

The above is a picture of Claude Neal after he had been lynched. See anti-lynching story.) Note mutilation of Neal's chest and thighs. Note also how fingers have been cut from hands as "souvenirs." After this picture was taken, toes were cut from the feet, also as "souvenirs."

Youth, Fight to Stop Lynching!

The American people are again faced by one of the great issues of the day: the anti-lynching bill. For the last several years this bill, which would tend somewhat to eliminate the horror of lynching in the South, has been killed by the filibusters conducted by Southern reactionaries in Congress.

The facts are hair-raising. To read them makes one sick to think that we live in this country. A story of horrible torture of innocent people merely because of their color, a tale of barbarism unfolds which finds hardly an equal in the bestiality of European fascism.

American youth must rally to this struggle! Organize meetings, demonstrations to pass the anti-lynching bill!

What are the facts about lynching?

In the following paragraphs we present a few of these blood-curdling facts which we have secured from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In 1939 there were "only" four lynchings—a few in comparison with past years.

Record of Horror

In February, in Eldorado, Arkansas, the following incident occurred, as reported by the New York Amsterdam News: "Early last week the torn, mangled body of a young man, victim of a lynching, was found on a country road

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LEWIS' ANTI-ROOSEVELT BLAST SHOWS NEED FOR LABOR PARTY

John L. Lewis' lambasting of President Roosevelt in two recent speeches before the convention of the United Mine Workers of America and the National Citizenship Institute of the American Youth Congress leaves the situation of the nation's locked-out generation exactly where it was prior to the CIO leader's verbal denunciation of eight years of New Deal failures.

"How many years, how many years can you stand to be without a job? And how many years of interruption of your normal plans will you endure? How many years can you defer your projected marriage? How many years must you wonder and hope that you will have an opportunity here in your native land, to live the normal life of the normal citizen?" Lewis asked of the AYC delegates. But what was his own solution to the problems of jobs, war, and the defense of civil liberties?

After ruling out the reactionary Republicans and describing how labor was tricked and "betrayed" by the Democratic party, Lewis could offer nothing more than an invitation to the nation's youth to affiliate to Labor's Non Partisan League! For what? For new agreements with either of the two old capitalist parties?

Lewis' Role

Lewis served a progressive function in exposing the flop of Roosevelt's policies, but he only went half way. Seven million unemployed youth in the United States, facing a future of continued unemployment and the increasing danger of war, cry out and demand a complete and decisive break from the Republican and War Deal Parties. We reject radical speeches by labor leaders when used as maneuvers for their own political interests.

What every young worker really must ask Lewis to say is:

"The New Deal has demonstrated the inability of the Boss parties to solve the burning problems facing the youth and the nation as a whole.

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Youth Demands Right to A Decent Life!

THE CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

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YOUTH TO FIGHT FOR LABOR PARTY FOR 1940

Neither FDR Third Term Drive Nor the Republican Fakers Can Solve Youth Problems

It'll be starting pretty soon. In fact, the "boys" are getting into practise—oiling up their leather lungs, sizing up delegations and candidates, beginning to make speeches on why the "peepul" should vote for Fibber McGee from Oshkosh. . . .

Yes, America, will soon be going a-campaigning. We say: It's time to take stock, to figure things out some time before Election Day. And that's what we're doing in this issue of our paper.

The 2 old parties are beginning to talk big—the demagogic phrases roll off their lips like gravy dripping down the chin of a glutton.

But you can't eat their phrases. As someone once said: "You can't even eat the Constitution." You've got to have jobs—and decent ones, too—to eat and live decently. And you've got to have peace in order to live at all!

Neither of the 2 old parties can get us that. The record of the FDR administration—in deeds, not words—is a glorious flop. There are still 10 to 12 million people unemployed, despite the New Deal. The problem of "one third of a nation" has not been solved . . . and cannot be solved so long as Wall Street, the Coupon Clippers, the 60 Families, control this country's economic system.

Both the Republicans and Democrats support that system. That is why they can do nothing, essentially, for the American workers, farmers and youth.

The American people have suffered enough. They have faced breadlines, semi-starvation, economic ruin . . . and now the prospect of war. IT IS TIME TO CALL A HALT!

It is time to get a party of our own—a labor party which will fight for the rights of the poor people, of the workers and youth.

Against the "liberal" Tweedeldee and "conservative" Tweedeldum of the old capitalist parties, let us counterpose the might of organized labor, of youth tired of being a locked-out generation.

An independent Labor Party for 1940—that must be our answer.

NYA Becomes a Catspaw of The Roosevelt War Machine

Further proof of the charges made in the last issue of the Challenge—that the handing over of the names of NYA workers to the army was a step toward the militarization of youth—has been given by the recent memorandum issued by Aubrey Williams, national administrator of the NYA.

Besides the provision for turning NYA names over to the army, the following point is made in Williams' memorandum:

"2. That meetings, when so desired by the Army, would be arranged by the National Youth Administration so that Army representatives could come and explain to NYA workers, who wish to attend such meetings, the opportunities offered by the

Army to young people."

The meaning of these recent steps of the NYA become clearer and clearer. THE NYA IS BEING TURNED INTO A CATSPAW OF THE WAR MACHINE! This youth agency, supposedly under civilian control, is being regimented into the drive of the FDR administration toward war!

It is time to call a halt. Wherever such overtures are made by the army to local NYA units, the young workers must reply heartily: NO, THANK YOU! WE WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR PREPARATIONS TO DIE TO MAKE THE WORLD SAFE FOR MORGAN'S BILLIONS! PEDDLE YOUR PAPERS SOMEWHERE ELSE!

Republican Fakers Eye Pork Barrel

Blown up like a big balloon by a lot of dough and a lot more hot air, Thomas E. Dewey, darling of the Republican Party, is trying awfully hard. He looks a lot like a salesman who knows that everybody else knows that what he's got is a fake. But he's got a job to do; and so he gets up faithfully and smiles and gives his spiel.

All the leading Republican candidates—Dewey, Vandenberg, Taft—are in the same boat. They can say a lot about the years under Roosevelt, and most of what they say is true. It is true that there are still at least ten million unemployed. It is true that there is no hope for youth in America. It is true that American economy is on the bum. It is true that Roosevelt's answers haven't been answers at all. But all that they say has an empty and a hollow ring.

What are the Republicans after? Everybody knows. Like the Democrats, they want to control the great big pork barrel that is the Federal Government. They want to be even better servants to Wall Street than Roosevelt has been. And Dewey would like to be President.

Their Program

Their program? There's little enough that can be sifted out of the heavy barrage of fine words and pretty phrases. But what there is is little different from the program of the Chamber of Commerce: Crack down on labor—reverse the Wagner Act and the Wage-Hour law. Bigger profits for the bosses—cut down on taxes, let the people pay. And in foreign affairs, where they say anything they agree fundamentally with Roosevelt's policies. They are for a big army and a big navy for the protection of America's "interests", that is, for Wall Street's profits.

They are really a little funny. Long ago discredited in the eyes of the American workers (who cannot forget the Hoovervilles, the bread lines), they scurry hither and yon trying to patch up some kind of a "platform," and find somebody who'll be able to out-smile FDR. Dewey, the current favorite, has a committee of brain trusters who are hurriedly teaching him what he ought to know

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WILL ROOSEVELT ACCEPT FOR A THIRD TERM?

The drive to draft Roosevelt for a third term seems to be gaining speed.

The Washington political big-wigs were waiting anxiously last week to see if Roosevelt would refuse to accept the nomination in the Illinois Democratic primary. Roosevelt was at sea, in his mysterious trip to the middle of the Pacific Ocean, and the Democratic wing which is supporting the third term drive waited for word from him. His silence meant, in terms of political reality, that he was flashing the green light—Go Ahead.

If FDR runs for a third term, his re-election is pretty certain. Not for anything that he has done—his record is one of dismal failure with regard to the basic problems of the American people—but because the voters would see no alternative in whatever mediocrity the Republicans put up.

The fact that Roosevelt is their best bet—and also the fact that, as all political observers admit, Roosevelt has gone steadily to the right in his politics—makes most of the hack Democratic politicians support Roosevelt. If he wants it, the nomination is his.

When all his speeches are discounted, what has Roosevelt done? For the youth, for the workers—practically nothing. The problem of unemployment remains: 12,000,000 people testify to that fact. War remains. Insecurity remains.

American youth, of course, don't give a hoot about the "tradition" of the 3rd term. We're against FDR because he represents, essentially, the boss class. We're not worried about "tradition."

Order Further NYA Wage Cuts

A further slash in youth aid by the Roosevelt administration was announced last week. The National Youth Administration announced that any NYA worker who contributes more than 25% of his wages to family expenses would be fired. This clumsy and stupid pretext is but the latest in the drive to cut youth off from NYA aid.

Exactly why a youth who gives more than 25% of his earnings on NYA—slim enough, God knows—to his family, should be fired is not clear.

The Strange History of the American Youth Act

By ERNEST ERBER

One of the songs sung by the American Youth Congress paraders as they marched to the White House during their "Citizenship Institute" in Washington, had the refrain, "Youth Act Days Are Here Again."

This song symbolizes better than anything else, the cynicism of the young Stalinist chieftains of the American Youth Congress. "Youth Act Days" come and go—not as the needs of youth require—but as the politics of the Communist Party require.

The original American Youth Act did not concern itself with what the politicians describe as being "practical." By this the politicians mean that you write your bill—not with your eye on how many needy youth must be provided for—but on how many dollars can be coaxed out of Congressmen who are trying to keep down expenses in order to please their wealthy, income-tax-paying constituents.

Since the bill aimed to provide for all needy youth, it did not ask for any specific appropriation but directed that all necessary funds be taken from the Treasury of the United States and that additional funds be raised by a tax upon "inheritances, gifts, and individual and corporation incomes of \$5,000 a year or over."

In order to prevent the politicians from using the Youth Act administration as a political weapon, the bill called for administration through democratically elected representatives of youth, labor, and community organizations.

The reactionaries launched violent attacks upon and sought to heap ridicule upon the provisions of the Act. Conservative papers like the *New York Times*, which consistently stand for the administration of agencies like the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and Security Exchange Commission by bankers and business-men, were infuriated with the audacity of a bill that called for labor and youth control of funds that concerned their own welfare. The Hearst press headlined its story on the hearings before the Senate's Committee on Education and Labor, "Students Ask to be Paid to Go to School!"

All of these attacks were adequately answered by the representatives of labor and youth organizations who testified for the bill during the hearings.

YCL SUPPORTS FDR—FORGETS ACT

However, as the 1936 presidential campaign got under way and the Communist Party took the position of giving left-handed support to Roosevelt, less and less was heard about the American Youth Act either from the Young Communist League or the American Youth Congress. By 1937 and 1938, when the Stalinists were defending the Roosevelt administration, the American Youth Act completely disappeared from the scene.

How could the Young Communists agitate on behalf of the American Youth Act with its sweeping provisions for millions of needy youth when they were busy explaining the "progressive nature" of such Roosevelt "gifts" to the needy youth as the NYA and the CCC?

This policy continued right through August, 1939. The August issue of the "Young Communist Review" featured an article—no doubt, for the benefit of those youth who could not get on NYA or in the CCC—on the advantages of life in the United States Army. Two alleged ex-soldiers described the opportunities offered by the Army in terms that outdid anything issued by the Army's own Recruiting Division.

But near the end of August the whole world was startled with the announcement of the Hitler-Stalin Pact. After a few weeks in which the Stalinist jobholders in national headquarters on 13th Street were dizzy from the speedy 45 degree turn in policy, the line began to straighten out again—in an entirely new direction. Roosevelt—and the American imperialist interests he represents—were now on the opposite side of the diplomatic

fence from the Stalin regime. The role of the Communist Party was no longer that of shielding Roosevelt from criticism by dismissed WPA workers and unprovided-for youth. It now became the task of the Stalinists to serve their masters in the Kremlin by agitating against Roosevelt.

"CHANGO PRESTO—AYA HERE AGAIN!"

The Young Communist League had the specific task of winning the jobless youth away from Roosevelt—the same jobless youth they had sought to teach the great blessings of the NYA and CCC. And how to do it? Fish the old American Youth Act out of the moth-balls! Roosevelt is on the other side of the fence from Stalin. "Youth Act Days Are Here Again!"

However, the American Youth Congress had grown very respectable since 1935 when it had sponsored the "wild-eyed scheme to provide for millions of needy youth." The Stalinist leaders of the Congress had hooked many conservative-minded leaders of youth organizations and public figures as supporters of the AYC and had still others suspiciously nibbling at the hook. The Stalinists, therefore, in order not to frighten these "practical" people, emasculated the original Act until it became somewhat (but not too much) glorified NYA. The modest appropriation of \$500,000,000 was substituted for the former approach that held that no limit could be imposed on spending as long as youth went hungry. The new sum is not much more than was spent for NYA and CCC before they were out. At the rates provided for in the new AYA, the appropriation would provide for only as many needy youth, and perhaps less, than are taken care of on NYA at present.

The democratic control by youth and labor proposed in the original AYA was completely thrown out of the window in favor of a nine-man board (nine old men, no doubt) appointed by the President with right to appoint the local administrators of the Act.

CHISEL DOWN WAGE DEMAND

The Stalinist's fishing for "respectable" support even led them to chisel down the weekly minimum demanded for youth on public works projects from the original \$15 per week plus \$3 per dependent to \$12.50 per week with no provision for dependents.

The manipulations of the Stalinists with the American Youth Act reveal in the youth field the same

How the Stalinists Took the Guts Out of the American Youth Act

Provisions of the ORIGINAL American Youth Act (1935)

1. Number of youth provided for:

Provides that all* jobless youth and needy students be aided by appropriating money from the U.S. Treasury and taxing inheritances, gifts, and individual and corporation incomes of \$5,000 and more.

*There are some 6 million jobless youth and at least 2 million students in need of aid.

2. Administration and Control:

"This Act shall be administered and controlled, and the minimum compensation and condition of work shall be adjusted by youth commissions. These commissions shall determine eligibility for benefits under this Act on the principles herein provided.

"In all administrative boards not less than one-third of the membership shall consist of the representatives of organized labor, and the remainder shall consist of representatives of local social service, education, and consumers' organizations."

3. Minimum wage on work projects:

"These regular wages shall be equal to the prevailing rate of wages for the work performed as established by the recognized organizations of labor in each community. In no case shall wages be less than \$15 per week plus \$3 for each dependent."

4. Aid to needy High School students:

"The Secretary of Labor and the Commissioner of Education are further authorized and directed to provide for full payment of fees plus the average weekly living expenses of needy students in high schools and vocational schools: Provided, that such compensation, exclusive of all fees, shall in no case be less than \$15 per month.

"These payments shall become effective upon entrance into high school or vocational school and shall be made throughout the entire year."

5. Aid to needy college students:

Provides for work projects of an academic nature. Prevailing wage as described in section 3, "but shall in no case be less than \$25 per month."

6. Cost of living clause:

"The minimum compensation guaranteed by the terms of this Act shall be increased in conformity with the rise in the cost of living."

Provisions of the EMASCULATED American Youth Act (1940)

1. Number of youth provided for:

Asks for \$500,000,000 or 2½ times the amount used by NYA to provide for ½ million jobless youth and needy students. Would, therefore, provide for the same number as NYA at somewhat better pay.

2. Administration and Control:

"There is hereby established as one of the agencies of the Federal Security Agency in the Government a National Youth Administration which shall be under the direction of a National Board of Directors, composed of nine members who shall be appointed by the President from among names submitted to him by the national labor, youth, educational, civic, and social-service organizations. . . . The President, with the advice and consent of the National Board of Directors, shall appoint a National Youth Administrator. . . ."

3. Minimum wage on work projects:

" . . . such wages to be equal to the prevailing hourly rate of wages for similar work in the locality; wherever wages for similar work have been set by collective-bargaining agreement such wages shall be considered as the prevailing rate; and in no event shall the wages paid to any person be less than \$12.50 per week."

4. Aid to needy High School students:

"All young persons officially enrolled in a course of study in a high school, secondary school, or vocational-training school, who would be unable without financial aid to continue such course of study, shall be eligible to receive a sufficient sum of money to enable such young persons to pay school fees, cost of books and school materials, and personal expenses. . . . The amount to be paid to any young person hereunder shall not exceed \$5 in any one week, except those young people who are obliged to live away from home . . . the Administrator is permitted to make such adjustments as he finds necessary. . . ."

5. Aid to needy college students:

Provides for work projects of an academic nature. Prevailing hourly rate as in section 3, with minimum hourly wage of 50c.

"Each young person shall be employed on such projects a sufficient number of hours to insure that his income therefrom, coupled with the income he may receive from other sources, shall be at least \$30 a month."

6. No cost of living clause in 1940 bill.

cynicism, unprincipledness, and opportunism which characterizes their politics on other questions. Far from a return to the "third period," the present Stalinist course seeks to utilize everything and anything that shows promise of mass support to be placed at the service of the Hitler-Stalin camp. The present American Youth Act

does not come anywhere near meeting the minimum needs of needy youth

"So what?" answer the YCL jobholders. "It's modest enough not to frighten away the 'People's Front' period fellow-travelers and just 'radical' enough to make it impossible for Roosevelt to support it. It

does not break our ties with some hood-winked old ladies in the YWCA, but yet permits us to look radical in the eyes of the jobless youth and needy students who are fed up with Roosevelt's sweet words and bitter actions. Clever politics, eh? The needs of youth, you say? The needs of youth will either serve our line or be damned."

THE LOCAL BROWDERETTES PULL OFF

A Slight Case of Swindling

by IRVING HOWE

What an immense deception and fraud it all was!

When you look back now, a month after the Washington meeting of the American Youth Congress, you are amazed that such an obvious fabrication of the Stalinist youth—despite its imposing facade—created such a stir in the papers.

They were supposed to represent 4,000,000 youth! What a joke! It is worthwhile to sketch the procedure by which delegates to this "Youth Congress" are generally elected. . . .

Suppose you belong to a fraternal youth organization, or a "Y," or to a trade union in which there are many youth. Someone comes up to your meeting from the local Youth Congress. He asks you to send a delegate to the national meeting of the Youth Congress. Most likely, your organization or union isn't very much aware of what this Congress is really like; but since the idea of a youth congress doesn't sound bad, you send a delegate. Who wants to go? Peculiarly enough, the YCLer who belongs to your organization volunteers or is elected a delegate (no one else wants to go particularly.) Then when this YCLer gets to Washington he votes straight along with his Stalinist leaders . . . and he

claims to speak for the 100 or 10,000 members of your organization, even if they don't agree with his vote.

The Fellow Travellers

Not that all of the delegates are Stalinists. There are a large number of "fellow travellers," sympathizers who are "just thrilled" by the whole thing with the oh-so radical speeches and who, sheltered under the protective wing of the Stalinists who've been assigned to "cover them," usually vote with the Stalinists.

The whole thing is in the bag from the very beginning. If you want to get the floor, you have to hand your name in on a slip of paper. Then the presiding committee—which strange as it seems, happens to have a large number of YCLers and their "friends" on it—just nonchalantly "skips" by you. A dissident delegate, particularly a Trotskyist, just never gets the floor.

The YCL functions pretty skillfully. But occasionally they give the whole thing away. Just before the Congress opened a couple of buses pulled in from New York chockful of Stalinists . . . from Williamsburg. They represented, they said, the "people of Williamsburg" who were, quite happily, unaware

of this fact.

On another occasion, the chairman was introducing as one of the speakers, Blackie Myers, Stalinist leader in the National Maritime Union. Myers, of course, is known only to Stalinists and people closely in touch with the radical movements. Yet, the whole convention goes into an uproar when Myers speaks. The Stalinists forgot themselves for a moment. . . .

What is the program of this Youth Congress? Under the inspiration of the Stalinists, it has suddenly resurrected the American Youth Act. This Act has an extremely interesting history. Originally put forward at the time the Stalinist movement was going into its pro-Roosevelt period as a grandiose proposal for which no real action was undertaken, the Act went into sharp eclipse when the YCL tied itself to the tail of FDR's kite and was therefore unwilling to put forward any anti-governmental proposals.

Today when the Stalin-Hitler pact has catapulted the Stalinists into an anti-government party in America, because the American government is in the other imperialist bloc, they have dug up this youth act again. But it is unlikely that the Congress will engage in

any genuine militant actions for this Act, which by now has, incidentally, become quite inadequate to satisfy youth needs. The Congress is too loose and flimsy for that.

One final question remains:

Who won, the Stalinists or Roosevelt? Organizationally, of course, the Stalinists retained control of the Congress; that was inevitable. But Roosevelt very cleverly maneuvered into a position where he made a sensational speech for Finland which outweighed—in terms of publicity—the pro-Stalinist tinge of the Congress.

But the conflict between the Stalinists and Roosevelt was merely a pale reflection of the imperialist war in Europe, between the 2 imperialist camps of Hitler-Stalin and the Allies. The 3rd Camp of opposition to all imperialist war and all capitalist governments is the answer to both of these situations alike. It is a hard choice . . . but the only one. Those youth who really want to fight against war and for a better world can have nothing to do with the imposing facade but completely rotten innards of the Youth Congress—a bloated expansion of the Stalinist youth.

RED TAPE FILCHES YOUNG JOB-SEEKERS

NEW YORK—Tens of thousands of unemployed youth milled around the Federal Building last week, filling out applications to take a test for manual apprentices in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Despite the low wages which these jobs begin with, thousands of unemployed youth—only those between 16 and 22 are eligible for the jobs—will try to pass the examination in order to get these jobs.

One of the requirements of the application is that it has to be notarized. It was enough to make one's blood boil to see how thousands of us had to lay down hard-earned, precious quarters to the crew of shysters and filchers who have Notary Public stores near the Federal Building, just in order to have them stamp the application. What a vicious piece of red-tape! If the government requires certification for some idiotic reason, why can't they provide someone to stand in the building and stamp the fellow's applications, instead of forcing us to shell out thousands of quarters for no good reason! (In many of the schools, free notarization is given to NYA applicants. Why not here?)

SHOWS RESULT OF NYA CUTS

The tragic story of what will happen to those youth who will lose NYA jobs as a result of the Roosevelt budget slash in youth aid was vividly pictured in a recent column of Dorothy Dunbar Bromley, N. Y. Post columnist.

Miss Bromley interviewed 9 students at New York University who have NYA jobs. (Too bad she didn't get to City College where she could have talked with those students who need NYA most.) These are some of the things she found out:

"My children are not going to do the same thing," said one student. "It's tough having to budget a 15 cent lunch, walking 25 blocks to save money for the movies. . . ."

"I don't know what I'd do without NYA aid," said a freshman girl. "I can get by on 60 cents a day for meals. . . ." She doesn't know how she'll continue to get along, unless she gets a job.

Jane, a 20-year old journalism student, told the writer how the family's business is gradually going to the devil and how the NYA aid is keeping her in school. If anything happened and she didn't continue getting it. . . .

"EARNING A LIVING OUR MAIN PROBLEM"

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Earning sufficient money for a decent living is the most perplexing problem of members of the Young Men's Christian Association of this city, according to the first of a series of youth opinion polls among its members, made public recently.

Of those questioned, 39.8% said their major difficulty was getting a sufficient salary and 25% said their major problem was getting a job in the first place. In view of the fact that, very often, youth of the very lowest income groups are unable to belong to the YMCA for financial reasons, it is obvious that these figures are startling indices of the range of unemployment among the youth of relatively higher income groups.

The lack of any central guiding agency for vocational guidance in the city was made evident when 30.6% declared that they turned to their parents or families for vocational guidance and aid in job seeking. Generally speaking, of course, parents cannot help such youth or they would have done so at the beginning of their children's search for jobs.

JERSEY BOSSES WANT TO TAKE VOTE FROM THE UNEMPLOYED

The New Jersey State Legislature was presented last week with a plan for the disenfranchisement of all able-bodied males who have been relief recipients continuously for three years.

This is only one of the features in a series of proposals presented by the New Jersey Emergency Relief Committee. Col. G. Barrett Glover, Mayor of Haddonfield on the side, has been investigating relief administration for this subcommittee for the past eight months.

As a result of his investigation into relief needs, he discovered that the relief problem was "... here to stay," and he proposed that the state take a long range view of the situation. He recommended that those males who have been on relief for three years continuously be designated officially as "paupers." Since New Jersey is one of the thirteen remaining states which has retained an ancient law that all paupers are to be deprived of their vote, the proposal is actually to bar from their elementary democratic right those who have been most severely hit by the breakdown of American economy.

Relief Vouchers

Secondly the plan states that save for exceptions of medical need, etc., all relief payments are to be in the form of vouchers which will be recognized at special relief stores. At these stores there are to be no sales of "... candy, tobacco, soft or hard drinks, motor fuel or oil." Nor will relief recipients be allowed sums for "... movies, or similar luxuries." And finally, keeping in mind the "long-range view," the state appropriation for relief is to be reduced from fifty to seventy-five percent.

Submitted with little comment by the committee and little notice in the general press, the plan has met with tremendous resistance and denunciation from labor and unemployed organizations.

Alarmed by the general clamor against the plan, the politicians on the committee have attempted to back down. One was quoted in the New York Times as saying, "It won't go to the legislature. It's too controversial for an election year."

It is significant that an ex-army officer authorized the bill. The placement of military officials at the head of all of the New Deal "liberal" agencies has occurred at a steady rate in recent years. Government administration is being neatly shifted to military control in advance. Significant too that this blow against civil liberties is only part of a nation-wide drive that has as its aim the regimentation of the country. But the vigorous resistance of labor has the New Jersey reactionaries on the run. "Too controversial an issue for an election year?" If labor continues its vigorous resistance to this brutal plan, it will be too late after elections!

DEPRESSION KIDS BEGIN TO REVOLT

Of the thirty-six million children under sixteen in the United States, eight million, or almost one-quarter, are members of families which are dependent upon government relief agencies for subsistence, a report by Katherine Lenroot reveals. Chief of Children's Bureau, United States Dept. of Labor, Miss Lenroot describes the handicaps of America's youngest citizens, their inability to find jobs, to get an education, or even to get many essentials of life. These depression children she says are beginning to vote. Some of them will help decide the 1940 presidential election she says. But the preponderance of them will make their influence felt in the years between 1940 and 1945. Think if they had the right to vote at eighteen, Miss Lenroot!

Youth, Stop Lynching!

(Continued from Page 1)
near Eldorado... The bullet-ridden and torn body was finally identified as Walter Lee Frazier, 28. He had been shot through the chest by a small calibre gun and the body had been run over by a heavy automobile."

On April 1, the New York Herald Tribune reported the following lynching in Panama City, Florida: "Miles W. Brown, convicted of first degree murder for the killing of a former employer, was shot to death after he had been taken from jail by a band of masked men."

On April 29, the New York American reported the following lynching in Daytona Beach, Florida: "Lee Snell, Negro taxi driver, was shot to death on a highway

near Daytona Beach while being taken to jail. Constable James Durden said the slayers were two brothers of a boy fatally injured by Snell's taxi several hours earlier."

On May 8, the following incident was reported by the United Press from Canton Mississippi: "Joe Rodgers was lynched after a fight with a foreman who struck Rodgers first with a shovel. Rodgers was tied hands and feet, shot, tortured with red-hot irons and cut, and his body was thrown into the Pearl River."

But the most disgusting and nauseating lynching perpetrated in the last few years was the lynching of Claude Neal in 1934. One of the participants described it as follows:

"After taking the nigger to the woods about four miles from Greenwood, they cut off his penis. He was made to eat it. Then they cut off his testicles and made him eat them and say he liked it. Then they sliced his sides and stomach with knives and every now and then somebody would cut off a finger or toe. Red hot irons were used on the nigger to burn him from top to bottom. After several hours of this torture, they decided to just kill him."

This is a picture of America—1940. Our answer must be: American youth will take its ranks in the struggle against lynching. It is the duty of every decent person.



Depression is Worse—People Out on Limb

For ten long years the American people have been suffering from the permanent capitalist depression. The most terrible paradoxes in history—starvation in the midst of plenty and millions idle while machines and equipment rot away—are taken for granted. For the working people of the nation the problem is to produce more and more of food and clothing and homes; but it would be wrong to assume that this is true for everyone. The rulers of America, the bankers and the industrialists, have only one problem: to safeguard and extend their profits. Thus for them depression refers to a time when profits fall, and prosperity means a period of high profits. In the spurt of 1936, altho 8,000,000 million people were still unemployed, Roosevelt proclaimed a new prosperity—but by that he meant that more and more black ink was being poured into the ledgers of the big corporations.

In the old days—before 1929—American capitalism was able to come out of a depression by wiping out old values and investing money in production for new markets and building new industries. But today there are no new markets for the capitalists. This does not mean that the people do not need the things which industry produces; it means only that new, big profitable markets are gone. Nor is it profitable to build new industries any more. But if the people do not have the money to buy homes and enough food and clothing, still some means has had to be found by which the bosses' profits could be saved. Up to now, Roosevelt has used two chief means. He has "primed the pump" by government spending—for relief and WPA and for a bigger and bigger war budget.

Pump-Priming

But now, particularly with the great decrease in money spent for help to the unemployed, everyone recognizes that "pump-priming" has been a failure. It has not been able to solve a single one of the great problems facing the American people. Nor is there any reason to believe that private industry can bring back prosperity. The idle money piled up in the banks will be used only when it is profitable to do so—and no market can be profitable which has in it a permanent army of at least ten million unemployed. Roosevelt would be quite willing to stop all government spending if he thought he could get away with it. But he has another card up his sleeve. What is it?

This is an election year. So the politicians in Washington are depending on a business upturn for help in November. And yet Roosevelt's budget is an "economy" budget. This seems strange, since all the little upturns since 1929 have depended on government spending. But the answer is this. Roosevelt and Wall Street have turned toward Europe's war. They are bas-

ing their politics on war orders. They are ready to feed on death.

Eyes to the War

All eyes, all the capitalists' hopes, are turned toward the war. When the war started in September, business picked up, production rose above that of 1929. Remembering 1916, the bosses piled up stocks, expecting that orders would pour in from Europe and that prices would rise. They even hopefully began profiteering on sugar. But the war didn't turn out quite as expected, and things began to slip. Still, a rise is expected in the spring. The Allies' stocks are giving out, and everyone expects the war to deepen and spread, that it will be long, perhaps very long. This means orders, orders, orders. And it also means a big stake in the Allies, which means another president calling a new generation to "make the world safe for democracy."

Said one organ of American business (U. S. News, Feb. 23): "But government policies and the trend of business are going to depend upon the answers to questions like these: is there going to be a great land offensive in the spring? Will unrestricted air attacks be launched soon? Are there signs that Germany is being starved out? Does it look like an early peace?" Thus capitalism, no longer able to profitably produce the things that we need for our own use and to build America, depends more and more on destruction, on the business that war brings, that death provides.

REPORT SHOWS COMPLETE FAILURE OF SCHOOL SYSTEM TO PROVIDE EDUCATION FOR YOUTH

In a report on the relation of education to national welfare last week, Professor Norton of Columbia University, revealed the complete failure of the American school system to provide youth with free education. He shows that the Federal government was spending less money in recent years on education despite population increases, that many states provide fewer than ten years of free education, that many young people cannot even take advantage of the ten years of free education because of lack of clothes and nourishment at home, that not enough individual attention is given to students, that they leave school without a trade or profession with which to earn a living, and that ability has little or nothing to do with acquiring a college or advanced education.

Government Spending Less

While total government expenditures increased nearly fifty per cent between 1930 and 1936, including a tremendous increase in the war budget, the percentage devoted

Republicans Reach For Pork Barrel

(Continued from Page 1)
to sit in the White House.

No more than can Roosevelt, can these politicians give answers to the problems which burden the American people. Because they are controlled by — indeed, many of their leaders are members of—the parasitic 60 Families whose insatiable greed produces those very problems. To fight against war and unemployment means to fight against the 60 Families, and this none of the capitalist politicians can do.

EVEN THE BLANKS ARE READY...

Seemingly confident that its drive toward participation in the European war will meet with "success," the Roosevelt administration has prepared, in advance, the blanks with which to notify American youth of their impending doom. Between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 of the 12,000,000 youth between the ages of 21 and 30 will be drafted immediately.

They will receive a notice headed: ORDER OF INDUCTION INTO MILITARY SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES.

Here are the heart-warming instructions which will prepare you to sacrifice your life for the Coupon Clippers:

"Failure to report promptly at the hour and on the day mentioned is a grave military offense for which you may be court-martialed. Willful failure to report with an intent to evade military service constitutes desertion, which, in time of war, is a capital offense.

"Upon reporting to your Local Board, you will not need, and you should not bring, anything except hand luggage. . . . You should take only the following articles: A pair of strong comfortable shoes; not more than 4 extra suits of underclothing; not more than 6 extra pairs of black or tan socks; 4 face and 2 bath towels; a comb, a brush, a toothbrush, soap, toothpowder, razor and shaving soap. It will add to your comfort to bring one woolen blanket, preferably of a dark or neutral color. This blanket should be tightly rolled, the ends of the roll should be securely bound together and the loop of the blanket roll thus formed slung from your left shoulder to your right hip.

"You should wear rough strong clothing and a flannel shirt, preferably an olive-drab shirt of the kind issued to soldiers." It seems rather symbolic—this emphasis on black clothes. . . .

ed to education declined from 22.3 to 14.4 per cent, the report said. This is a blow in the face of all trade unions, student, parent, and teacher organizations which have been agitating for federal aid to education during the last ten years.

Because each state is permitted to shift for itself in the matter of education there are many which provided fewer than ten years of free education so that the average youth faces the world with little more than a knowledge of reading and writing.

Poverty Prevents Attendance

Indirectly Norton admits that conditions at home prevent full use of the educational facilities available. He says "Where conditions of poverty in the family are so severe as to prevent attendance, appropriate remedial and relief measures are obviously called for not merely on economic grounds but on grounds of common humanity as well."

Students are not given any individual attention, the report re-

LEWIS' ANTI-ROOSEVELT BLAST SHOWS NEED FOR LABOR PARTY

(Continued from Page 1)

Forward to a Labor Party that will fight for a job and a decent living for every worker—open the idle factories—operate them under workers control—a twenty-billion dollar public works and housing program—a peoples referendum on all wars! For the youth of America we propose



a program which includes the right to work for every young person who desires it—WPA jobs at union wages regardless of whether his or her family is on relief or not. We demand the establishment of trade schools at government expense. We demand maintenance by the government of all youth who wish to go to school and who cannot be sup-

ported by their families. We demand that the right to vote be given to youth beginning at the age of eighteen."

Organize Now!

Such a speech and such a program can become a reality if youth, organized in clubs, fraternal societies, and trade unions, raise the demand for an independent Labor Party in their organizations NOW—before the convening of the national nominating conventions of the Democratic and Republican parties. The danger of the Roosevelt third term drive, which would mean increased misery and war for the youth of America, must be combatted in advance. Unless Lewis and his associates in the LNPL are stirred by the popular demand for independent political action in the 1940 campaign, their capitulation to the "liberal" wing of the Democratic party is inevitable.

Lewis has taken upon himself a great and grave responsibility. He has raised the hope for new fighting courage in the labor movement.

Lewis has put himself far out on a limb to see what he can see. Let's make him come down with the only practical conclusion one can draw from his attacks upon the Old Deal and the New Deal—an Independent Labor Party Now!

WHY YOUTH GET NERVOUS

CHICAGO, Ill.—Amid the flood of verbiage which has been drowning the conference of the Progressive Education Society—the organization of progressive teachers—a few ideas on the youth question have managed to sneak through.

The most important were contributed by Dr. Caroline Zachry who declared that the difficulties which American youth face today in finding a place in society tend to make youth more "infantile"—that is, more dependent on his family and less able to face problems independently—with a resultant growth of nervous disorders and neurotic attitudes.

"There is suffering," she said, "because young people don't have jobs and because they have to wait so long before being given a chance as part of society."

This idea is, of course, correct. It merely states what all of us have continually noticed in the lives of our friends as well as those of our own—the nervous problems which arise when young people can't get work.

The solution is: the program for Jobs for Youth given in this paper.

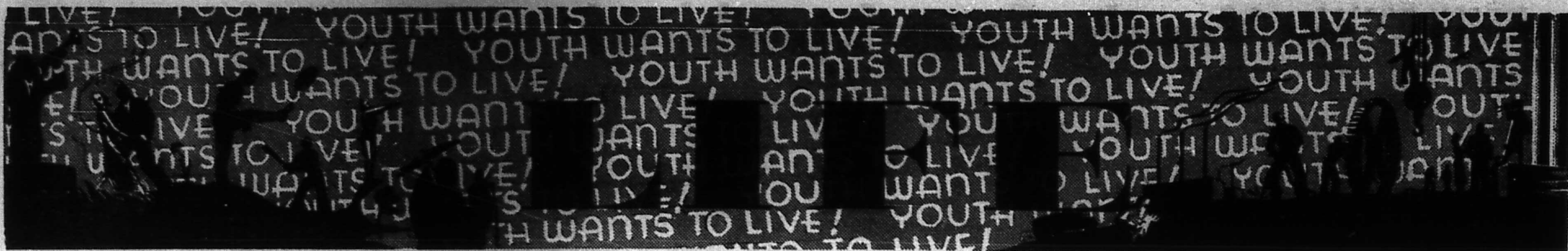
UNEMPLOYMENT ON THE INCREASE

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Despite "increased industrial production," figures released by the national WPA show that unemployment in American continues to exist at a continued high peak. In November of the past year, unemployment increased and in December it continued on the same level.

The figure given by the WPA is 9,000,000 unemployed but this figure is overly conservative; the statistics of the American Federation of Labor, which are by no means exaggerated, show at least 12,000,000 unemployed.

These figures give the lie to President Roosevelt's recent claim of a turn to "prosperity." Most of such "turn to prosperity" claims are based on the statement that production has returned to the "1929 level." But such statements ignore the fact that there has been a population increase since 1929, so that even a return to the 1929 rate of production has slight meaning if considered on a per capita basis.

As the old saying goes, figures don't lie, but liars sure figure.



By all rights save one, it is Walt Disney's "Pinocchio" which should receive first consideration in this column. The exception is the significance which I attach to a recent English film. By virtue of its stand, it commands attention.

England drops bombs on the Western Front, leaflets on Berlin and tosses nasty little pictures at America. That we get off with the least damage is to be doubted when you consider this latest blast from the English film factories, "The Lion Has Wings."

Alexander Korda, whose movie career has concerned itself chiefly with extravagant gems about English heroics against the savage natives of India, has put aside his toy elephants long enough to give forth with this little explanation of England's role in the present war.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Nominally, the movie is about the workings of the Royal Air Force. In fact, it is a brazen and bold attempt to gild the sinister workings of English imperialism. It is part of the intensive propaganda campaign to line up the American people behind the British war machine once again.

The method is simple. Scene by scene, laboriously, England is compared with Germany. Decency, honor, justice, democracy are the standards of English life, in Germany the reverse. The appeal is obvious: England fights once again a war for democracy against a barbaric foe. But to the vulgar propaganda attempt of the British, our answer is clear.

True, Germany is governed by a lusty Nazi imperialism. True, the Nazi dictatorship is the enemy of the German people. But the condemnation is a hypocrisy utilized by Chamberlain and Churchill. The crimes of Ireland, India, Africa, the hundreds of millions exploited by British rule make dishonest and demagogic the plea of the English ruling class.

PINNOCHIO

A much more pleasant task is commenting on Disney's new full length cartoon, "Pinocchio." It is a splendid piece of work. The technical treatment surpasses anything that has as yet been done. Jiminy Cricket is slightly terrific. Figaro, the cat, and Cleo, the seductive Goldfish, Gideon the Dope (not to be confused with Dopey), and J. Worthington Foulfellow will take their place with other Disney gems.

It's a task for literary critics and chroniclers of the theater to properly evaluate Disney's creations, how they seep into the language, radio jokes of the day, etc. For my part, the cartoon was fascinating and even more, provided a riot of laughs.

Highlights for me were the beautiful underwater scenes, and the wild chase of Monstro the Whale. The Pleasure Isle for Bad Boys, Pinocchio's brief sojourn in the theater, Cleo's romance with Figaro. And Jiminy Cricket, who stole the show. Don't miss it.

CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

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THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON:

Stop Anti-Negro Discrimination In Baseball's Big League Teams

By Ed MARTY

As baseball prepares to assume the sports spotlight, the problem of Negro participation in organized baseball has been placed squarely before the major league magnates.

As if by a Brooklyn Dodgers' scheme, the issue of Negro equality in the national pastime was sharply presented to their inter-city rival, the New York Giants. It is sad but true that the boys from Coogan's bluff are in for a poor season. Bill Terry, manager of the Giants, has captured three pennants during his six year reign. But it was with the material that John McGraw had created and left to him. A handful of fading stars, the well-punched "Meal-Ticket," Carl Hubbell, and a bunch of untried rookies.

Jimmy Powers, New York sports columnist, offered what would seem a logical solution to Terry's problem. In an open letter to the New York Giants he suggested that they avail themselves of the wealth of material that can be found in the Negro baseball teams. He pointed out the enviable record that these teams (The Black Yankees, the Farmers, the Cuban All-Stars, etc.) have run up in their few chances to play with recognized teams. In these post-season games with "pick-up" teams of touring major league players, several Negro players have proven themselves the equal of white athletes.

Specifically he suggested for the Giant "nothing-on-the-ball-but-a-prayer" pitching staff, Satchelfoot Paige, Negro fast-ball flinger who has won praise from stars like the Great Bambino, and Iron-Man Lou Gehrig. For Terry's first-base dilemma, Powers suggested Josh Gibson, famous Negro slugger.

Here was Bill Terry's opportunity to deal the first blow to the Jim Crow rule of organized baseball and at the same time put together a team that can make a real showing for its fans. Powers reported in his column a week later that Terry's only reply was... "Nuts."

But the baseball public will not be content with Mr. Terry's fruity reply. There are a few questions which can be asked of the high-handed, Jim Crow attitude of the men who control the baseball world. In this series we intend to ask those questions and to demand that full and genuine equality be the right of Negroes. Yes, even in the realm of "lily-white" baseball.

No Justification

Aside from the fact that there can be no justification of Negro exclusion or race prejudice at any time, for the sake of argument, we will analyze the problem and decide on the merits of the case.

Self-evident to all but the handful of magnates who run the major leagues, is the fact that Negroes have demonstrated their ability as sportsmen in every phase of athletics. Save perhaps for polo. But

then, neither has anyone else other than the aristocrats of Long Island and Eton who learn to ride a horse before they can say 'labor agitator.'

In track, Owens, Peacock, Johnson, Metcalf and dozens of other Negro youths who have made track history. In football, Kenny Washington, (All-American half-back last year, but passed up by every team in big-time professional football, whose leaders have learned too well from their baseball colleagues), Ozzie Simmons, and other famous huskies. Dolly King sensation of this year basketball season. Hammering Henry Armstrong and Joe Louis in the ring, and Joe Gans and Sam Langford, Negro boxing immortals.

Sportsmanship and Courage

The sportsmanship and courage of the Negro sports greats is on a par with what of their white teammates. Not one argument can be advanced claiming Negro inferiority in sports. Nor one argument that Negroes have done other than conduct themselves in the best interests of the game.

In subsequent articles we will consider reasons where they have been advanced, and more to the point, ask that baseball's moguls break their usual silence. And when we demonstrate that Negroes have been excluded from baseball as a concession to prejudice alone, then we must answer this Jim Crow assault on civil liberties with a demand for full equality for the Negro.



THE AGE OF FISH; A CHILD OF OUR TIMES—by E. von HORWATH.

Guest Review by S. REMAREE

It is seldom that an author can convey to his reader in terms so simple and moving the immensity of the times we live in, the depths of its degeneration, and the hope that still lingers in the hearts of some of its youth. In both of these novels, THE AGE OF THE FISH, which deals with the accomplished regime of Fascism, and A CHILD OF OUR TIME, which relates the tale of the youth of the war and the rise of Fascism, von Horvath has told a tale in a manner so beautiful and poetic that it leaves an indelible impression on the mind of the reader, and strikes a note of terror in the hearts of those of us who are war babies.

"I am a soldier.

"And I'm glad to be one."

This is a youth of Germany speaking who was born during the war, who remembered the hunger, the cold, and vaguely the death of the war of 1914-18. This is a youth of our generation speaking who has sat on park benches without a job or a home to go to. This is a youth of the terrible years after the war when a job was a cherished hope, and the inflation made you carry your money around in a wheelbarrel, and all it would buy was a little bread and meat. This is a youth who today is about 23 years old.

CHARITY FROM THE STATE

"And so I was handed over to charity—from the State at first, later from private sources." Soup kitchens, clothes gone, petty thievery, something must be done. The Fuehrer has arisen—he becomes a soldier. At least he gets his meals, his boots are not worn, he has his uniform, and in winter a great coat; he has companionship... he's not alone, he's one of the line."

Then comes an undeclared war—his company is sent to conquer the people "of the miserable government." He loses the use of his arm attempting to save the Captain, whom he later discovers desired to die because he did not fit in with the times. He is discharged from the army and receives no pension since he was a "volunteer." He thinks... he begins to wonder... "Tell me fuehrers, who'll get that conquered land? Who'll have its ore and riches and bread? Who?..."

He receives many tremendous blows to the concepts which he learned by rout, and dies on a park bench in the driving snow with a little child gleefully clapping its hands shouting, "Mummy, mummy! A snowman!" A policeman comes and pronounces him dead. But his senses are still alive and he thinks...
LOOK, CHILD, LOOK!

"Look, child, look! Here's a snowman sitting on the bench. He's a soldier. Unless... But don't forget him, don't forget him. He gave his arm—for scum. When you're grown up, perhaps another age will have come. Your children will tell you that this soldier was a common murderer—but don't revile him. Just think, how could he help himself? He was a child of his time."

THE AGE OF THE FISH is the story of a school master who through his pupils—children of the time—realizes the collapse of the generation whom he is helping to mould. His first attempts to correct one of his pupils who writes on an exam paper, "All niggers are dirty, contemptible, cunning and dishonest," makes him aware of what is happening to these young boys whose thoughts are being determined by the necessities of the regime which blares forth lies such as these "for the benefit of the Fatherland and its wars." Von Horvath takes us through the sufferings of the young-school master who must constantly remember he "is a servant of the State," until the end when the student who symbolizes most blatantly the crudity, coldness and soullessness of the times is personally crushed by his exposure as the murderer of his fellow student and the accusation and imprisonment of others, and the teacher goes away to teach in Africa. The outcast goes to the outcasts, to the Negroes.

(Editor's Note: The series of articles begun in this column in the last issue on Souvarine's "Stalin" will be continued in the next issue.)



Readers Rage on Lincoln, Sports, Stalin, Pictures etc.

YCL MEMBER LETS OFF SOME STEAM

Challenge of Youth:
I wish you people would stop sending your filthy sheet to my home. I am ready to listen to all progressive points of view, but I refuse to read your rag which is an enemy of peace and progress. That article on Stalin was positively disgusting. What's the matter? Is your book reviewer jealous of Stalin? Doesn't he recognize a great man when he sees one?
Sarah Dubin

(Editor's Answer—No, our book reviewer is not jealous of Stalin—far from it.)

WANTS NORTON TO WRITE AGAIN

Dear Editor:
I thing the Challenge is pretty good. But there are a couple of things missing. What about some good serials—say, a popularly written series on "What is Socialism." Why not a few good short stories? (I don't mean personal experience reports.) And where is your writer Paul Norton who wrote those hilarious Banker Hornswoggle articles?
Comrade XYZ

(Editor's Answer—Dear XYZ: We're going to think over your suggestion about serials. The only reason we don't print short stories is because we don't get any. As for that rascal Norton—we too want

more writing from him, but he's a very bashful fellow. Perhaps if our readers applied some mass pressure...)

INTERESTING VIEWPOINT ON LINCOLN ARTICLE

Dear Editor:
I was very interested in the articles on Lincoln and Washington which you printed in the last issue. I thing that on the whole Pherry was very fair in his articles and gave some interesting facts. But I don't think he was adequate on Lincoln. Of course, Lincoln was a representative of the rising bourgeoisie; of course he wasn't the great humanitarian which the myths try to make him. But he was a great leader. There was something about his dynamic, homespun personality which caught—as no one else has—the imagination of the American people. Lincoln may have represented the rising capitalists, but he came from the Western farm class and inherited all the best features of that class which made it possible for him to become an American hero. Comrade Pherry writes well and quite accurately, but he should beware of succumbing too much to the muckraking method.
Sam Williams, New York

(Editor's Answer—Personally, we thing correspondent Williams is correct. But as he himself says, his correction doesn't change much in the original article. Or has writer Pherry anything to say about that?)

WANTS PICTURES—NOT MANIFESTOS

Dear Editor:
Sure, I'll agree compared to other youth papers the Challenge is a wow. But as the saying goes, nothing is too good for the workers.

But a few suggestions, I believe, are in order. Why do we have to go to the boss press for articles on education like the recent Federal report. The condition of the Okies might be well received (publicity about "The Grapes of Wrath") and the story of job hunting, etc.

And what the hell's wrong with some pictures on the articles? A story of the Sixth Avenue Agencies, famous NYC runaround with pictures would go over big in my estimation.

In other words—what say we have more illustrated news articles instead of having a twice a month manifesto.
Bert Edwards

(Editor's Answer—You get us the money—and we'll print the pictures.)

AND THIS READER WANTS SPORT STUFF

Dear Editor:
Just to drop you a note that I thing the Challenge is becoming a swell paper. I'm getting a real kick out of the way you people are bringing the facts to light each time on the youth situation. I'm one of those locked-out youth you're writing about and I recognize myself, as if there were a mirror in front of me.
Herbert Roseberg, New York