

The Nominating Convention and Youth

By HERBERT ZAM.

The year 1928 promises to be the year in which large masses of young workers in this country will be introduced to politics. It depends on the advanced section of the working class, organized and supporting the Workers (Communist) Party, whether these young workers will take their first steps in politics on the side of the workers or on the side of the capitalists.

The capitalists have already begun a campaign to get the young workers to support their parties. They are making a drive to enlist the services of the youth in their election campaign. They will offer the toiling youth phrases about "democracy," "glorious country," etc., but naturally will very carefully avoid saying anything about the low wages, the long hours, the miserable conditions that the young workers face in industry.

The young workers will be won if the Communist movement comes for-

ward as the champion of the interests of the young workers. Particularly is this important during electoral campaigns when the young workers are thinking about the events in the country. The Communist movement must have an answer to every question that the young workers raise regarding their conditions. The Communist movement must offer to fight for the economic and political demands of the toiling youth. In supporting and fighting for the progress for social legislation for the young workers which the Young Workers (Communist) League has issued, the Party will actually become the champion of the needs of the young workers and rouse them to struggle.

The masses of the young workers, young farmers and students are disfranchised. The Communist movement must fight for their political enfranchisement. The demand for a vote for the youth 18 and over must penetrate the entire working class. The young workers receive miserably low wages. The Communist movement fights for a minimum wage of

\$20 for young workers. The young workers at the present time have to work very long hours. The Communist movement fights for the 6 hour day and 5 day week for young workers. The young workers are being militarized and prepared for an imperialist war. The Communist movement must fight against militarization of the youth. The National Nominating Convention of the Workers (Communist) Party will have to adopt in its election program, planks dealing with the needs of the toiling youth, and mobilize them around the youth demands of the Party and the League. In that way, the Party will indicate that it fights for the enfranchisement of the young workers in deed and not merely in words. The Young Workers must also be shown in their election struggle the need for a revolutionary fight against capitalism and for the proletarian dictatorship.

The following resolution was presented by the Young Workers (Communist) League to the Labor Youth Conference called by the Brookwood

Labor Conference, held at New York May 5-6 and unanimously adopted by the delegates representing 50 trade unions.

Legislation for the Youth.

WHEREAS: The continuous introduction of labor-saving devices, so-called efficiency methods of the employers, and the drive of the bosses to reduce the standard of living of the workers and smash the trade union movement, results in the steadily increasing influx of young workers and child laborers in the mines, mills and factories.

WHEREAS: The bosses with the co-operation of the government take advantage of the age of the young laborers and their not being organized and make them work even longer hours and under worse conditions than the adult workers do.

WHEREAS: The bosses and the government completely and criminally disregard the special conditions that the young laborers need for their physical and mental development.

WHEREAS: The existing legislation for the so-called protection of

minors only legalizes and encourages the miserable conditions of the young workers and child laborers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That we go on record in favor of a vigorous campaign initiated by the trade unions in cooperation with the labor movement for the passage of laws by the federal and state governments for the protection of the life and health of the young workers, and be it further

RESOLVED, that we favor the following laws, to be sponsored by the labor movement:

Every young person 18 years of age and over be given a right to vote.

Complete abolition of child labor.

State maintenance of all children employed at present.

\$20 minimum wage.

Abolition of night work, underground work, and work in dangerous industries.

An effective system of compensation in the regulation of which young workers are to participate.

Four weeks' vacation with pay.