LYL Leaders: Hand Down the New Line

By Sam Taylor

In a result of the Russian Communist Party’s 20th Congress, the CPs throughout the world are negotiating a major shift in tactics and strategy. In the United States, the ponderous effort to scorch to a halt and do a 180-degree reversal is readily apparent in the pages of the Daily Worker. The return to the “Popular Front” is the No. 1 task before the CP today.

Just as the CP is shifting into reverse gear, its youth organization, the Labor Youth League, is following suit. The “Popular Front” strategy will be formalized at the upcoming convention of both organizations to be held later this year.

For preparation for the convention, the National Council of the LYL met in May and subsequently issued a discussion bulletin. If the “discussion” bulletin and the prepared speeches of outgoing National Chairman Leon Wofsy and incoming National Chairman Earl Durham are any indication, then it is certain that everything may not be as smooth as expected. Long articles may be written and even published, but it is the overall political philosophy of the LYL, or on how to increase recreational activities, on how to “unite for the C.P.”

But on policies, nothing or very little is mentioned. This is the situation and a proper question. Why the mess about electing new officers? The old officers will not be running for re-election. The new officers will be selected by the membership at the convention in a democratic fashion. What is the situation now?

BEAST-BREATER

The main interest at the LYL National Council meeting lies in the speech by the new chairman, Leon Wofsy. Wofsy, who was the C.P. leader in the youth movement for a number of years, is the voice of the old guard. He is now taking a leave of absence from his office.

In the new chairman’s speech is the strong line against the League of Youth, an organization which the CP hopes to dissolve.

The first two paragraphs are in the new chairman’s speech. They are concerned with the political situation in the U.S. and the League of Youth (LYL).

The most up-to-date line is the “anti-sectarian” line until the old guard is saying that a new line should be dished out by bit by bit until the time of the convention, at which point the new line and the new leadership will be ratified, elected or decided on.

SUBSTITUTE FOR POLICIES

In still another issue, the LYL “discussion” bulletin and the Wofsy speech is a typical Stalinist caricature of democratic policies, that is, “popular front” so-called. Wofsy announces; he is going to do without “the two biggest problems we have thought about and tried to answer for years past. In doing so, he is going to bring forward the most fundamental questions which we have not had the time to discuss, i.e. the question of the League of Youth and the question of the League of Youth and the question of the League of Youth.”

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