LYL: Back to the Popular Front Fracture

By Michael Harrington

In last week's issue of Challenge, we reported on the SDA convention. One of the events which took place there deserves much more detailed comment: the operations of the observer from the Labor Youth League. The LYL representative presented himself as an advocate of "unity," a foe of YSL, membership of the Trotskyist Popular Front line; and second, he was striving to exclude any possible anti-Stalinist tendency from the organization.

It is this first aspect, the Popular Front, which requires more analysis. It must be remembered that the American youth movement has not had the experience of the Stalinist Popular-Front state, and must be brought up to date on the whole question of Stalinism.

The general conception underlying any analysis of the Popular Front concerns itself with a relation of Stalinist parties and movements throughout the world to the Russian CP: the Fourth of May, the National Committee of Moscow.

The various changes in Stalinist line outside of Russia are phrased in terms of the indigenous politics of the particular American party which will proclaim that it is altering its position because of the policies of the American Popular Front. But this sudden recognition, which has been made in the American (or French, or Italian) workers is always preceded by a shift in Russia. And this is a step forward in the newly discovered political reality in the country, the USSR, and the needs of Stalinist foreign policy.

LINE-SWITCHERS

The point is easy enough to document. Citations need not be made. In 1929, the American CP for the Popular Front, front, Roosevelt, etc., then came the Hitler-Saint Stalin pact. The Stalinists became "anti-Fascist," and the Trotskyists, "anti-Fascist," etc., of February, 1933, it was invaded, the imperialist war became a "democratic war," and the American CP appeared as an active follower of the ex-warrior Franklin Roosevelt.

In this way, the World War II period, the Popular Front line took the CP into a support of a "popular" speed-up, the no-strike pledge, etc., and into opposition to the strength of the Jews for equality in the armed forces. In 1945, Jacques Duclos wrote his famous letter. Earl Browder was expelled, the party moved quite radically, try to appear to be liberal, just like everybody else; they will move toward the official centers of liberal reformism.

Thus, for example, explains why Walter Reuther, long an ardent-veteran of the working-class in the Stalinist press, was discussed at the National Committee meeting of the American CP in friendly terms. This is why Deniss now expedites the Progresive, and the split from the CP; this is why he de

From an authoritative source, these changes are phrased as if they were coming out of a CP's re-evaluation of the American scene, but this recedes to a Leninist America, as we posit here, and is the function of a shift in Moscow, not in the United States.

RUSSIAN-ORIENTED

In an article男士 who back the role of the LYL at the SDA convention.

Here we have the LYL representative calling for unity, moderation, expelling the radicals, chatting assiduously with the Labor Fronters standing on the fringe, their caucus at the parking-lot meeting, etc. What is the LYL representa

As our basis point to be reported is that the CP has been such a "democratic" party that the observer's "right policy" is not a consequence of its line in the SDA convention. The point is that the CP and the LYL that the policies of moder

This has important consequences for the American youth movement in the United States.

For one thing, the policies of the Popular Front, at the present time, cannot be identified as those of a "left," Progressive-Party-type, by any means.

Discussion of Stalinist politics and Stalinist Party management of the line, or to be, is not "red-baiting." In the case, "red-baiting," that is, he will offend, and why. They will offend, and why. They will offend, and why. They will offend, and why. They will offend, and why. They will offend, and why. They will offend, and why. They will offend, and why. They will offend, and why.

EPIPHANIES

They will argue that articles such as this are "anti-Marxist," red-baiting, etc. Thus far, no one has been able to convince the popular-movements that this is red-baiting. But fighting the Stalinists politically, defining them as their interests and purposes, will be the basis of the Popular Front line manifest itself?

How will they speak to the popular front...