

Party Life

We Must Invest Effort To Build New Cadres

We publish today and tomorrow the report of Comrade F. Brown, made at the Central Committee Plenum of the Party, on Party and Young Communist League relations. Today's article deals with the work of the various districts. Tomorrow's article will deal with the building of Young Communist Shop nuclei and the role of the Party:

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CCHECKING on the control task of the Party convention regarding the Y. C. L., we must state from the outset that very little progress has been made in aiding the Y.C.L. in carrying out the task that the Party has set. It was decided to make the Party more conscious of youth work, to give the Y.C.L. more attention and guidance, to assign young Party forces to the Y.C.L. for the purpose of strengthening its cadres, to aid the Y.C.L. in becoming a mass organization, by carrying on an increasing and more systematic recruiting of young workers for the Y.C.L., and mainly to build the Y.C.L. shop nuclei where Party nuclei exists.

New York has set an example for all districts. Immediately following the Convention, New York took this decision seriously. A good number of young Party members were assigned to strengthen the Y.C.L. It threw all its forces into making the National Youth Day demonstration of last year the largest ever held in New York. The young workers could see in the thousands of Party members and workers participating in that demonstration the solidarity of the adult workers. As a result of this Party aid and the impetus that was given by the demonstration to youth work, there has been a steady growth of the Y.C.L.. The Y.C.L. in New York grew from an organization of 1,100 members at the beginning of last year to more than 3,000 today. It almost tripled its membership. Today in New York City, between adults and young, we have a membership of over 11,000.

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THIS is not the case in the other districts. In the concentration districts the Y.C.L. lags behind the Party as much or even more than before the Convention. In Cleveland, for example, while the Party is improving steadily and today registers 2,000 members, the Y.C.L. has only a membership of 225, which means one-seventh of the Party. It has only three shop nuclei; there is no conscious recruiting for the Y.C.L. No Party forces are assigned to strengthen the Y.C.L. cadres.

The Chicago District, which set itself a series of tasks for building the Y.C.L. only partly fulfilled them. The plan was to bring the League to 1,000 members by Sept. 1. But at present there are only 600 members. The Party has fifty-seven shop nuclei, while the Y.C.L. has only seven. It is true that forces were assigned there, yet the results show the lack of follow-up.

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IN Pittsburgh there is a very sharp disproportion between the Y.C.L. and the Party, not only numerically, but in the number of shop nuclei. While the Party has a number of mine and steel nuclei, the Y.C.L. has none. The fact that the Party is weak is no excuse for not giving any aid to the Y.C.L., especially when struggles are approaching in two basic industries of the district, and the role that the youth will play in these struggles is known. Strengthening the Y.C.L. means strengthening the Party. That is one of the handicaps that the Party faces today for example, in Detroit, and in other districts, especially in the East, its foreign-born composition and its weak contract with the large number of American born workers. Especially in Detroit, recently, the Y.C.L. supplied a number of young cadres to the Party which are of real help.

Where will we get the cadres if not from the American born, from the American young workers? The Party will receive forces from the Y. C. L., yes! But that means strengthening the cadres of the Y.C.L., to build it up to a mass organization if we want to get results later. The capitalists know that if they want to get dividends, they must invest first. We must invest forces in the Y.C.L. now to get results.