with the states provide an adequate free system of hospitals, clinics, and medical, dental and health service for all?

For years the American people have expressed their opinion that "CHILD LABOR IS A SHAME TO AMERICA—ABOLISH CHILD LABOR!". We too should state in our platform that we demand once and for all that the scourge of child labor be abolished and made unconstitutional. But we must work out new slogans to express this old demand of the people.

AS an old saying goes, "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." Well, that's a good sentiment, and I for one am all for it. Opportunity for recreation, for play and cultural life is essential to a normal life for young people.

A well rounded program should include slogans that would vividly present a plank for federal and state legislation to make available recreational, athletic and community centers and playgrounds throughout the nation. Proposals are more than welcome.

The platform of the Communist Party for the elections fully outlines a program for the defense of democracy. There is no need here to repeat what that platform states, but it is necessary to consider special slogans for rallying the young people to the fight to maintain and extend democracy. One suggestion for such a slogan is, "ETERNAL VIGILANCE IS THE PRICE OF LIBERTY! — SAFEGUARD AMERICAN DEMOCRACY! KEEP DEMOCRACY SAFE BY KEEPING IT MOVING FORWARD!". Youth should learn that today we must choose between democracy, which keeps alive the hope of progress; and fascism, which means reaction and slavery. Whether our generation shall carry forward the democratic traditions of our people depends on the outcome of this conflict. United, the democratic forces of labor and the people can win by defeating the conspiracy of reaction organized by big business. Therefore, our first duty is to join in protecting

the rights and liberties of the people, for in this lies the future of our generation.

THE defense of peace is a matter of life and death to our generation. Therefore, the YCL should fully endorse the program of concerted action for peace outlined in the platform of the Party. Since there are no special demands of the young people that are not incorporated in this platform our main task is to rally the maximum support to this program especially by slogans such as, "AMERICAN YOUTH CAN BE A FORCE FOR PEACE BY HELPING TO MAKE AMERICA A FORCE FOR PEACE! KEEP AMERICA OUT OF WAR BY KEEPING WAR OUT OF THE WORLD!". Our collective imagination is needed to work out additional slogans.

In addition to the proposals outlined above, it would be well for the League to put forward a general slogan summing up this program.

In an earlier day, the government opened the frontier to the youth of this nation and gave freely of the country's resources to provide land for homesteaders who had the boldness, spirit of adventure, desire for security to go into the wilderness and build homes for themselves. Today those frontiers are closed, but a new kind of social pioneering is needed, new frontiers must be opened. The duty of the American people and the government must be to provide opportunity, education and work for young America. We need such a slogan as, "OPEN NEW FRONTIERS FOR AMERICA'S YOUTH!"

We are not alone in proposing these

measures. They are accepted and endorsed by the most representative organizations of young people, by the trade unions who stand behind John L. Lewis' demand for "a fully developed system of child care, youth education and vocational guidance." This program is embodied in the points of Cooperation adopted by the American Youth Congress and in large part in the specific measures proposed by President Roosevelt. This would not be presented as our own full program, as a Socialist program, but as a platform that can be carried out within the existing social order, as a program for rallying the youth to the democratic front, for the defeat of the reactionary offensive and the candidates of reaction.

Now I would like to pose for serious discussion one of the major problems of winning the youth for the democratic front. In large part the extent to which young people will support the democratic front and enter actively into participation in the elections on the side of progress will depend on the extent to which they are made conscious of the need for political activity. Their forces can be mobilized as an effective force in the elections only if they exercise their elementary rights of citizenship.

That this is a large problem is illustrated by the fact that the Maryland Study of youth conditions reports that of all the youth studied only "55 per cent were found to have voted when the last opportunity presented itself." It is important to note that "nearly half of those who did not vote admitted that they were not interested," and that among the reasons given for not voting "indifference is clearly the most prominent."

#### EXTENT TO WHICH YOUTH 22 TO 24 YEARS OF AGE VOTED AT THEIR LAST OPPORTUNITY\*

Age group	Percentage of each age group			Number of youth
	Voted	Did not vote	Total	
22	36.7	63.3	100.0	1,400
23	60.0	40.0	100.0	1,240
24	66.9	33.1	100.0	1,544
Total	54.8	45.2	100.0	4,184

\* Last opportunity usually meant one prior to the presidential election of November 1936.



AN elementary step in building the democratic front is to convince young voters to "register to vote in order to practice democracy" and "use your right to vote." Otherwise we cannot "make democracy work for the welfare of the people." An effective slogan for carrying across this idea would be, "DEFEND DEMOCRACY BY PRACTICING DEMOCRACY—BE AN ACTIVE CITIZEN AND REGISTERED VOTER!"

This is a problem that can be taken up even by those youth organizations that are non-partisan in character. Even church groups, Y's and similar organizations can use these slogans to arouse their memberships to more active citizenship. As President Roosevelt said, "There cannot be too many Americans thinking about the future of America." From this point of view it is the obligation of all youth and their organizations to discuss these problems.

Above all, we should drive home the point that "the Young Communist League is the best organization in America giving youth training in the principles of American citizenship." We have, in my opinion, only begun to solve this problem, of making the YCL a real model youth organization in the fight for the slogans of the democratic front.

Never before has there been such an opportunity to present our program to the receptive ears of hundreds of thousands. It is up to us to find the "winged words" that are needed and the methods of transmitting them to the masses of youth by the most modern technique. Let's coin the slogans that will bring our message to the millions! Let's find the means for bringing them into every community, every factory, every school.

As Comrade Browder declared in his report to the 10th National Convention of the Communist Party:

"Slogans which express in a popular but concrete form the essence of a political program are the very life blood of a democratic mass movement. They are the sharp edges of the weapon of political organization and struggle. They are the battle cries that rouse the masses from their apathy, and fill them with courage and fighting spirit. They are the flags under which the armies of the people are rallied to fight and defeat the reactionary camp."

## FUR FLOOR BOYS BUILD THE YCL

By TED SAFIAN

"I JOINED the Young Communist League as soon as I was approached. I saw that the YCLers were the most active union members. I wanted to join an organization that contained the best builders of the union."

That's the way Abe Feig put it, a new member of the Fur Floor Boys Branch of the Young Communist League. Tony Marotta, another recent recruit, confirmed Abe's statement, adding that the short time he has been in the League his entire life has changed. His former life was a round of work, pool-rooms and occasional dances. Today, after several weeks in the League, Tony says he is actually living with a purpose. These are but two of the many young people recruited into our branch in the past few weeks.

### STRIKE RECRUITING

All these new comrades were brought into the League through the activity of our older comrades in the union. The bulk of recruiting was done through the period of the general strike in the fur industry. As a result of the positions held by our comrades, they were able to come in contact with masses of floor boys and even to hold regular discussion groups with young fur workers. For instances, Erwin Cohen, a chairman of one of the strike halls, met about 200 young workers, of whom he recruited more than 40. He utilized methods both of group discussion and individual attention. At all times he boldly brought forward the League and its program. Through this type of activity, we have a really representative section of the youth in our union, composed primarily of young Italian, Negro and Jewish workers.

This success is due to the fact that



our leading comrades in the Branch and the union do not pose the question of activity in the YCL as opposed to activity in the trade union. During the period of the membership campaign, our union was involved in a general strike. Having learned from the experience of other industrial Branches, we made plans to *guarantee the growth of the League* during this time. We succeeded in coordinating the work of the YCL and the union in such a way that the tremendous growth of the League resulted in a corresponding increase in activity within the union.

This is how it was done: Our union had five halls for strikers. In each hall, we had an average of 35 YCLers. These YCLers were divided into groups representing the buildings, or blocks, or sections, where they would work after the strike. The organizers of these groups were responsible for the mobilization of all the workers in their various divisions, activating the League and through them actually moving the bulk of the union membership. On May Day, we achieved a record turn-out for the parade. And at the Student Peace Demonstration on April 27th, we mobilized 1500 floor boys and marched in a body to Madison Square Park to join the student demonstration.

Our work during the remainder of the strike proceeded on the above basis. We are now faced with the responsibility of consolidating our union victories, guaranteeing all demands in the market, establishing sport, educational, recreational and organizational activities in the union. Through these activities we expect to double the size of our branch by the end of the summer.



# The YCL Speaks to the Catholics

## *An address by the Executive Secretary of the Northwest YCL before the International Relations Club of the Seattle Catholic College*

### Friends:

Allow me first to express the appreciation of the Young Communist League for this opportunity to present its position on peace before a young Catholic group.

This is an innovation in Seattle, and unfortunate only in the respect that it has not taken place earlier. For there is much in common between Catholicism and Communism, despite the fact that by and large it has been the differences that have been generally emphasized. As a Communist, allow me to say that the Communist Party has a deep respect for those courageous Catholic priests, the Jesuits, who came to the Pacific Northwest when this region was barely explored, who suffered with the first settlers, who sided with the unfortunate Indian and championed his rights against the predatory aims of the big monopolists. Unquestionably, the Jesuit priest contributed materially to the development and progress of the Northwest.

Tonight I wish to speak in the spirit of the "outstretched hand" policy that Pope Pius recommended to Cardinal Verdier in regard to the French People's Front, which is the union of all democratic forces against fascism and war.

Communism, to live, must be cognizant of its surroundings, of various trends in world affairs and must especially think of and act in behalf of the people. Catholicism to live, must also be cognizant of its surroundings, of various trends in world affairs and must also think of and act in behalf of the people.

### A BETTER LIFE

In the words of the French Communist leader, Thorez, "We do not deny that we differ in our attitude towards religion. The Communist philosophical materialism is far from the religious faith of the Catholics. Our conceptions

of doctrine are contrasting. But in both Catholicism and Communism there is the same generous ardor to reply to the century-old aspirations of men for a better life."

Christ, as he is known to the world, was one of the first real radicals. We believe that the basic social principles around which the church was founded and for which the first believers were persecuted because they championed the rights of the people—we believe that those social principles are embodied in our goal of Socialism, wherein oppression and exploitation of man by man are abolished, wherein unemployment, child labor, and hunger are memories of the past.

However else we may differ, however contrasting our philosophies may be, there are nevertheless many things that Catholics and Communists have in common.

We are both crusaders for the well-being, happiness and perpetuation of mankind. You believe in the brotherhood of man, we in the international solidarity of peoples of every nationality and race. For this, we have both incurred the hatred of fascism. We both abhor war and detest the war makers; we both crusade for peace. And for this too, have we both incurred the hatred of fascism. We may differ as to how things may be done, but on these and other matters of benefit to the people, I am sure we agree.

Tonight the problem before us is peace. I am to present the Communist viewpoint on how peace might be maintained. In so doing, I hope you will indulge me the privilege of attempting to show what Catholics and Communists have in common and what we

might do in common for peace. I purposely would like to do this, because it is most intimately bound up with the Communist position for peace.

The first point in the Communist peace program is that peace is indivisible, its preservation must be the common and active responsibility of all peace-loving countries in the family of nations. Those who want peace must be active for it. Such an active policy is nothing new to Catholics. A characteristic feature of Catholicism is action, believe in something, be active for it. But while the world is a family of nations, like any other family, it has its freak, the black sheep who is a disgrace to the family record. That freak today is to be seen in the fascist dictatorships and their war-making policies.

A glance at the Orient reveals fascist Japan "civilizing" China in a truly fascist manner; one million Chinese workers and peasants, men, women and children lie buried beneath the Good Earth—they have been "civilized."

### BOMBS IN SPAIN

A glance at sunny Spain reveals the fascist legions of Hitler and Mussolini "saving" the Spanish people in the name of a free and independent Spain. Fascist Hitler and Mussolini are making an investment. Into the earth they hurl the torn and twisted bodies of Spanish men, women and children, for out of the Spanish soil they wish to extract the vast natural wealth of that beleaguered country. Their puppet is Franco, who has massed around himself an army of Moors, and with Moors as warriors, behold!—Franco has become the savior of the Catholic Church. In the name of Catholicism and war against Communism, Franco marches

against the republican government in Spain. On Easter Sunday, Franco air-men dropped bombs out of the skies on the children of Barcelona. Nowhere in the Bible can one find justification of any kind for such fascist aggression and oppression. Cardinal Mundelein of Chicago warned Catholics recently against those who want to "use the church as a police force," against those who would degrade the Catholic faith as a "cloak for corrupt practices when they cry communism." This warning has particular application to the rascal Franco.

It is no accident that war has been precipitated by the Fascist countries—they are the aggressors. It is they who have destroyed democracy in their own country and would destroy it through violence and war elsewhere. They have tried to destroy the Catholic church in their own country and would do likewise elsewhere. They have tried to destroy the trade unions and worker's organizations in their own country and would try to do likewise elsewhere.

#### ENEMIES OF CHURCH

They are the enemy of the Catholic church, because they fear the church might give expression to the voice of the people. Fascism is the suppression of the people's rights. They are the enemy of the Communists because they know all too well that Communists labor tirelessly on behalf of the peoples' interests. They hate the Soviet Union because they fear the inspiration the Soviet Union is to suffering humanity elsewhere.

Fascism thrives on hate, on nationalism. Against it, the great mass of common people must foster common understanding and united effort to restrain it; we must foster against nationalism, the spirit of international brotherhood, the modern version of "love thy neighbor."

In terms of practical politics, that means collective action of the United States, Great Britain, France, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and other countries for peace and for restraining the fascist aggressor. We Communists endorse the call of Litvinoff and the Soviet Union for a world conference of the democracies for such peace action.

Therefore, the second point on the

peace program we advocate is that peace can be maintained only if the peace-loving democratic countries act together to restrain the fascist aggressor.

#### "NEUTRALITY"

But even this is not enough. The fascist aggressor is already on the march. You know what he is doing in Spain and China. Yet our so-called "neutrality" policy ties our hands to help crippled China and Spain. While munitions are being shipped to the so-called "neutral" countries of Germany and Italy the embargo against "belligerents" forbids shipping munitions to Loyalist Spain and China. And so Germany and Italy receive munitions and dispatch them to Franco against the Loyalist government. And Japan finds other ways, through its own merchant fleet, which China lacks, to get munitions from the United States. What a farce this un-neutral "neutrality" is!

Just as Catholics in America come to the defense of Catholics persecuted in Germany and Austria, so must American democracy come to the defense of democracy in Spain and China. If American democracy is to live, it must be concerned with the preservation of democracy in other countries. So long as democracies are being destroyed and attacked in Europe, Asia and South America, just so long is American democracy threatened right here at home. Therefore, the third point in the peace program we advocate is this: that the preservation of peace is virtually bound up with the preservation and extension of democracy. To defend our own American democracy, we must come to the aid of democracy in Spain and China and everywhere it is threatened. Therefore, we advocate the lifting of the embargo against Spain and China; we advocate material assistance to



Spain and China in their heroic struggle for self-preservation and independence.

Is this program incompatible with Catholicism?

Such a program is in keeping with the whole conception of the Brotherhood of Man. I am sure you will agree with me that there is nothing in this program that is not in keeping with the major social principles of Catholicism.

How can this program be achieved? What is required to bring the democratic countries together for peace? If we would maintain peace and preserve democracy, then we should employ the democratic process towards these ends. The democratic process in action, the exercise of democracy by the people, is the only means of preserving democracy and peace. The will of the people is for peace. Collective action will fulfill that will. Just as internationally the democratic countries should cooperate, so also within the United States should the people cooperate. People's cooperation can be achieved through the collaboration and mutual effort of the organizations, institutions and movements to which the various sections of the people belong or adhere. Collaboration between the most diverse religious, political, economic and social organizations for peace would be a powerful force to impress upon administration leaders the need for an active foreign policy to maintain peace.

#### COMMON UNDERSTANDING

We Communists believe that in such collaboration and joint action lies the salvation of the peace-loving peoples of the world. That is why we are such strong advocates of unity amongst all organizations, irrespective of ultimate aims or program—but unity TODAY, NOW, for peace and democracy. Without peace and democracy, none of these peace organizations can think of attaining their ultimate program.

That is why we are so appreciative of this opportunity to present our program to you tonight. For our part, we feel that more such inter-change of opinion is necessary, for through it, through common understanding, can we achieve that unity of the people the world so much needs today.



# THUMBNAIL REVIEWS

## LIFE OF LENIN.

By P. KERZHENTSEV

International Publishers. Price \$1.75.

*Reviewed by Pat Sloan*

WHEN Lenin was arrested as a student in December 1887, the following conversation took place with a police officer:

"What's the good of rebelling, young man? You're up against a stone wall," said the officer to him.

"Yes, but it's a rotten wall. Kick it and it will crumble," answered Vladimir Ilyich.

And Lenin was right. For the next 30 years he worked to build up a Party that would lead the workers and peasants of Russia successfully to kick down that stone wall.

In October 1917 the wall was smashed forever.

Some think of Lenin as inhuman, as a political leader who had no time for other more human matters. But on the contrary, all of us can learn from Lenin's simple humanity.

## TIME FOR THE CHILDREN

Even when overwhelmed with work in the Smolny Institute in Leningrad after the Revolution, Lenin always had time to play with the charwoman's little girl:

"He never once passed without saying a kindly word to the child, one time patting her, another time giving her a candy or a lozenge from his pocket saying: 'I saved that for you. Eat it, Tanya! It's the best we've got now, but the time will come when people will laugh at such a gift.'"

"Vladimir Ilyich often played with her; he would stand the little girl next to the lift and tell her to listen to the speaking tube. . . . Then he would shout something down."

And another writer describes how "when passing my apartment Vladimir Ilyich would look in one window, then another, and if he caught sight of any of the children would put his fingers to his temples to make them look like

horns, make a funny face, and rush into the house. The children would raise a tremendous racket and dive under the sofa or table."

In combining these personal sketches of Lenin with a picture of Lenin as the leader and builder of the greatest working-class Party in history, Kerzhentsev shows us Lenin as a political leader, at the same time a human being, full of a sense of humour and the joy of life, working to build up a Party of the working people, prepared to give a theoretical and practical lead on every issue.

He was a democrat, he always recognized that only by expressing the will of the people could the Party lead the Revolution; and, after the seizure of power, the Soviet Republic. In 1921 he wrote:

"Among the people we are as a drop in the ocean, and we shall be able to administer only when we can properly express what the people realize.

"Unless we do this, the Communist Party will not be able to lead the proletariat, the proletariat will not lead the masses, and the whole machine will collapse."

But Lenin had faith that the Party could lead the people successfully to Socialism.

"Economically and politically," he wrote, "the New Economic Policy made it fully possible for us to build the foundations of Socialist economy."

Lenin continued firm in that belief, steering the Soviet Union to industrial reconstruction.

But even when desperately ill, Lenin would not accept the status of an invalid.

"When, in December 1922, his whole right side was paralysed, and he was unable to rise from his bed, he consented most reluctantly to have a nurse, and later, when he had com-

pletely lost the use of his right arm, he tried to do as much as he could with his left."

## LOST THEIR DEAREST FRIEND

On the night of January 21, 1924, during the session of the Congress of Soviets, Lenin died. A working woman, Comrade Tsigan Kova, describes what happened when the announcement was made:

"There were few that did not cry and those only because they managed to keep back their tears. My heart sank, and I felt like shouting that this could not be, that it was not true.

"When Comrade Kalinin announced the death of Lenin to the whole Congress, sobs and moans drowned the

orchestra, which was playing the funeral march. Everyone wept: women and men, young and old, could not hold back their tears; they all had lost their nearest and dearest friend."

Lenin had gone. The leadership of the Party passed to Stalin, who had always been a loyal supporter of Lenin in his strug-

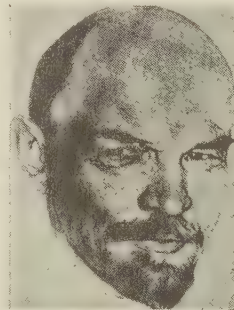
gle against the "weak-kneed intellectuals" like Kamenev and Zinoviev, and against Trotsky and others whose unreliability had been demonstrated time and again.

The Party, under Stalin, strengthened its ties with the working people, and with the rank and file of the peasants, and headed towards Socialism.

By 1933, with large-scale industry built up and with the collectivization of agriculture practically complete, Lenin's dream had been realized in its basic outlines.

This book tells us how it happened. It indicates Lenin's role, and gives us the inspiration to follow Lenin's path.

(From the British youth paper—Challenge)



# TWO VIEWS OF *LIFE*

Submitted by the Maryland  
District of the YCL

The Youth Issue of *Life* is a subtle attempt to distort the conclusions of the American Youth Commission in its excellent report, *Youth Tell Their Story*.

Looking through the pictures in this issue, one is given the impression that American youth is party-crazy, swing-nutty, and financially rather well off. The first "average youth" is a rich girl, the second a "carefree, jazzy" white-collar worker, the third, at last, a factory worker (whose main pursuits are dancing and pool), and the fourth, a farm boy interested in "cokes" and kissing parties.

Among the several tables from the report which are published, *Life* misses the most significant—the attitude of youth on how they are to achieve a solution to the job question. This table shows that 89.5 per cent of the youth look to the national government to relieve the situation. In its recent issues, *Life* has attacked the President's Recovery Program. It is clear, then, why this pronounced opinion on the part of youth is ignored in *Life*.

Finally, *Life* has completely omitted the most exploited section of Maryland youth, the Negroes. Every part of the report shows that wherever there is a burden on youth, the Negro young people bear its heaviest part. This is certainly the most important of *Life's* sins of omission in its Youth issue.

The perversion of *Youth Tell Their Story* by *Life* is an attempt to becloud the report's excellent conclusion.

When youth really tell their story, they speak of their need for jobs, education, recreation, peace and security.

By A. A.

So far as I am concerned, all I can say is that *Life* had a wonderful idea which it botched because it was primarily interested in making money. Because of the lure of the lucre, *Life* had nothing to say about the hundreds of thousands of young people pouring into unions. Because of the advertising department, precious little is shown about unemployed youth, although the first page of the issue states that of the twenty million young people between the ages of 16 and 24, one-third are jobless. *Life* could have done a sensational job for these youth, such as Margaret Bourke White did for the sharecropper in "You Have Seen Their Faces," but it was more profitable to sugarcoat the youth problem.

There is absolutely no mention of the organized youth movement. The American Youth Congress, which organized a Pilgrimage to Washington of several thousand young people in March, goes unmentioned. It's not that *Life* was unfamiliar with the American Youth Congress. They had two staff people at the pilgrimage taking pictures all over the lot. But *Life* never offends its advertisers, so the pictures remain in the files.

*Life* did capture the folkways of American youth—the funnies, bull sessions over drug-store cokes, the jalopie and the swing. What it presented, it presented absorb-

ingly. If we are irritated, it's because of the fine piece of work *Life* might have done.



This Visual-Discussion Chart\* is Number One in a series of sixteen on Political Economy and Imperialism. The Chart objectifies the subject matter with pictures, maps, diagrams and graphic statistics. It is accompanied by a five page mimeographed lecture made up of quotations for the use of the speaker.

The lecture and discussion make clear the essential characteristics of the systems of social production: primitive communism, slavery, feudalism, capitalism and socialism. The fact that exploitation existed under slavery and feudalism, and continues to exist under capitalism—but is ended under socialism—is impressed both visually and verbally.

Another section of the Chart and lecture analyzes the means of production: land, buildings, machinery, raw materials and labor power.

Class production relationships are also brought out: social position, relationship to the means of production, role in the social organization of labor, method of obtaining shares of the social wealth, and the size of the share obtained.

With the basic facts in visible relationship, groups and study circles find the subject easy, pleasant and popular without advance book study.

\* Lecture-Discussion Chart (50x44 inches) Visual Education Press, 840 Broadway, New York, 75 cents.





# CLIPPINGS OF THE DAY

## Taboo

Communism isn't cricket in Montreal.

At a recent youth conference in this city, police forbade mention of the word "communist." Since representatives of the Young Communist League were prominent at the conference, a slight embarrassment resulted.

The situation was solved when the delegates present proceeded to refer to the YCLers as "Members of an Unmentionable Organization."

## Auto Biography

A well-known auto manufacturer always proclaims that technological advances in auto manufacture have created more jobs. The actual facts, unfortunately, do not bear out this optimistic picture. Here are a few interesting sidelights on the effect of technical improvements in the auto industry in recent years:

The building of bodies accounts for 40% of the total labor cost of an automobile. With the complete elimination of wood parts, enormous labor savings were effected, and one employer completely wiped out his wood mill, which had previously employed 3,000 men. In 1929 the underbody part was composed of 30 pieces. One-piece stamping has eliminated 29 parts and, incidentally, 50 man-hours of work. One-piece stamping has also replaced the former 47-part auto top, and has resulted in eliminating 43 man-hours. In 1929, auto doors were made of 26 pieces. Now they are made in two panels, both products of one-piece stamping, which are welded together by machine. The labor cost of building a door, which was formerly \$4, is now 15c.

Even inspection men are subject to replacement. Their jobs are being taken by robots, photo-electric inspection machines. One such machine for inspecting and sorting wrist pins will replace ten to twenty inspection men. Another machine, the double auto-

## INVITATION

*Readers of the Review are invited to clip interesting items from the news of the day and send them to the Editorial Board of the magazine. Clip anything you think will have general interest for the membership of the YCL, of a scientific or political character, from the newspapers, magazines and publications that you follow.*

*Humorous bits will be particularly appreciated.*

matic buffer, does the work of 150 men. Another 150 have been thrown out of work by the employment of a new grinder to grind the inside of roller-bearing rings.

Improved methods of cutting, grinding, polishing, motor assembly and forging have accounted for further job displacement.

In fact the only employees of the automobile industry who have found increased opportunity for employment in the past five years, are the servicemen and labor spies. And even the prospect for these people has grown very gloomy with the growth of the Auto Workers Union.

*Labor Research Association June 1938,  
Labor Notes*

## Customer

It is difficult to imagine a country waging war without such necessities as copper, oil, iron ore, zinc, tin, aluminum, steel and scrap iron, lead and machinery. Yet Japan is very much minus all these commodities, and is forced to rely on purchases abroad to supply them. Through the loophole in our "Neutrality" Act (a loophole flexible enough to allow passage of arms to fascist warmakers but not to Loyalist Spain), democratic America paradoxically becomes Japan's chief source of war materials.

In 1937, Japan purchased 54.4% of her war materials from the United

States. We supplied 93% of her copper, 60% of her oil, 91% of her auto parts, 49% of her machinery and 60% of her iron.

There is but one conclusion to be drawn from these figures. If America were to take the initiative in refusing to sell the material for war to Japan, that country would immediately be deprived of half its economic fighting strength.

Further, if the "peace-loving" nations of the world collaborated to boycott this aggressor, 80% of her war imports could be cut off, and bombings of innocent Chinese civilians would cease.

## A. P. Scoop

The private wires of the Associated Press were taxed almost beyond endurance a week ago. Reports and inquiries flew back and forth from New York to Washington to the Panama Canal. It seems that the New York office of the A.P. had received a report of a terrific explosion occurring at the Panama Canal. Telephone and telegraph bills mounted as the news agency desperately sought verification of the sensational story.

Eventually truth rewarded this persistent search. It turned out that the informant of the Associated Press had heard a South American radio broadcast dramatizing a mythical explosion at the Canal.

## Ambassador

During the recent Moscow trials, Ambassador Davies, who attended them, refused to make public his opinion. A few weeks ago, however, in a confidential cable to the State Department, he revealed that, on the basis of his long experience as a trial lawyer and his personal observations, he was convinced that the defendants were telling the truth when they confessed.

*The Nation, June 11, 1938*

# Why Spain Will Win!

(Continued from Page 19)

cumstances and conditions existing behind the fascist lines, and let no one have the illusion that all "goes well" there. The lack of a thorough analysis and understanding of this aspect of war leads one to incorrect conclusions and even to fall prey to the fascist-colored propaganda printed in some local newspapers.

Within the territory under fascist yoke, there exists deep discontent which has reached such proportions that thousands of fascist Falangists and Carlistas find themselves imprisoned. It is common knowledge that some sections of fascism, previous supporters of Franco, have been stealing and storing arms and ammunition in order to organize a revolt against him. They are becoming aware of the fact that Hitler and Mussolini are entrenching themselves in Spain and are beginning to realize that the war is not to "save Spain from the Reds" but to turn it over, lock, stock and barrel to Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy. This finds expression in dozens of revolts and has resulted in the execution of officers and men by Franco. Sabotage and wrecking are daily occurrences in spite of the rigid military rule that prevails. However, this news seldom passes through the iron censorship.

## FASCISTS DESPERATE

The people that are unable to escape, as in the North, and who find themselves in fascist territories, are by no means supporters of Franco. It is estimated that 90% of the people in Franco territory remain loyal to the government. The shortage of labor and farm hands has created enormous obstacles in operating the industries and in cultivating the land. Attempts have been made by the fascists to solve this problem by bringing boat loads of Italians and German families to Spain to work in the factories and farms. This solution has resulted in furthering the discontent among the people and increasing the contradictions within fascist ranks. Food supplies have been seriously affected due to the failure to operate properly the factories and farms. In spite of all rosy reports about the abundance of food, in reality there exists a serious food shortage. This is an additional cause for increasing the dissatisfaction among the people and even sections of the army.

These conditions explain the desperation and great anxiety of the fascists to carry out their plans of conquest swiftly.

While the fascists are confronted with these problems, the Spanish government on the other hand, counts on greater unity, a steeled army, with greater ability to resist, together with a mounting support from all the democratic forces of the world to establish the correctness of the slogan—To resist is to win!

Friends of Italy, Germany and Franco, working in Spain, in France, as well as in the British Foreign Office, are making efforts to utilize the slightest difficulties faced by the government arising in the course of the war. They raise the question of a compromise to the fascists, in an effort to becloud the issues and to disarm and weaken the grow-

ing support for the Spanish Republican government.

There is nothing more foreign to the Spanish people than the thought of a compromise. During my stay in Spain, where I spoke to peoples of all strata of the population, never did this thought emerge in our long conversations. The people in Spain know that the war can have only one conclusion—the defeat of the invading fascist force by the people's victory. The struggle may be a prolonged one and may entail still greater sacrifices. As Premier Negrin stated: "For Spain there is no other way out than the complete triumph of the Republic, a victorious peace and the destruction of fascism."

One of the brightest pages, in contrast to the shameful neutrality policy pursued by our own government is the outstanding contribution of the American volunteers of democracy fighting in Spain. Their spirit, determination, enthusiasm and above all, their firm belief that to preserve democracy in America makes it necessary to defeat fascism in Spain can well serve as our guide in our work.

For this cause Dave Doran, an outstanding American youth leader, and our beloved comrade, Irving Keith, gave their lives. For the same cause John Gates, George Watt, Leonard Lamb, Joe Taylor, Sol Wellman, Milton Rayfield, Dick Russiano and many others today stand at the front lines in Spain.

Let us show to them our tender care and affection by improving our work for Spain, by keeping them informed on American events and our activity. Let us keep them supplied with reading material and personal gifts which will be a real token of our camaraderie. How painful it was for me to see that so many good, loyal and heroic comrades were not receiving this attention. Some of them not even receiving so much as a single letter. This can and must be remedied. It is our duty.

## AMERICANS WANT PEACE

Millions of Americans are for peace. In all our work for Spain much more planned and systematic emphasis is to be placed on lifting the embargo. Now that Congress has adjourned these millions of Americans that are for peace should direct their attention to the President requesting that the embargo be lifted by executive order. To allow the Loyalist government to purchase the supplies it needs is to put an end to the present arms superiority of the enemy. It will be our best contribution to the preservation of humanity.

Such action will at the same time strengthen the democratic forces in Europe, especially in England, and will weaken the brazen pro-fascist policy pursued by Chamberlain.

Aid for Spain should be increased a hundred fold. By bringing the untold hardships of the Spanish civilians before the American people, we can be sure of their support and aid. Humanitarian assistance has always been part of our great tradition and now, more than ever, must this message reach our American people. Not a single stone should be left unturned in our effort to aid the heroic Spanish people. They are doing their utmost—let us do the same here.



# THE DORAN RECRUITING DRIVE

**B**RING 5,000 new members into the YCL in the memory of Dave Doran, was a decision of the historic 10th Convention of our Party. The response since then has been most gratifying, with the Party Districts responding to this decision as one. The State Committee of the New York Party leads the way and accepts a quota of 2500 recruits for the YCL by August 1st. They are confident that this can be achieved. The steps worked out are very practical. Some of them that have been undertaken are: the widest discussion in the leading committees of the Party, the Counties, sections, Assembly Districts, trade union departments and mass organizations.

They plan to popularize the life and work of Dave Doran by a mass distribution of the Dave Doran pamphlet, and the organization of memorial meetings in the counties. Each Party county, section and assembly district is to establish a Dave Doran drive committee to be responsible for carrying the drive through in the branches and bringing it to the masses in the neighborhoods. These steps are being taken in conjunction with a whole series of practical measures suggested to the Party branches, such as the organization of youth nights by the Party branches, where youth of the communities, and industries; sons and daughters of Party members, will be invited. It is significant that the Party has decided to concentrate on building YCL branches in those territories where the YCL does not exist at the present time.

## CHICAGO LEADS

The Party in Chicago decided to launch a campaign to bring 300 young people into the YCL by August 1st. The plan worked up by the Party organization can serve as a model for all Party districts. The beauty of the Chicago plan lies in its simplicity. There is not a single proposal made that cannot be carried through. In this sense, it is a guide for all of our Party and YCL Districts.

For the week of July 3rd, under the heading: "Sell 5,000 copies of "The Life and Death of Dave Doran," the following points are outlined:

1. Each Party branch is to buy and have on hand this new pamphlet.
2. Each member to be assigned a number of pamphlets to sell and submit the name of the buyer to the Party unit.
3. Each comrade in trade unions or

*What the districts are doing in the drive to recruit 5,000 new members by August 1st*

By **HENRY WINSTON**

mass organizations to sell the pamphlet on the floor.

**During the week of July 10th:** "Every son and daughter of a Party member to join the YCL."

1. At the branch meeting this week every comrade who has children is to be called upon to have them join the YCL.
2. A complete list of Party member's children to be compiled and a committee of two to be assigned to visit them if necessary.

**For the week of July 17th:** "Get the sons and daughters of members of your organization to join the YCL."

1. A canvass to be made of organization meetings which our comrades will attend that week.
2. Each such comrade to be called upon to talk with his fellow members in his organization to have their children join the YCL.

**For the week of July 24th:** "Party youth nights—"

1. Every Party branch to organize a youth night in the form of a social, dance, outing, block parties, with the organization of special programs.
2. Each branch to issue a leaflet to the workers of its territory with special concentration on shops, urging them to attend this affair.
3. Letters to be sent to all contacts secured during the month through the sale of the Dave Doran pamphlet.
4. All Party members to invite their sons and daughters to participate in the youth night.
5. The entire membership of the YCL branch in the territory to be invited.

In addition to this, the Party is offering special prizes to individuals, branches and sections that are outstanding in the drive. There can be

## IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE REVIEW

*In honor of the World Youth Congress which assembles at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York, on the 16th of August, the Editorial Board of the Review is planning an enlarged International Number featuring articles by leading figures in the International Youth Movement.*

*Off the press on the first of August, the issue will be a real preview of the World Youth Congress and its problems. Get your orders for the magazine in early! Make your circulation plans now!*

no doubt if these steps are carried through, that the Chicago Party can recruit its 300 into the YCL.

Most of the Party districts throughout the country are working along similar lines in the carrying through of the Convention decision. If the plans worked out on a national scale are carried through effectively and energetically, the goal set by our National Convention will be achieved.

#### NEW YORK FOLLOWS

The YCL also has entered the drive with full force, with the New York District in the forefront.

They plan to recruit 5,000 new members by Thanksgiving Day, 1500 of which are to be recruited by August 1st, when the special Dave Doran Drive ends. They have further dedicated their entire summer plan to Dave Doran. They have pledged to sell 25,000 copies of "The Life and Death of an American Hero."

The Chicago District has accepted a quota of 300 new members by August 1st. That, together with the Party, will bring the total recruits up to 600, which will give the Illinois Districts a total membership of some 1800.

#### AND CALIFORNIA

California has pledged to recruit an additional 1,000 members by January 1st; guaranteeing a sale of 10,000 Dave Doran pamphlets. California, which held second place in national membership standing, and lost it to Chicago, is now challenging Chicago to socialist competition for regaining second place. That challenge has been accepted by Chicago, and in the words of Ruby Cooper, city organizer, in speaking before a YCL functionaries meeting, stated—"We have won second place, and intend to keep it."

Socialist competition has proven an important and stimulating weapon in the drive, as was demonstrated in the drive between Boston and Detroit, with Boston victorious. Both of these Districts are planning to have a membership of 1,000 by January 1st.

The Ohio District, which is trailing behind the Chicago District in national membership standing, has set the objective of 500 new members.

As a result of the drive, such Districts as Seattle, Philadelphia, New Jersey, also are entering the campaign to enter the 1,000 membership class by January 1st. The idea of continuous League recruiting is penetrating the ranks of the League, as never before, making it part and parcel of every task, every activity, that the League is engaged in.

If all the plans are followed through, we can begin speaking in the terms of a membership of 35 or 40,000 when the new year rolls around. In our next issue of the *Review* we will give some of the lessons and experiences of the drive, and will tabulate the results gained district by district.

## Prescription for Dog Days

THE State Education Committee of the Minnesota Young Communist League has prepared an excellent bulletin on summer activities, which is detailed and realistic, yet written with a holiday spirit. It offers many excellent suggestions to all YCLers, and especially to those in executive positions. Some of its recommendations follow:

Business meetings should be limited to one a month. They should be well-planned by the executive committee, so that they can be carried on briefly, cheerfully and effectively.

League education should take the form of Outdoor Discussion Clubs, meeting twice a month. The most congenial surroundings possible should be obtained. Attendance is voluntary, and non-YCLers especially should be encouraged to participate.

#### APPROPRIATE ACTIVITY

Indoor meetings should be made physically pleasant, by wise utilization of modern science. The screened porch, the electric fan and the glass of iced lemonade will be appreciated by the membership.

The executive committee should meet once every week. It will have the responsibility of preparing the monthly business meetings, as well educational meetings, outings, transportation arrangements, food committees, etc.

It is well to remember that a smoothly-functioning executive committee is the first requisite to a happy, enjoyable summer for all.

Some of the activities that the YCL should take upon itself to organize during the summer are: hikes, to historical places, for purposes of exploration or just for the hell of it; ball games between YCL branches, and perhaps a formal district tournament; wiener roasts; swimming excursions; beach parties (and don't forget the deck of cards); moonlight excursions and outdoor dancing; boating; bike trips; plus anything else that a lively YCL branch can organize and that facilities will permit.

#### BROAD COOPERATION

Of course it is extremely desirable for the Young Communist League to cooperate in as many of these activities as possible with mass organizations of youth such as trade unions, Farmer-Labor clubs, fraternal organizations, and language associations.

In all these activities, the vacation spirit should prevail. A summer slogan for the Young Communist League might very well be, "Education Through Recreation."



# LETTERS TO OUR EDITORS

—What Our Readers Think and Say—

Dear Editor:

I want to congratulate the *Young Communist Review* on the YWCA Convention article in the June issue. It is right and proper that our official organ should carry news of the trends among mass youth organizations such as the Y.

While it is true that the YWCA today is an outstanding progressive organization and deserves the respect of all democratic youth, I feel that because of that, we should point out the serious shortcomings in the Y organization. Many of these shortcomings are recognized by the National Board of the Y, as indicated in the Standard Study, which was presented to the Columbus, Ohio, convention. The Standard Study is a thorough examination of the structure and administration practices.

## DEMOCRACY IN THE YWCA

We cannot say that complete democracy prevails in the local Y administration today. The Standard Study has shown that the composition of the majority of the local boards are not representative of the membership. Let me cite a few figures to illustrate my point. Nearly 50% of the Board women have never worked at any job at all. The occupations of husbands of board women, out of 130 associations studied, are as follows: Business men, 48%; Professional men (doctors, lawyers, government officials, etc.), 40%; Industrial workers, 7%; no occupation, 5%. Needless to point out here that the overwhelming majority of the Y membership are young girls, who work in factories, shops and offices, or attend high schools and colleges.

Quoting from the Standard Study, "In the 130 Associations under consideration, 98.8% of the board members are white. With very rare exceptions, only Associations with branches, and not all of these, include Negroes or Orientals in the Board of Directors. Many of the Associations, the boards of which are entirely made up of white women, are communities with a large Negro or Oriental population."

While the National Convention has gone on record for the defense of Negro rights, which is highly commendable, yet we should point out that there is still discrimination. This sharply stands out in the budget funds allotted the Negro Ys. Relatively there are few Negro branches which can boast of adequate gym facilities, swimming pools, and so on, even though Negroes are not permitted the use of the Y pools. While the average Y building is a good-looking, modern structure, the Negro branches are mostly in renovated houses. More facts can be found from the study of the branches to prove this statements. Suffice it to say that there are shortcomings which we cannot overlook.

The YWCA convention went down the line for a positive

peace program, when it adopted the proposed public affairs program for international cooperation for peace. It is disappointing that the Convention stopped short of specific action, such as a boycott on Japanese goods. Endorsement of the boycott would have gone a long way to making the YWCA peace program effective.

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and send your  
letter to the  
Editor, care  
of the Review,  
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It is worth while to remember that the decisions and action of the Convention are not binding upon the local organizations. While the national YWCA enjoys the prestige of being the most forward-looking organization of

its nature, there are local Ys that carry on practices which are in direct contradiction to its avowed principles. The National leadership recognizes this, and the Standard Study is an excellent beginning, yet time will tell whether the YWCA has the strength of its convictions and the determination to correct these serious defects. I firmly believe that the Y can and will.

L. S.

Dear Editor:

There are between 250 and 400 wounded Americans in Paris and at the Spanish border—veterans of the Spanish war. The French government refuses to accept any more soldiers across the border until \$125 is forthcoming. The Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion is doing a swell piece of work, but they need our help. We must make ourselves responsible for the return of our comrades. We must make all of America conscious of the role our boys have played in the struggle for Spanish and world democracy.

In honor of our ten members still fighting in Spain and of our comrades killed in action, the Stuyvesant Branch in New York, pledges itself to "adopt" Hy Wallach, one of our boys, waiting in Paris to come home. This means raising \$125 to assure his passage home.

Come on, YCL branches! Let's get our boys back here. "Adopt" a veteran and make the progressive organizations in your neighborhood do the same or help you do it. It is our responsibility and honor.

CLARE SCHECHTER

*Spain Director, Stuyvesant Branch, N. Y. C.*

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# QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

Dear Comrades:

*I have read with great interest the proceedings of the 10th Convention of the Communist Party. However, in the discussion around the adoption of the Constitution there are a number of question which I did not fully understand. Could you clear up the following for me?*

1. Why is it necessary to further qualify that portion of the Constitution which deals with the personal association of members of the Communist Party with Trotskyites and Lovestoneites to read "confirmed" Trotskyites and Lovestoneites? Doesn't this lend fuel to those who say that the Communist Party tries to rule the personal lives of its members?

2. Why is it necessary for every member of the Communist Party to be a citizen of the United States? Aren't there many people who are barred from citizenship, wouldn't this prevent these from joining the Communist Party?

*I wish you would answer these questions for me.*

Comradely yours,

RUTH MITCHELL

Dear Ruth:

I am glad that you asked these questions. It's very interesting that it was just these two questions which caused the most discussion at the session of the Convention where the Constitution was adopted.

As for your second question, which I will answer first. The section of the Constitution reads as follows:

Article III Sec. 1

"Any person, eighteen years of age or over, regardless of race, sex, color, religious belief, or nationality, who is a citizen, or who declares his intention of becoming a citizen of the United States, and whose loyalty to the working class is unquestioned, shall be eligible for membership."

We must understand that the Communist Party of the United States is an American Party. It is carrying on the struggle for Socialism under American conditions. Foremost in this struggle for Socialism is the extension and maintenance of all existing democratic institutions. As Comrade Browder points out in his report to the 10th Convention of the Communist Party "Our program for socialism is organically linked up with, is a necessary outgrowth from, the traditional American democracy as founded by Thomas Jefferson, whose political descendants we are." One of the institutions of our democracy is the electoral right of its people. And in order to be able to

use this electoral right one must be a citizen.

While it is true that there have been many restrictions which make it more difficult to become citizens, the Communist Party also carries on a fight to ease and eradicate those laws which make it impossible for certain people to become citizens (Chinese, Japanese, etc.). It was made very clear at the convention that all of those who were barred from citizenship under the present laws, and whose loyalty to the working class is unquestioned, shall be able to become full-fledged members of the Communist Party.

It will be the task of the Communist Party to mobilize the widest support among the people for the liberalizing of the citizenship laws, and in this way extend one of the American institutions of democracy.

Now as to your first question in regard to the provision in the Constitution which reads:

"Article VI Section 14

"No Party member shall have personal or political relationship with confirmed Trotskyites, Lovestoneites, or other known enemies of the Party and the working class."

I would like first of all to clear up the objection that this lends fuel to those who charge that the Communist Party is trying to regulate the personal lives of its members.

I don't think this is implied in the passage at all. For us, as Communists, there is an intimate relation between personal and political problems. While the Party Constitution does not wish to direct or regiment the personal lives of its members there is such a thing as warning against relations with known enemies of the working class. He who associates with a scab is likely to be influenced by scabrous ideas.

In the past period, the Trotskyites and Lovestoneites have come out as agents of fascism in this country as well as throughout the world. In those few organizations where they still manage to have a small following they have turned these organizations into open ground for factional fights. Every worker in a shop, every student, every progressive knows how important it is for all to be united against reaction at the present time. And it is at this moment that Lovestoneites and Trotskyites choose to split the much needed unity of the progressives. It is because many people still do not see how like stool pigeons they act within the ranks of the working class that it is necessary to name them specifically. What made it necessary to

(Continued on next page)



qualify the statements to read *confirmed* Trotskyites and Lovestoneites?

If you realize the role that these people play in the progressive movement you will see how careful we must be before we label a person, an agent of fascism. Unfortunately, there are many honest people who are as yet confused, and do not see the disruptive activity that these enemies undertake in any movement in which they participate. It would be wrong for us to lump all of these people into the same category. We have made distinctions in the fight against these renegades.

Just imagine for a moment that in your activity to organize the young people in your community for a positive peace program, you came across certain people who unconsciously take the same position as the Trotskyites and Lovestoneites. And it's no wonder, because the entire reactionary press in American uses the arguments of the Trotskyites and Lovestoneites to speak against collective security. Wouldn't it be foolish to give these people up as Trotskyites and Lovestoneites? We must try to win such people over for a correct position on peace, and slowly but surely this is being done.

And so you see that adding one little word like *confirmed* actually clarifies the struggle against the renegades and tends to isolate them from the progressive movement as a whole.

Comradely yours,

MAY HIMOFF  
for the Editorial Board

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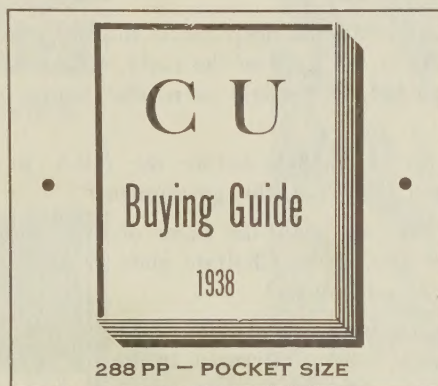
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YCR—2



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Among the textile workers, perhaps? in the days before the NRA, in Charlotte, North Carolina? at meetings that demanded clothes and food from the government?

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