



THE CHALLENGE

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7 Million Children Starve on Dole

Building Service Workers Win YPSL Aided Campaign

SOLIDARITY OF GARMENT WORKER BIG FACTOR

New York—Scoring with inspiring militancy, two amazing victories within three weeks, Local 32B of the Building Service Employees International Union has set afire the spirit of this city's labor movement in a struggle in which Young Socialists played no minor part. Early in November, it organized a strike of nearly ten thousand elevator men in the famous mid-town garment center of New York, throwing the entire district into utter confusion. The large sections of class-conscious trade union workers who toil in this district refused to ride in scab elevators. Some walked up thirteen, twenty and sometimes more stories, but in many cases, the more aggressive unionists refused to walk, nor would they ride the elevators manned by scab operators. Needless to say the strike was a remarkable success. The bosses conceded everything.

YPSL "Handles" Holdout

There was only one important holdout. An important building was owned by the Democratic boro president of Manhattan, Samuel S. Levy. He would have nothing to do with the union. In the offices of the New York YPSL, preparations has been completed for picketing his home, his office, and his building on that grand and elaborate scale for which this city's Yipsels have won wide renown. But Levy found out about the preparations and before the pickets could reach their posts he had hurriedly settled with the union. Throughout the strike, a large group of young Socialists played an active and leading role in its organization, picketing, and general field activity. The Ladies Garment Shipping Clerk's Union sent a group of its members, some of whom were YPSL members, into the situation to do some of the most difficult tasks of the strike. Most of the strikers realized that Socialists were giving the field leadership in the struggle. As a result they jammed into a huge hall, 7,000 strong, cheering with indescribable enthusiasm, the rousing speeches by Norman Thomas, Frank Crosswaite, and Bill Gomberg who marshalled the YPSL contingent in the strike.

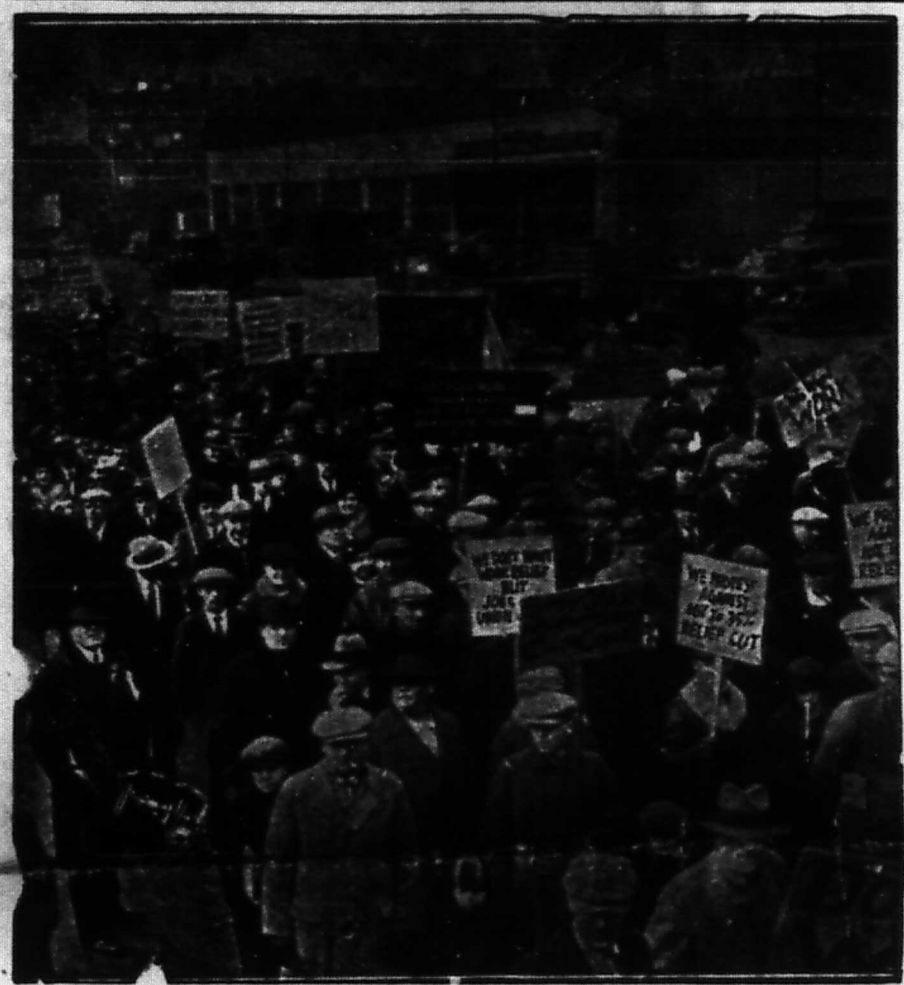
City-Wide Strike Next!

Many Yipsels were arrested in the course of the strike, but with scarcely a halt, the New York League immediately swung behind the preparations for a second strike—this one to be a general city-wide strike in a field which includes some 275,000 workers. The bosses, too, were preparing. The Real Estate Board had been hiring thugs and scabs for two weeks at high speed. One Republican District captain, unwittingly, even gave a tip for a job scabbing in the expected strike, to be gotten through a well-known detective agency, to the Industrial Director of the New York YPSL. No more scabs were hired by that agency!

But at the last minute, the city authorities intervened. Mayor La Guardia, who had his reputation as a liberal to maintain, appointed a commission to arbitrate. Because of the strategic position of the union and its determination and strength

(Continued on page 4)

JOBLESS GET "HOLIDAY" SPIRIT



A new style Santa Claus is visiting the homes of America's jobless this year. These unemployed demonstrators don't seem to enjoy the huge irony of celebrating America's first "National Unemployment Day" within a week of Thanksgiving.



Jobless Demonstrate Protest as Relief Rolls Hit New High

Youth in Vanguard as Unemployed March

Facing a sixth bitter winter of mounting suffering, the nation's organized unemployed, for the first time since the beginning of the depression, have swung into action on a national scale. Thousands of jobless workers, accompanied by more thousands of sympathetic unionists and Socialists, marched throughout the nation, November 24th, the first "National Unemployment Day."

In the line of march, sometimes under the banners of the organizations of the unemployed to which they belonged, sometimes under their own League banners, marched hundreds of young Socialists, cheering and singing the marchers into enthusiasm. In New York, Milwaukee, Chicago, Pittsburgh, in scores of lesser centers, the unemployed massed before their local relief headquarters to present their demands.

No More Relief on "Squeal Basis"

But of far greater significance than the specific demands they presented, is the fact that these jobless men, women, and youngsters were serving notice on the powers that be, that no longer were they to be carried through another winter on just enough "to keep them from squealing," as one frank relief official stated.

Men do not take to the streets unless the pressure is great. The pressure was great. For the depression has not yielded to the soothing of the New Deal as government figures themselves show.

That relief rolls, unemployment and their kindred miseries are mounting, is well known. What is not so well known is the dreadful havoc these offspring of capitalism are wreaking upon the children of America.

"Out of the Hides of Children"

Referring to the unemployment relief census taken in October, 1933, Harry L. Hopkins, Federal Relief Administrator, declared, "The costs of the depression are taken out of the hides of children." The census reveals that out of a total of 12,943,000 then on relief, 5,250,000 were children under 16.

Today, more than one year after this census was taken, Hopkins admits that the total on relief is upwards of 17,000,000. (He predicts 23,000,000 before the winter is over). Maintaining the same proportion of children to adults as prevailed in the October, 1933 figures, there are today 7,177,000 children under 16, dependent for their very existence on federal, state and local relief.

The New "Lost Generation"

Black as is their present, the future of these more than seven million youngsters is darker. How many of them will ever be permitted the luxury of earning their own living? How many of them will ever experience the normal joy of establishing a home and rearing children in reasonable security and comfort?

These things will never be for this new "lost generation." Subsidized in their misery that they and their class shall not threaten the flow of profits into the coffers of the coupon clippers, these youngsters are foredoomed to a dreary existence in perpetual poverty. Capitalism is dying, but in the process it is blasting the future of America's youth.

WHY YOUNG SOCIALISTS WORK WITH UNIONS

"How much do you want for it?" the hardboiled union leader asked the committee from the Young People's Socialist League which had come to offer its help in the strike.

"Nothing, of course. We help because it is in the interest of all working people to build a mighty trade union movement in the United States."

That is the answer of young Socialists all over the nation. Union men and women at first are amazed. Traditionally, people do not do something for nothing.

Young Socialists do not work for unions for nothing. They work for unions because they know that the interests of the great masses of people in America, that the hope of the mass of American youth, depends on the growth and development of the trade union movement, more than on any other single thing.

Union men and women are getting over their amazement and perplexity. It is becoming clear and plain to them that unions mean something of prime importance to thousands of young men and women who call themselves "Yipsels." And as they understand this fact more and more clearly, they also understand more and more clearly that there is something

more in trade unionism than jobs, wages and hours. They see the young Socialists fighting harder than even the average union members. They see them making great sacrifices. And they begin to understand that there is a connection of vital importance between trade unionism and Socialism. They begin to look upon their union as something more than a business affair, where upon the payment of a certain amount of dues, the union fights for better conditions for the worker who pays the dues.

Young Socialists are making labor history in many parts of the country today—through determined, courageous and patient work on the industrial field they are helping trade union struggles, making Socialism a by-word in thousands of shops; making it clearer and clearer to Socialists everywhere that is in the struggles, the organization and the power of the workers themselves that the basis, the lifeblood and the hope of Socialist aspirations lie.

It is on the trade union field that workers in great masses realize their power for the first time. It is in strikes, small and large, that workers learn from first-hand experience of the nature of the clash of exploiting class and working class and the place where working men and women belong.

One in Eight Young Workers Gets Job

New York (FP).—About 8,000 boys and girls between the ages of 17 and 20 apply monthly for work at the offices of the New York State employment service, it announced. On an average, only one out of eight applicants is placed in a job.

Code wages, the department points out, while raising wages offered to boys and girls, have tended to decrease the proportion of jobs open. "Employers argue that, if they are required to pay a minimum wage, they will do better to hire adults."

How relief, insufficient though it is, has kept wages from falling even lower, is revealed in the report. "The wage range for young workers is protected in a measure by the refusal of many boys and girls to accept jobs paying wages too low to live on," the report states.

EDUCATION CUTS FALL HEAVIEST ON RURAL KIDS

"No other nation in the world has allowed its educational system so to suffer," in the crisis as the United States, Edmund S. Brunner of the Teachers College, Columbia University, speaking before the National Rural Forum, pointed out that the terms in tens of thousands of rural schools have been reduced to only two or three months a year, and hundreds have been entirely closed. He states further that although high school enrollment since 1930 has increased 53%, expenses per child have been reduced 24%.

The only field in which there has been some expansion is that of general adult education. But here, according to the speaker, teachers, almost destitute, have been paid wages smaller than the lowest paid laborers on relief rolls, and relief rather than education is the main purpose.

CCC Boys Mustn't See Unpollyanic Book

Washington, (FP)—Social change, even if discussed in the mildest liberal way, is apparently considered a dangerous subject for young, jobless workers in CCC camps to think about, judging from the banning of a pamphlet entitled "You and Machines," by Prof. Wm. F. Ogburn of the University of Chicago.

The pamphlet was financed by the General Education Board, a New York Rockefeller foundation.

But CCC Director Robert Fechner served notice on War and Education offices that he found it unsuitable. He said that passages pointing out that technological unemployment and other problems brought by machines made necessary a new "social technic," were too "unoptimistic."

Let's Visit The New York League

New York City's Young Socialist movement is becoming known to the population. In a city of seven million that is a grand achievement. Everyone in New York knows that there are Socialists. Apparently they all assume that there are younger ones too. But larger and larger sections of New York's population are beginning to know what a blue-shirted young man or woman stands for—when he or she wears a red tie and a red armband. In fact, in trade union circles—there are about 300,000 trade unionists in New York—workers even know what the word "Yipsel" stands for.

There are about 1200 Yipsels in New York. Somewhat more than half this number may be called active.

In every strike, excepting of the staid conservative and the reactionary unions, the Yipsels are summoned for duty. Sometimes that means doing some dull routine work. Sometimes duty means doing these things which none but young men and women fighting for a NEW WORLD would do. Usually the Yipsels are successful, sometimes they are not. They did not succeed in winning the strike of the textile yarn workers recently during the general strike.

"In Shop And School"

In somewhere between 60 and 70 high-schools and colleges, the Yipsels, as leading members of the Student League for Industrial Democracy, carry on a continuous campaign among their fellow class-mates. In every labor demonstration, the Yipsels are well-represented. Whenever the YPSL as such is called to demonstrate, between 500 and 1,000 show up. As many as 500 have appeared in their Yipsel uniforms, with their fifty or more red banners, with their military-like lines, with their slogans and red songs shaking the streets of New York.

That's the glamor.

Behind the glamor—there are Yipsels, distributing leaflets, carrying platforms, selling literature and Socialist newspapers, holding small local mass meetings, rallies, forums, debates, organizing the local unemployed, helping small local strikers, fighting anti-labor injunctions, doing every possible type of local anti-fascist work—campaigning all year round on cultural fronts.

Wherever there is a symbol of injustice, wherever there is a chance to point out the Socialist road—the Yipsels are to be found.

SPARTACUS YOUTH DRIFT FROM ISOLATION POLICY

New York—In line with current developments which are bringing into the Socialist party many unattached radicals and members of the myriad of splinter groups, young radicals in like circumstances are similarly joining with the Young People's Socialist League. A statement issued by Midred Goldman and Paul Aragon to their fellow-members of the Spartacus Youth League, expressed their determination to forsake the sectarian isolation which has heretofore been their fate, and join with the Y.P.S.L. in building it and the Socialist party into a mass working-class movement.

The statement scores the Communist League of America, parent organization of the Spartacus Youth League, for its attempt to perpetuate the division and confusion of class conscious workers by setting up a "new revolutionary party" instead of joining with those who have had "the necessary revolutionary courage" to completely break with the ways of the past.

SLID CONVENTION DURING HOLIDAY

Chicago—Meeting at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, a suburb of this city, Dec. 27 and 28, the Student League for Industrial Democracy will hold one national convention this year, instead of an eastern and a midwestern conference as in previous years, the growth of flourishing chapters on the west coast making this possible.

The tentative program includes discussion of opportunities for college graduates in the labor movement and the organization of unions for professional workers in addition to organizational sessions. John Stafford Cripps will be present as a fraternal delegate from the University Labor Federation of England. Prof. Morris R. Cohen, Fred Henderson, and possibly Norman Thomas, are scheduled to speak.

NSFA Also To Convene

The National Student Federation of America is holding its 10th annual conference in Parker House, Boston, Dec. 28, through Jan. 1. Academic freedom, disarmament as a means of peace, activity fees, and the New Deal and youth will be among the subjects on the agenda. The NSFA is the national organization composed of officers of student councils.

YOUTH AGAINST WAR & MILITARISM

On October 26th, 235 students at Akron University voted in favor of optional drill as against compulsory, while 152 declared for mandatory drill. Anti-drill students are preparing a vigorous resistance to continued compulsion. Local clergymen have attacked the attitude of the authorities and public opinion is aroused.

"You can't each 'em peace too early," declared a father who brought a 3-year old by one hand and a 4-year old by the other to march with the Red Falcons in the Nov. 11th Anti-War parade in Milwaukee. "The kids wanted to march, so here we are." Of the ten thousand marchers who braved the chill November blasts, the largest section were from the Workers' Committee, Milwaukee's militant unemployed organization in which many Yipsels are active. The arrangements committee met in Mayor Dan Hoan's office, and included representatives from churches and communist organizations as well as the labor unions and Socialist party.

Authorities at Ohio State University, scene last year of a student revolt against compulsory drill, have announced that no student will be exempt because of conscientious opposition to military training, but that sophomores taking drill will be given free tickets to football games!

Young people of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, at their annual religious camp conference, adopted a statement declaring war, aggressive or defensive, contrary to Christian principles, and, with it, asserting the profit system in economics to be a chief cause of war.

Only seven out of thirty-eight textbooks used in Canadian schools can be regarded as "unqualifiedly good" in their treatment of war and peace and international relations, according to a survey completed by the Canadian branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

German Refugee



TONY SENDER,

well-known European Socialist and woman labor leader—a former member of the German Reichstag—will lecture in this country under the auspices of the Socialist party during January, February and March of 1935.

EXCELLENT RESPONSE MEETS NEW MAGAZINE

New York—With two issues off the press, Arise, new Socialist and Labor literary magazine, has been met with a response exceeding even the warmest expectations of its launchers. The October and November issues both contained numerous articles contributed by members of the Young People's Socialist League. Aaron Levenstien's article on Viola Ilma, buxom blond instigator of the American Youth Congress, was an outstanding piece of analytical reporting. "Spain; A Prelude to Revolution," gives a first hand description by Melos Most of the preparations by the Spanish proletarians for their late uprising.

The magazine is published by Rebel Arts, Socialist cultural organization located at 22 East 22nd Street in New York City. Subscription prices are: One Dollar per year and sixty cents for 6 months. There are bulk prices which makes it possible for YPSL circles to order in quantity at a saving.

LESS CASH AND TEACHERS BUT STUDENTS INCREASE

New York—There are 200,000 jobless licensed teachers in the U. S. A million more pupils have entered school this year. But 25,000 teachers have been dropped and school budgets have been cut half a million dollars as compared with last year.

These are some of the facts given in a study of school statistics in the School Executive's Magazine.

A LABOR PLAY FOR TODAY

"We Ain't A-Goin' Back" by Hazel Cunard. A one act play in four scenes. Published by the Cultural Committee, Socialist Party of Ohio. 10c.

The events of this play occurred early in the strike of the onion weedeers in Hardin County, Ohio. This strike, still raging, is Socialist led and help for the strikers is coming almost exclusively from the Socialist Party. This play was written to aid in raising funds and to help in spreading knowledge of the true conditions prevailing amongst this courageous band of exploited workers.

The play deals with the early efforts of Hardin County preachers to break the strike, requires but five main characters and four to eight other brief spoken parts, and very simply staging. The people are human, the principle events actually happen and are still happening. Simply written, it has the power of the sincere, courageous men and women who are actually doing the fighting there on the marshes.

It can be secured from the author, Hazel Cunard, at Barnesville, Ohio for 10c per copy. All proceeds from the sale of copies go to strike relief. It is good. It is timely. Whether staged or not it should be read. It is a moving document on an epic struggle.

Philly YPSL Fights Mass-Picketing Ban

Combining theory with practice is more than a mere phrase to Walter Storey, National Educational Director of the YPSL. He, together with Nat Weinberg, Philadelphia County YPSL organizer, and Joseph Schwartz, County Chairman of the Socialist Party, and about thirty girl strikers were arrested in a shop strike in the neckwear industry.

This city has an ordinance requiring that the permission of the police be obtained before any mass picket line is formed. In practice this ordinance means that the police must be notified in time to prepare to destroy the effectiveness of the picket line. The arrests of the strikers and Socialists are the first step in a fight to the finish campaign Philadelphia Socialists are determined to wage until this ordinance is wiped off the books.

While all those arrested were discharged, the fight will be continued until someone is convicted and the case is appealed and won on grounds of unconstitutionality or until the enforcement of the ordinance is abandoned by the police. In either event, local League members will remain in the forefront of the battle until the issue is brought to a successful conclusion for the workers of Philadelphia.

Thumbing My Nose

by Belly Acre

"At the Bar of Justice"

In the past few months, a number of Young Socialists have been arrested on various charges and compelled to stand trial as a result of strike activities. The day of trial has often been circus-time for Yipsels.

There was the case of the Bronx YPSL'ers arrested for holding a street meeting in behalf of the Bakers' Union. Among the defendants was Sammy Rubin, the smallest Yipsel ever taken into captivity by the police. At the trial, the "people's case" was presented and considerably weakened by the skillful cross-examination of Jacob Panken, former judge elected on the Socialist ticket. As a climax in the defense, Judge Panken put Sammy Rubin, four feet tall, on the stand to testify. The district attorney rose to cross-examine.

"Are you a Socialist?" he asked. "Yes," was the answer.

"Are you a member of the Young People's Socialist League?"

"I am."

"And," continued the prosecutor, his voice growing louder, "you are active in that organization?"

"Not as active as I should be," came the modest reply.

"Now," thundered the district attorney, approaching the tiny Yipsel whose head barely appeared above the witness box, "isn't it true that you would lie to save your comrades?"

"A Socialist never lies!" snapped the witness, drawing himself up to his full height, as the court-room, jammed with his comrades, burst into applause and cheers. The judge agreed, too, for he dismissed the case.

Cop Smarts Under Socialist Fire

Then there was the case of the New York Yipsels charged with violating an injunction. Local 306 of the Movie Operators Union has been restrained from picketing. Members of the Young People's Socialist League, appearing on the picket-line carrying placards of the Socialist Party, were promptly arrested. Matthew M. Levy, acting for the Socialist Lawyers Association, defended them on the trial.

A policeman testified against the young Socialists. Levy cross-examined him, neatly pointing out his contradictions, tore his story apart until the poor cop squirmed and wriggled on the witness-stand. No longer able to restrain himself, the red-faced policeman turned on his tormentor and shouted:

"If I was as smart as you, Mr. Levy, I'd be a lawyer too."

"And if I were as smart as you," fired back the Socialist lawyer, "I wouldn't be a cop."

The court-room suppressed its applause as the judge rapped for order.

News Items

The New York Times reports: "Owl Calls on Judge with Debated Intent. Some Think Visitor to Judge Sought Wisdom, but Host Says Bird Smelled a Rat."... Is the last phrase a confession?

And on the financial page: "Seat on Stock Exchange Sells for \$75,000." Rather a stiff price for a peace of furniture, says the Yipsel punster.

Testimonial Dinner

Arthur G. McDowell, national chairman of the Young People's Socialist League, was recently feted by his comrades in Chicago, a town located in the state of Illinois. After the banquet, came the speeches of prominent Socialists and trade unionists. Good speeches—good and long.

Finally the toast-master called on the YPSL spokesman, Bob Rogers. He rose, looked down longingly at a piece of silverware, frowned at the monogram, glanced up, measured the banqueters with a glittering eye, and said:

"When there's literature to be distributed, who do you call on to do it? The Yipsels!

"When there's a strike on, who do you ask to picket with the strikers? The Yipsels!"

"When there's dirty work to be done like folding leaflets, cranking the mimeograph, lugging the platforms—it's the Yipsels again!

"But I'll be doggoned if you're gonna get us Yipsels to make after-dinner speeches, too!"

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