

The following communication addressed to the New York D. E. C. by the Y. C. I. is of importance to our entire membership because it makes clear to our members the manner in which economic trade union work must be carried on.

A good deal of confusion has manifested itself in the ranks of our organization, particularly in the leading circles of the New York League and for that reason we deem it advisable to give this document to our entire membership with the hope that it will aid them to readjust their work in such a fashion that the Young Workers' League will move to the forefront more rapidly than ever before in the everyday struggles of the toiling youth of the United States.

Moscow, October 18, 1934.
To the District Committee of the Young Workers' League of America, America.
New York.

Dear Comrades:
We have received your letter of the 17th of September. Although it is otherwise not good that as an executive, we should correspond directly with the districts, we will nevertheless make an exception and answer your letter (via N. E. C.). We hope that in this manner we will be able finally to clear up the matters in question and open the way to a better co-operative work between you and your national executive committee, which we consider to be absolutely necessary for the development of your league into a real mass organization of the working youth.

It is naturally your right to criticize objectively the actions of the N. E. C. and also to place disputed questions before the E. C. of the Y. C. I. for decision. We hope, however, that in the future it will not be necessary to make use of this right, for the decisions of your Second Congress and those of the International Congress are in complete accord, in particular in relation to the Trade Union economic work, and we can say that the national executive committee is doing its utmost to carry thru these decisions. You must also do the same.

Before we deal definitely with your letter, we wish to make a few remarks. We know that it was your district which stood in opposition against a few important decisions at the Second Congress of the league. Above all in the question of the shop nuclei and the trade union economic work. We were compelled to go into detail with you previously upon the question of the shop nuclei. You have represented on your part the standpoint that first of all transitional forms must be created before nuclei can be formed. You have declared yourself in favor of the creation of so-called "industrial branches." At that time we indicated these "industrial branches" because in our opinion they advanced syndicalist tendencies. We do not know if you are still today for these "industrial branches," but this we do know, and that is, that up to the present you have not done very much in the question of the shop nuclei. And so long as the shop nuclei work is not taken up energetically, a systematic practical work upon the trade union economic field is completely out of the question. The one condition the other. Up to the present we have not met in the press (Young Worker, DAILY WORKER) upon any economic campaigns in your district. We have solved, however, with great satisfaction (for instance, Chicago) have carried

out a number of very successful campaigns initiated by the N. E. C. (the Western Electric Company, the Bunte Candy Company, the National Biscuit Co., etc.). There are certainly undertakings of these companies in New York or other candy and biscuit companies. What have you done in order to propagate the demands set up in New York also and to distribute the Young Worker also in the shops in New York, to call meetings of the young candy workers of both sexes and to form nuclei? Comrades, we must direct these questions to you, because, as we have said, up to the moment your activity upon this field has been insufficient, to say the least of it.

We are therefore somewhat astonished that you should direct accusations at the N. E. C., which just in this recent period has tried to put the decisions of the Second Congress in relation to the trade union economic work into operation and which has good successes to show, because it has requested you to set up concrete demands springing from the situation of the young workers in the Paterson strike. Your accusation that the N. E. C. showed syndicalist tendencies is to say the least of it out of place, particularly as the N. E. C. did not in any way forbid you to propagate political slogans during the strike. We see also from a long letter from the N. E. C. to you that it in no way concealed the fact that each economic struggle has at the same time a political background. When the N. E. C. wrote to you that the slogans set up by you were too abstract, they were completely right. It wrote to you at the same time what economic demands you should have set up. We find that the N. E. C. proposed very concrete slogans which you could not have enlarged according to the circumstances.

Just imagine comrades, a strike breaks out in Paterson. In this strike hundreds of young workers took part. The first task of the Young Workers' League is therefore, to determine what the actual situation of these young workers is and to set up economic demands based on this situation, which can be understood by the young workers and for which they are prepared to struggle. Such demands were proposed to you by the N. E. C. You should have propagated these demands amongst the masses of the young workers (issue leaflets in which these demands were explained. Call meetings of the youth before the shops, etc., etc.). We have unfortunately not got the leaflet before us which you issued, but the N. E. C. writes us that you have used only general agitation slogans in it without concrete demands on behalf of the youth.

Such slogans as "Struggle Against Capitalist Militarism," "For the Workers' Republic," are general and abstract slogans in the case of this strike. Think, that economic demands were put to the employers. We can demand from the employers that they pay higher wages for young workers, that night work and overtime be abolished, etc. But we cannot demand from them that they struggle against capitalist militarism, or that they set up a workers' republic. We can certainly set up these slogans in the agitation during the strike. We can show thru the fact that the police and military are used, that they employ force all power in the economic struggles in order to smash strikes, that they appeal to the state power and its armed forces in their interests. Naturally, definite propaganda must be made, that is to say we must set up the necessary slogans. There is no objection to the slogans, "Struggle against capitalist militarism" and "For the workers' republic" of themselves, if these slogans are propagated in con-

nection with the economic demand on behalf of the working youth. The letter of the N. E. C. had obviously the intention to make this clear to you, that is to say to draw your attention to the fact that these slogans were "abstract." If they were set up in an economic struggle without setting up economic demands in the forefront, that is to say without above all propagating concrete demands. It appears to us that you have misunderstood the N. E. C. and that the sentence, "These slogans are too abstract," are not economic demands to be used in a strike" does not mean that the N. E. C. is against the use of economic and political demands altogether. We hope that the detailed letter of the N. E. C. has cleared up the misunderstanding which arose from the somewhat short and laconic letter of the Industrial department.

As we have not your leaflet before us, and as we cannot see from the first how you have taken part in the strike, we can naturally not know whether you have done everything in this strike which a young Communist organization ought to do. We have already said that it is not enough merely to take part in strikes and to set up tickets, etc., but that we must above all propagate the economic demands of the young working class, assemble the young strikers in meetings and form nuclei.

It is natural that we should at the same time point out the political nature of the strike. You should have used this in the propaganda and the agitation, that is to say you should have characterized the use of the police and the militia as a support of the employers by the state apparatus in your leaflets and in your meetings. In place of the abstract demand for the struggle against "Capitalist militarism" you should have led the struggle against this militarism, that is to say you should have demanded the withdrawal of the police and military. We do not know if the situation was such that you could have directed appeal to the police and the militia. (There have already been police strikes). Our French comrades for instance, in such strikes where the military have been used, have set up special economic demands for the soldiers also. Such demands have already a political character. With regard to the slogan, "For the Workers' Republic," this slogan should of course always be used, but naturally it must be given a concrete application, that is to say in the agitation it must be ever and ever again pointed out that the situation of the working class in the present system of society cannot be bettered and that capitalist society must be destroyed and the dominance of the working class put in its place. We must also point out that capitalism in its present period of decline cannot grant the smallest partial demands, at least not without great struggles (equally of a political and economic character) which must finally lead to the last struggle, to the struggle for political power.

Whilst agreeing with the contents of the longer letter which the N. E. C. has written to you, we must emphasize once again that we can see no grounds for differences between you and your N. E. C. We hope that you will do all within your power in the future to work co-operatively and in a comradely manner with the N. E. C. and take up the work in your district also according to the decisions of your Second Congress and our International Congress.

Above all, we must again stress the importance of the immediate systematic and energetic commencement of the work for the formation of shop nuclei as without this latter a real trade union economic work is not pos-

The important decisions of the last two meeting two meetings of the N. E. C. held Nov. 6th and 11th were as follows:

Comrade Ernest Plett sent to Manchester as national executive in response to request of D. E. C.
Comrade Salzman to be voted three times to assist coal campaign.
Comrade Garver sent to leave for a week's trip in response to requests for assistance.

Found new pamphlet dealing with conditions of young workers in mines and the National Fruit Co.
Comrade Peter Ford applied for re-statement on expiration of period of suspension and he was reinstated with full rights and privileges.

In answer to reports of Comrades Kaplan and Schaefer the central executive committee of the Party voted the decisions of the N. E. C. in the C. H. T. C., the Paterson strike and all other matters. The C. H. C. further recommended the N. E. C. for its beginning in anti-military activity.

Decided that the Young Comrade should change form beginning January.
That Comrade Shachtman and Borgosen act as educational subcommittee of Junior department and that complete report be drafted as soon as possible.
All branches must immediately assist the coal mining campaign and see that the work allotted to them in the Program of Action is fulfilled.
John Williamson, National Secretary.

100 CLASS IN PITTSBURGH Leaguers Study International Language

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—At least eight members of the local Young Workers' League will attend the class that has been started in the international language, Ido. The class was begun after a lecture by Comrade Rostrom on the subject. Comrade Gusakov will be the instructor. Branches of the Workers Party and the Young Workers' League in Pittsburgh and vicinity, interested in beginning Ido classes should communicate with the Workers' Ido Federation, 303 James St., Room 5, N. S., Pittsburgh, Pa.

able. We refer you to the decisions of our congress relating to this point (in particular to those of the Fourth Congress) and also to the resolution of the American commission.

We have directed this long letter to you because we regard the New York district as a very important advance post of the Y. C. I. and because we are convinced that you will accept our comradely advice as good Bolsheviks. We will give the N. E. C. the instruction to direct much more attention to your district and we hope that you will carry thru the instructions of the N. E. C. in a disciplined manner, as those of the Y. C. I. You must do everything possible in order to create a much closer co-operative work between you and the N. E. C.

The campaign initiated by the N. E. C. and so well carried out by the Chicago group should be a brilliant example to you how you should approach the masses of the young workers. The slogan "To the masses!" should no longer remain a platitude about which one laughs. As the comrades in Chicago have done in the Western Electric, Bunte Candy Company, and "Nabisco," so you must do also. You must approach the young workers in the shops with concrete slogans, you must distribute the Young Worker in the shops, call shop meetings, form shop nuclei, in a word, you must carry on a real Bolshevik mass work and help the Young Workers from America to become a real mass organization, the leader of the young working class of America.

Comrades of New York, forward! Follow the example of Chicago! Long live the Bolshevik Young Workers' League of America! With Communist greetings,
The E. C. of the Y. C. I.