

THE

CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

Make the YOUTH VOTE into a SOCIALIST vote in '36

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Late September, 1936

Three Cents

SEE RECORD STUDENT VOTE FOR SOCIALISTS

U. S. SOCIALIST YOUTH LEADER SENT TO SPAIN

CHICAGO—Ernest Erber, national chairman of the Young People's Socialist League of America, has arrived in Barcelona, it was announced here.

Erber was sent abroad on a solidarity tour after the fighting broke out in Spain. He will greet the 150,000 Socialist youth of Spain, who are in the forefront of armed struggle against Fascism, in the name of America's young Socialists.

Erber arrived in Spain after attending the World Youth Congress held in Geneva, Switzerland, September 1 to 7, where he put forward the position of revolutionary Socialism.

The American young Socialist presiding official fought at the



ERBER

Congress for united front action, which he distinguished sharply from the class-collaboration ideas now in vogue in parts of Europe. He also vigorously opposed the principle of national defense, the militarization of youth, and the entanglement of youth and labor in the war schemes of the satiated imperialist powers and their League of Nations.

After having visited Switzerland and Spain, Erber will make an extended tour through France, Belgium, Holland, Sweden, Norway, England, and possibly Austria. His purpose is to strengthen international ties and to study the Socialist youth movement of Europe.

The American Young People's Socialist League is interested in the possibilities of organizing a separate centre which would coordinate the work of political Socialist youth movement now included in the largely cultural International of Socialist Youth. The plan was proposed by the Belgian Young Socialist Guard and has endorsements from ten countries.

Meet the Wife!



NORMAN THOMAS With Socialist "first lady."

Youth Committee in Socialism Drive

"For a Socialist America—Make the Youth Vote a Socialist Vote in '36!"

With this goal the Youth Committee for Thomas and Nelson has been organized, in response to the desire of large numbers of young people not affiliated with the regular Socialist Party or youth organization for an opportunity to work for the Socialist campaign.

Local affiliated state, city, neighborhood, school and organization committees already dot the country, and are at work pushing the candidacy of Norman Thomas for President and George A. Nelson for Vice-President.

The committee is headed by Albert W. Hamilton, who has played a prominent role in the American youth scene, including the anti-war, church, student, and more recent political youth movements.

Four Sections

Four sections have been set up, the industrial section, farm youth section, church youth section, and student section. The section activities supplement those of the general committee.

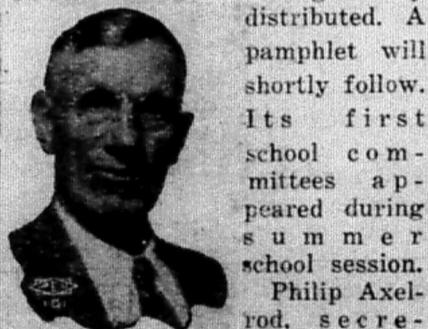
Locally no strict form of organization will be adhered to. Affiliated general committees range from neighborhood to state-wide and include committees in shops, schools, church organizations, and rural areas are to be affiliated to the respective sections.

Scoring first, the church section published a twelve-page printed pamphlet entitled "Building a New World through the Socialist Party." The section chairman is Hayes Beall, who

has just been discharged by the Methodist Board of Education because of his militancy as chairman of the National Council of Methodist Youth.

Other prominent church section members are William Kopp, Ellen Lund, Hal Erickson, Ruth Bottomley, Rodney Fisher, Lois Butler, Sarvey Skifert, and Ed Churchill.

The student section, with George Edwards as chairman, has published an 8-page leaflet called "Students, Will Your Vote Count?" which is being widely distributed. A pamphlet will shortly follow.



Nelson

Philip Axelrod, secretary of the International Pocketbook Workers Union, Chicago, is chairman of the Industrial section. He represented his union at the Cleveland American Youth Congress and other important conferences.

The farm section is presided by Ed Mitchell, youth head of the heretofore Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, which has combated Arkansas Democratic repression. Seeing Roosevelt's failure to lift the reign of terror, and the Republican silence on the question, most of the union leadership is supporting Thomas and Nelson.

NEW YORK—A prediction that the Socialist vote in the colleges would smash all previous records was made here after examination of university straw polls, campus "mock" political conventions, and the general temper of the student body.

"Students will vote Socialist this year because the logic of their own struggles impels them to," George Edwards, national chairman of the American Student Union declared,

"Students who struck against war, opposed educational retrenchment, fought for academic freedom, and were represented at the American Youth Act hearings cannot

vote endorsement of a Democratic administration which increased war budgets, closed down schools, suppressed student rights, and killed the youth bill, nor of a Republican Party which promises nothing better."

The flocking of prominent campus leaders to the Socialist ticket was reported by the Student Section of the Youth Committee for Thomas and Nelson, with new endorsements coming in daily.

Ex-Liberal "Off the Fence"

Included in the growing "college editors' bloc" of the Student Section are Dale Mericle, editor of the Wayne University "Collegian;" Tom Jones, editor of the Earlham College "Post;" Lewis Cohen, editor of the University of Louisville "Carinal," and Ralphyne Brady, editor of the "College of the Pacific Weekly."

Mericle wrote in, "Of course you can count on me. Some of us who have been liberals in the past must get off the fence." Jones' letter declared, "I have definitely decided to support the Socialist campaign this year because I believe it is the only

way that students who are opposed to war can express their opposition to war preparations of the Democratic administration." Cohen stated he was "supporting the Socialists this year because I don't believe that it is 'Roosevelt or Reaction.' Any one who votes for either Roosevelt, Landon or Lemke will be voting for reaction."

For Realistic Approach

A similar note was struck by Dorothy Rockwell, American Student Union national executive committee member from Smith College, who declared that "political realism such as is involved in campaigning for Thomas is not only imperative but without this realistic approach the student anti-fascist element loses all impact very quickly."

The American Student Union is well represented in the Youth Committee for Thomas and Nelson student section. Besides Edwards, who is section chairman, and Rockwell, its ranks include ASU executive secretary Joe Lash; ASU treasurer Molly Yard; ASU NEC members Jeff Campbell of the New England Student Christian Movement, Quentin Ogren of the U. of Chi., and Harold Libros of Temple; ASU field organizer Alvaine Hollister; and ASU college secretary William Millis of Stanford.

"Only Party for Peace"

Student Council heads who have declared their support of the Socialist ticket include Jeff Moody, president of the Student Body, Chapman College, and Herbert Robinson, president of the CCNY Student council. "You can count me in," Moody wrote to the Youth Committee. "A Page Two, Column Five

Thomas Gets A Surprise

CLEVELAND — Arriving at Union Station here, Norman Thomas had a station red-cap carry his luggage to a waiting car. When they got to the car Thomas reached into his pocket to pay.

"Oh no, Mister Thomas," the porter told him, "I couldn't take it; not after all the things you have done for us people."

Thomas's porter was the president of the local red-caps' union.

SOCIALIST YOUTH PLANK

WE PROPOSE the passage of the American Youth Act to meet the immediate educational and economic needs of young people;

ADEQUATE Federal appropriations for public schools and free city colleges with a view to making possible a full education for all young people.

WE OPPOSE the CCC, the National Youth Administration, and other governmental agencies dealing with the youth problem which threaten the wage and living standards of organized labor.

We pledge continued support of the Child Labor Amendment. We propose the elimination of military training from our schools.

Schools to Top All-Time Socialist Vote, Prediction

AMERICAN YOUTH CONGRESS UPSET BRINGS BUREAU BEHIND SOCIALIST STAND FOR UNITY

NEW YORK—Reversing the decision of the Third American Youth Congress which decided over the protests of Socialist and labor delegates to set up a liberal super-

youth organization, Youth Congress National Bureau declared itself in favor of a united front set-up at a meeting here.

The decision followed the withdrawal of the Young Circle League of America and the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union from the Congress, and the refusal of the Young People's Socialist League to accept a place on the National Council.

At the third Congress in Cleveland a left capitalist political program was adopted and declared binding on all Congress affiliates and a constitution creating a super-organization was called for. The labor bloc, which asked that the Congress be an inclusive center for united front activities, was booted, labeled as "Trotskyite," and overwhelmed in an unweighted vote by a liberal-Communist coalition.

Press release attacks calling the minority "disrupters" did not offset the fact that they had the real organizational strength, and the national Bureau, including the young Communists, decided to execute a complete about-face.

Abandon Plan

Abandoning the plan to have the AYC be an organization on its own, the Bureau declared the Congress' purpose to be one of "initiating, coordinating, and unifying the activities of youth organizations," that "the authority of the American Youth Congress rests with the member organizations," and that its activities should be carried out by its affiliates themselves, "upon decision of their own leadership."

A united front set-up was foreseen in provisions that the annual Congress "shall serve as a forum," that "the national council shall be composed of representatives of important national organizations delegated by them," and that decisions shall be by two-thirds, instead of majority vote, with Bureau decisions on policy to be by mutual consent.

Asked by the Young Communist League whether the new declaration made the Congress completely acceptable, the Young People's Socialist League replied,

"The acceptance of this document means the first victory in our fight to change the character of the Youth Congress from a young 'People's Front' to an instrument for united front action. It does not mean anything else."

Legion Defeated in Poll on ROTC

CARBONDALE, Ill. — "I didn't raise my boy to be a soldier," parents told the school board here.

In an unofficial election financed by popular contribution, more than one fourth of the regular voters went to the polls to vote down a proposed junior voluntary military course in Carbondale Community High School. The vote ended a bitter debate which raged since the local school board announced negotiations with the War Department for volunteer junior reserve officer's training corps.

The American Legion, the Lions and the Chamber of Commerce had previously voted for the training.

We will love you in November As we loved you then in April

STUDENTS have met the administration's yearly increase in military appropriations by participating in greater numbers every year in the April Student Strike against War. In 1934, 25,000 struck, in 1935, 150,000, and this year half a million.

They will also come face to face with the administration parties, written in lines across the voting machine, when they go to vote this November. In the Spring, Students Strike against War; In the Fall, Students Vote against War!



Students of America!

Students of America have blazed an amazing path of struggle and action in the past four years. Throughout the world the great STUDENT STRIKE AGAINST WAR has become a symbol of unity and force and determination. The campuses of America have changed from academic cells of isolation to centers of struggle on every front which affects the masses of American people.

In this election campaign, there is only one party which translates our course on campus to the political field. That party is the Socialist Party. That party's candidates, Norman Thomas and George A. Nelson, are the symbols of political courage, honesty and the willingness to act on one's convictions.

What have we done in the high schools and colleges? We built the Student Strike from a small gathering of traditional radicals to the action of a half-million students. We have faced the same problem as workers have faced — increasing encroachments on our rights and liberties and have fought time and again in a successful defense of our academic rights and liberties. We have experienced the pinch of depression conditions and have met this with militant campaigns for free text books, for cheaper food prices, for better wages and conditions for student employees, for free city schools. We have enlisted the aid of organized workers in these struggles and have answered the appeals of organized labor in strikes and organization campaigns with funds, picket lines, literature, food kitchens. We have fought military training and trustee domination of our schools. We have compromised for the passage of the American Youth Act.

We have written across the history of the educational system in this country an account of thrilling courage and honesty. We have helped to change the whole complexion of America. Have we finished our job? Hardly, we have just started....

LOGIC OF STRUGGLE

A Student alone cannot gain freedom and liberty. Students alone cannot wage a successful struggle against war and reaction or solve the grave problem of unemployment and a just standard of living for the American workers.

We must translate the militancy and courage of the student movement into this election campaign. We cannot strike against war preparations in April and vote for parties which champion war preparations in November. We cannot demonstrate for academic freedom on campus and vote for parties which condone terror

against sharecroppers in Arkansas, lynch law in the South, martial law against labor in Terre Haute. We cannot fight for free text books, free schools, and better conditions of student employment in our schools and vote for the parties which refuse to allot money for education. We cannot help labor organize during our student life and vote for the parties which are backed by the owners of the industries against whom labor organizes.

The militancy we students have shown on the student front must be shown in the political struggle now going on.

Norman Thomas and George Nelson stand for the same things in political life that we have stood for in student life. The Socialist Party translates into political long-time objectives our immediate struggles on the campus.

No other Party pledges itself to "opposition to any war in which the government engages." And when the Socialist Party says opposition, it speaks in terms which are not new. No other Party stood firmly against war before, during and after the World War of 1917-18. How can students who demonstrate their belief in that pledge in April do anything but reaffirm that belief on election day in November?

THE SOCIALIST PARTY

No other Party has both declared and proved its militant opposition to reaction in the manner in which the Socialist Party has. Wherever reaction has raised its head, the Socialist Party and its standard bearer, Norman Thomas, have been on hand organizing mass opposition to reaction and mass struggle for the maintenance and extension of civil and racial rights.

No other Party unequivocally endorses the American Youth Act as an alternative to the National Youth Administration, to give immediate employment to the locked-out generation of at least eight million young people in a manner compatible with the interests of the labor movement.

Students who have faced issues honestly and courageously on the campus must now face these issues placed in a broader setting in the same manner.

To fight war we must fight for Socialism. To fight reaction, we must fight for Socialism. To fight for labor, for education, for jobs, for security, we must fight for Socialism. Our struggles and our interests demand that we band together in the Youth Committee for Thomas and Nelson.

STUDENT SECTION, YOUTH COMMITTEE FOR THOMAS AND NELSON

CITE CAMPUS LEADERS WHO BACK THOMAS

From Page One, Column Five

group of us have decided that the Socialist Party is the only party that works realistically for peace. What do we do now?"

Frank Lytell, Student Methodist at the University of Iowa added one more reason to vote Socialist. "As a law student I have been impressed that the Socialist Party is the only party that answers the dictatorship of the supreme court over labor legislation with a demand for a constitutional amendment."

"Socialism Only Solution" Prominent co-eds have joined up, including Margaret Edwards, Fay Bennett, and Virginia Spiller. Margaret Edwards, now a student at Scarritt College, Tennessee, stated: "To me, Socialism is the only solution that has been offered our present worn-out, inefficient economic set-up. I am particularly impressed that the Socialist Party is not overlooking immediate demands of workers and farmers." Miss Bennett declared her "support goes wholeheartedly to the Socialist Party in this campaign."

Gathering testimony is only an incidental function of the Youth Committee for Thomas and Nelson student section, however. It is publishing campaign literature, organizing campus clubs, and pushing the Socialist ticket in universities and colleges throughout the country.

Asked which slogan had proven most effective in rallying students to the Socialist banner, a leading member answered without hesitation, "In April Students Strike against War; In November Students Vote against War."

RED TAPE KILLS BOY

BOWLING GREEN, O.—Little curly-haired William Sloan is dead because of lack-jaw and red tape. The red tape was wound by Dr. S. J. Powell, health commissioner of Wood County, here.

William, on a visit to his uncle from Kentucky where he came from, stepped on a rusty nail. At first he didn't bother with it, a little later he was critically ill.

Afraid Kentucky would not reimburse him, Dr. Powell refuse to provide the \$100 worth of serum needed to save his life. He told William's uncle to send the boy back to Kentucky. The uncle frantic, managed to raise the money for the serum. But there had been a delay of 2½ hours. That delay cost Williams his life.

The Challenge of Youth Official Monthly Organ of the Young People's Socialist League of America

549 Randolph St., Chicago, Ill. Responsible Editorial Board: Ernest Erber, Ben Fischer, Melos Most, Managing Editor

SUBSCRIPTION RATE 25c for 12 issues entered as second-class matter December 7, 1935, at the post office at Chicago, Ill., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Campaign Organ of the Youth Committee for Thomas and Nelson

RED YOUTH BATTLE FASCISM

MADRID—One hundred and fifty thousand Socialist youth are furnishing the cream of the fighters in the workers' militia here, engaged in a struggle to the death with trained, well equipped Fascist troops. Next to the Socialist trade unions, the Federation of Socialist Youths has provided a large number of militiamen than any other single organization.

Undeterred by the loss of 1,200 of their number by Fascist mass executions in Badajoz, the young Socialists are distinguishing themselves on every front.

Cops Burlarize Home of Framed Socialist Youth

BULLETIN

PEORIA, Ill. — Two of Parker's co-defendants have just been arrested charged with a local murder, without evidence.

CHICAGO—Socialist election petitions, Party records, contact lists, and other valuable papers were stolen from the Champaign, Illinois home of Ed Parker, young Socialist and recent frame-up victim, by United States federal agents armed with a search warrant, following Parker's release from Vandalia state prison farm where he served ten days of a six-month sentence imposed without a legal trial.

All six were then tried while being held incommunicado and without being informed of the charges. They were denied the right of counsel or to a postponement. A police magistrate, without legal power to do so, sentenced them to six months' imprisonment in Vandalia for "vagrancy" (all were employed, and all but Parker Peoria residents). They were rushed off to Vandalia immediately.

Prisoners Released

Despite difficulties (one lawyer was literally thrown out when he asked for a copy of the charges) they were released after ten days on a writ of habeas corpus, with the city of Peoria not appearing to defend its action.

While in jail Parker defied the prison authorities and refused to do prison work. The Workers' Defense League is handling his case.

Magistrate Winn, who passed the sentence, is head of the Peoria Democratic machine.



PARKER

A protest to the local district attorney at Danville, by Ed Adams, Socialist Party organizer, resulted in Adams' ejection from the building by detectives.

The Socialist Party of Illinois, Parker's employer, has demanded the immediate return of the petitions and other seized effects in a communication addressed to United States Attorney Cummings.

Among the papers taken was a Party organization itinerary of Parker, the first stop on which was Paris, Illinois. Police were waiting for Parker when he arrived in Paris and ran him out of town, not permitting him to get out of his car.

Cops Raid Meeting

Trouble started when police raided a meeting held in Peoria to organize a local of the Illinois Workers' Alliance, and began an orgy of arrests. They dragged away the chairman and speaker; arrested Parker when he jumped to the platform to protest; arrested Parker's driving companion when he came to the police station to ask for the keys to the car; arrested and, in the presence of the others who were brought in to witness it, brutally beat a man who came in to demand their release; and finally arrested a sixth person when he tried to bring the prisoners food after they had gone without eating.



Examples of heroism are legion. Special praise has been given 25 boys, all under 23, who manned Somosierra pass with a single machine gun, and refused to retreat before 3,000 crack Fascist troops.

making a surprise attack. With a loss of half their number they held the pass until reinforcements arrived.

The overwhelming majority of the famed Women's Legion come from the ranks of the Socialist youth.

The Madrid organization of the youth federation is credited with having distributed arms to its members on the day of the attempted Fascist coup, without waiting for the dilatory Azaña government to act. It also took over a theater and several wealthy mansions to serve as headquarters.

The Federation has more than doubled its membership in the past few months.

Considerable disappointment has been expressed here over the apparent incapacity of the people's front government, tied to the apron-strings of capitalism, first to rid the army of Fascists, and now to grant land to the peasants and colonial independence to the Moors, which it is believed would cause the collapse of the revolt.

Lack Workers' State

These would be the first steps of a workers' state, which the Socialist youth expect will be established if the Fascist are beaten. Interviewed by a United Press correspondent, Garcia, young Socialist leader in the south, expressed his emphatic disagreement with a radio promise by the Communist Party to preserve the tottering and ineffectual Spanish capitalist government which proved incapable of protecting the country from Fascism.

Significance is also attached to the fact that the Barcelona independent workers' committees

Young Methodists Rap Church Board

BEREA, Ky.—Protesting the action of the Methodist board of education in firing the secretaries of the young people's department on the ground of radicalism, more than eight hundred delegates of the National Council of Methodist Youth voted for greater independence from the trustee-dominated adult board, at their national conference here September 1 to 6.

PROTEST FIRING

The firing of Dr. Blaine Kirkpatrick and Rev. Owen Geer as youth secretaries was denounced in the opening session by Hayes Beall, national chairman, reporting for the executive committee. "No matter how acceptable our newly chosen leaders may be, Beall reported, "the council's

have had more success in the civil war than has the Madrid people's front set-up.

Difficulties are being created by the fact that while the rebels have the united support of German, Italian, and world Fascism, the leftist governments of France and the Soviet Union have gone to a new extreme in retreat, and are now apparently less anxious to help the Spanish workers than to avoid antagonizing Hitler and Mussolini.

Despite the grim lesson across the border, the French Communists and Socialists continue tying their hands with a people's front government.

youth officers cannot escape conviction that the action of the Board ignored the expressed will of Methodist youth."

In answer the conference empowered the executive committee to raise funds, employ personal, and carry through projects approved by the National Council irrespective of the attitude of the Board of Education.

The Board retaliated by announcing the firing of Beall, who is also chairman of the Church Section of the Youth Committee for Thomas and Nelson, immediately after the conference adjourned.

Increased radicalism was predicted at the conference by Al Hamilton, Social Action Committee chairman, who denounced "the forces of Methodist money," and said that "our past has been a pink tea party compared with the future." Thomas and Nelson pins were very much in evidence, and there was a special Socialist literature table in the hall.

CONDEMN SYSTEM

The conference went on record condemning the profit system, the suppression of civil liberties and increased militarization under Roosevelt, competitive armaments, and the use of police or national guards in strikes.

Endorsement was given to the American Youth Act, the Workers' Rights Amendment to the constitution, the Child Labor Amendment, the Frazier-Lundeen Social Security Bill, the Student Strike against War, the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, and the Committee for Industrial Organization.

CENSOR TEXAN SCHOOL PAPER

AUSTIN, Tex.—The University of Texas was displeased at its student newspaper, *The Daily Texan*, because of its exposure of graft in the construction of a museum on the campus, its support of the student anti-war strike and other militant actions of the student body.

As a result, the board of Regents passed regulations which set up an administration appointed censor, with the power to exclude "libelous material... opinions not based on facts... articles on national, state and local political questions... material detrimental to good conduct of the student body... material prejudicial to the best interests of the University... and any material in conflict with good taste or wise editorial management." The "Daily Texan" was not allowed to carry news of its own censorship.

Rebels Retreat to Shelter of Dead Horse



Playground Closed; Children Run Over

NEW YORK — The school playground was "too small." Officials closed it. As a result three children were killed while playing in the street outside the padlocked recreation ground, during the first three weeks after that.

That is the history of the neighborhood near 165th Street in New York, and it is a history that is causing outraged parents to demand the reopening of the school yard.

Small as it is, they say, it's preferable to having a child a week run over by speeding automobiles.

What Happened at the Third American Youth Congress?

By BEN FISCHER

National Secretary of the Young People's Socialist League

Because William Randolph Hearst might use things for his insidious purposes is no reason for not acquainting young people and the labor movement with the full story of the Third American Youth Congress. If the youth movement is to develop in a progressive direction, it will have to be well-acquainted with things as they are, and not merely with things as they must be told to avoid giving any comfort to Willie Hearst.

The Third American Youth Congress held in Cleveland in July was a victory for a combination of liberals and communists over the left wing forces. Communists with their

or denounce. It is an indication that they are moving leftward; that they have not yet come to accept the Socialist movement as their spokesman; that they are in some vague way dissatisfied with the potentialities and certainly the present realities of capitalism. Therefore, they naturally seek a political refuge and program.

This political refuge has been found in the American Youth Congress; this political program they have found in the "Declaration of Rights of American Youth." As a program for a movement the "Declaration" is objectionable; it centers a movement around pious phrases, ignores class divisions and promotes the idea that youth can attain peace, freedom, and plenty by getting together.

This conception of "unity" as a solution to the problems of society certainly stands opposed to Socialism.

Seeds of Disunity

Obviously then, there is basic disagreement. Socialists differ with Communists. Both differ with liberals. Liberals differ with conservatives. Around a political program these elements cannot unite. If they do unite, it is not on the basis of political agreement but on the basis of the views of those with the "minimum," or least, program. This is not unity; it is compromise, confusion, toleration. It bears the seeds of disunity. Any movement with such a basis is doomed to splits and constant conflicts.

Real unity of action must be based on organizations coming together and agreeing to fight for specific immediate issues by mutual consent without "majority" imposition of any set of ideas. Mutual consent means that things must be worked out, not jammed down anyone's throat.

The liberals aligned with the Communists, may be excused for their failure to understand the realities of the situation. They

acted on the basis of their great desire for political expression.

But Communists could not be excused. They know the things which we have stated here and again at the Congress. They did not have the courage to disagree with liberals; but they did not hesitate to boo and hiss Socialists and labor delegates and to reject proposals and requests urging a united front basis for the American Youth Congress.

Issue Fundamental

The issue at the Third American Youth Congress was fundamental. The Declaration of Rights of American Youth could not stand without certain logical developments occurring. The Youth Congress adopted a constitution which would make it a super-organization whose decisions bind every organization and threaten to make of them a sub-division of the Congress, destroying the integrity of the constituent groups. This is not the way of unity; this is the path of building a new federated young people's political party. Whether the Communists want this to develop or not it is the logic of what happened at Cleveland.

The constitution made clear to those delegates who could not see what the Declaration itself meant, what was happening.

YCL About Face

And that is why the Young Communists have now agreed to a new set of organizational principles to replace the constitution. Frantic because the most important mass youth groups were being driven away by the tendency of building a super-youth organization, the Young Communists were forced to appear before the National Council of the Congress in August and ask that the very document they fought for be scrapped and that the organizational principles they branded as sectarian and disruptive be generally adopted by the Congress.



FISCHER

new line have gone so far in their catering to liberal elements, that they could be found as the spearhead of a combination of liberals against Socialist and trade union elements.

The Young People's Socialist League presented to the Congress the idea that in order to establish the Congress as an effective center for united actions of youth and labor organizations on specific issues such as the fight for the American Youth Act, the demilitarization of the CCC camps, for the freedom of Angelo Herndon, it was necessary to establish the Congress as a non-political group with no one idea dominating it and with work based on organizations, rather than individuals, operating by mutual consent rather than mechanical majorities.

Labor vs. Middle Class

A minority of about 150 to 200 delegates, of the more than thousand delegates, supported the YPSL position. But among these delegates were Local 22 of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union with its 30,000 members, the Southern Tenant Farmers Union with its 30,000 militant sharecroppers, the Central Labor Union delegates of Toledo and Youngstown, the Cleveland district of the Mechanics Educational Society of America, the observers from the National Council of Methodist Youth with 1,500,000 young people in its ranks, leaders of the American Student Union, and others.

The overwhelming majority, representing small organizations largely middle class in character, rode roughshod over this significant group.

What is it that these people wanted?

One thing was certain and obvious. Many elements wanted a liberal political expression.

This is nothing to sneer at

Introducing a New Feature—



In GERMANY, where they do things thoroughly, labor camps like the ones above are compulsory and completely regimented. Not that anybody would go to one here if he could help it!

C. C. C. Notes

Howdy!

All right, we give in. You asked for it, so here it is. Shows what mass pressure can do... But we expect results. Put this column to work in your camp. You know how hard it is to get the Challenge during your "Happy Daze"—see to it that every copy goes a long way...

Gunning for Guns

The big guns are turned on trying to get guns in to the CCC. Latest stunt is to try to show that the boys want it, while the government's "company union" paper is trying to make the boys want it... "The majority of men in the camps favor military training," says Happy Days in an editorial, and plays up the twenty-one suckers in Co. 225, New Gretna, N. J., who enlisted in the National Guard... "The splendid training they had received in a CCC camp stood them in good stead." Yeah, we know. That's what

the training is for....

Snoopers Bounced

The papers are in on it too... A New York paper started a big campaign around a series of "interviews" with men in camps around there, who were just curraazy about becoming dough-boys... The campaign was suddenly called off when the first two camps investigated showed that the camp poll report was phoney... and that a reporter had been kicked out of one camp by the boys when he tried to stage an "interview" with them....

Polling a Boner!

Now they're trying to show that Socialists are for it! They went a bit too far that time... Institute "for Public Opinion" "That "poll" by the American trying to prove that 77% of the voters are for militarizing the camps, made people more leery about the poll than about the Page seven. Column one

90 MILLION YEARS UNDER ROOSEVELT

"THREE long years, three long years," the Republican National Convention chanted gleefully. But there have been not three but six long years of depression. To the thirty million American students the years have been particularly long, for while the rest of the population has been waiting for prosperity to round the corner, students have had to spend their lives preparing themselves for it only to find themselves locked out of the professions when they graduate.

"In 1931 the bureau of appointments at large American university placed about 60% of its graduates; in 1932, 40%; in 1933, 24%; in 1934, only 6%; and placements for 1935 were just one point above zero." Floyd B. Olson revealed in a recent speech.

With this prospect in mind, let us glance into the lives of our thirty million students, beginning at the bottom.

Public School

Last year the New York City Board of Education was meeting to decide the school budget for 1936. It was handed an estimate of the number of children who could not attend school this year unless they got shoes and clothing. The reaction of the Board was typical. A larger appropriation to cover these items? The Board voted to reduce the school budget by half a million dollars because there would be less attendance!!!

The U. S. office of Education reports that 6,500,000 students are in bad health. In many states an actual majority of children of school are cannot attend school. Public school attendance dropped from 21,300,000 in 1930



to 19,000,000 in 1935.

Civil liberties in grade school are nil. 140 children of the Jehovah's Witness sect, were expelled, for not saluting the flag of the "land of the free."

High School

High school is the beginning of the jam of students who have nowhere to go outside of school. Far from declining, the number of high school students increased from 4,500,000 in 1930 to 6 million in 1935.

High school students' living conditions are severely effected by the depression. They are largely dependent on their families, and the U.S. Department of Labor has estimated that 67% of the families in America are on a subsistence diet.

The NYA, with its \$50,000,000 appropriation, has done even less for this student group than it has for college students. Meanwhile Congress has appropriate a billion dollars for the high schools—to establish ROTC units!

College

The college student has suffered as much from the six long years as any of his lower school colleagues.

At the Senate committee hearing on the American Youth Act, Professor R. H. Montgomery of the University of Texas, gave an example: "In my university there are about 8,000 students at present, and approximately 60% of those students, or 68%, I believe, of the men, are making their own way. ***There are about 2,000 men at least in that university who do not get enough to eat year in and year out, and that is paying a bitter price for education."

The NYA has only served to emphasize the college students' low standard of living. Otto Molinax, a student at the university, testified that, from the NYA, "one of the boys earns \$14—not a week, but a month—and out of that \$14 he is forced to keep himself in school."

The ninety million years spent by students under Roosevelt have been years of deprivation, insecurity, and suppression. So were the ninety million years of depression under Hoover. Students can answer this November.

Our Schools Go On - CLOSING

By Harry Shields

“WHEN you grow up always be ready to give your life for Uncle Sam; Uncle Sam gave you your free education.” So runs one of the most popular themes drummed into the heads of tiny tots by our public schools. As usual, the pretense of a classless “Uncle Sam” serves capitalism well in this instance. The “Uncle Sam” whom the tots are taught to be ready to fight for is the Uncle Sam of the American capitalist class, preparing a new slaughter of the American working class. The Uncle Sam who gave us our free education is the Uncle Sam of the American working-class, which more than a hundred years ago organized independent workers’ parties to fight against the American capitalist class for schools open to all.

The American “Workingman’s Parties” of the 1830’s, the first in the world, which sprang up in more than a dozen cities, demanded what they called “a republican system of education.” By this they meant not only free schools but, to make education really possible to all, free support for students. They got half their demand.

Century of Progress

A hundred years have passed, and not only has capitalist “progress” not been able to afford university scholarships, but it is also cutting down on universal education. The situation grows daily more serious; under Roosevelt it has reached a crisis.

In the early months of 1933, when the New Deal took office, 2,262 schools in 11 states were shut down, with almost 150,000 students thrown out. By March 30, 1933, schooling had been suspended in 50 out of 67 counties in Alabama. In Michigan the educational budget was 40% of what it had been at the beginning of the Hoover administration. Public school expenditures had been decreased by \$400,000 or almost 25%, in the two previous years, despite increased enrollments.

Here was an opportunity for the new administration to prove its mettle. Instead the expenditures were decreased by an additional \$170,000,000 in the school years 1933-34! In that year, the hey-day of the New



“BOOKS not Battleships,” reads the sign carried by this Negro ROTC student, in the last Student against War. But the government’s slogan has been “Battleships, not Books.”

Deal, several hundred thousand licensed teachers were unemployed, and students were being taught by underpaid teachers, one out of every four receiving less than \$750 annually, and 85,000 teachers getting less than \$450 a year.

The Forgotten Students

Came 1935. By this time the total public school budget had reached a new low of a little over one and a half billion. To “meet” this situation the administration decreased the budget of the Office of Education by two and three quarter millions, WHILE PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT IN HIS BUDGETARY ADDRESS CALLED FOR AN EXPENDITURE OF 87 BILLIONS ON NATIONAL “DEFENSE,” OR 86% BILLIONS MORE THAN THE AVERAGE PRE-WAR EXPENDITURE FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Today the situation has become so critical that every new survey released by the US Department of Education reads like a damning indictment of the American school system: One out of every four cities has shortened the school term. (In Michigan, mentioned above, by now only 10% of the schools

stay open as long as they did before the depression). Curricula are being cut down to the three R’s. The educational budget has dropped steadily each year.

What was the New Deal’s answer to this? An extra billion dollars was added to the 1936 war budget for establishing junior ROTC units in the high schools AND A \$75,000,000 ALLOTMENT FOR EDUCATION, PROPOSED TO THE LAST SESSION OF CONGRESS, WAS THROWN OUT!

In the Solid South

In the Democratic states of the South the evil of low educational budgets is enhanced by the evil of extreme discrimination between Negroes and whites. Eleven Southern States show an average total expenditure per student of \$35.42. When divided into the two racial groups, we find that the expenditure for each white student is \$44.31 (still much below the northern average) as against \$12.57 for each Negro student.

In Joe Robinson’s state of Arkansas, praised by President Roosevelt, where the overwhelming majority of people are share-

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THE LESSON OF P.M.A.

By Ed Parker

Workers’ Alliance and Socialist Party organizer in the Illinois coalfields, victim of recent Peoria frame-up, expelled from the University of Illinois for refusal to take ROTC.

IN 1927, in rebellion against the corruptness of John L. Lewis’s United Mine Workers of America, a series of dual union movements was instituted in the Illinois coalfields. In all, there were five attempts to replace the UMWA. Of all these movements only one, the Progressive Miners of America, even bordered upon being successful.

Ray Edmundson, who today is District 12 president of the UMWA, must be credited with being the leader of the first revolt against the organization which now employs him. In 1928 he and a group of his fellow workers working in Orient No. 2, the largest mine in the world, set up what he called the Rank and File Union. They were promptly thrown out of the UMWA by Lewis. The Rank and File Union was short-lived, but it paved the way for the next significant dual movement, the National Miners’ Union, which was affiliated to the Communist Trade Union Unity League (now defunct).

Probably no other single factor is as responsible for the present confusion of the miners of Southern Illinois, as is the late N.M.U. This movement set the workers at each others’ throats, and so thoroughly imbued them with it, that they have not yet recovered. In Southern Illinois one still hears John L. Lewis called a Fascist.

THE 1932 WALKOUT

In 1932, due to a multitude of reasons including the depression, a cut in tonnage rates, the importation of thugs into the mining camps by coal operators to keep the workers subdued, and the murder of two miners, thousands of workers walked out of the mines and refused to go back until conditions were changed. They walked out spontaneously and had no clear perspectives whatever.

It was at this time that the real leaders of the PMA came to the forefront. Gerry Allard, a brilliant young coal miner from Franklin county, by his militancy, astuteness, and oratorical powers, became the popular figure of the revolt.

The thousands of workers who walked out of the mines and had the colossal gall to challenge capitalism’s might were met

with bullets. Many of them were murdered, children were orphaned, the national guard destroyed property, homes, and everything it could lay its hands upon. One old woman, whose husband was murdered during this period, told me how some Peabody coal company private police came into her house with the still bleeding body of her husband and made her watch them decapitate it.

PMA IS FORMED

Finally things got to be so bad that the miners were forced to do something to save themselves from complete ruin. They organize the Progressive Miners of America.

The PMA began to grow, and as it grew it was not only able to stop the reign of terror, but forced the mine owners to sign favorable contracts. A militant newspaper was established, with Gerry Allard as editor, a fighting women’s auxiliary was formed, a treasury was built up.

And then reaction set into the PMA. Gerry Allard was removed from his post and a crass reactionary substituted. Militant miners were expelled from the organization. The leadership signed contracts without consulting the rank-and-file. The membership started deserting and going back into the UMWA. Money of the mine owners had bought off the now reactionary leadership of the Progressive, just as it had bought off the local leadership of the United Mine Workers....

Today the PMA is a pitiful shadow of its former self. It is more corrupt and pursues class-collaborative policies worse than those of the UMWA in its shadiest days. The Progressives are supporting the near-Fascist Lemke, are fighting industrial unionism, and scab whenever the UMWA declares a strike. Now that the UMWA has been suspended from the AF of L some of the Progressive leaders are talking about AL of L affiliation for their own union.

The history of the PMA is one of the saddest examples in the labor movement in recent years. But objectively workers have many things to learn from it, the most important of which is, in the writer’s opinion: avoid dual unionism.

THE SOVIET TRIAL

An Editorial Statement

The Spanish events and the Soviet trial which momentarily replaced them in the headlines are closely related. Spain has brought out the unity of world Reaction, of Hearst, Hitler, Mussolini, Delarocque, and Franco, who join hands across the boundaries they hold so dear to drown Spanish workers in blood. The Soviet trial has brought out the disunity of international labor in the face of Fascist advance.

We hold that (a) no honest person can accept the “findings” of the trial; (b) that it was purely political in purpose; (c) that it will prove a terrible blow to working-class progress and unity; and (d) that the situation cries for correction.

A. THE TRIAL

The spectacle of anybody, let alone leaders of the Russian Revolution, pleading guilty to terrorism and Fascism in a Soviet court is not a very convincing one. But when a dozen such a defendants shot their guilt in the courtroom even out



ZINOVIEV

of turn, contradict themselves and quarrel with each other in their eagerness to assume the

role of greatest culprit, compliment their prosecution, and finally beg for death before a firing squad (only to plead for mercy when their request is granted!), then only a religious fanatic can accept these miracles at their face value.

Such actions on the part of a defendant would be an indication of insanity and not guilt; on the part of a dozen out of sixteen defendants of high standing they are an indication of something strikingly rotten about the trial.

We do not know what tortures, threats, or promises might or might not have been made on the persons or families of Zinoviev, Kamenev, and the fourteen other political opponents of Stalin who were convicted and hastily executed in Moscow for “confessing” to a series of inexplicably unsuccessful attempts on Stalin’s life, “under the direction” of the exiled Bolshevik, Leon Trotsky.

But we do know that a tele-

graphic demand for “legal guarantees” and “defending counsel absolutely independent of the government” from the working



STALIN

class of Europe, made in the name of the International Federation of Trade Unions and the Labor and Socialist International, was insultingly refused.

We also know that the Soviet government has been staging just a few too many spectacular trials ending in “confessions,” and that on at least two previous occasions defendants “confessed” to have worked with people who afterwards turned out to have been dead two years, or in another country a thousand miles away, at the time of their alleged crime.

The nature of the trial, of the plea, of the testimony, of the charges, is an insult to the intelligence of the working-class. The precept that a man is innocent until proven guilty still holds, and the trial did not prove the defendants’ guilt. More than that, the fact that such a trial had to be resorted to, the record of such trials in the past, the character of the defendants, the suspicious refusal to allow independent working-

The Soviet Trial

class counsel, and the hasty execution combine to cry out: "THE FACTS ARE BEING CONCEALED!"

B. ITS PURPOSE

Two things were outstanding about the trial, first the consistency with which it was directed against Leon Trotsky as "ringleader," second the remarkable government publicity it enjoyed.

The crime of Trotsky, Red Army leader who was exiled from the Soviet Union following the death of Lenin, was his criticism of Stalin's policies. The trial was not only an attempt to discredit him, but so provoking that it might actually be construed as an attempt to incite his assassination. Stalin has now shamed his country before the world by demanding that Norway turn Trotsky over to the USSR to be shot.

We are proud that the Socialist Party of the United States intervened at this point with a cablegram demanding that Norway respect his right of asylum "in view of Trotsky's long and worthy service to labor." A Norwegian court found him guiltless of the Soviet charges.

But the Soviet trial was not simply anti-Trotsky, it was also a show. A show is correctly called a diversion, and the presence of a diversion demands that one look for the things from which it seeks to divert attention. Inside the Soviet Union great changes are taking place. Veteran organizations are dissolved, emasculated, or under attack. The trial will undoubtedly help in this direction.

On the international scale, the very circumstances surrounding this and other trials enough to cast suspicion on Soviet foreign policy.

1932: The Communist International sabotages the fight against Hitler by insisting, in its press, that he has no chance to be elected. The day of his election representatives of Stalin meet with the new government to negotiate trade agreements. And at that moment a very spectacular trial is held in Moscow, which occupied the attention to such an extent that no anti-Trotsky demonstration is held in the USSR!

1936: The workers of Spain are fighting against trained Fascist troops supplied from abroad. The Soviet press begins to raise an enormous war chest for Spain, but the campaign is suddenly stopped in mid-air, with the press falling silent overnight. Very shrewdly did the New York Times remark that the trial would detract attention from the Spanish situation.

C. ITS EFFECTS

The Soviet and Communist insults directed at labor and Socialist leaders who decry the sort of justice exhibited in the Soviet trial from their own experiences in capitalist countries, are far from accidental.

While the Communist International is beginning to understand that its new line of reformism, whose American application is left-handed support of Roosevelt, is creating growing skepticism among revolutionary workers, it senses the emptiness of its excuses, and can only be answer it by criticism with slander.

By identifying our criticisms with Trotsky who shares them, and Trotsky with fascism, the Soviet leadership is preparing for a renewal of its violent attacks on Labor and Socialism at the very moment it signs an armistice with capitalist liberalism.

This is the first and foremost significance of the trial—working-class disunity. Viewed in the light of the Spanish situa-

tion, it may also be taken as a final bow before the Soviet government rings down the curtain on international working-class struggle.

From the viewpoint of Soviet progress, it is even worse. Many workers thought that the new Soviet constitution, and the Communist International's new love of capitalist "democracy," would at least mean the establishment of workers' democracy in the USSR. The recent trial has dashed these hopes to pieces. No real friend of the Soviet Union can look on without indignation while Stalin and his henchmen use its courts to do away with their political opponents and sacrifice its last line of defense, international working-class unity, on the altar of their unadmirable ambitions.

D. WHAT NOW?

But indignation alone will do more harm than good. It must be translated into constructive action:

First, the demand for an international working-class commission to investigate the trial, which has been raised by Norman Thomas and the Socialist Party, must be brought before the working-class by every working-class means.

Second, their demand for Trotsky's right of asylum must be supported, and also his right to carry on political activity.

Third, we must not allow indignation at the Soviet leadership to be directed against the Soviet economy itself; on the contrary, we must react to Stalin's weakening of the Soviet defense by building the forces of labor and continually keeping before it the cry of "Defend the Soviet Union."

Finally, but foremost in importance, we must meet every new splitting attack on the revolutionary movement by intensifying the struggle for working-class unity.

Our Schools Go On CLOSING

From Page Five, Column Three
croppers, a survey by the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union showed that 68% of the white share-croppers' children do not attend school. As if this were not bad enough, the survey found that the number of Negro sharecroppers' children not in school was 74%.

These cold figures do not paint a picture of the generation of children growing up to be illiterate or semi-literate peons for the bosses of America, of the millions of others with their school life made into a hell of regimentation and prison-like routine by the overcrowding and understaffing of schools.

Every vote for Roosevelt this year will be a vote for continuing these conditions.

Balancing the Budget

Why has Landon not made political capital out of this? Because his record on education is just as bad, and the New Deal program of educational retrenchment tallies with the Republican plans for balancing the budget!

In May, 1935 the Kansas state Superintendent of Public Instruction reported: "It is a lamentable fact that 458 schools had to be closed the past year with that many teachers going without pay. There were 8,557 boys and girls who did not have the privilege of completing a full school year. * * * Kansas is the only state in the union that has made no provision for general state aid for schools."

That year Governor Landon, in his message to the state legislature, pointed proudly to the fact that 40% had been cut from Kansas school costs! He refused to ask for \$150,000 to keep his schools open, and then wired Washington for federal

New Deal Stooze, He Got The Job!

WASHINGTON—Thomas Fair Neblett of the National Student Federation has been appointed to the advisory board of the National Youth Administration, though as yet no public announcement has been made.

His appointment bears out predictions made many months ago that Neblett had his eye on the government post and was serving as a front for Charles W. Taussig, chairman of the board, in order to win the position. Taussig is a Wall Street banker and head of the powerful American Molasses Co.

Last February, it is recalled, Neblett was revealed as being merely the "name" to serve as the originator of an essay contest, prize winners in which were to gain appointments to NYA Advisory councils. Actually, however, Taussig was the originator of the scheme, but his name was not revealed because of fear of unfavorable reactions from young people throughout the country. After exposure of this fraud, the contest was quietly dropped.

Later Neblett antagonized members of his own organization at Columbia University by withdrawing, without the National Student Federation's permission, of its support of the American Youth Act. The Columbia chapter of the NSFA withdrew in protest.

funds, which New Dealer Harry Hopkins promptly refused. The two old parties play politics with the education of school-children.

This year more Kansas schools closed. The school allotment of Kansas is still the lowest in the country. Forty-four cents a year is allocated for the education of each student, while 7,000 Kansas teachers work for only \$8.80 a week.

Every vote for Landon is a vote for continuing these conditions.

Universal Free Education

The Socialist Party's 1936 platform calls for "adequate federal appropriations for public schools and free city colleges to make possible a free education for every young person in America." No, it will not be elected to office this year. But the free school system was won only

because some workers had the courage to throw their support behind independent working-class minority parties a century ago.

A hundred years has lulled us into a false sense of security. The school system will be protected against further inroads of educational retrenchment only to the extent that workers and students rally to the Socialist ticket, in a great electoral demonstration in favor of its demand for funds to make "universal free education" a reality.

BALTIMORE, Md.—Legal action to force Baltimore County to provide high school facilities for Negro children is being taken by the children's parents.

White children, they point out, have eleven high schools in the county, while none are provided for the Negro children.

D.A.R. Gets Competition

(Youth News Service)

NEW YORK—Mayor LaGuardia opened his morning mail and goggled at a letter he received. The letter branded as "shameful" the state of delapidation of the statue of Nathan Hale in city hall park.

"Our organization," the letter stated, "standing for the American revolutionary principles for which Nathan Hale fought, freedom from oppression and tyranny, regards as shameful the state of neglect of his statue in city hall park."

The letter was from the Young Communist League of America.

CRIME COMES OF AGE

WASHINGTON—America's criminals are older than they were a year ago, reports the Federal Bureau of Investigation. But not much older.

The "age of crime" has risen from 19 to 21 years during the year, the Bureau reported. More 19-year-olds have been arrested during the last four years than any other age group.

Almost a fifth of the persons arrested in the United States in the first six months of 1936 were 21 years or younger. Young people under 25 were 71.5% of those arrested for automobile theft in that period.

Even Civil War Can't Stop Her!



HER SPANISH BLOOD got the better of this Socialist Militia girl, who uses a brief rest period behind the front to show how little she's worried about the Fascist attack.

UNITED YOUTH LEAGUE DEAD; LINE CHANGES

NEW YORK—Official scotching of plans to dissolve the Young Communist League into an undisciplined, unaffiliated "United Youth League" was definitely revealed here in an article by Gil Green, Young Communist national secretary, appearing in the Young Communist Review.

The abandoned proposal called for an organization with diluted ideology and "harmless" cultural activity which would be able to include a greater number of people.

It was severely criticized by the Young People's Socialist League as an abandonment of elementary principles of revolutionary organization.

The new plan calls for building a variety of non-party mass organizations, particularly Junior farmer-labor clubs, and apparently achieving the desired acceptability by gradual "debolshhevization" of the YCL itself. The Young Communist League has already been without a press of its own since the beginning of the summer, and has undergone considerable reorganization without holding a convention.

Green's article noted these changes, and asked for a decrease in their tempo. Whether this was because of internal resistance was not revealed.

GETS THE AIR

NEWARK, N. J.—(YNS)—Rugged individualism found its expression in Newark in a dark cellar where six girls 13 to 16 years old, worked in a coal bin making neckties, the New Jersey state department of labor has discovered.

The state has entered charges of violating the sweatshop law, employing minors, operating a factory without a license and having no insurance on employees against Mrs. Antonetta Ranaldi, proprietor of the shop.

The woman said she made \$13 a week on the place, and that she paid the girls "a few dollars a week."

"They weren't worth any more," she charged. "They were always falling asleep." State officials suggested the reason was that the cellar was practically without ventilation.

Onions Property; Lad's Life Cheap

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb.—Little Delbert Flynn spent his first seven years of life at liberty. Now he will have to spend twice that long in a reform school. Crime: stealing onions.

Delbert's life may be ruined in the crime hatchery to which he was sentenced, but what does a life mean alongside the first law of capitalism, the sanctity of private property? Seven-year-old boys must be taught to have the sense of values of judges who sentence them to spend the rest of their minority repenting.

It all started when Del thought of a way to get a few pennies for himself. He stole some onions from a neighborhood farmer and tried to sell them to a housewife. He didn't know you had to do things like that on a large scale if you didn't want to get caught.

The housewife turned him over to the police. The judge found he had a "record" at school; he had snatched a pencil from a classmate's desk! A hardened criminal, evidently. The judge made the punishment fit the crime, and went home to eat.

Doctor Shirley W. Wynne, child welfare worker, asserts that Del is perfectly normal. Mebbeso, doc, but is capitalism?

C. C. C. Notes

From Page Four, Column Five Socialists... "Considerable doubt has been voiced as to the authenticity of the poll," says Youth News Service, a non-partisan agency.

"Curley Zent Us..." They're trying hard... Governor Curley of Massachusetts is running for senator on the issue of Guns for the CCC...

No Pee-pul in CCC If you think you've got anything to say about this, as one of the pee-pul, you've another guess coming... Try to figure out how you're going to hitch-hike back in the three days leave you can get for election.

Job Agency Meanwhile the Dems have things their way. The first dirt that has already been spilled in the campaign proved that at least 3,600 "non-technical foremen" jobs were handed out from Democratic patronage lists...

Washed in Sweat While we're on the subject of dirty linen, here's some from New Hampshire... This state, lousy with camps, sends its CCC laundry to sweatshops in Maine...

Children Next? But maybe they'll be able to have the washing done by the CCC itself, according to latest reports. A big chain of girl's CCC camps is the newest whisper...

In the Line of Fire Well anyway, they won't have to get their skulls cracked by falling timber fighting forest fires. In Minnesota 25,000 CCC men are going through hell trying to play fireman to miles of blazing timber...

Treat 'Em Rough If you come back to camp from one of these man-fighting fires all bandaged up and suffering from burns, and an officer shows too much concern over you, he's breaking discipline...

Nominating Norman Thomas

Seconding Speech of Ralph Harlow (Mass.) at the Socialist Convention

COMRADE CHAIRMAN, FELLOW DELEGATES, friends of the Socialist Party—and more especially those workers and young people who are listening in:

It gives me great pleasure to second the nomination of Norman Thomas, our comrade and our friend, the comrade and friend of the oppressed, of the workers, of the youth of this land, and of the workers of the world.

Recently a chairman of the Republican national committee made the statement that the old parties could no longer rely upon the young people coming out of our schools and colleges to support the old parties. Thank God that they cannot!

It is estimated that it costs

\$25,000 to put a young person in this country through school and college; and it has also been estimated that it cost \$25,000 to kill every man who went down in the last war.

As I look at the banners and as I look at the placards on our walls here—LABOR CAN OVERCOME WAR, UNITY AGAINST WAR—I ask, does any other party have such banners or placards as those? Does any other party take the stand against war that Norman Thomas does?

Recently the Supreme Court of the United States made this statement: Before the law in the United States—and that law is the law of a capitalistic system—and before its court, there are three things which are sacred; they are life, liberty, and property.

And so I take great joy in nominating for the presidency a friend of the young people of this country, a friend of the workers, a friend of all who are being exploited, a friend of all, regardless of race or color, and one who stands for that thing net merely with words but with his life and suggesting.

At Random

by Memo

FOR WORKING-CLASS INDEPENDENCE?

Here's one from Chicago. L... K..., a resident at the Young Socialist Cooperative House there, was (and still is—Late Bulletin) looking for a job, having squandered a fortune received for NYA work last school year on such luxuries as food.

At last he found an opening, eagerly accepted, and asked what the salary was. "Five dollars a week, says his would-be employer without batting an eyelash. "But I couldn't possibly live on that," K... remonstrated.

"What," retorted the boss; "do you expect me to support you?"

SITUATION AS ARRIVED MARINES WELL IN HAND

This department, being dependent on the lighter side of life for its existence, cannot possibly share the alarm of the rest of the Challenge at the new "all for the pee-pul" line of the Comintern.

But one thing phases us. That is the plan to make the army into a pee-pul's army. Now, one of the basic tenets of Marxism is that the army apparatus is the core of the state and must reflect its class character.

In the name of unity, we appeal to the Comintern to reconsider. Such a move would smash us to bits. After all, we still have to depend on Marxism for our existence.

Keep your pee-pul's front, pee-pul's the-a-ters, and pee-pul's Mother's Day, but, please, leave us just one teenchy weenchy little capitalist army apparatus; so we can have a revolution.

WORKERS' ENEMIES EXPOSED!

And then there's Emil Revyuk, now in Youngstown organizing, who has his own theory about the Soviet trial. He claims Stalin is really Trotzky in disguise, and is killing off everybody who might recognize him.

ANTI-CLIMAX DEPARTMENT

News item spotted by the Minneapolis Socialist press committee:

"Post war youth is tired of jazz and cynicism and is seeking something more substantial," Martin Tarbell, president of the National Baptist Young People's Union, said Thursday at the 45th annual convention. "I believe we are headed for a religious revival."

LEAF OF ABSENSE

Al Hamilton swears this is true, but we won't vouch for it. Telegram sent to Washington by the WPA in a small Iowa town: SENT MEN HOME STOP RAINED LAST NIGHT AND LEAVES ALL WORN OUT.

LIFE IS JUST A BOWL OF RAZZBERIES

Milwaukee opinionettes: ... New publishing theory: Anthony Adverse was good and very big, therefore very big books are good... Americans caught in Spain suffered great hardship. In some hotels they had to make their own beds... There seems to be nothing wrong with Landon except that his party and his principles are no good... Americanism: allowing Negroes no vote in the South, expecting the Negro vote to win for the party in the North.

THREE PARTS CALL

Lines of Caesar still remind us We can't make out lives sublime And by asking silly questions Take up all the speaker's time. —E.K.

Too Much Cake?

TRENTON, N. J.—Cases of starvation, which have been reported from widely scattered parts of the state since the relief burden was handed back to local communities, have been "greatly exaggerated," Governor Hoffman of New Jersey claimed.

The babies didn't know the difference.

GOVERNMENT HELPS TRAIN GIRL SLAVES

WASHINGTON—(YNS)—The Department of Labor is tooting its propaganda horns over the possibility of routing unemployed girls into careers as domestic servants—one of the nation's lowest paid professions.

The August issue of the Monthly Labor Review, published by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, gives a summary of the manner in which women's clubs—for the most part enrolling the wealthier members of the community—are cooperating in the inflation of the supply of maids.

For \$2.50 a week, the magazine points out with considerable pride, San Francisco jobless students are trained in the waitress business by the Emanuel Sisterhood House. For all of 25c an hour, the girls have the privilege of obtaining experience by serving at the Sisterhood's teas.

Most revealing of all, however, is the "code" worked out by the Big Sister Organization of Scranton, Pa. Working hours, according to the Scranton code, should not exceed 66 hours each week, for which the munificent sum of \$6 will be paid, in addition to room and board.

New NYA Offers Us 3 Varieties of Ozone

WASHINGTON — Free air's on the market—for votes! The new National Youth Administration offers youth under eighteen the air, girls and young women fresh air, and everybody a great deal of hot air—all in return for voting Democrat.

After a year of signal success in getting young people to do janitor's work around school buildings, the NYA has been extended to cover another year, this time with a promise to exclude applicants below eighteen, establish fifty "educational" camps for girls, and help young people cut wages by "apprenticing" them off to private industry.

The last point will be made possible by an additional \$21,000,000 tacked on to the NYA appropriation, to make up for the quarter of a billion Roosevelt chiseled from the food, clothing, and tuition of working-class youth when he cut down Commissioner of Education Studebaker's recommended \$300,000,000

expenditure to the \$50,000,000 which finally went into the NYA budget.

As this left only \$3 a head for the year for each of the country's six million unemployed youth after the old student aid program, which NYA replaced, was accounted for, there wasn't much to be done about the wage-cutting "apprenticeship" scheme. Now things will be different.

How workers will respond to this new administration feeler in the direction of converting youth into a source of cheap labor, remains to be seen. Roosevelt evidently thinks he has the labor vote sewed up.

One thing is certain. The Socialists are the only party opposed to NYA, and in favor of its replacement by the \$3,600,000,000 American Youth Act. Young voters don't think too much of the prospect of another year of living on government handouts—which they'll be lucky if they get.

They'll know how to vote if they want to speak up.

Jobless Youth Go On Strike!

PECS, Hungary — Thirteen young men in the nearby town of Osurgo, the oldest 25, have adopted a novel method to bring attention to their plight. The boys, all unemployed have begun a hunger strike to force the attention of the public and authorities to their condition.

In a public statement prior to beginning their fast, they announced that they were taking this course of action because their requests for aid for the past five years had received no response whatsoever from the government.

Young Belgian Recruits Riot

BRUSSELS—Three thousand young Belgian soldiers demonstrated against military service in the Rue de la Station here, Le soldat JGS, Young Socialist Guard organ for soldiers, reports.

Officers and police who attempted to intervene were roughly handled. A police charge forced the men to return to their barracks, but once there they continued the demonstration. A soldier of the Foot-Chasseurs, an infantry regiment, was arrested and placed under guard.

Write to Room 721, 549 Randolph St., Chicago for Publications of the Youth Committee for Thomas and Nelson Your Subscription to the Challenge of Youth—25c for 12 issues.

Two Sores Choose To Run

America has a disease called capitalism, and has developed two symptoms on the political field, sores called the Republican and Democratic Parties. Once every four years they become running sores. Each has its spokesmen come forward and extoll its virtues, which boil down to HOW MUCH LESS PAINFUL IT IS THAN THE OTHER SORE.

Half the old party voters vote for one or the other sores on this basis. The other half vote the way they play the races; THEY TRY TO PICK A WINNER. That is what WE call throwing away your vote.

The two sores are dolling themselves up with vaseline. But look at them.

OPEN SORE

First the RIDE-THE-PUBLIC-AN PARTY. This is an open sore. You can almost look in through it and see the disease at work inside the body.

The open sore is for "Balancing the Budget." How? By Raising taxes? Never. By cutting down on our enormous expenditures for war preparations? Not on your life. By stopping the "spoils system?"

The system was inaugurated and has always been upheld by Republican votes. Then what is left? To CUT DOWN ON RELIEF FOR JOBLESS WORKERS AND NEEDY STUDENTS; ON SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, AND SOCIAL BENEFITS.

The open sore for "Freedom from Coercion in the Organization of Labor." This is the excuse on which police and national guards are sent into strikes to intervene on the side of the bosses. It means that the workers cannot use their only weapon, NUMBERS, to meet the economic weapon of the employers, STARVATION, in a strike

situation. It means freedom from coercion for SCABS, or REMOVAL OF THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE AGAINST BOSSES WHO USE SCABS. Of course they could not get away with it.

The open sore stands for "Upholding the Constitution." Would it do this by throwing out the present document which represents the PROPERTY RIGHTS of the parasite class as against the HUMAN RIGHTS of the producing class? Would it do this by passing the Workers Rights Amendment, which would leave less legal excuse for this double-dealing? Not at all. By "upholding the constitution" it means that the much-vaunted "peepul" SHALL HAVE NO RIGHT TO CHANGE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES or even to pass any further amendments to the constitution.

The Republican candidates, Landon and Knox, were proposed by William Randolph Hearst in his New York Journal as far back as August, 1935—they were chosen by a man who called the working class "the lowest order of citizenship" a year ago, and who is notorious as an inciter of national hatred and a sympathizer of Fascist governments.

CLOSED SORE

The Landon and his party must be about the greatest danger there is, you'll say. "But you haven't looked at the DEMAGOGIC PARTY yet. This is the closed kind of sore, which covers up the wound and let the infection spread all the better underneath. And, as any doctor can tell you, if there's anything worse than an open sore, it's a closed sore.

The scab that covers it is the New Deal; probe it and you find the infection. Nor do we have to look at promises here, let's look at the actual record.

The closed sore has given use the biggest war budget in peace-time history. The army, navy, and air force have become the most formidable in the world, while America sees more starvation than ever before. ROTC has been expanded and introduced in high schools. Not only is money spent on "defense" but billions are spent placing the navy at the disposal of motion picture producers for WAR PROPAGANDA, while the junior ROTC has admitted that its main purpose is "preparing the mind." The infection is bringing SLAUGHTER FOR THE YOUTH OF AMERICA.



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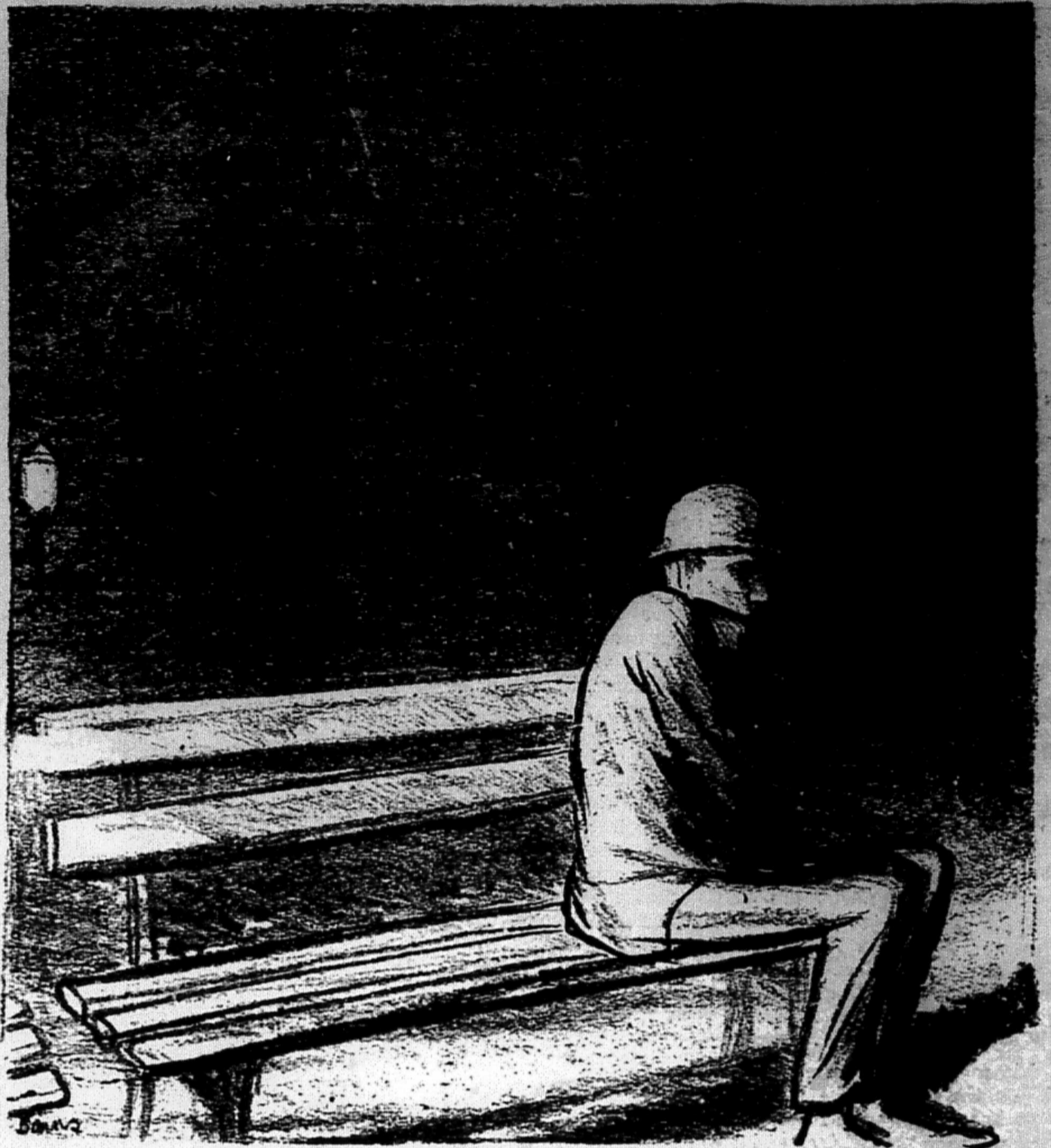
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ALUMNUS



Drawn by Cornelia Barnes

Socialist Vote Is Investment

To the Challenge:

Have just read a leaflet put out by the Socialists called "Students, Will Your Vote Count?" I think there is a very good idea in it, where it tells students to vote Socialist "as an investment."

I am not a student, but from the time I was born my parents put aside money to send me through college. Four years ago my father lost his job and we had to spend the money to keep our house.

When I graduated from high school two years ago February my family tried to cheer me up by saying that a college education is only an investment so that one can get a better job later on, but now it is a bad investment which does not bring in any results.

Well, I gave up one investment by I am not going to pass up a chance to make another. I am voting for the first time, and I am going to vote for Norman Thomas. I know he will not get elected, but if my extra vote can convince just one other person to vote for him in 1940, I will be satisfied.

The Socialist Party should be able to grow like the Republican Party until it elected Abraham

From Our Mail Bag

Lincoln. And I think it will be able to free the new kind of slaves there are today.

HARRY KRANE
Lincoln, Neb.

FROM ENGLAND

To the Challenge:

Your paper was a revelation to me. I have been showing it to my friends to prove to them that a newspaper can be revolutionary and yet popular at the same time.

Of course our British style of journalism is quite different, the newspapers here being considerably less crowded in appearance, but I do believe we could publish something rather like it with the necessary adaptations.

Our own "New Nation" has been somewhat of a membership organ, though efforts are now being made to correct that.

CLYDE THOMBLINSON
Labor League of Youth
Newcastle-on-Tyne, England

The closed sore has given us terror in what Roosevelt called "the great hospitable state" of Arkansas, represented in the senate by New Deal campaigner Joe Robinson, who is mentioned as Roosevelt's next appointee to the Supreme court. In his state sharecroppers are tortured and killed for attempting to escape peonage. The infection is bringing TERROR FOR THE FARMERS OF AMERICA.

The closed sore has given us martial law in Indiana, administered by Governor McNutt, who may be the New Deal's presidential candidate in 1940, and who kept up a two year's military dictatorship in two counties to break strikes in Terre Haute. The infection is bringing REPRESSION FOR THE WORKERS OF AMERICA.

You have your choice. You can VOTE CAPITALIST for either of the two sores. Or you can VOTE SOCIALIST in favor of cleaning out the entire system.

DOUBLE MORALITY

To the Challenge:

The firing of Revs. Owen Geer and Kirkpatrick by our board of education was an example of how the class struggle has gotten into the Church.

Instead of being run by religion, a lot of sections of the Church are run only by money. While many Church people have money to throw away, others in the same Church are starving.

In the Epworth Leagues we have been having innumerable educational programs of the "double standard of morality" for men and women. I believe a few programs on the double standard of morality for the rich and the poor would open a great many eyes.

"YOUNG METHODIST"

INFLATION

To the Challenge:

Why does the Socialist platform have nothing in it about putting more money into circulation? The simplest way to end the depression would be for the United States treasury to issue more notes. The money could then be disposed of by paying WPA workers and government employees high wages. With the increased purchasing power of this large group of the population, industry could be revived, and there would be work for all.

MORTON GREENSTEIN
Brooklyn, N. Y.

(Issuing treasury notes without reserve to cover them brings about inflation, or devaluation of the dollar. This is of benefit to the owning class, whose property increases in value, but disastrous to wage-earners, who can buy less out of their wages. The Socialist Party does, however, favor high wages for WPA workers and government employees, to be paid for out of higher income taxes—Ed.)