

REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH GET ORGANIZED

Everywhere in the world today, the youth are playing an active revolutionary role in the struggles of the people against imperialism. The young people are the most active and vital force in society, and at times even play a vanguard role in the fight for socialism and national liberation.

The birth of the Communist Youth Organization (CYO) in many cities across the U.S. this year signals the beginning of a new chapter in the U.S. revolutionary youth movement. In this country, nearly half the population is under the age of 25. Growing numbers of young men and women of all nationalities are joining the struggles of the working people to fight against all forms of oppression and exploitation. The development of the CYO marks a turn in the youth movement towards Marxism-Leninism and socialism, a turn towards the revolutionary ideology of the working class which has been so badly lacking in the recent history of the U.S. youth movement.

Initiated by the October League, the CYO is organizing to develop revolutionary leadership among the youth who can integrate the science of Marxism-Leninism with the mass struggles of the people. The CYO serves as a training ground for the emerging revolutionary successors to the great traditions of revolutionary working class struggle in the U.S. It is being organized at the same time as a new communist party is in the process of formation, and is forging strong fraternal ties to the Marxist-Leninist forces that are building the party.

The CYO, along with its study of Marxism, is a fighting organization taking up the special struggles of the youth, as well as those of the people as a whole. Young people are specially oppressed under imperialism, suffering especially in this period of deep economic crisis. Unemployment among youth is estimated by some experts to be around 60%, with much higher figures for minority youth. With this deepening depression has come cutbacks in even the minimal federal funding for job training programs and education grants. Young people are being thrown out into the streets with little hope in the future, and are left as targets for police harassment and abuse as well as targets for the profits of the drug pushers. The best minds and bodies in society are being either wasted or super-exploited by the bosses who pay wages often far below the so-called minimum wage laws.

At Campbells Soup Co. in Chicago, so-called tomato-

season employees are hired from mid-July to mid-October. Mainly minority youth, they are paid less than regular employees and are denied all union benefits and protection. Whole industries have thrived on this super-exploitation of youth, the most notorious of these being the "quick-food" corporations like McDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken, and others. There are also stories like that of Obie Wynn, an unemployed Black youth in Detroit who was shot down by a white bar owner. This shooting and the resulting rebellion by hundreds of community people touched off increased repression and police attacks and arrests of unemployed Black youth.

There are thousands of such cases where the oppression of young people has led to troubles with the police or into the military to be used as cannon fodder for imperialist wars abroad. The CYO has initiated a campaign around "Jobs for Youth" which speaks directly to this burning need and to the conditions that have created the problem.

Another form of the special oppression of young people lies in the educational system which is maintained by the ruling class to indoctrinate the youth and give them knowledge and ability to produce in society. They have used the present economic crisis as a pretense to launch further attacks on the education of young people. Just as their parents are having to fight to keep their jobs, young people are fighting the cutbacks in their education. Last year students marched in protest against cutbacks in hard-won gains in minority enrollment and aid programs, as well as the general cuts in tuition and aid grants, work-study programs, and the elimination of many teachers' jobs.

Another wave of racist attacks is being aimed at the right of minority students to attend integrated schools, which is being urged on by President Ford in his latest denouncements of busing to achieve integration. In the midst of this struggle, the ruling class is trotting out its fascist gangs and groups such as ROAR and the Nazi Party to play on the militancy and anger of youth. Last month in Chicago, a group of Nazis led a "White Power" march of 200 youths by telling them that this would be their chance to get even with the police. Portraying themselves as National "Socialists," the Nazis talk about the economic crisis and the need for "radical solutions." But these so-

called "radical solutions" are only the warmed-over racist mongerings of the Wall Street bankers dressed up in a popular style.

The ruling class efforts to divert the youth from their revolutionary tasks also come in the form of pouring drugs into the schools and communities and putting out rock and roll music with reactionary lyrics such as "Sweet Home Alabama," which praises the racist traditions of the South and Governor Wallace.

The revisionists of the Communist Party are also trying to divert young people from their revolutionary course. Parading Angela Davis and any other young "leaders" they can find around, the CP has also used some socialist-sounding rhetoric to push reformism and electoral politics among the youth. For example, this summer, the CP through its front group, the Young Workers Liberation League (YWLL), tried to jump into the struggle for jobs for youth by pushing their so-called "Youth Lobby for Jobs." They called for a "special emergency session of Congress" and the passage of a Federal Youth Employment Bill. According to its spokesman, "If we go to Washington with 100,000 signatures they can't ignore us." Through this campaign, the revisionists spread illusions that this system really is a democracy for the poor and that the only reason there are no jobs is because the politicians don't know the people need jobs. The truth is that unemployment of youth is a component part of the system of capitalism where young people are seen as a force to heighten competition among the workers and drive down wages and break unions. Militant actions can win some reforms but we should have no illusions that some new law or petition will change the overall character of the system. This strategy is used by the CP to bring the young people into the system rather than into struggle against it.

These diversionary tactics of the ruling class and their front men make even clearer the need for a Communist Youth Organization to lead the struggles of young people in a revolutionary direction. The CYO, based among working-class youth from the factories, schools, and communities can provide a reliable and stable core to unite the broad sections of youth. While being broad in its outreach, the CYO must also be well organized in order to carry out the work of training thousands of young people in the science of Marxism-Leninism. The CYO is made up of young people of all nationalities and men and women together, advancing the cause of liberation and socialism for workers of both sexes and all nationalities and militantly opposing war and fascism.

The CYO will become a mighty force in the revolutionary struggle. It is preparing and educating a generation of young fighters in the cause of the working class.