

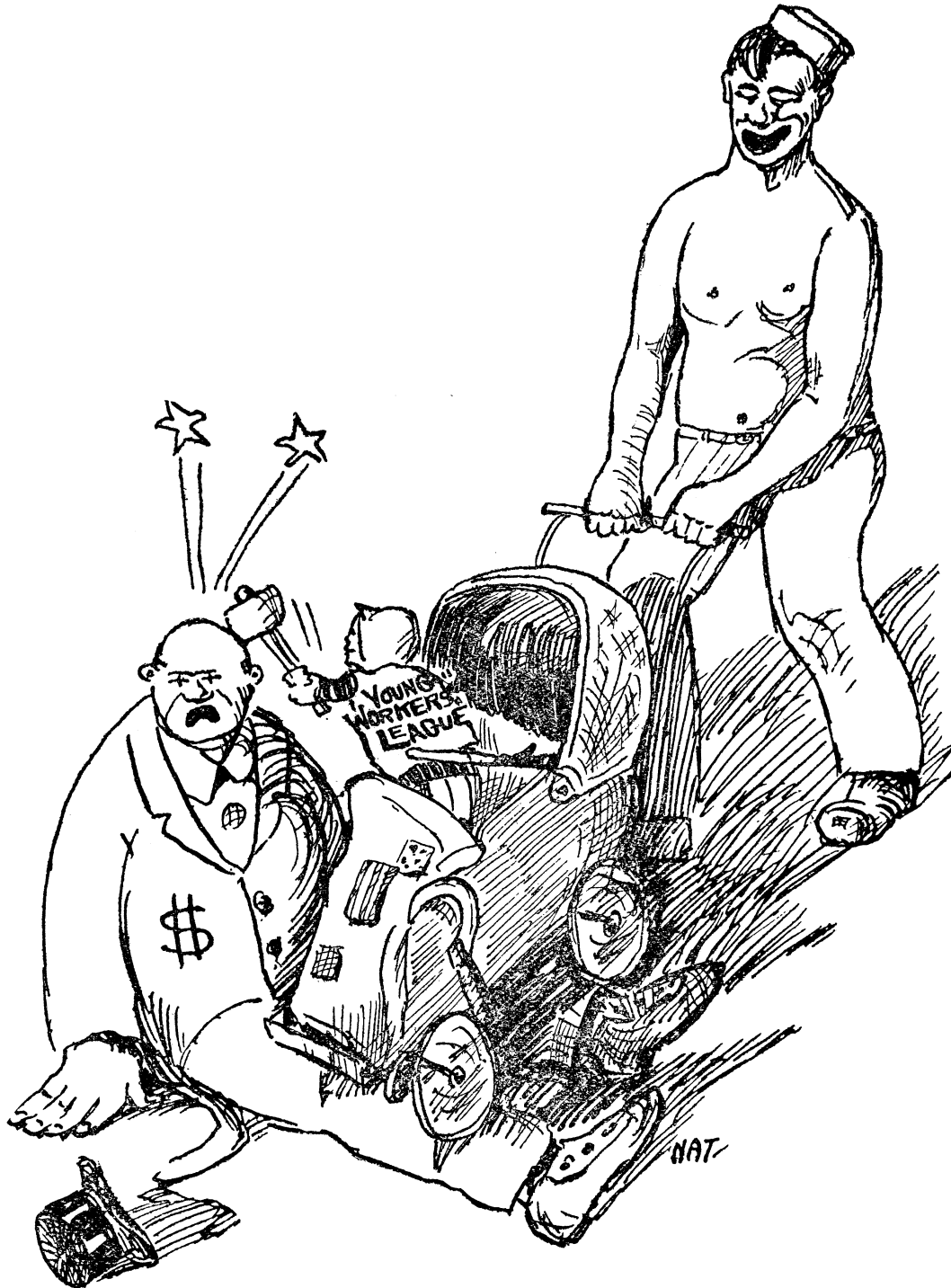
March-April, 1922



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THE YOUNG WORKER

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE (Formerly "Youth")



Labor: "Wow, boy! Just imagine, when that kid grows up!"

that confront the youth. But in striving to attain these demands, the ultimate goal is neither overlooked nor abandoned. By participating in these struggles, we demonstrate to the workers the utter futility and hopelessness of REFORMING the present system, thereby showing the acute need for completely abolishing capitalism and instituting the WORKERS REPUBLIC. It is primarily through action that the workers come to a realization of this fact.

Education

In conformity with its conception that the educational activities of YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE must be derived from the actual experience and participation by the proletarian youth in the everyday struggles of the workers, THE YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE proposes to carry on its work under the following headings:

- I. Educational work within the organization.
- II. Educational work among the masses.

I. The class struggle and the relation of the individual worker to it can best be derived through and understanding of the objective conditions in society that bring about the struggle for power between the wage workers and the employing class. But at the same time the theoretical basis of the present system, its relation to previous social systems, the function of the state, the economies of capitalism which has led to its bankruptcy, and the historic mission of the proletariat to inaugurate a new system of society—all this must be understood by those who stand as a vanguard in the army of the exploited CLARITY AND ACTION is our motto.

Within the League there must be conducted intensive educational work, not the academic kind, but rather the vital, the dynamic, drawing from the outstanding facts of the class struggle as it rages today the proper, theoretical (Marxian) conclusions.

(a) Study classes must be organized in every branch of the YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE.

(b) Special attention must be given in the press of the YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE to the economic conditions of the workers in America, their problems, the form and structure of labor unions as applied to the young, and particular study course outlines should be furnished to all branches on these questions.

(c) Lectures and speakers should be furnished at regular intervals to the city and branch organizations to speak on various vital questions confronting the workers.

(d) Every city organization should issue a local bulletin (mimeographed or typewritten) containing news of the branches, and notes of industrial and political conditions within the community. Every member should be urged to contribute to the bulletins.

II. In striving to reach the masses of young workers outside the organization, it is necessary to show them by force of example that the YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE is interested in their welfare and will support them in their battles, not only in words but in deeds.

(a) Intensive and extensive educational and organizational work will be carried on by the League to familiarize the working youth with the need and purpose of belonging to labor unions.

(b) Organizing mass demonstrations in the industrial centers to bring to the fore vital issues and broach to the proletariat means for settling questions to their interest.

(c) Distribution of official organ and special

literature dealing with conditions of the young and workers generally.

(d) Special agitation amongst the students and agrarian youth to familiarize them with their conditions in society and their need for uniting with the industrial proletariat for a common basis of action.

Political

THE YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE is not a political party. It is a political organization, however, in that it realizes that every class struggle is a political struggle; and as such directs its efforts toward the abolition of capitalist government and the institution of a working class government. The YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE acknowledges that in this struggle every means at the disposal of the working class must be utilized, including the participation in electoral campaigns.

It further understands that in all fields of activities, including parliamentary activities, it must co-operate with the revolutionary political party of the workers in this country—THE WORKERS' PARTY OF AMERICA.

This party recognizes that the parliamentary tribunals can be used only to point out to workers the fallacies of bourgeois "democracy" and for agitational and propaganda purposes; not for the institution of reforms. This party recognizes that the inauguration of a workers' Republic cannot be attained by "voting the working class into power." The only immediate demands it may set forth in its platform from time to time are such as will facilitate the prosecution of the revolutionary struggles of the workers (among others, compelling the capitalists to enforce their own laws guaranteeing the right of free assemblage in case of strikes, the right of peaceful picketing, etc.; the abolition of injunctions against labor organizations.)

Understanding this to be the function of the Workers' Party, the YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE pledges its co-operation and support as long as this party remains true to the task it has undertaken; to rouse and rally the masses to action.

In addition to participation in the general activities of the workers on the political field, THE YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE will agitate and work for certain demands of particular concern to the youthful toilers, and request the active support of the party of the revolutionary adult workers. The following demands will serve as a guide in this sphere of activity:

(a) Federal law prohibiting all children from engaging in any kind of labor until they have reached the age of sixteen.

(b) Enactment of a constitutional amendment to go into effect immediately prohibiting conscription for military service of any kind.

(c) Federal law providing ways and means of giving higher education to all young people desiring it to the age of 20 inclusive; appropriations for same to be made from the military and naval budgets.

Economic

The working class can never successfully cope with the bosses on the job unless they are in possession of a strong and militant organization on the economic field.

The workers in this country organized into labor unions number somewhat more than 5,000,000, most of them consisting of the skilled workers. The percentage of the young

people up to the age of 25 within the unions is in no way proportionate to the number of workers up to that age employed in industry and commerce. The large majority of all of the workers in this country are still outside of these economic organizations. The greatest percentage of them are the young workers. No factor is so influential in making the unions progressive as the young; and yet but few of them are organized. The small number of apprentice unions in this country is decreasing rapidly and plays no part in the general labor movement.

Most of the unions still have barriers in the form of age limitations, experience qualifications or other regulations which prevent the young from coming into the unions.

In order that the trade unions may become militant organs of the class struggle, the YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE will actively strive to bring the young into these organizations, who through their enthusiasm, spirit and understanding will break down the bureaucracy of the reactionary leaders of today, and revolutionize these organizations. In preparation for inaugurating this work, the following will serve as a basis:

(a) Demand that all members of the YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE join the unions of the respective trade or industry.

(b) Agitate within the unions to remove any and all barriers that prevent the young workers from becoming regular members.

(c) Agitate within the unions for an extensive and intensive campaign by the unions themselves to organize the young within their respective trades and industries.

(d) To lend active assistance to unions on strike, in any locality where a branch of the YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE exists.

(e) To agitate for a six-hour day for all young workers up to the age of 20 who are to receive the regular union rate of wages paid employees in the respective industries, and the abolition of all overtime and night work for them.

(f) Agitation within the unions for the organization of the farm laborers and unskilled workers in this country.

Agricultural

The young farm laborers, as well as the children of the farmers, are beset with many evils growing out of the division of society into classes, and the practical monopoly of the wealth and the means of production by the capitalist class. At a very early age, the children on the farms are put to work. Eighty per cent of the child labor in this country is employed on the farms. The rural school system is adjusted particularly so as to permit the farmer to exploit his children during the planting and harvesting season.

The heavy burdens imposed upon the agrarian youth is but the reflection of the intolerable conditions forced upon the farmers. The number of farmers owning land is steadily decreasing, only 22 per cent having clear title at the present time. To meet the demands of the banks, the farmers must toil day and night, stinting themselves and their children, and in many instances live below the standard of the poorly paid city worker. The outlook for the farming youth under the present system of society is hopeless. The future holds forth only a miserable existence as the unbearable conditions foisted upon the agrarian population intensifies. The mortgage ridden farm, with all its enslaving adjuncts, will be thrown upon the shoulders of the farm-

er's children. The great majority of the young on the farms realize their miserable state, and strive to get away from it in the only way they can see open to them—by leaving the farms. The result is they become city proletarians.

Agricultural schools, corn clubs and the like are created throughout the country to attract the youthful farm workers and to induce them to stay on the farm. These organizations endeavor to teach the young how to produce more, and this so that the stock markets may be able to speculate more heavily. They fail, because the farming youth, exhausted by hard work, seeks recreation to relieve their monotonous existence. Though the hours are long and the work hard, the young on the farm receive less in return than any other class of labor.

THE YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE of AMERICA calls to the attention of the rural youth that their struggle is our struggle; that their liberation from the drudgery and monotony and poverty of farm life can come only as a result and in conjunction with the liberation of the industrial workers of this country from their chains of wage slavery.

Educational Institutions

The educational system of this country is in every respect in the hands of the capitalist class. The workers receive neither sufficient education nor the proper kind. Despite the great cry of public school education for all statistics show that the majority of the children of the workers are forced to leave school before completing the sixth grade. The percentage of them that obtain a high school, and, especially a university training, is very small indeed. The amount of illiteracy in this country as shown by the army tests is indeed appalling.

The education that is dispensed, combines in itself the subtle propaganda of making the young staunch defenders of the present system, and of holding up to them the conception that the honest, energetic, faithful and hard working man or woman will be rewarded by becoming a captain of industry.

Children cannot assimilate the lessons properly when forced to go to school hungry, as is the case with more than three million children in this country every day in the year.

While we realize the bias of public school education today, still it is better than none at all, and must be encouraged if for no other reason than to keep the children out of the mines, mills and factories. We, therefore, make the following demands:

(a) No child shall be permitted to leave school before completing a two-year's high-school education. Municipalities to provide for the maintenance of the children where the parents are unable to afford the expense.

(b) All children must be provided with at least one free meal per day while attending school.

(c) The encouraging of and the right of children in public schools to organize students councils which will discuss the policies and activities of the schools and investigate and consider cases of discrimination. The students councils to be the only bodies to determine reprimands and punishment.

(d) The creation of students councils in the higher schools and colleges which shall have the power to determine school policies; recommend dismissal or non-dismissal of instructors, and shall be the only body in the institutions to suspend or expell students.

CONSTITUTION

Tentative draft. Basis for organizing branches of the Y. W. L.

ARTICLE I. — NAME AND PURPOSE.

Sec. 1. The name of the organisation shall be the **YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE OF AMERICA**.

Sec. 2. Its purpose shall be to organize and educate the young of the working class to understand their true position in capitalist society, to work for the abolition of capitalism and to aid in the establishment of a **WORKERS REPUBLIC**—a government functioning through the power of the proletariat to the exclusion of all other classes—as the first step towards the establishment of an **INTERNATIONAL CLASSLESS SOCIETY**, free from all political and economic slavery.

ARTICLE II. — EMBLEM.

Sec. 1. The emblem of the **YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE** shall be a crossed hammer and sickle on a five pointed star, surrounded by a circular margin, having at the top the words **YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE OF AMERICA**, and underneath the words **CLARITY AND ACTION**.

ARTICLE III. — MEMBERSHIP.

Sec. 1. All young people between the ages of 14 to 30 shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. Every applicant for membership shall have expressed his or her willingness to enter and abide by the rules and regulations of the organization, shall have paid the required initiation fee, and must be recommended by two members in good standing in the branch in which application is tendered.

Sec. 3. Every applicant to the organisation must become a member of the study class conducted by the particular branch to which he makes application.

Sec. 4. Applicants to membership shall sign the following application card:

"I, the undersigned, being familiar with and having read the **CONSTITUTION, MANIFESTO and PROGRAM** of the **YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE** do hereby acknowledge that I am willing to join in the activities of the **YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE**, and be bound by its rules and regulations, and affirm that I intend to take an active part in the function of the **Y. W. L.**"

Sec. 5. Every applicant for membership shall pay initiation fee and dues when application is made. Final acceptance for membership shall be made at the following meeting. This rule shall not apply to the charter members of a new branch nor to those who make application to the newly organized branches during the first month.

ARTICLE IV. — UNITS OF ORGANISATION.

Sec. 1. The unit of organisation of the **Y. W. L.** shall be the **BRANCH**, to consist of not less than five members.

Sec. 2. Two or more branches in the same city shall form a city central committee. The city central committee may include branches in adjacent territory where no city central exists.

ARTICLE V. — ADMINISTRATION.

Sec. 1. The supreme body of the **YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE OF AMERICA** shall be the Convention of the League.

Sec. 2. Between conventions the National Executive Committee elected by the convention shall be the supreme body and shall direct all the activities of the League.

Sec. 3. The City Central Committee shall have the power to supervise the activities of the branches within its jurisdiction.

Sec. 4. Language branches of the League shall have the same relation to the City Central and the National body as the English speaking branches.

Sec. 5. Language Propaganda Committees shall be appointed by the N. E. C. (whenever it is deemed necessary) to supervise the work amongst the foreign youth, The Language Propaganda Committees shall be directly responsible to the N. E. C.

ARTICLE VI. — CONVENTIONS.

Sec. 1. The convention is the supreme body of the **Y. W. L.** and shall be called by the National Executive Committee at least once a year.

Sec. 2. Emergency Conventions, with all the powers of regular conventions may be called by the N. E. C. or upon demand of organisations representing 40 per cent of the membership.

Sec. 3. The number of delegates to the National Convention shall be determined by the N. E. C. Delegates shall be apportioned to the city central committee according to membership based upon average dues paid for the period of three months prior to the call for the convention. Delegates to the National Convention shall be elected at a city convention, with proportional representation for all branches.

ARTICLE VII. — NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Sec. 1. Between conventions the National Executive Committee shall be the supreme body of the League and shall direct all its activities.

Sec. 2. The N. E. C. shall consist of seven members elected by the convention. The convention shall also elect five alternates, to fill vacancies in order of vote. When the list of alternates are exhausted the N. E. C. shall have the right of selection.

Sec. 3. The N. E. C. shall elect an Executive Secretary, a Chairman, and all others officers.

Sec. 4. All press and propaganda activities shall be under the full control of the N. E. C.

ARTICLE VIII. — DISCIPLINE.

Sec. 1. The N. E. C. shall have the power to suspend or expel individual members, branches, or city organisations.

Sec. 2. No branch of the **YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE OF AMERICA** shall the power to expel a member, but shall have the power to suspend such member pending action of the city central committee which body shall have the power to expel or suspend members recommended by branches for expulsion or suspension.

Sec. 3. Where no City Central Committee exists, branches have the rights of the City organisation.

Sec. 4. Every member shall have the right of appeal, whether expelled or suspended, to the next higher body.

ARTICLE IX. — DUES.

Sec. 1. Each applicant for membership shall pay initiation fee of 25 cents which shall be receipted for by an initiation stamp furnished by the N. E. C. The entire sum shall go to the National office.

Sec. 2. Each member shall pay 25 cents per month

for dues stamps which shall be sold to the city central committee for ten cents. The city central committee shall sell the dues stamps to the branches for fifteen cents, which, in turn, are to sell them to their membership for the full amount of 25 cents.

Sec. 3. Special assessments may be levied by the N. E. C. or National Convention.

Sec. 4. Members unable to pay dues on account of unemployment, strikes, sickness, or for similar reasons, shall upon application to their financial secretary be furnished with exempt stamps. The number of exempt stamps shall not exceed 15 per cent of regular dues purchased by each city central committee, per month.

Sec. 5. Members who are two months in arrears in payment of their dues shall cease to be members of the Y. W. L. in good standing. Members who are four months in arrears shall be stricken from the rolls.

Sec. 6. No member shall be permitted to pay advance dues for more than three months.

ARTICLE X. — MEETINGS.

Sec. 1. Every branch shall hold at least one business and one educational meeting a month.

ARTICLE XI. — HEADQUARTERS.

Sec. 1. The National Headquarters of the Y. W. L. shall be located in the city designated by the convention.

ARTICLE XII. — QUALIFICATIONS.

Sec. 1. Members of the N. E. C. must have been members of the Y. W. L. for one year at the time of their nomination, or hold membership in any organization affiliated as a body within sixty days after the first convention.

GREETINGS FROM THE YOUNG COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL

The following letter was received from the Berlin Bureau of the Executive Committee of the Young Communist International, addressed to the National Organization Committee of the Young Workers League:

"Dear Comrades: We received your letter of February 5 and 22, and copies of convention call and tentative constitution, which we have forwarded to our E. C. Many thanks for all this interesting material.

"We shall be very pleased to receive regularly your official organ THE YOUNG WORKER so as to be able to follow the movement in America.

"In return we shall forward you all our publications, and are ready also to supply you with particulars about the movement in Europe. We have already mailed to you a number of copies of our different publications, and we hope that they will reach you safely. Please state if you received same. We are also sending you copies of our constitution and program. Will you please send us also yours as soon as it is ready.

"As soon as we get any slides we shall forward some to you. Just now none are at hand.

"Re-work amongst agrarian youth and in the unions, you will find particulars in our papers, which will be mailed to you regularly.

"Hoping to hear from you again soon, and with best greetings to our revolutionary comrades in the States, we remain,

"Fraternally yours,

"The Berlin Bureau of the E. C. of the Young Communist International."

The Young Communist League of Great Britain write us in part saying:

"We must congratulate you for the splendid progress you have made. We are still grappling with the problem of our national convention." ... Your invitation to send a delegate to your national convention will be under consideration of our E. C. ..."

SPREAD THE MESSAGE

There has never been in this country a revolutionary mouth-piece of the young workers that has been widely circulated. The youth of the working-class under the influence of capitalist education have to a great extent been impregnable to revolutionary ideas.

Before the working-class can emancipate itself from the miseries of capitalism, the youthful toilers must be made to feel that they can gain nothing as individuals; that their interest is inseparably tied up with that of the entire working class.

We must carry the message of class solidarity to them.

The news of the struggle of the revolutionary youth should be disseminated wherever the young of the working-class slave away their lives.

THE YOUNG WORKER strives to become the voice of the exploited masses of young workers. It is for and to the young workers that it speaks. They should read it. They must read it.

Only by the help of every class conscious young worker who gets a copy of this paper can its circulation among the youth of this country be increased until it shall be a power fighting the struggles of the young laborers.

Young worker! We count on your support.

Spread this organ of militant, working-class youth.

Write in for bundle orders.

Sign subscription blank below and mail it now!

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THE YOUNG WORKER

Room 405-799 Broadway

New York City

Enclosed find ONE DOLLAR in payment for one year's subscription to "The Young Worker"

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CONVENTION CALL

COMRADES:

The time has come when the working class youth of this country must take the initiative in creating a solid front against their common enemy—the capitalist class, which oppresses and enslaves them, which dwarfs their bodies and poisons their minds. The young workers must be roused to action against the exploiters who force them into the hell-holes of industry to do the hardest and most disagreeable kind of work. When war is necessary to expand the capitalists' field of exploitation, these young workers are sent to be the cannon fodder. Upon their return (those who do return) their oppression and exploitation becomes greater than ever before. This applies to the working class youth generally—agrarian and industrial. These are the facts of the case, and yet no organization exists which can rally these millions of young wage slaves into a compact fighting organization.

The time is ripe for action. The need for a national organization of the youthful toilers embracing proletarian students as well as the workers in the industries and on the farms was never more imperative than now. Therefore we, the undersigned organization, through the national organization committee of the YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE OF AMERICA, call upon ALL young peoples' organizations to unite with us in a joint convention to be held in New York beginning May 13, 1922, upon the basis of the following points to launch the YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE OF AMERICA as the fighting vanguard of the working class youth.

1) **UNITY** of all existing militant young workers, organizations in this country. Unity, not in words alone, but the unity which comes from an understanding of our common interest in the struggle for working class emancipation.

2) **OUR AIM TO BE THE ABOLITION OF CAPITALISM** by means of the **WORKERS' REPUBLIC** — a government functioning through the power of the proletariat to the exclusion of all other classes—as the first step towards the establishment of an **INTERNATIONAL CLASSLESS SOCIETY**, free from all political and economic slavery.

3) **A MASS ORGANIZATION.** Our attitude must be to educate and to organize as large a section of the Young Workers as can possibly be reached. In order to accomplish this we must strive to reach them at whatever points they congregate or work (shops, factories, stores, mines, schools, farms, trade unions etc.) Our tactics must be such as to win the broad masses of working youth to our point of view.

4) **A MILITANT ORGANIZATION.** The first step towards making the YWL a mass organization can be accomplished if we make it an active, aggressive body that **FIGHTS** for the interests of the working class in general and the young workers in particular. It must show its sincerity and purpose, not only through words but through **DEEDS**.

5) **EDUCATION THROUGH ACTIVITY**; that is to say, education through active participation in the everyday struggles of the working class as the **ESSENTIAL FEATURE** in training the young workers. Study classes, lectures, debates, etc. must likewise be carried on in every league to furnish the theoretical **MARXIAN** background for the youth.

6) **CONDEMNATION OF THE** young peoples Internationals and organizations affiliated or sympathising with the Second or Second-and-a-half Internationals and recognition of the Young Communist and Communist Internationals as the real leaders of the revolutionary workers of the world.

7) **ORGANIZATIONS SUBSCRIBING TO THE CONVENTION CALL**, and sending delegate to the convention must agree to merge into the **YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE OF AMERICA**.

All organization subscribing to the above call write in to O. Carlson secretary, Young Workers League, Room 405, 799 Broadway, New York.