

YOUNG COMMUNIST
REVIEW



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On the left: *Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Returning from Service in Spain.*

YOUNG COMMUNIST REVIEW

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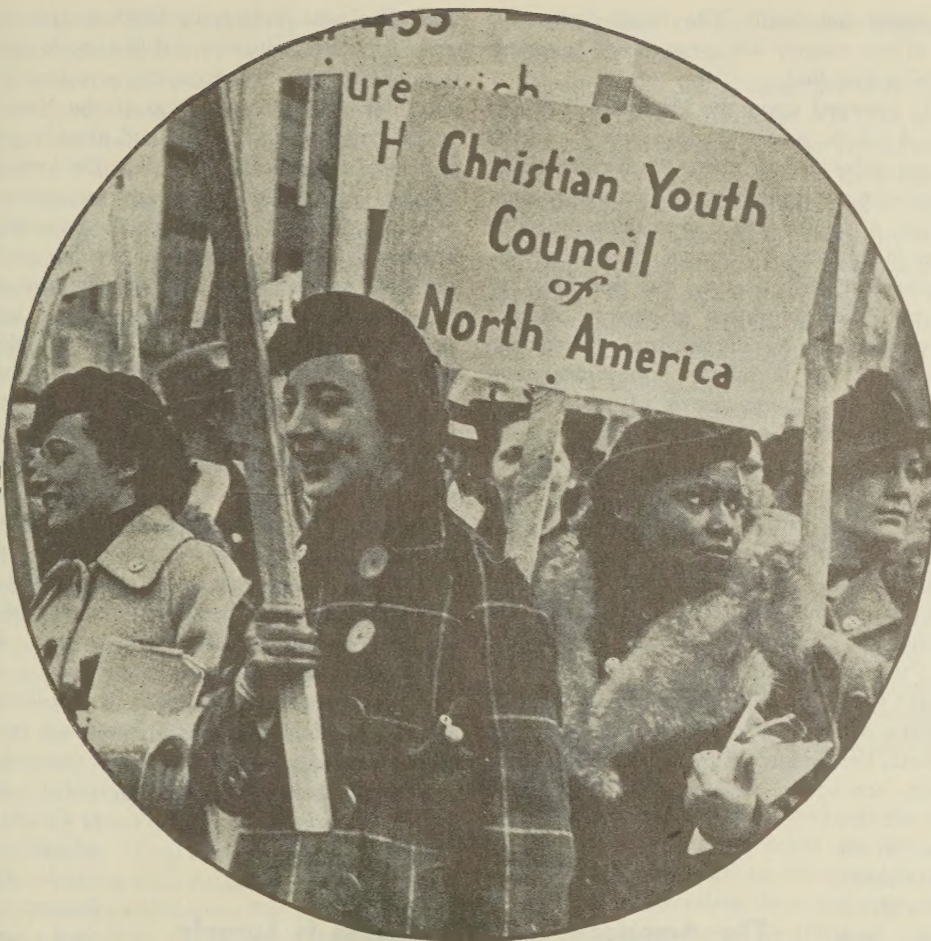
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Y o u n g C o m m u n i s t



FOUR YEARS of the **AMERICAN YOUTH CONGRESS** by MAC WEISS

FOUR and a half years have passed since the American Youth Congress was established.

In that short space of time, it has built itself into one of the main centers of collaboration of America's youth organizations. It has become one of the strongest pillars of support to the forces of democracy and progress among the youth. It has drawn the young people of our country into an international fellowship for peace which cuts across boundaries and transcends language and race.

In a few months, the AYC will begin to prepare for its fifth national gathering. The problems to be

tackled there, and the perspectives unfolded, merit serious reflection on what has taken place these past four and a half years.

One thing is abundantly clear: the activity of the American Youth Congress is to a large extent responsible for the fact that there is today no organized center of reaction among the youth on a national scale. Having taken the initiative into its own hands following the defeat of the reactionary forces at the First Congress, the AYC has consistently maintained that initiative. At every turn of events, it has successfully checked the efforts of reaction to crystallize its

influence among the youth. The rising democratic movement in our country has every reason to appreciate and value that fact.

The AYC emerged upon the groundswell of the crisis years. A whole generation of youth was being battered from pillar to post under the impact of the crisis. Unemployment reached staggering proportions. The privations of youth, denied even the prospect of employment in industry, absorption into the professions, continuation of education, the possibility of happy married life, contrasted glaringly with the traditional outlook, so carefully nurtured through the American dream of unlimited opportunity and boundless possibility. Consciousness of its common plight began to weld the crisis generation into a coherent, articulate group. These stirrings toward unity were stimulated as the lessons of Hitler's rise to power, and the knowledge that fascism meant war, penetrated ever wider circles.

The need for united action, for articulate expression on the part of youth, to stem the ravages of economic disaster, to maintain democracy and defend peace began to express itself in various forms. Among the Protestant youth, the beginnings of the Christian Youth Building A New World Movement; among the Catholic youth, the beginnings of the Catholic Youth Organization; among the student youth, the united student strike against war; in the Y's and settlements, a transformed membership, fresh from wide contact with labor solidarity through unions and strikes. From many different directions, rivulets of united action, of collaboration for

common aims were converging and gaining momentum. This whole development reached a high point in the Fall of 1934 with the establishment of the American Youth Congress as a center of collaboration of the youth organizations of the country.

The unique contribution of the AYC consisted in the fact that it provided a center of collaboration for these various special fields of youth activity and organization within which more limited forms of collaboration were being established. In this way it afforded the possibility for the first time to weld together the whole of America's younger generation.

In the period in which the AYC was set up, the

New Deal was undergoing fundamental changes. Its previous role, eminently satisfactory to the most reactionary circles of big capital, was slowly being recast. The honeymoon period of the New Deal was nearing its end. Big capital had already gotten what it wanted through the early New Deal measures such as the bank holiday, through suspension of anti-monopoly restrictions, through the encouragement of company union growth by reactionary circles within the NRA administration. It began to grow alarmed at the breach in the open shop which labor made through utilization of section 7A of the NRA. It demanded energetic measures to suppress the growing strike wave. The Liberty League was formed to exert pressure on the Roosevelt administration. Hearst turned from fulsome praise of the New Deal to sharp criticism.

Still clustered around the New Deal, however, and exerting themselves in every phase of its activity were the reactionary forces which represented the most serious threat to the continued existence of democracy. Still prominent in the whole program of the New Deal were those features supported by reaction—army control of the CCC with its anti-labor implications as publicly envisaged by Assistant Secretary of War Woodring; creation of a vast reservoir of cheap youth labor through the apprentice and learn-

er clauses of NRA; subsistence homesteads, etc. These features of the New Deal youth program were seized upon by the spokesmen for reaction among the youth, and offered as the basis for uniting the young generation, thus quietly hitch-

ing it to the chariot of the Liberty League.

When the First American Youth Congress met in 1934 at the call of the Central Bureau For Young America, this was the program offered. The Central Bureau itself, both in personnel and outlook, reflected the still existing ambition of reaction to continue using the New Deal for its own purposes. The pretensions of Viola Ilma, moving spirit in the central Bureau, to establish herself as a youth leader, were quickly put to service by consciously reactionary and fascist forces among the youth. This was easily done, thanks to the outlook Viola Ilma had acquired from her close connections with reactionary circles, and

The American Youth Congress Is Largely Responsible for the Fact That There Is Not Today an Organized Center of Reaction Among the Youth on a National Scale

the enthusiasm she had worked up for obviously Nazi-inspired doctrines. Even if we accept apparently sincere disclaimers since made by Viola Ilma that she had been motivated by any consciously fascist aims, or that she had consciously established fascist connections, it is clear that she had in fact set her feet on an inclined plane that would have tumbled her and the whole Central Bureau into the blackest mire of reaction. That is, had not the alarmed and alert representatives of progressive young America checked that precipitate downward plunge by rejecting the reactionary program offered at the first Congress. If Viola Ilma does not find herself in the reactionary camp today she has the vigilance of the progressive youth to thank for it.

Before that Congress, reaction had set itself the aim of diverting the urge for unity of the young generation into the channels of a centralized youth movement under reactionary leadership. To cover its own responsibility for the catastrophic situation of young America, to prevent youth from uniting with the whole people for the common aims of both, the agents of reaction among the youth propagated the myth of a conflict between the generations, the conception that the adults as a whole had bungled the works, that young America as a generation must array itself against adult America to demand its place in the sun, to bring about a spiritual renaissance. It was under such slogans "Youth versus Age," "Spiritual Renaissance" that the First American Youth Congress was called by the Central Bureau For Young America.

With the defeat of its objectives at the First Congress, reaction changed its line of attack. Unable to divide youth from adult by setting one against the other, it tried to weaken the youth movement by dissolving it altogether.

No longer was the battle cry: "Youth against adult!" Now it became: "No youth movement needed. We're all in the same boat!"

By denying that there was such a thing as a young generation which had its special interests, by denying that there was any basis for a special youth movement, reaction tried to check the rapid growth of the AYC. "Wait patiently until the problems of the peoples as a whole are solved, and the solution to your problems will come as an automatic by-product," they said. In other words, there was nothing the youth needed to do about the plight of their generation.

The American Youth Congress rejected this gratuitous advice. Instead, it set itself the aim of acting as a center of all-inclusive collaboration of America's youth organizations—not in opposition to the older generation, but as a special, effectively articulate

part of a greater unity of the whole people for peace, freedom, and progress.

Threats to its unity came not only from openly reactionary forces outside the AYC but also from the ruinous policies proposed by the Trotskyite-influenced YPSL's. In 1935, following the Cleveland Congress, the YPSL actually set itself the task of establishing a center "parallel to the AYC" in the hopes of winning the youth organizations away from participation in the AYC. This splitting move proved fruitless. Now again, the YPSL is moving in the direction of splitting the forces collaborating in the AYC, this time hoping to accomplish that aim by setting up the *Youth Committee Against War* as a parallel center to the AYC.

The increasing arrogance of reaction, the growing threat to democracy, dictates the most rapid extension of the American Youth Congress as an all-inclusive center of collaboration of the youth organizations of the country. This can be achieved only if the AYC maintains its initiative in championing the rights of youth and what is equally important, by broadening the nature of the collaborative relationships already in existence. In fact, its ability to accomplish the first will depend in great measure on its ability to accomplish the second.

What is needed in the work of the AYC is an ability to relate its objectives to the activities in which youth organizations are currently engaged. It is necessary to correlate those activities and through them, or projects based on them, to win youth for democracy by effective participation in the life which democracy makes possible for youth.

Although the AYC has always had the aim of establishing itself as a center of collaboration of an all-inclusive character, it has found difficulty in actually carrying this aim through to the maximum possible degree because it has not sufficiently concerned itself with *all* of the activities and interests of young peoples' organizations. Hence, it has been difficult at times for certain youth organizations to do more than send delegates to AYC councils, conferences, congresses, or pilgrimages. But surely youth organizations can collaborate in their cultural activities, in their athletic activities, in their educational activities. Such successful collaboration will broaden the scope of the AYC, particularly in the localities, and give added channels for winning the membership of these organizations for the broad objectives of maintaining democracy by practising it.

(A second article on the American Youth Congress by Mac Weiss will appear in an early issue).

W E L C O M E H O M E

VETERANS of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, welcome home. Welcome to the American shores, the rockbound coast, where once our fathers made the solemn vow that these United States shall always be a haven for the oppressed, a refuge for the outcast, an opportunity for a new life on new soil.

Welcome from Spain, that republic of stout hearts, the democracy of a brave people that fights a world fight against the universal enemy.

Welcome, young Americans who fought alongside the young men of every land . . . at Madrid . . . two years this autumn . . . that Madrid might stand as the inspiring barrier to the fascist advance. Americans, who held the line at the Jarama river, the Jarama valley which has been memorialized in sorrowful song . . . Americans, who advanced on Brunete, rode into Quinto, who stormed Belchite and showed the new power of the Spanish Republican army last winter at Teruel. Americans, who were forced back on the Aragon front in the spring, but revealed the mettle of their make-up in brilliant attack along the Ebro only last July.

The saga of the International Brigade was written in those battles. The battles continue, but the great epic of the Brigade is finished, because its major objective has been achieved.

We all know what that objective was. We followed the work of the 15th Brigade in the newspapers, in the newsreels, in letters, in poems . . . in the speeches of men who returned to tell the whole story.

The objective of the American boys, and their fellow soldiers from the seven corners of the globe, was to help the Spanish people build their new army. It was to stave off the fascist attack and repel the fascist advance, while the Spanish people forged a new army in the white heat of their anger, and tempered that new, united army, under unified command, until it was able to give the fascists blow for blow.

It was not until the Spanish Republican government gave the order that the 15th Brigade retired. And then, only to expose the false "withdrawal" of Italian "volunteers," under which guise the Non-Intervention Committee plans new betrayals for Spain.

The objective has been achieved, and the men who did it are retiring from the field. They demonstrated that the Spanish cause was the cause of all mankind. It was and remains the universal cause, against vice, immorality, cruelty, greed, wanton barbarism, blackmail, and violence for which the wretched *swastika* and the craven *fasces* stand.

The American youth, like the youth of the world, heard the call of their Spanish brothers in the hour of bitter need. The call was answered, and several thousand young men went over, while no bands played, and no crowds lined the streets of our cities to cheer.

But it was strong music that called from Spain and millions in America listened and understood. Millions followed the fortunes of the American boys and the entire Spanish people. It was the test of a man's democratic understanding and sincerity over here, whether his trade union, his lodge, his church, or political organization contributed to provide medical supplies, ambulances, medicines, foodstuffs, and gifts to the Lincoln boys and the Spanish people.

The American boys are proud that some of their best rank and filers were chosen for leadership on the Spanish fields of action. Those leaders came from the ranks: they reflected the initiative, the ability, the collective valor and heroism of the entire Lincoln Brigade. The men who return to us have matured. They bring home the calm, and balanced judgment, the initiative and tactical wisdom, the higher political stability which the Spanish experience gave them.

The men of the Lincoln Brigade belong to the whole people. No race, no creed, no party, no single section of the country can claim them alone. They do not belong to us, although many of them are ours. They belong to the whole people in the same sense that we, the most progressive section of the American youth, are also part of the whole people. Ours is not the separate responsibility of helping them find their place, although we are, perhaps, most sensitive to that responsibility.

They are coming back from the front to get into the rearguard struggle. They are coming back, ready

and matured for leadership, for leadership in the battle against fascism on the American front.

Of course they want a rest. They want to study, to relax; in many cases, to recuperate. But all of them, when the rest is properly over, want things to do, want the chance for work alongside of the fellows from whose rank they sprang . . . a chance to build the front of progress and peace in their country, a chance to help improve the living standards, extend the social advances, and preserve the fundamental rights of the American people in the constant struggle against the forces of reaction and fascism at home.

The Lincoln Brigade is returning, but there are many whose step is missing from the ranks. They return from action upon the orders of the Republican central command. But there are many for whom no order any longer commands.

There is a time for rejoicing for the vets who return. But there is also a time for sorrow, for the men who remained, who remained in the Spanish soil that they came to defend.

Give time for rejoicing and sorrow. Give time for laughter and cheering. Give time for reflection, for the inner silence, for the silence whose holy language binds all men to their brothers. And out of both moments, out of the rejoicing and sorrow, there must come in the hearts of all young persons to whom democracy is dear and liberty sweet . . . a renewed determination, a gritting of teeth and clenching of fists, that the cause for which the members of

the Abraham Lincoln Brigade fought and died shall yet be victorious.

The British Tories and the betrayers of France conspire with the misshapen murderers of Rome and Berlin to strangle the Spanish people. They strive to award victory to Franco, who could not win victory alone. Through the scheme of "non-intervention," the Spanish struggle was prolonged. In the scheme of "belligerent rights" for the rebels, Chamberlain, Daladier, Mussolini, and Hitler (and all their cowardly stool pigeons in Europe and America) conspire to blockade Republican Spain. They strive to achieve through hunger what they could not do through tanks, artillery, air raids, and bombs.

The United States government, expressing the will of its people, can be decisive in spiking this treacherous plan. With all the prestige it commands, America can halt the threatened Munich for Spain. And in so doing, guarantee that fascism shall be weakened, fascism undermined, fascism repelled from the shores of the Western Hemisphere and the coasts of the United States.

Let America open its granaries and ship wheat and cotton to Spain. Let America re-open the channels of ordinary commerce with Republican Spain, and permit the purchase of arms and airplanes to overcome the technical superiority of the foe. Let America place the embargo where the embargo belongs. . . Let America tell Chamberlain to desist from giving "belligerent rights" to Franco. Apply the embargo on Germany and Italy! Lift the embargo from Spain! In this spirit, we welcome and honor the men of the Lincoln Brigade.

J. S.

Clarence Prince, on the right, a veteran and a former member of the National Council of the YCL, discusses medical aid for the returned Lincoln boys at the office of the Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.





SPANISH MOTHER AND CHILD

by John Groth

EDITORIALS

The call resounds throughout the world, pointing the road to victory for the forces of peace and democracy, the road of unity—unity of the working class in each industry and each country; international unity of all who stand

● **B**Y their fruits ye shall know them. Indeed by the bloody fruits of Munich, the fascist barbarians of the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo axis and the Chamberlain-Daladier representatives of the ruling circles of Britain and France abandoned all pretense and entered into an alliance with fascism. They now stand naked and exposed before the eyes of the world.

Stripped of its camouflage of "peace for our time," the Pact of Munich appears for what it is, the most infamous treachery of history. Yes, "peace" for our time by betrayal of the republic of Czechoslovakia. A "peace" which paves the road to reaction throughout Europe, tightens the hangman's noose around the throat of the French people, and strengthens the hand of the Japanese fascist-war-lords. A "peace" which attempts to crush the heroic people of Spain, and by the threat of fascist encirclement of the United States strikes a blow to the very existence of world peace.

Czechoslovakia could have been saved! There was another alternative to Munich! The united stand of the democratic forces of the world, confronting Hitler with overwhelming economic and military superiority could have forced his rereat. Hitler was not prepared for war—his fascist economy is tottering, his fortifications incomplete, his general staff alarmed, and the German people on the move to overthrow the beast of fascism.

Faced with the imminent collapse of fascism, the reactionary imperialist circles of England and France turned traitor. It was not peace they saved, it was Hitler! They preferred to betray democracy, to sell out the people of their own country, to betray their own national interests—in order to preserve Hitler as the policeman of reaction for Europe.

The clarion call of the Communist International, in a manifesto addressed to the peoples of the world on November 7th, and the voice of George Dimitroff, hero and champion of all oppressed peoples, smashes aside the smokescreen of lies of the peace-betrayers.

The drawing on the opposite page was contributed exclusively for the Review by the prominent American artist, John Groth. A former art editor of Esquire, Mr. Groth is well known to the reading audience of magazines such as The Nation, Ken and The New Yorker.

for human decency, freedom and justice.

The people of Germany are reaping the fruits of Munich. The bestial pogroms of Hitler, unknown even in the days of the Dark Ages, outrage the humanity of all mankind. To bolster the shaky financial structure of German economy and to suppress the growing resistance of the people, the Nazi butchers have unleashed a campaign of terror that exterminates an entire people. This horrible plague not only ravages Jewish synagogue and Catholic altar alike, it threatens to spread its poisonous influence into all parts of the world. Let us in America beware of the subtle, brazen smuggling of anti-semitism into America: the warning stench of reaction.

Earl Browder clearly expressed the attitude that every decent thinking person must take, when he stated:

"Every person who fails to raise his voice in condemnation of these crimes today, is by that fact a partner in crime with Hitler. And every person who accepts or condones the Munich Pact undertakes the same responsibility."

All sections of the people, Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, trade unionists, have protested, and in response to their upraised voices the President has taken action that speaks more loudly than diplomatic language permits: the recall of Ambassador Wilson.

● **B**UT that is not enough! Millions must raise their voices and demand that we sever all diplomatic and trade connections with the source of this festering plague. Demand the placing of an embargo on Germany!

Action by the United States would bring new courage to the peoples of England, France and Germany. With our cooperation, they can sweep out of power the governments of treachery, and raise instead, governments expressing the genuine will of the people. With our support the people of Germany can be depended upon to put an end to the brown-shirt rule of terrorism. Let us in the United States take the initiative to organize collaboration with all peace forces of the world, including the Soviet Union, that mighty bulwark of peace and democracy.

Another of the consequences of Munich is the in-

creased pressure of the fascist forces to penetrate the Western Hemisphere, to encircle the United States.

That is why Latin American problems are taking the spotlight these days as never before. Moving away from the center of reaction, (as our article on Cuba on another page indicates), Colonel Batista is getting a great spread in the press, a fact which reflects the intense concern of the American government with the resurgence of Cuban democracy. The partial settlement of the problem of the expropriated American-owned lands by negotiation with the Mexican government is a sign of the times. Especially since the precedent is set for a solution of the more important question of the expropriated oil lands.

And the precedent itself is of major importance, because it is based upon American recognition of the complete sovereignty of the Cardenas government. The elaborate preparations of the American government for the Pan-American conference in Lima,

Peru, which convenes in the second week of December mirrors the concern of the State Department and American business generally, with the development of the Good Neighbor policy and the growth of reciprocal trade agreements with the Latin and South American countries.

The danger of fascist trade penetration in the Western Hemisphere, accompanying military and political penetration, was carefully documented at the meeting of the National Foreign Trade Council in the last days of October. The realistic discussion of fascist trade policies and the unanimous support of the Good Neighbor policy indicates with what understanding American business approaches the problem of defending American national interests against economic and political aggression.

Likewise, the victory of the Chilean Popular Front in the recent elections, the first Popular Front victory in the Western Hemisphere, emphasizes the great mass movement for democracy among the South American peoples with which the American government cannot help but reckon.

And only a few months earlier, the great Latin American Trade Union Congress united the trade union movements of the entire continent. And a month before that, there was the World Youth Congress, one of whose most significant features was the

large and representative delegation from the South and Latin American countries.

Many more implications can be drawn from these developments than the space of an editorial permits. Clearly, however, the American government now recognizes that a major danger to its national interests lies in the fascist penetration of the lands to the South. Expressing almost unanimous approval from the widest sections of the American business, Roosevelt is apparently prepared to counteract these fascist encroachments . . . if for nothing more than to save these areas for much needed trade expansion that would also aid in domestic recovery. The decisive thing about all this is that American business cannot

defend its own interests, and those of the people without at the same time strengthening the movements for democracy and national sovereignty in all of the South American countries. In fact, the Good Neighbor policy will only succeed to the extent that

democratic rights are extended to the people of the Latin American countries, that the standards of living are raised and even native and sovereign industry is developed.

But while cooperation of all the Americas is essential for the maintenance of peace, for extending the collaboration of peace forces to oppose the Munich alliance, there is no room for any theory of hemisphere isolation. Great danger arises from the fact that Roosevelt and the American people may not fully realize the importance of aiding Spain as the precondition for defeating fascism in Latin America. Spain is the cultural motherland of all Latin America. Hitler aspires to conquer Spain as a springboard—for the conquest of Spain would reduce the Atlantic to the size of a small pond across which fascist aggression could proceed with comparative ease.

Just because America moves to greater and more genuine unity with South and Central America she must appreciate the importance of immediate aid to Spain. Lifting the Embargo on Spain would be an act of self defense to the Americas. Feeding Spain by sending food to them from America's bountiful harvest of grain, corn, cotton, butter, would be a blow for world peace, for the preservation of peace and democracy in the Americas.

C. R.



Our cover, a photo-montage by John Gilmore, was originally designed as the Nazi building at the World's Fair. The gruesome skull with prison doors and barred windows sharply satirizes the barbarities which Hitler is inflicting upon Jews, Catholics, and Protestants. Despite Germany's withdrawal from the Fair, the artist's conception is more timely than ever.

THE ELECTION RESULTS

By CARL ROSS

SINCE all my friends are asking me "What do the results of the November 8th elections really show," I would like to give my opinions and impressions on the questions which all groups and parties are discussing. Perhaps those questions are also on your mind and you would like to engage in this discussion with me.

Everyone is aware of the outstanding fact that the elections show an overwhelming support of and sympathy with the objectives of the New Deal. But there is an apparent contradiction in the fact that the elections resulted in a gain of eight senators, eighty-one representatives and fifteen governors for the Republican Party, in such key states as Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. While the Republicans elected a large number of Congressmen, 1938 is one of the few times in history when a second term president retains such a majority of Congress.

The reactionary forces operating principally through the Republican Party have not succeeded in their main objectives, but no one should minimize the fact that reaction has won significant victories and wrested important positions from the camp of progress.

On the other hand to the credit of the progressives go the sweeping victories of the New Deal in New York and California, the election of Marcantonio, the elimination of a number of red-baiters of the O'Connor type, and the large Communist vote, particularly in California and New York.

Despite Republican gains, the vote indicates an optimistic outlook toward 1940. According to the *Gallup poll*, which seems to have given a fairly accurate forecast of the election results, "Unofficial estimates of last Tuesday's voting indicate a total Democratic Congressional vote of approximately 53 per cent. This compares to 59 per cent in 1936." A drop of only 6 per cent and still a majority.

In spite of some of his own faulty conclusions, Dr. Gallup throws some light on what took place and indicates where this approximate 6 per cent (or less) swing in the vote took place. He says, "it is necessary to understand that political sentiment in this country today is sharply divided along economic lines. As

the Institute has frequently reported, the voters in the upper economic level, constituting about 16%, are strongly opposed to President Roosevelt, while those in the lower level constituting about 36%, are overwhelmingly for him."

From this fact we can draw several conclusions. The Sixty Families and the top circles of the powerful industrial magnates have thrown their weight overwhelmingly against Roosevelt. Their opposition to the New Deal has been consolidated. On the other hand, the 36 per cent, the "one third of a nation," stands solidly behind the New Deal. Labor, organized in both the C.I.O. and A. F. of L., making great strides forward towards unity, gave its overwhelming support to the objectives of President Roosevelt. The shift in the vote, resulting in Republican gains, obviously came therefore, primarily from a section of the middle classes and farmers. This was the percentage of the voters which the Dies Committee attempted to frighten by its "boogey man" tales. As a result of the barrage of red-baiting and anti-C.I.O. propaganda, accompanied by the most blatant demagoguery from the reactionaries, and because of the inadequacies of the New Deal itself in aiding the farmers and the middle classes by striking at the powerful monopoly interests, sections of the American people, of the middle classes, as well as many first voters who really belong in the progressive camp permitted themselves to be misled into supporting reactionary candidates.

Are we therefore to draw the conclusion that the people no longer support Roosevelt, and no longer desire social security and other New Deal benefits? And if the majority still support the

(Cont. on page 25)



CIVILIZATION VERSUS HITLER

By PHIL SCHATZ

THE entire civilized world rises in anger against the latest persecutions of the Jewish people in Germany. From every church, trade union, cultural organization, the unmistakeable voice of the democratic people of America thunders its protest against the misdeeds of fascism gone mad.

The issue of the Jews in Germany, and the related issue of the Catholics and Protestants against whom Hitler prepares new terrorism, provides the basis for an anti-fascist unity of more people than any other single issue in political life today.

Fascism is proven the relentless enemy of every human interest, ignoring race, creed, and nationality. The action of President Roosevelt in withdrawing the American envoy to Berlin, coming upon the heels of the widest kind of indignation from the most varied assortment of political figures, expresses the deep antagonism of *the American way* against *the fascist way*. On the tidal wave of this movement, even the pro-fascist politics of Chamberlain must founder, and there will be drawn into the orbit of this protest that kind of unity against the menace of fascist penetration which will affect every phase of domestic and foreign affairs.

A horrible terror grips a whole people. A horrible terror spans the ocean and seizes the distant relations of this people. A gnawing surmise of the true character of fascism embraces ever wider proportions of the non-Jewish population.

The refugee issue is posed so clearly that no democratic nation can avoid it, and the call for action to open the gates of the democracies echoes more powerfully in every community, in the colleges, in the churches, and the very halls of government.

Anger, resentment, a deep-rooted desire to do something to save their fellows from the Fascist madmen overpowers the majority of Jewish young men and women. Among unaffiliated Jewish youth there is unclarity. The question is asked: "What can we do about it?" Among the organized Jewish youth there is division, a spirit of non-cooperation, a disagreement upon methods and tactics.

In developing a program of action to combat anti-semitism, which will be acceptable to all youth—organized and unorganized—Christian and Jewish alike, I want to establish three basic points:

First, a policy of meekness and servility, of "dignified silence" is nothing but capitulation, and encourages anti-semitism; second, separation of the Jewish problem from the general problem of all the people is unrealistic and isolates the Jews from sorely needed friends; and third, action by the Jewish youth alone is not enough.

Fascism is the bitter enemy of the Jew. It is not the Jew alone, however, whom Fascism persecutes. Larger and larger sections of Catholics and Protestants are beginning to realize the implication of this fact. The spread of anti-semitism is always accompanied by anti-Catholicism. Today, a rabbi in Germany is persecuted. Tomorrow, as we have already seen, it is a Cardinal Innitzer, Cardinal Faulhaber, or a Protestant Pastor Niemoller, who shares the same concentration camp with the Jew.

Hitler incites Storm troopers not only against the Jewish youth and their organizations but against members of the Catholic youth organizations as well. Hitler drives Jewish youth from the professions but also deprives Catholics of their jobs because they are courageous enough to remain members of their traditional organizations.

Surely here is an identity of interests, a bond which unites Jews and Gentiles in a common and joint struggle against the Fascist menace. Surely all Jewish youth leaders who pursue a narrow policy of distrust toward non-Jews, must be severely criticized for wilfully separating themselves from valuable friends.

If the Jewish young men and women separate the "Jewish Question" from the general problems which face all the people, they will be travelling in a direction which alienates them from the majority of the American people.

To say this is not to deny that Jewish youth have special problems. These are self-evident; discrimination in the search of employment, a virtual blacklist

in the public utilities, banks, many professions and large corporations. Steady and relentless extension of the quota system in the law and medical schools. Social ostracism, plus the overwhelming fear of imminent violence at the hands of anti-semites are all part of the special problem of the Jewish youth.

Aside from this, Jewish and non-Jewish youth face the same economic problems—the problems of the younger generation—jobs, security, marriage, a chance to raise a family, opportunity, and freedom from war.

The special problems of Jewish youth and the general economic problems faced by both Jews and non-Jews stem from the same source. America's Sixty Families, the wealthy industrialists and financiers who control the factories and wealth of America, are today responsible for shutting the doors of happiness in the face of Jewish as well as Gentile youth. It is they who cause unemployment on the one hand; and on the other, violently oppose the progressive New Deal legislation designed to help the common people.

These reactionaries promote anti-semitic movements as part of their tactic to oppose Jew against Gentile, Negro against white, farmer against worker. From the decadent fount of Big Business springs the Ku Klux Klan, Silver Shirts, and anti-semitic Father Coughlin.

To protect democracy from the onslaught of the "feudal few" as President Roosevelt has called them, the Jews must unite with all other progressives, and participate in progressive political activity. In helping others they will be, basically, helping themselves.

The Jew therefore, cannot be an observer standing casually on the sidelines, while a life and death battle rages between democracy and the hosts of Fascism. Many young Jews believe that it is best for them to hear nothing, do nothing, and say nothing about politics and particularly about the treatment of the Jews. They are sadly mistaken. These are problems to which there is no longer a safe or "tactful" approach.

The belief that quietness and meekness will ward off anti-semitism is self blinding. Many Jews were faithful and staunch supporters of Fascism in Italy. Look at their reward.

Anti-semitism is not caused by the actions of Jewish people that anger non-Jews. In Germany Hitler terrorizes the Jews because he must whitewash his Fascist regime: for its butterless and meatless days, low wages, high taxes, and an ever present war danger. Nor is it coincidental that the campaign



against the Jews in Italy comes when Mussolini is faced with reverses in Spain, and the greatest economic crisis in the history of the Fascist regime.

Likewise in the United States, the Fords, Girdlers, Duponts, and other industrialists and financiers, support and sponsor anti-semitic movements, to prevent the people from spotting them, the responsible instigators of the present economic crisis. "Let us divert the fight against the Jews, and that will keep the people from all getting together to fight against us." This is their simple and cold-blooded calculation. "Blame unemployment and insecurity on the Jews, and the people will not blame unemployment and insecurity on us"—this is their perverse logic.

NO PATIENCE WITH THE ANTI-SEMITES

It is not clear that nothing is to be gained by trying to patiently "convince" these fascist anti-semites that they have a wrong opinion about the Jews? Capitulation to anti-semitism is nothing more than the invitation signal to the reactionaries.

It is clear that a general and worldwide action is necessary to save the Jewish people from total destruction. Action which is incumbent on the Jews, first of all, and secondly upon the Catholics, the Protestants, and all the peoples who have fought for freedom from religious and national persecution, and to whom liberty of conscience is dear.

There is no solution of this problem in Palestine. Already, the Arab-British conflict takes on the character of a large scale revolt against imperialist rule in which the Jews will be crushed almost to the same degree that they are now in Germany.

Palestine creates a new refugee problem as fast as it attempts to solve the refugee problem which the fascist dictators are brutally creating in central Europe. Nor can it ever solve the *mass* problem . . . for those millions of Jewish people of all classes for whom emigration to Palestine is as unrealistic as it is unwise.

America must once more open her shores to the oppressed Jews and Catholics who are being deported and hounded by the Fascists. If such a campaign is conducted in the United States, in Great Britain, and in France, as well as other democracies, only then will the refugee problem be approached in a practical manner.

The world must be aroused against Hitler's atrocities. In the United States all progressives must call upon the government to place an embargo against Germany. The boycott movement against Nazi goods must be increased to the point where not

one store in the United States will dare sell German goods.

This is the language that Hitler will understand. It is the language of an aroused civilization.

Members of the Young Communist League, in trade unions, communities and schools, must stand out as bold fighters for the interests of Jewish youth. In all progressive movements the YCL must see to it that the special problems of the Jewish youth are included in every program of action. Jewish youth groups must be approached and drawn into progressive collaboration with other anti-Nazi groups.

League members can play a forceful role, through their contact with youth of various Jewish youth organizations, in advancing unity of action. The entire progressive youth movement must be made to understand that the fight against anti-semitism is a fight for the maintenance of democracy.

Militant struggle and vigilance against anti-semitism must be supplemented by a thorough educational campaign dealing with the cultural and social contribution of the Jewish people to the life of America. Even a cursory examination of this question reveals that the Jewish people play an active role in all movements for democracy and security in the United States. In music, in science, in medicine, literature, etc., in all these fields, the Jews have made honorable and praiseworthy contributions, of which they are rightly proud.

Anti-semitism is a scourge that is encouraged by ignorance just as it is instigated by the planned, systematic, organized hatred which the fascist dictatorships foster. When the anti-semites get going they feed the broad masses of the Gentile population the grossest slanders, the most fantastic misconceptions about the Jews. They play upon the most barbaric instincts, and develop a myth, so unreasonable, so lacking in truth and logic, as to throw back to the Middle Ages.

But this is possible only because the progressive sections of our people, even educators and leaders of public opinion, yield to the pressure of this lying propaganda and shield the broad masses of the people from the true facts about the Jews, their culture, and their contributions to modern civilization.

There are tendencies even among the Jews themselves, especially among those young people who have never participated in the general life of the community, to succumb to the pressure of anti-semitism by denying the progressive and democratic traditions of their people.

Freeman must fight for their freedom and only a people willing to be free, deserves to be free.

THE ASU CONVENTION

by C E L E S T E S T R A C K

REMEMBER the first convention of the American Student Union? Snowdrifts were piled high in the streets of Columbus, Ohio. We waited long hours for delegations to plough their way through mid-western blizzards. We waited long hours to hear the applause and cheering that would announce to the unaffiliated students milling in the halls that the National Student League and League for Industrial Democracy conventions had ended for the last time. The ASU convention could begin. The American Legion and town reactionaries did their best to have us ousted from the YWCA. The Trotskyites read long "revolutionary" documents to the effect that the student body was a "mass of reaction" and that an organization like the ASU could not and should not exist.

Despite all adverse factors, the ASU was born. Joe Lash and Joe Cohen stood on the platform together. Hundreds of ex-NSL, ex-SLID and liberal students in the auditorium forged the program and organization that have become the center of anti-fascist unity in the schools.

Two central principles guided their work. First, the conviction that the American student body, as part of the American people, and as students, must defend their own interests against the threat of reaction and war. Second, that unity was the instrument through which these ends could be accomplished. The evidence? 25,000 students had struck for peace in 1934. 250,000, in 1935. A mass movement had arisen to defend freedom of the press at Columbia University. Student action supported labor and stopped student scabbing in the West Coast Longshoreman's strike. Demonstrations of students, parents, and teachers protested retrenchment in Chicago schools. These were signs of the times. Under such stars, the American Student Union was born.

Experience in three years has documented these principles of struggle. Trends in the student body which the Columbus gathering noted, have grown deeper, broader, and more significant.

Student councils are changing. Dances, athletics, the politics of cam-

pus life have been their sole preoccupation. Embracing these matters still, their province today includes the task of expressing student sentiment on problems of the hour—peace, democratic rights, social legislation. ASU and ASU-supported slates for student councils have helped this development locally and nationally.

The National Student Federation used to be no more than an annual convention where student body presidents went to a round of dances and swapped political experiences.

This is changing, too. The leadership of the NSFA today clearly wants to build a real movement for student government—the kind that will take up problems students actually face, the kind that will train them for citizenship in a democracy, the kind that will give them an increasing voice in school administration. That's what students in Europe and Latin America have.

The Student Christian Movement is also claiming a new place in the student movement. At most schools the YMCA and YWCA program used to be regarded as pretty anemic. But renewed concern with the social implications of Christianity is making a considerable impact, which is increasingly true of the campus religious foundations. The professional students were always hard to lure from their midnight oil. Yet today there is an American Medical Student Association dealing with the professional needs and general social interests of this hard working section of the student body. Social work students, law students, and even certain engineering student bodies, such as at MIT, are forming their own organizations and expressing themselves more clearly through traditional groups. A few student workers federations have been formed, and unorganized students have been taking part in student peace strikes and campus election polls.

The American Student Union has grown. *But not enough.* Not enough in terms of its own possibilities. And this is a central problem confronting its fourth convention. The ASU has helped to stimulate all these developments of the

(Continued on Page 27)



CUBA

by HARRY
ROBINSON

FRESH winds are sweeping the Caribbean, and great events are shaping themselves on America's doorstep. The Cuban people are stirring with new power. Their organized strength has already won them a number of important gains, not the least of which is the achievement of legality for the heroic Communist Party of Cuba, after years of bitter persecution.

But these changes did not occur overnight. They were won only by years of patient struggle. And their causes must be sought not only in Cuba's recent internal history, but in the changing arena of world politics.

After the March, 1935 general strike, the popular and trade union movements were smashed. Slowly and carefully the people, especially the working class, began to put the pieces together. Under the slogan of unity of the whole nation for a free, sovereign Constituent Assembly which would write a new constitution to replace the discarded one of 1901, the people began to move forward.

The trade unions were reorganized around the demand for the fulfillment of labor legislation. Nobody could be indifferent to this desire of the working class for their legal rights. Around this, all the elements of the trade union movement united. Today there exists in Cuba a united Federation of Labor in every province. These federations expect to unite nationally this January in a great Congress of Trade Union Unity.

A process of winning legality and rejecting the mistaken road of "putschism" took place within the mass popular parties. New ones were organized, not the least important of which is the Union Revolutionary Party, headed by Cuba's most famous intellectual, Dr. Juan Marinello. A revolutionary bloc was formed by the National Agrarian Party, the Union Revolutionary Party, and the Authentic Organization (a split-off from the Cuban Revolutionary Party of Dr. Ramon Grau San Martin), which pledged to struggle together for the Constituent Assembly. This revolutionary bloc developed into a working relationship

of all democratic groups for the Constituent Assembly and included among its supporters a number of former presidents.

The Cuban youth played an important part in the development of this mass democratic movement. During the period of the most severe terror in Cuba, in 1935 and 1936, young people conducted the principal legal mass activity in the country. The Brotherhood of Cuban Youth was formed at the end of 1935. This organization united all kinds of different youth groups on these central issues, celebrating the patriotic heritage of the Cuban people, expressing the desire of youth for culture and satisfying its need for sports.

A mass movement was begun to fight against illiteracy. The Brotherhood founded schools in the cities and in the peasant regions. They requested support for their initiative, and secured the cooperation of the people. Circulating libraries, lecture courses on Cuban history, and dramatic activities educated the youth in the spirit of national liberation and love of their country and people.

The success of the Brotherhood was demonstrated at its last Congress, held in January. Over 200,000 youth, from almost every organization in Cuba, were represented.

A short time after the formation of the Brotherhood, when the possibility for more open organization existed, the Association of the Youth of the People was formed. Its main purpose was to find a means for all those youth who had supported the Popular Revolutionary Bloc to come together and struggle for their special youth demands in the new constitution. This organization, more political than the Brotherhood, organized the forces of youth in a mass campaign to aid Spain.

Today the Association of the Youth of the People



contains more than 15,000 members, but so great is the desire for unity among all sections of the Cuban people, that steps have recently been taken to affiliate it directly to the Brotherhood of Cuban Youth. Thus the two great currents of the Cuban youth movement—the unity for the Constituent Assembly and the struggle for sports and culture—will coalesce to form one great body dedicated to real betterment of Cuban youth.

Cuba's delegates to the World Youth Congress stimulated a collaboration for peace in which are participating the Red Cross, the White Cross for Peace and other philanthropic organizations. Overtures have been made towards the Rural Civic Military Schools to have them likewise participate in this progressive, and essentially Cuban movement, of all youth for peace.

The recent events in Spain, China, and Mexico made a profound impression on the Cuban people. Sentiment for the defense of Spain swept the country. Huge mass meetings were held. The defense of Spanish democracy was understood by the Cuban people as a direct means of defending their own democracy (also from foreign invasion). It meant guaranteeing their democracy in a new Constitution.

Mexico and its popular government came in for a share of the popular approval. President Cardenas was a living example of a progressive who governed with the support of the whole, united people.

China's unity and its defense against imperialist aggression has been a great lesson for all Cubans. Especially impressive was the change in the attitude of Chiang Kai-shek. The Chinese leader, once known for his suppression of popular demands, has become

the symbol of the unity of his people against the Japanese invader.

Of great importance in the developing mass movement for democracy was the attitude of the Roosevelt administration. Whereas in former years, the American ambassadors, Welles and Caffery, were the instigators of terror against the people, today the American ambassador does not intervene in any manner in Cuban politics. Roosevelt's speeches and "Good Neighbor" policy could not be disregarded in a country so closely linked to the United States, especially when the democratic movement did everything to popularize these sentiments.

The manifest desire of the American government to oppose Nazi penetration on our continent had its effect. And in the nick of time, too, for Cuba was steadily moving closer to an understanding with Germany, Italy, and Japan, egged on by the national traitors who took orders from and sent funds to Franco.

Especially vital in aiding the growth of Cuban democracy was the changed attitude of Colonel Batista. In speaking of Batista, we must never forget his social origin. He comes from the ranks of the people. He was the leader of the coup d'etat of sergeants in September, 1933, when he led the privates, corporals, and sergeants in cleansing the Cuban army of its corrupt officers, coincident with the popular uprising against Machado. During the period of preparation for Machado's downfall, Batista had years of revolutionary experience. His friends and comrades-in-arms had also been workers and peasants before they became colonels and majors in the army. They still have contacts with their peasant and worker families, and are naturally influenced by the desire of the masses for democracy and security.

Batista remains, of course, a member of the ruling class. But the white aristocratic rulers of Cuba, the

landlords and bankers, the imperialists, never looked with full confidence upon this sergeant of Negro blood who had become the head of the army. They still treated him as though he were fit for nothing more than an instrument in their lily white hands, an instrument against the people.

It was the clarity of vision of the Communist Party, in its historic Tenth Plenum, which helped decisively to define the correct attitude towards Batista. The Communists boldly stated at that time that they would support all the democratic measures which Batista adopted, and that they no longer considered him the center of the reactionary forces of the country. This position has been overwhelmingly confirmed in practice.

Such men as Pepin Rivero, the publisher of the *Diario de la Marina*, the Hearst of Cuba, and open supporter of Hitler and Franco, together with General Montalvo and Senator Casanova, have taken a position of open hostility to Batista. The House of Representatives and the Senate, which supported Batista when he was the center of reaction, today fight against him. All measures, no matter how minimum, for the convening of the Constituent Assembly and for popular betterment, are sabotaged by the Congress. Pepin Rivero is maneuvering desperately, threatening economic sabotage, trying to win friends among the anti-Roosevelt American financiers, menacing and insulting Batista in one breath and attempting to woo him back in another.

But the popular movement marches on—and the position of Batista favors it. On September 25, 1938, there took place in Havana something which Cuba had not seen for a long time. It was a demonstration of 80,000 trade unionists, workers and farmers, marching under a tropical rainstorm in perfect discipline and order. The Communist Party had its proud columns and banners well up in front. And Batista and his government followed the example of the disciplined masses and remained on the balcony of the presidential palace, though soaked by the rain.

This mighty demonstration of the popular will fittingly expresses the significant changes in Cuban life. The workers had gathered to thank Batista and the government for having withdrawn a law which would have increased transportation fares throughout Cuba. This law would have inflicted incredible hardship on the workers who travel to the factories, and on the peasants who ship their produce.

Besides thanking the government for this recognition of the people's rights, the demonstration expressed the desire of the working class for democracy in Cuba, for the celebration of the Constituent As-

sembly, for the replacement of the workers in the March, 1935, strike, for the lowering of rents and supplying of drinking water in Havana, etc. In all, eighteen demands were presented. The government accepted seventeen, and already has taken measures to satisfy them.

The same day of the demonstration, the first mass meeting of the legal Communist Party took place. Blas Roca, secretary of the Party, made the keynote speech. He pointed out that the legalization of the Communist Party of Cuba was a victory for all the democratic forces of the country.

"The Communist Party," he said, "will work together sincerely with all who support the aspirations of the people." In answer to the whispering campaign spread by the Trotskyite enemies of the people, Blas Roca declared, "This is not a maneuver of the Communist Party to fool the government and the people. We fought, while illegal, for the unity of the people, for democracy and the Constituent Assembly, and now that we are legal, our line remains the same because the needs of the people have not changed."

"As to the possibility of this being a maneuver by Batista," Blas Roca added, "a maneuver to know the Communists and then cut their heads off, I doubt it, because there are too many Communists. I cannot answer for the government, but in the short time of our legality so many things have taken place for the benefit of the people, that the Communist Party would like to see many more such maneuvers which benefit the people."

Replying to the charge that the Communist Party was strengthening Batista by supporting him, Blas Roca answered, "Does this policy of our Party strengthen Batista? Yes, it strengthens Batista; but a Batista who is a democrat, who listens to the popular demands. The Party wishes to strengthen such a Batista, who fights against the former Batista."

Today, these changes for democracy and the defense of peace on the American continent transpiring in Cuba, are felt in the United States. Besides the visit of Batista to the White House and his stirring statements in defense of democracy, one other significant incident stands out. That is the permission for twenty-one Sudeten Jews to find haven in Cuba after other countries had barred their doors.

The American people, especially our young people, should greet this rebirth of Cuban democracy with a full realization of the promise it holds for a democratic front of American nations to make the Western Hemisphere a force for world peace and the well-being of its peoples.



by JERRY WEINBERG

OUR NATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL

THE bell in the little red brick school house was ringing for the first time in two months. Vacation days are over. Down the road come the kids, with beaming faces. Some wear bright new clothes, others, suits and dresses that show wear and tear, but all are spick and span. We watched them strolling down the highway and smiled for school was in for us also: the National Training School of the YCL was beginning a new term. There were twenty-eight of us from every section of the United States and two from Canada.

Eight of our number were girls. Four were Negroes. Eddie, City Organizer of the YCL in Washington . . . Lizetta of Chicago, president of a branch of more than 100 members . . . Vernon of Cleveland, and Howard of Harlem. Three of the boys had recently returned from Spain—Moe of Chicago, one of the first to volunteer his services for the struggle against Fascism, was a sergeant with the 1st Lincoln Battalion at Jarama and Brunete; Vic, of Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania, former organizer amongst the anthracite workers, served with the Mackenzie Papineau Battalion . . . did great work until he was wounded at Teruel; and Jerry of Brooklyn . . . former president of the Beehive Branch in Kings County—a runner in the 1st Lincoln Battalion.

From our brother YCL in Canada came Bill and Dick. Bill is from Montreal, the Padlock Law City. Dick is an auto worker from St. Catherine in the province of Ontario. Our class members came not from vacations, but from the factories and shops of our nation.

Jimmy, from the Auto City, Detroit, is a member of the United Automobile Workers Union and a chief shop steward in a plant employing hundreds of workers. Bob, of St. Louis, an active member of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America. Mary of Chicago, a leader of our League in the Windy City and a former Packing House worker.

Beatrice of Philadelphia is a garment worker and a member of the International Ladies Garment Work-

ers Union. Elwin of Minnesota, a hotel clerk, belongs to the Hotel Employees Union.

Alma, State YCL organizer in Indiana, a member of the UERWA, and an outstanding woman athlete. In the Amateur Athletic Union, she held the National Women's record in three events: the 60 meter dash, the high and broad jump.

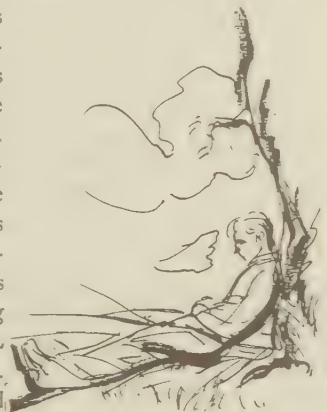
Four of our group came to school fresh from the campuses of other schools. Ray, of St. Louis, had been a student at the University of Missouri where he helped build the American Student Union and the YCL on the campus.

Mary of Cleveland, was an active member of the American Student Union, and Rose of Oklahoma, who studied at Oklahoma Teachers College had only been in the League seven months.

From New Orleans came Gwen, and, although still a young girl, a veteran of toil. Gwen's campus was a factory, because education for poor Negro and white children is at a premium in Louisiana. So Gwen came to school from the deep south with very little book learning but with a deep and burning desire for knowledge.

Amongst the student body, I think our political director, Mary Himoff, should be mentioned; one of our teachers, but as she herself said, "one of the students as well." Her political guidance helped knit our school into a well functioning collective. Her personal guidance helped each student overcome many difficulties and gave each confidence in his or her ability to understand the problems that confront the youth of our country.

And so, on September 12, 1938, while millions of students were hurrying to classes, the Stone Brothers National Training School of the YCL met in its first session. Our school was named,



in memory of two Young Communists who died on the battlefields of Spain: Joe and Sam Stone. Together with a third brother, Hy, Joe and Sam fought with the Lincoln Brigade in the Battle of Brunete on July 9, 1937, and fell in the attack on Mosquito Heights. They are only two of the many YCLers who gave their lives to liberate Madrid from Franco's siege, and they symbolize the heroism of the YCLers who died that the black forces of Fascism might not overwhelm the world.

Our campus was as beautiful as that of any college. The little "red" school house overlooked the blue waters of the Hudson River. The air was clear and fresh, inspiring one to study. We had splendid recreational facilities, baseball equipment and a huge field, football, basketball, ping pong, and swimming. Our school house occupied four large rooms and a library, while our literature covered everything from political economy to cowboy song books. Meals were excellent; we all gained weight, and who wouldn't, with three helpings of dessert with each meal. We bunked three in a cozy room, with plenty of blankets and soft mattresses so that after a good night's sleep we were ready for a day of *Recreation, Action and Education*.

At 7:45 A.M. every one was down for setting-up exercises. To the accompaniment of radio music and the creaking of stiff joints, Alma, of Indianapolis sent us through our paces. At 8 A.M. there was breakfast and a half hour later, we were reading the *Daily Worker*. At 9 A.M. classes started. After a few songs, the teacher took us over for the rest of the morning. Aside from hourly recesses of ten minutes each, we spent the full morning in lectures. After lunch there was a rest hour and then a period for individual study. For those who had been away from studies it was difficult, but in a short time we were all in swing. The school was divided into five groups, each with a group leader. After two hours of study, the group would meet separately and discuss the lessons of the day. The group leaders did a fine job in bringing forward the quiet people who would not participate in discussion at first. The groups soon became busy centers of discussion and activity within the school, for only through collective discussion could problems be analyzed correctly.

At night we participated in the various cultural activities. Miriam led the chorus; Howard, better known as "Stretch," led a dancing class; comrades played ping pong, chess, and checkers. Saturday afternoons and Sundays were full, what with gruelling baseball practice. Elwin, from Minnesota, starred in

our last game against the New York State Training School of the Communist Party, pitching our team to a 12-0 victory.

On Thursday night we held our branch meeting, usually with an attendance of 100%. Eddie of Washington, elected class leader, would open the meeting. Committees turned in snappy reports. A different group was assigned to lead the discussion on current events each week, while one group put on a *March of Time*, another a *Living Newspaper* skit. One week, the comrades from Spain related personal experiences; on another, the two Canadian comrades talked about their own youth movement.

The curriculum consisted of 18 different courses with Frances Franklin, our National Educational Director as the lead-off man in American history. Studying American History in Public School was always just a medley of dates with no relation to each other. Here, for the first time, we were able to understand why each event took place. We learned to appreciate Americanism and the revolutionary traditions of our nation. We could clearly see that Hearst and the Liberty League are no more American than were Benedict Arnold or the American Tories. Studying the principles of Tom Jefferson and Abe Lincoln we began to appreciate how and why *Communism is Twentieth Century Americanism* and that the Communists today are Twentieth Century Americans. The study of Imperialism gave us a deeper understanding of the economic basis of the world in which we live, and led us directly to the decisions of the Seventh World Congress of the Communist International and George Dimitroff's speech, which so clearly points the way to victory over the forces of fascism and war.

Comrade Ricky Martinez told us about the penetration of German and Italian Fascism in South America and its menace to the United States, of the People's Front movement and the significance of the Roosevelt Good-Neighbor policy.



"Winning the Youth to the Democratic Front" was the name of a course closer to home to us all, and the discussion waxed lively as Gil Green analyzed the attitude of the YCL to the American Youth Congress,

and the progressive character of the Y's and the Young Democrats.

Our own comrade Henry Winston, on the National and Negro question, related the rich traditions of the Negro that have always been concealed from the people. It was clear, if we wished to gain freedom for all America—we must fight for the liberation of the Negro people.

Our next course was on the USSR, the land of Socialism, in which Comrade Markoff, of the Workers School, was our instructor. Understanding the splendid role of Lenin and Stalin in developing a backward country into one of the most advanced in the world, we studied the Stalinist Constitution and saw how it reflected the gains and achievements of the Soviet people. We studied the traitorous roles of Trotsky and Bukharin, observing their similarity to our own traitors, Benedict Arnold and Aaron Burr.

With Carl Ross as teacher, we studied the problems and difficulties that faced our youth movement at its inception, until, after the expulsion of the Lovestoneites in 1929, our League grew to its present strength of 20,000 members and still going strong. We heard about the World Youth Congress and its broad significance to the progressive movement. Carl came back once more to guide our discussion on the decisions of the Sixth World Congress of the Young Communist International, our 8th National Convention, and the progress we are making in building the democratic front among the youth.

Our final class, among others I have no room for, was very instructive. Considering "Personnel," we learned that our leadership must be trained to deal with the personal problems of our League members, and our branch life made more attractive as one of the best ways to strengthen the YCL.

One other excellent feature of our school was the Socialist competition. When the competition first started, the comrades did not clearly understand its role, and at first there were arguments about petty points of difference while the students overlooked all the good features. But Mary Himoff, our director, explained the meaning of Socialist competition in

THE DAVE DORAN SONG

Oh, we have come to-gether from the Rock-ies and the plains; from the
cit-ies, from the towns thru-out the land. We are stu-dents of that
fu-ture where no dark op-pres-sion reigns, we are march-ing to our
free-dom hand in hand. We are march-ing to our free-dom hand in hand
We are learn-ing how to or-gan-ize to con-quer ev-ery foe, how to
build a Y. C. L. that's strong and true. Thru li-ber-ty to so-cial-ism
bold-ly on we go; Dave Do-ran, we are march-ing with you.
Oh, com-rades, to-geth-er, We are build-ing the bro-ther-hood of man.
U-ni-ted, march on-ward with the ban-ner of Dave Do-ran.

the Soviet Union and how it inspired the workers to the building of Socialism. Vic, one of our Vets, the chairman of the Socialist Competition Committee, explained how it was used in Spain to develop the higher calibre of the International Brigade. After this, the Socialist competition took on a new character and the results were amazing. The general work of the whole school was improved because the initiative for self study was roused in every comrade and every group. Our school room walls were covered with charts and maps and articles, stimulating all our activity and helping to make the school the great success that it was.

Our graduation exercises were held on November 6, with a banquet arranged and prominent guests in attendance. Climaxing an evening of appropriate speeches was a *March of Time* skit in which the whole school participated. The skit was a summary of our studies, and a digest of current events during the two months at school. In the last scene, the students pledged, before Gil, Carl, and Winnie, to carry on the traditions of the Stone Brothers, to accomplish what those YCLers who died in Spain would want most: *to build a Bigger and Better Young Communist League.*

SPORTS



by

**JACK
JULES**

SOMEWHERE in the prehistoric days of journalism a sports reporter with a flair of genius created the term "the Sporting World."

By "Sporting World," he meant those people who frequent the boxes at the Yankee Stadium and Polo Grounds during the baseball and football games, the expensive seats at Madison Square Garden, and the Bowl during championship fights and basketball games; the race tracks at Hialeah, Epsom Downs, Saratoga, and Santa Anita; the pool rooms, bars and grills, and any place where a bet could be put down.

But the sports scribe was wrong. By no stretch of the imagination could the "Sporting World" be so limited a planet. The "Sporting World" is, was, and will continue to be (save for the advance of fascism in this country) the overwhelming majority of the population of the United States. Because the remarkable thing about sports is its universality—its appeal to everybody.

There is no nation, no race, and no particular people which can claim sports as its own individual inheritance, its very own pride and joy, nursed from diaperhood. The records laugh at such presumption.

Take a gander at these records today: Three Negro champions dominate the fight game. A Jewish young-

ster from the Bronx is the leading home run slugger. An Italian Catholic was the greatest basketball player in the country last year. Representatives of all races make up the All-American football team every year. Besides, the general nature of all these sports is cosmopolitan, bringing out the best talent in all nationalities, states, cities, towns and hamlets.

These are the great ones, the champions, the professionals, the amateurs, headlined in the press. They are the brightest stars in the "Sporting World" firmament, but behind them stands the mass of the people, the average American, the inhabitant of the "Sporting World," known as the "fan."

It is the "fan," often a dabbler at the particular sport which he follows so avidly, that is the real power in the "Sporting World." It is his cheer that makes a champion, and his hiss which brings him down. And in the last analysis, it is his opinion (and his money) multiplied by that of millions of other fans that determines the policy of the "Sporting World."

Once, and not so long ago either, it was accepted all over these United States that when a Southern institution scheduled a football game with a Northern college, the clause in the contract about which there

could be absolutely no disagreement, was the one by which the Yankee university pledged not to, under any circumstances, send a Negro footballer into the game.

In the natural order of events, Syracuse University, of New York State, arranged a football game with Duke University, of North Carolina. In those days there were no Negro players cavorting about on the Orange team's gridiron, nor any prospect of any, and the duly responsible authorities signed for a game to be played five years later, November 12, 1938, to be precise.

However, there arrived at Syracuse, in the fall of '34, a New York high school youth, a Negro lad, picturesquely named, Wilmat Sidat-Singh. In his junior year, very modestly, Singh, an all-scholastic hoopster at DeWitt Clinton High, went out for football. Although he had never played football before, he made a backfield berth and saw service fairly regularly. In the course of the season he was benched by the Southern team's twelfth man, Jim Crow, when Syracuse journeyed down to Dupontland to play Maryland. Despite the determined protest of the Syracuse student body, the college officials played the game because they felt they were bound by contract. Besides, it was reasoned the team could get along without Sidat-Singh.

But this year, Singh developed into a star. An obscure back when he entered the Cornell game, his accurate pegging, resulting in enough touchdowns to humble a highly touted and more powerful "Big Red" eleven, established him as a headliner at the closing whistle. Overnight he became indispensable, the Syracuse mainstay. The Orange eleven could never be at full strength without him, all the experts very correctly discovered.

But there was Duke, and that Jim Crow contract. The entire nation watched the curtain ring up on a modern American drama. Football lovers, players and fans alike, began to put the heat on Duke. Normally reactionary newspapers went haywire. Their sports pages blurted editorials lambasting that Jim Crow clause. In Syracuse they got ready to cancel the game.

But the pressure of progress won. The united front of sports fans of every political party, of every race and creed, prevailed upon Duke to change its mind.

When Wallace Wade, Duke's famous coaching mentor, wired to the Syracuse coach, "Duke will raise no objection to Sidat Singh's playing in the game of November 12," the temple of Jim Crow shook to its

rotten slavocracy foundations. It was a significant and vital victory for the democratic forces—a prophecy that the day of lynch law is setting.

The thunderous satisfaction with which the fans greeted the surrender of Duke must have reverberated in the ears of the baseball managers. Our national summer pastime is still blighted by the absence of Negro players but it is beginning to look as though the color line here also, is going to be erased. The organized protest by progressive fans against Jim Crowism in sports is winning more and more adherents.

There is a feeling of optimism that during the 1939 season a spontaneous cheer will arise from packed bleachers as the first Negro major leaguer strides up to the platter to take the first cut at a pitched ball.

The progressive development of the "Sporting World," its antagonism towards Jim Crow and fascism indicates a definite departure from the idea that sports "is the opiate of the people."

The right to indulge in and enjoy sports is an inalienable right. It cannot be taken away without due process of law. It is an immemorial heritage of all peoples. Star or dub, everybody participates in some form of sport. Baseball, football or basketball, hiking, swimming or skating.

But although sports is our heritage, although it is an inalienable and immemorial right, we are restricted to a great extent in its enjoyment. Lack of money, lack of space, lack of material, lack of time—all contribute to this restriction.

It is here that the interests of the fan and participant merge completely with the aims of the Young Communist League. By shortening hours and raising wages, according to our program, which is that of the Democratic Front, two major restrictions are overcome. The YCL plank calling for the Public Works Administration to construct swimming pools, parks, baseball diamonds, gridirons, basketball courts, handball walls, and tennis courts, will very effectively rid the "Sporting World" of the remaining restrictions of space and material.

Enjoyment and participation in Sports is definitely on the upswing in this country. If any stimulus is needed besides more money and new ideas, it is what American life needs elsewhere: democracy and still more democracy.



AROUND THE LEAGUE

THIS month we concentrate on news from the West Coast. What with California bringing in the largest Communist vote in the country, let's see how our YCL is growing out there:

Here is a letter from Ben Dobbs, former administrative secretary of the California State YCL, and now executive secretary of Los Angeles:

"First on the Builder's rally, itself. We originally announced this to be a meeting for leading comrades in the state and for the best builders in the present recruiting drive. As you know, it is very difficult to gather together a large number of people for any state-wide thing here in California, but this was not bad. We had about 65 people present, from Los Angeles, Oakland, Berkeley, and San Francisco. Very few of the branch presidents and state committee members came, so the majority of the comrades present were the builders themselves—those members who recruited three or more.

"The meeting was very practical and tried to teach our comrades how to work. If we take into consideration the difference between this year's drive and last year's—it was a very good conference although it did not have the color, the pep that our last builders' rally had. In content it was much better and every comrade got a hell of a lot out of it. A banquet where we checked on challenges and pledges—gave out the awards. Pins to everyone who recruited three or more, and various other prizes. Six branch presidents in Los Angeles pledged their branches to recruit 100 by the 18th of November. The total pledged was 249 new members.

"Summary by myself pointing out the two big things before us—our Second Annual Convention, and the Registration. We have recruited well over 500 in the last ten weeks, including those recruited by the Party. The drive was not based sufficiently on

the main things we were driving at in the June Conference and on the thing we have been trying to push in our bulletins and discussions: that the drive should be linked to building the YCL in industry. This has been done only in San Francisco. I think, however, that the builders' rally emphasized these points and we'll see better work along these lines.

And now a few words from our administrative secretary of the Northwest District (Seattle and Oregon to you), Jean Rand:

"As you see by the dues order we are sending in, our dues for October have risen considerably over the previous month. In fact, this is the highest dues payment we have had this year.

"We were able to do this on the basis of an intensive campaign during the month to get every branch to pay up to date. The best dues-paying branches are those whose leadership is in closest

contact with the administrative department.

"Here are some of the methods used: charts with names of all members showing how far they are behind in dues; the person who pays for the month receives a gold star after his name, and the one who doesn't a black star. Special privileges are granted to those who pay regularly, such as free admission to YCL dances, and other affairs.

"From now on dues and recruiting report blanks will be sent to the branches. Each branch will get two blanks, one to be returned to the district showing the status of each member, and the other to be kept by the branch. Each month, too, we will call for an accounting of the new members recruited by the branch the previous month. We will expect a complete account from the branch as to whether the new member is attending meetings, paying dues, what is being done to educate him, what his special interests are. This will tend to make the branch leadership more conscious of their responsibility toward new recruits."



HENRY WINSTON

THE ELECTION RESULTS

(Continued from Page 11)

New Deal, then how was reaction able to gain?

First of all, the election results cannot be considered a repudiation of the New Deal. We must look elsewhere to understand the reason for the Republican gains. Primarily, it is necessary to observe that the reactionaries did not face the issue squarely, and did all in their power to assume a "false liberalism," designed to confuse and divide the people. Unable to face the real issues "for or against the New Deal," they declared themselves to be in sympathy with "the objectives of the New Deal," while opposing its methods. Even the *New York Times* in a leading editorial notices "that among the successful candidates in all sections of the country the great number of Republicans . . . have pledged themselves this year to defend the essential principles of New Deal legislation."

By a flank attack along these lines, rather than open assault, the reactionaries were able in a number of instances to put across their deception. But by and large, the people showed their desire to back up and fight for the New Deal. The victories in New York and California are powerful, convincing evidence of the deep popular desire for greater social security and old age pensions. Similarly, the repudiation of the attack on the Wagner Act by the dastardly method of the anti-labor referendum in California (which was defeated) and the election of Senator Wagner in New York by a huge plurality, show that labor and the people are ready to defend the New Deal.

The more vigorous the defense made by a candidate for the New Deal, the greater his popular support. On the other hand, where, in a number of states, New Dealers straddled and side-stepped the issues and evaded a bold defense of the New Deal, defeat resulted. The "knifing" tactics and sabotage of Tory Democrats of the Garner type, who collaborated with the Republicans, and resistance of "old line" politicians to an aggressive campaign in cooperation with all labor and progressive forces, hampered and weakened New Deal candidates. In a number of states, defeat was brought about by splits within the ranks of the progressives, sharpened by the activities of Trotskyites and Lovestoneites.

Outright sabotage by Socialist leaders of the "old guard" type of Norman Thomas and Jasper McLevy was directly responsible for the Republican victory in Connecticut. Where splits occurred however, they were not primarily in the house of labor, which stood

largely united (though in some instances that unity was incomplete, or achieved too late to rally wide support of other sections of the population.) It was rather that reaction was able to force a wedge between labor and a section of the middle classes and farmers. Reaction was in some cases able to seize upon certain inadequacies of the New Deal, especially where the candidates opposing reaction failed to defend vigorously the existing New Deal measures such as farm legislation.

Identification of the New Deal camp with corrupt and reactionary machines and candidates in instances such as in New Jersey and Massachusetts permitted reaction to make gains, particularly by a demagogic appeal for "clean government."

To sum up: the basic election issue was the New Deal versus the Old Deal. Reaction won a number of important victories, but it was not a victory over the New Deal, as such. It was a victory for the reactionaries' strategy of hiding the real issues behind a "liberal" mask, and utilizing weaknesses of the progressive camp.

ELECTION LESSONS FOR THE YOUTH

A typical aspect of the demagoguery and "liberalism" of the Republican Party was its effort to pose as "the party of youth." This was not only an effort to win the important vote of young and first voters, but primarily to camouflage reaction. Almost unprecedented attention was given to discussion of youth problems, indicating the importance of young people in politics, and the increasing demands of the organized progressive youth movement that youth needs be satisfied.

We can judge primarily on one basis. The bulk of young people are confronted with the problems of the 36 per cent who are in the greatest need of social security. Unquestionably they, in their majority, stood solidly with labor and the people behind the New Deal. In fact, among the youth, there was a greater degree of progressive political activity and organization than at any time in the past. For instance, it is gratifying to note that in a number of states, particularly in California, the Young Democrats were an important factor in winning support to New Deal candidates. A number of state conventions of Young Democrats took a stand for New Deal issues, and began to elect many of the most consistent New Dealers to leadership, and as a result found better response among the youth. The youth sections of the Washington Commonwealth Federation and of the Minnesota Farmer-Labor Party increased their activities and influence,

Non-partisan youth committees were organized behind specific candidates in a number of states such as New York, Minnesota, California, and Ohio. They assisted in crystalizing support for progressive candidates, and they brought forward youth issues. In New York, for instance, the initiative taken by progressive youth leaders in forming a youth division of the campaign committee for Governor Lehman, provided him with opportunity to take a stand for progressive youth measures as against the demagoguery of Dewey and other Republicans.

EDUCATION FOR CITIZENSHIP NECESSARY

The education of young voters in their responsibilities as citizens remains a central problem of the progressive camp. *If personal observation at the polls is a basis for judgement, it would appear that the large percentage of young voters still do not vote!* In this respect such non-partisan progressive movements as the American Youth Congress and organizations like the Y's, Christian youth groups, can render a valuable service in strengthening the cause of democracy through education among youth for better citizenship.

Already reaction is attempting to interpret the results of the elections as a signal for a drive against the New Deal. Especially are the rights of labor endangered through attacks on the Wages and Hours Law, Wagner Act and Social Security program under the guise of amendments designed to nullify them. Herbert Hoover announces that the Republican Party "is now in a position to join effectively with the anti-New Deal Democracy to check these (New Deal) policies in Congress." Reaction will try to use the positions it has gained for a vicious attack against all the rights of the people and will attempt to line up the United States behind Chamberlain with the fascist aggressors.

Youth must be on guard. The measures of the New Deal that have given aid to youth are major targets. The existence of the National Youth Administration and proposals to extend it are in danger. Let no one be fooled by the fact that the Republican reactionaries have posed as "friends of youth." Their record of opposition to every constructive proposal for help to young people speaks for itself. Reaction will try to block the enactment into law proposals for youth on a federal and state scale such as the recommendations of the President's Advisory Committee on Education.

The people can defeat the new reactionary drive. If labor began to act unitedly in the elections, now is

the time to achieve complete unity in its ranks. The New Dealers must move to closer cooperation with the forces of labor and meet every attack and criticism of the New Deal more boldly. Weaknesses must be remedied. *The road to stopping the reactionary offensive is the road of building the Democratic Front more solidly, hitting back at the monopolies more sharply in the fight for recovery and in extending the benefits of the New Deal legislation to all who face the attacks and domination of the "economic royalists."*

Encouragement can be drawn from the immediate response of progressives such as LaGuardia, Murphy and John L. Lewis who are moving to a closer alliance of progressive forces behind the New Deal. In his appeal for "closer cooperation between the workers and farmers" Lewis has struck the right note.

This is the cue for the young people of America. Having achieved greater organization and political activity than ever before, the forces of progressive youth must be further united. This November the movement for youth unity, though strengthened, was still inadequate and in many cases rather belated. To prepare to face the decisive test of 1940 and the skirmishes with reaction in the coming municipal elections—to carry the fight for progressive labor and social legislation into the halls of Congress and into the state capitals—the youth must weld a greater unity in their ranks. *First and foremost every liberal young person must see the need for establishing the American Youth Congress in every city and community.* As a movement which instills the spirit of democratic citizenship among the youth, and harmonizes all their activities in the field of culture and sport, as well as in projects that will bring them real benefits, the Youth Congress will strengthen the movement for democracy and security.

NEXT STEPS TO THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT

The path to winning the younger generation to the Democratic Front lies in building this unity. It lies in establishing on a firmer basis the organizations of youth that stand behind the New Deal in every community; in organizing the unorganized working youth into trade unions especially through the defense of their special interests; in building the ASU among students; in extending existing youth progressive political clubs and organizations. The Young Communist League shares in the hope that this consolidation and extension of the cause of progress will be achieved. It will contribute its modest share to that realization.

THE ASU CONVENTION

(Continued from Page 15)

last three years and has, in most instances, been in their very center. But it has not yet opened wide its doors to include in its ranks all of the forward moving, progressive, student body.

Three years ago, the basis of the ASU was necessarily the alliance of those students who adhered to the NSL and SLID. Since that time, unfortunately, the outlook of the Socialist students has become so perverted that today they join in reactionary, Trotskyite, red-baiting attacks on the ASU.

UNITY WITH THE LIBERAL STUDENTS

On the other hand, the stream of student liberalism has been swelled by many thousands. *In this situation, the achievement of that unity for which the ASU was founded rests primarily on whether it shall become much more fully the organization of these liberal students.* This is the direction in which the leadership of the ASU is pointing its national convention. It proposes a new and broader membership policy. It proposes a more representative leadership. It proposes a more collegiate atmosphere. It is opening the door to those who by right should comprise the ASU.

But the tremors of our time have shaken the ivory tower to its foundations, disturbing faculty members and even administrators. Old faculty-student antagonisms give way before the growth of the American Federation of Teachers and the signs of renewed vitality in established educational organizations like the National Education Association. The faculty of the United States, for too long a passive factor in American education, is now beginning to have its say.

Symptomatic is the new development at CCNY, where the faculty now elects its own department heads and plans its own curriculum. How long will it be before student committees on curriculum, like those of Princeton and Vassar, become an integral phase of campus democracy?

Remember "Umbrella Robinson" of CCNY, who for several student generations was the butt of that famous cry: "Oust Robinson!" Remember scores of student suspensions for liberal activities, all through the nation? One year, the casualty rate was over 100! Now Robinson also is gone.

There is more breathing space, more freedom of action in American schools. The ASU is being recognized as a regular school club. And in New York, the head of the Board of Higher Education,

actually taught a class this summer in the ASU training school! While there are still many reactionary pressures on administration, and stiff-necked reactionaries remain in control of certain schools, the real educators see more and more clearly the vicious implication for education of reaction, fascism, and war. And they cherish a growing regard for the student movement which rapidly approaches strength and maturity.

The ASU conventions themselves dramatize this change. The first two were held without benefit of campus. In 1935 the YWCA barely housed the ASU. In 1936 the convention wandered around three Chicago churches. 1937—Vassar College! And this year nearly every college in New York City was bidding for the convention. The national leadership of the ASU predicts confidently that this Christmas will open a new era of faculty-student-administration cooperation.

The major weakness of the student movement lies in its relation to the democratic forces of America as a whole. At the core of the ASU tradition is student unity with labor, and with the progressive elements of American life in general. While the first ASU convention and the succeeding ones emphasized this, real progress along these lines is far from satisfactory.

Observe the scene in which the student movement has grown. The progressive objectives of the New Deal brought a great deal to the student body—the NYA's aid to several hundred thousand needy students—the report of the President's Advisory Committee on Education—the prospect of jobs instead of perennial unemployment after graduation—greater security for families. Above all, hope.

STUDENTS CAN HELP ADVANCE PROGRESS

Insufficient as these measures may be, they have merited the support of the student movement as first steps in a generally progressive direction. Students have, of course, lobbied for these and more advanced measures. And more is necessary. The last convention of the ASU recognized this need when it allowed its local chapters the right to support local political candidates and programs. Its national executive committee urged the participation of students in this November's election. Some local groups were active in support of progressive candidates, in mock election polls, in efforts to get out the student vote.

But not active enough. There are danger signals. The results of the November elections carry the warning that the student movement, along with

other sections of the popular forces, is lagging dangerously behind. Of this, there were even earlier indications. The *Fortune* poll, though perhaps not wholly reliable, told us that over 50% of the student body was against Roosevelt's objectives in general, though the majority of the population supported them. The pseudo-liberalism of the reactionaries, centered chiefly around the Republican Party, has fallen on all-too-unsuspecting ears among the students. The redbaiting attacks, led by Dies and his kin, and slander directed against the labor movement, have not been sufficiently counteracted. Such people as the has-been Norman Thomas, with their tactic of splitting the progressive forces, found too much of an audience in the colleges.

The leadership of the ASU recognizes this problem. It plans at this convention to strengthen the ties of the student movement with democratic forces in the nation as a whole. It sees that the ASU can become a force for winning not only the student body to the New Deal, but through them sections of the middle class. Students, after all, have parents: small business men, merchants, professionals, workers and farmers. They have friends and acquaintances. Their interests lie with progress, not with reaction. They can become a force which accelerates rather than retards the development of the democratic front. The ASU can help to anchor them firmly to the labor movement and to the people's forces generally.

REPUDIATION OF THE OXFORD PLEDGE

News reached us before the third Convention that the Oxford Union, which originally fostered the Oxford Pledge, had repudiated the pledge in view of the imminence of war and fascism. The ASU delegates were of the same mind. In place of the old isolationist program they decided, under the leadership of Joe Lash, to adopt a program against fascist aggression. This represented the first swell of a fresh tide. In the Spring of 1938 student strikes were held, in the main, on an anti-fascist (and anti-isolationist) basis. The Student Christian Movement this fall adopted a program based on the seven points of the American delegation to the World Youth Congress, and called for embargo on Japan, and Italy. After Munich, anti-fascist sentiment deepened and widened. Wider student circles and large numbers of faculty members and administrators

have spoken up—dramatized recently by the call to lift the embargo on Spain, signed by prominent educators.



The third convention of the American Student Union was therefore both a prophecy and guide.

Isolationist forces in the student field, of course, are trying to stem the tide of student opinion. The bankrupt "Committee for the Oxford Pledge" has been metamorphosed into the Youth Committee Against War. This is the youth division of the Norman Thomas-Hamilton Fish "Keep America Out of War Congress," which is controlled lock, stock, and barrel by the YPSL and a handful of Trotskyites and Lovestoneites. The YCAW is at present attempting to dup^e students into acceptance of their isolationist program as a "peace" platform—the same "peace" that Chamberlain gave the world at Munich. Their national conference, reported to be held in Ohio at the same time as the ASU convention, will receive not only a stinging answer from the ASU, but undoubtedly a rebuke from other student conferences as well.

Their organization rattles the YPSL skeleton left by the Trotskyites. This work goes hand in hand with the open red-baiting attacks of the Trotskyite groups on the campus, and can represent only encouragement for fascist aggression. But the American student peace movement will not be fooled or halted. Its understanding of the world scene is deepening. Its international ties with the democratic forces of the world are strengthening. Since that first ASU convention, scores of ASU'ers have volunteered in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. Those who died, and those who return, will be the conscience of the student movement. An American student, Molly Yard, representing the USPC, visited the Chinese student body, and has brought back their message. This summer American student leaders worked with students from all over the world at the World Youth Congress. Next summer an inter-American student Congress will be held in Havana, Cuba, helping to tighten the defense of peace and democracy in the Western Hemisphere. While fascist aggression increases its threat to America's own interests, the student movement improves its relations with democratic, peace-loving students the world over for a common fight against aggression.

The fourth convention of the ASU will bring together these varied strands of student life. It will discuss "the university we want to study in," "the America we want to live in," "the ASU we want to build." The success of the fifth year of the ASU depends on the broad character, decision, and representation of its convention.



THUMBNAIL REVIEWS

HOPE IN AMERICA, by John Strachey, Modern Age Books, \$.50.

"This book," says John Strachey, "is written in the belief that America still has a chance of finding her way forward without going through all that seems to be in store for Europe."

What Strachey means is that the American people will probably be able to reach the better life promised by Socialism without stopping off indefinitely in the hell that is fascism. Indeed, Strachey seems so convinced of this that he spends far less time telling us why he thinks there is hope in America than in giving us his prescription for just how that hope may be realized.

Strachey's argument should be familiar to most progressives. American capitalist democracy has been a democracy with fewer holdovers from feudalism than most of Europe, and, hence, our democratic traditions become an even greater weapon against fascism. America, at the moment, has a progressive national administration, a sturdy, growing labor movement, and an anti-fascist feeling that runs high throughout the country. If working-class organization continues, if middle-class groups realize that their own welfare cannot be separated from the welfare of the workers, then Strachey is right. There is hope in America.

If John Strachey seems a little too certain that the struggle here is nearing completion; if he does not sufficiently emphasize that because we are in a *fortunate* position to preserve our own democracy, it follows that we are in a *strategic* position to help others preserve theirs, it can be charged to the fact that, after all, Strachey has written about us from some distance. Perhaps, having felt the tentacles of fascist diplomacy extend from Berlin, London, and Munich to Ellis Island, he will realize that we are further from the kind of freedom we all want than he suspects.

Earlier in the year Granville Hicks wrote a book called *I Like America* in which he gave his reasons for liking this country and for wanting to be able to like it still more. Now John Strachey, a strategist of social change, has turned his thoughts to us, has found that what Hicks said was true, and he has gone on to tell us at greater length, and with all the weight of his authority, how we can make of America what we want.

RICHARD H. ROVERE

* * *

SON OF THE PEOPLE, by Maurice Thorez. International Publishers. \$1.50.

"Son of the People" is the life story of the General Secretary of the Communist Party of France, an account of his early experiences as a coal miner, and his rise as a spokesman and leader of the French people.

Its importance is that it not only serves as the story of the Communist leader, but also as a study of the French political scene. Maurice Thorez traces the growth of the revolutionary movement in France, the steps leading to co-

operation between the working class parties of France, and in more detail the Popular Front: the reasons for its formation, its accomplishments and the tasks now confronting the French people.

In my estimation, "Son of the People" is just a bit too personal. A cross between Thorez's style and the non-personal style of William Z. Foster in "From Bryan to Stalin," would enhance the value of this book. However, this shortcoming is counteracted in the appendix, which consists of extracts from the report made by Thorez to the Ninth Convention of the Communist Party of France, analyzing the achievements of the Popular Front, French foreign policy, and the important remaining tasks of the French people.

Harry Pollitt, British Communist leader, expresses the feeling which readers will share when he declares in his introduction:

"You cannot read this story of poverty, pride, suffering and struggle without seeing in it the life story of the working class—the class that never knows defeat, that is always striving for learning, conscious of the fact that one day it will triumph."

HERMAN L. STAROBIN

* * *

ONE FIFTH OF MANKIND, by Anna Louise Strong. Modern Age Books, \$.50.

I don't know much about China, and neither, probably, do you. What all of us do know is that the Chinese, like other people, want to go about their own business in their own way, that for the past several years they have been the victims of invasion by a nearby fascist country and that this invasion has taken the form of one of the bloodiest and most destructive wars the world has known. We know all that, and we know that we stand with the Chinese people. But when it comes to following that war, which we must do if our sympathies are to have meaning and effect, most of us are at a loss. Armies march across China faster than we can follow them; place names are difficult; its geography seems remote, its history endless; and the modes of life appear so varied and complex that at times we wonder if we will ever understand China.

One Fifth Of Mankind opens with the best kind of background material. China, Dr. Strong explains, is experiencing in 1938 what we went through from 1776 to 1781. She is fighting her battle against colonial status and her leaders are struggling for the same precious unity that Benjamin Franklin and others sought in our first years as a nation. The analogy, as she continues it, is as perfect as historical analogies can be, and that in itself gives us a starting point. Dr. Strong goes on through a summary but comprehensive history of China, an analysis of China's role in modern history, a study of Japan's drive from its beginning, and finally the story of China today: the sleeping giant of the Orient, which is rousing itself, gathering its

strength and its wits to resist penetration for as long as that resistance is necessary.

That's the kind of book *One-Fifth of Mankind* is. For my money, it's the one thing that will help me find my way through the news reports with understanding, and I think it will do the same for you.

RICHARD H. ROVERE

* * *

LABOR FACT BOOK IV, Labor Research Association, \$1.00.

Whether we will or not, we need facts. With them we build hypotheses, evolve theories, and frame concepts which guide our thought and in turn our lives.

There are, however, facts and facts. Those that have been compiled to form the *Labor Fact Book* are vital, imbued with meaning; they figure heavily in our daily lives. Here is no dry-as-dust recording of fact upon meaningless fact, no disregard for the relationship of even to event. The Fact Book is a collection of those facts that have occurred during the years 1935-38 in the economic, political and social spheres.

Suprisingly enough, the book reads easily. No particular effort was made to popularize that material, sugar coat the factual content or draw editorial conclusions, but the clever manner in which the facts have been combined lead us to conclusions so directly and vigorously that we race right through. It is just this thrill of discovery that holds the reader absorbed.

NATHAN SIEGEL

* * *

THE STORY OF SOVIET PROGRESS, by Corliss Lamont, published by Soviet Russia Today. \$.05.

"In a general sense, the most significant thing of all in the total Soviet picture is, I think, the fact that during the first two Five-Year Plans the Russians have accomplished the unprecedented feat of eliminating the cycle of boom and depression by making economic boom, or rather controlled prosperity, a continuous and permanent thing." This is what Corliss Lamont says in his pamphlet *The Story of Soviet Progress*, which traces and evaluates the 21 years of the Soviet Union's existence. Mr. Lamont shows how far-reaching and profound Soviet changes have been, what patience and energy have gone into making them possible. He discusses the Moscow trials, and shows why he considers the defendants absolutely guilty of carrying on their terroristic and treasonable activities under the guidance of Trotsky. The Soviet Union's position on minorities is emphasized, and we note that in Russia the expression of anti-Jewish prejudice, for instance, is treated as a crime under law.

Discussing Soviet foreign policy Lamont declares that the Soviet peace policy is possible "because the Soviet people as a whole own the means of production and distribution and because private profit-making has been abolished, the possibilities of war-profiteering are nil."

Mr. Lamont favors "cooperation with the Russian peace efforts of both nations and individuals who are genuinely working for the abolition of war. Such cooperation is . . . one of the touchstones of sincerity in the peace movement . . . Soviet Russia can be depended upon, in the future, as in the past, to support without equivocation the age-long ideal of world peace and the brotherhood of man."

CONSTANCE REED

• CONTRIBUTORS •

Mac Weiss was one of the leading young people who participated in the formation of the American Youth Congress, and is now the state secretary of the YCL in Ohio. . . . Carl Ross, discussing the meaning of the November elections, is the National Executive Secretary of the League. . . . Phil Schatz, who is the co-author with Al Steale of a new pamphlet on the problems of the Jewish youth, is the Educational Director of the YCL for New York State. . . . Celeste Strack, a former Organizational Secretary of the American Student Union, is now the Student Secretary of the YCL. . . .

Harry Robinson, an expert on Latin American affairs, writes for us on recent democratic developments in Cuba. . . . Jerry Weinberg, a student at the recent YCL National Training School was a runner for the 15th Brigade in the Spanish Republican Army. . . . Jack Jules, whose regular monthly article on sports begins with this issue, has frequently contributed to the *Daily Worker Sports* page. . . . Henry Winston needs no introduction and Richard H. Rovere is an associate editor of the *New Masses*. Other contributors to the Book Review page are associated in the editorial work of the *Review*.

Editor's Note

The December issue is a brand new magazine. With the very limited funds at our disposal we have tried to put together the most attractive, substantial, indispensable magazine the Young Communist League has ever seen. We have tried to publish the kind of magazine that will give the Young Communist League prestige among the broad masses of young people with whom we are associated in the great American youth movement.

To continue we must have circulation support. Each member must take the responsibility of getting subscribers as indicated on the back page. And we must drive so that every member of the League becomes a regular reader of the *Young Communist Review*.

If that is done, we can promise ourselves all the other features and special articles that make the *Review* outstanding in its field. Your answer is decisive. . . . If the subs come in, the magazine will go on.

J. S.

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