

FOR A NEW REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH INTERNATIONAL!

# CALL TO ACTION

Vol. 2, No. 3

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ORGAN OF  
YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE

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LABOR DONATED

## CALL TO ACTION

Organ of the

YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE

Editor: Sol Stevens

Jane Orden: Business Manager

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# Young Workers League Convention.

A big step toward the new revolutionary youth league and the new youth international was taken on **March 5-6 in Chicago. After four months of intensive activity, the Young Workers League met in its first national convention to hammer out the line and strategy for building the youth league.**

To those who recognize the tremendous importance of the youth and the youth movement in the struggle for the overthrow of capitalism, the fact that the small group of comrades who were expelled from the WP for their loyalty to the principles of the 4th International, were able to launch a youth organization on the same day that the Revolutionary Workers League was formed, is in itself a big victory. The further fact that in the first 4 months of its existence the YWL was successful in almost doubling its membership, publishing a regular monthly organ, carrying out two successful tours, and establishing a nationally unified and coordinated organization, make the victory even more significant.

After an exhaustive two-month period of discussion of all the problems facing the organization, the YWL was able to register its third victory in holding its first national convention in the city which is the center of that section of the country which will be strategically decisive in the proletarian revolution in this country. Gathered at the convention were delegates from a handful of cities where the YWL had succeeded in establishing units - not many - but determined to make it many.

The delegates to this convention were fully cognizant of the fact that they were meeting in a period allowing no delays in the work facing them. The convention heard the report of its national secretary that the youth are looking for a way out; that unless the revolutionary youth league was to approach these youth with its program at once they may fall into the hands of the first fascist or semi-fascist

demagogue to appear on the scene. The convention also met at a time the war danger, which affects so intimately the very lives of millions of youth, was daily moving ever closer. In the deliberations and decisions of this convention these two facts were constantly visible. A serious determination to lay the political basis for decisively answering this serious situation was what characterized the convention most of all.

Of great importance to the YWL convention was the fact that it had been preceded by the RWL convention, which had laid down the answers to all the major problems of the American revolutionary movement. The YWL, which is politically subordinate to the RWL, was able to proceed on the basis of a fully developed Marxist program.

The first problem that faced the convention was the international situation. It was forced to record the fact that the two existing youth internationals were bankrupt and would only lead to demoralization, disintegration, and defeat for the working class youth. It further recognized that there was no body in existence on an international scale which would serve as the center for the new youth international. The Stockholm-Oslo Youth Bureau, the only youth center in existence outside of the two internationals, is centrist in character and composition, moving to the right, losing strength and disintegrating. The convention accepted the theses of the National Committee that it would be one of the major problems of the YWL in the period to come to work toward the creation of a new center based on the principles of Marxism.

In this process the Stockholm-Oslo Bureau will have to be smashed. In answer to the war danger, the convention instructed the incoming NEC to work toward the holding of an international conference against war, social patriotism and social-pacifism, and (continued on Page two)

YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE CONVENTION

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to lay the basis for international action against war.

The convention accepted the thesis and resolutions that had been presented to the membership by the National Committee and that had been printed in our organ, the CALL TO ACTION, almost two months before the convention. With reference to the problems of building the revolutionary youth league in this country, the convention accepted theses on the economic situation of the American youth, the student question, the question of militarism, the character of the organization and the revolutionary party, and the general line for our answer to the NYA. All of these theses will be printed in pamphlet form and be available for the widest distribution among the young workers.

Probably one of the most worthy contributions of this first convention was its realization that the special characteristics of the youth, which create the necessity for a separate youth organization, must be recognized and answered by the revolutionary youth organization if it is to fulfill its role. The outstanding characteristic of the youth organization would, therefore, be educational. It will be the duty of the YWL to educate the young workers not only to make the revolution, but also to be good builders of the new socialist society. If this duty is really carried out, we will for the first time translate into action the oft-repeated slogan that was immortalized by Liebknecht, "To the youth belongs the future!"

The convention was able to record a real growth in membership. Even while the convention was in session word came from groups in New York and Youngstown who had broken away from that organization which was being liquidated at the same time in New York, the Spartacus Youth League, and were apply-

ing for membership in our organization. These new adherents, following similar adherents in Chicago, Columbus, and other places in the months before the convention, were really heartening to the assembled delegates.

Like the RWL convention, the YWL convention also recognized the fact that the Ohio-Great Lakes area with Chicago as the center, industrially and strategically formed the decisive section of this country. It further realized that no revolutionary organization could be really successful in mobilizing the workers for the revolutionary struggles, unless it based itself and concentrated on this section. And as a sign of the seriousness with which the convention approached the problem of really building the cadres of the party which will lead the workers toward the revolution, the convention decided that, no matter how difficult it would be for a small organization and no matter how it would tax our strength, the national center should be moved to Chicago in the next 3 to 6 months. And then it laid specific plans for carrying out of this transfer, one of which is the moving to Chicago of the national secretary in the next six weeks.

After discussing the report of the outgoing National Committee and adopting a constitution which in every one of its articles guarantees the democratic centralist character of the regime in the organization, the convention elected a new National Executive Committee and adjourned. The delegates returning from the convention, stopping in the various cities to which they were assigned to stop, will be able to transmit to the membership not only the decisions of the convention, but the tremendous enthusiasm and determination to build, which characterized the entire convention. Like true "Young soldiers of communism" the

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## AMERICAN SPORTSMANSHIP. AND THE "INFERIOR" RACES

We have been taught in our schools and by our newspapers that America is the land of sportsmanship. It is commonly assumed in this country that the sports crowd and the entrepreneurs are fair and square in all they do - "square shooters", you know. This country is contrasted to Germany, where Jews are discriminated against and Julius Streicher makes indignant speeches because Negroes won in the Olympic competition.

One article written by Paul Gallico, a well-informed "sports" writer, in Vanity Fair magazine, goes a long way toward the exposure of this myth. Gallico informs us that the difference between the Nazis and our own "sportsmen" is that our "sportsman" have developed a more or less exact science in dealing with representatives of "inferior" races who dare to refute some of the capitalist "scientific" race theories. The Germans, on the other hand, are first groping their way towards the solution of newly acquired problems. Their methods are indeed primitive when compared to our own systematized subjection of "inferior" races by those on top.

Let us quote from Paul Gallico's article just one of the examples of the superiority of organization over Streicher's spontaneity: "For instance there was once, I seem to recall, a boxing match in Philadelphia, involving Primo Carnera and a large and very sunburned member of an inferior (!) race by the name of Ace Clauk. The Ace, a primitive child at heart, could not resist experimenting upon the magnificent target afforded by Da Preem and immediately hung a terrific shanty on his eye. So complete was his childish glee at his success that he began to busy himself with intent to knock the man out. Obviously something had to be done to avert this racial shame, and so, between rounds, an emissary visited the corner of the untutored savage and gave him a

covert glimpse at one of the amazing new inventions of the ubermenschen, a blue-black instrument that shoots root-ta-toot ten times, by just squeezing the releasing mechanism once and holding it. The Ace was properly impressed and collapsed in the next round from the lethal effects of a mild punch to the scapula delivered by the white man."

Many of us remember the shameful call for the "white hope" when Jack Johnson was heavyweight champ, and the refusal to match Jack Dempsey with the acknowledged logical contender, Harry Wills. Gallico seems to think those days are gone forever - witness Joe Louis. But there he is wrong. Colored men still are not tolerated in baseball. Negro basketball players, shunted off white teams, must form their own. As long as capitalism exists, white men must be compensated for their inferior status under capitalism by presenting them with "superior blood". Louis is being tolerated because he obviously is the only boxer in the field who amounts to anything. As yet, there is no opposition to him. What goes on underneath the surface is still unknown, as was the case with Da Preem. Even the field of sports is disgraced and sullied by capitalist requirements. The so-called sportsmanship that the young workers of this country are constantly being reminded of is indeed a myth. Capitalism does not allow for any sportsmanship. Only under a workers rule will it be possible for every worker to develop his talents to their fullest extent - in the field of sports or any other field.

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YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE CONVENTION  
 (continued from page 2)

comrades have now returned to their duties, confident that the convention has made possible the building of the mass revolutionary youth organization - confident that they will build it!

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I N T E R N A T I O N A L N O T E S  
=====

**"PEOPLES FRONT" PRESIDENT IN ACTION; REACTIONARIES REJOICE**

Not many weeks ago, Lazaro Cardenas, president of Mexico, was public hero No. 1 in the Stalinist calendar. He was the keystone of their "Peoples Front" against Calles and the Gold Shirt Fascists. Now this tool of American imperialism has chosen his time to behead the popular discontent. He began by threatening to use the army against labor in strikes. The next step was to remove Juan Richter, Mexican consul at Laredo, Texas, for attending a labor meeting.

Now the "Peoples Frontier" is getting rid of the only democratic reform his administration even pretended to carry out. On March 30, in 12 States the Department of the Interior, ordered the reopening of Catholic churches closed by the State governments. The Catholic reactionaries saw their cue and at once took the offensive. In San Felepe, a peaceful assembly of schoolteachers was attacked and 16 persons were killed. In Compostela, 3 were killed when reactionaries attacked a train loaded with leftists.

Cardenas' work is about over. With the aid of the Stalinists, he kept the workers of Mexico out of action. Now the reactionaries are preparing to mop up.

**DANISH SOCIALISTS STILL THE SAME**

The Danish Socialist government still has the title as one of the chief betrayers of labor. Its latest action pretty well clinches it. The government sent 150,000 men involved in a labor dispute back to work without any agreement being made. The government is in charge of making terms satisfactory to both sides. Satisfying both sides is an old social-democratic custom, especially in Denmark.

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**SPANISH GOVERNMENT SEEKS "ORDER"; PEASANTS WANT LAND**

The government of Spain has been faced with the job of getting rid of its election promises. One of these was division of the big estates among the peasants. Right after the elections, the peasants took over the land and began spring farming.

The government was horrified. It ordered them to await a "legal" redistribution. They waited, but nothing happened. So on March 30 the peasants of Badajoz, about 20,000 in number, took action themselves and occupied the land.

The Spanish "Peoples Front" - supported government is now facing the task of showing its face. To get the peasants off the land, it must drop its "liberal" mask and act openly as an agent of the bosses.

**SOCIAL-DEMOCRATS BETRAY LABOR; "STATUS QUO" J.G.S. DEMAND**

At the recent special congress of the Belgian Socialist Party (POB) an outright social-patriotic position was taken on militarism. The Young Socialist Guard of Belgium, famous thruout the world as the "extreme left" of the Young Socialist International, was forced to take a stand on the decisions of the Party Congress.

It did this in a semi-official article in the last issue of its paper. The article, by Delbrouck, one of its leaders, declared: "We want the status quo, and nothing more". The party congress is social-patriotic; the youth ask the party to forget the whole thing.

Meanwhile, the Belgian Federation of Labor, controlled by the POB, has expelled two militant oppositionists in the longshoremen's union in Anvers. The J.G.S. didn't take this up in their paper. Lack of space, maybe.

A M E R I C A N   Y O U T H   A C T

On March 20-22 over three hundred representatives of various youth organizations gathered in Washington, D.C., to testify and participate in the hearings on the American Youth Act conducted by the Senate Committee on Labor and Education. The occasion saw a promising potential militancy and class solidarity on the part of hundreds of young people shamefully warped and canalized into purely parliamentary and legal "mass lobbying".

Three months ago the answer of the Stalinist-pacifist American Youth Congress to Roosevelt's National Youth Act was introduced into Congress. The answer took the form of a bill called the American Youth Act, "designed to provide vocational training and employment and full educational opportunities to youth and students". The Bill was introduced into Congress last January by Representative Amlie and Senator Benson. Since January 14, this bill has been the main axis of the activity of the American Youth Congress which has posed it as a "realistic correction and supplement" to Roosevelt's National Youth Act.

But the National Youth Act is not merely an "inadequate" measure requiring supplementation. It is a direct attack against the workingclass, both youth and adult. By its apprenticeship provisions it aims a blow at union wages and seeks to undermine still further the battered-down standard of living of the American worker; it hopes to buy off the youth with a miserable pittance of from \$6 to \$40 a month. But its most vicious and most clever aspect is its attempt to drive a wedge between the youth and the adult, by putting lower-paid youth in a position of ousting the older and more experienced men, and by providing a separate Youth Administration in the hope of obscuring the fact that the youth problems are class

problems and can be solved only with and through the class as a whole.

The interests of the working-class youth require that the National Youth Act be mercilessly fought and exposed. The call of the American Youth Congress for a "struggle for" the needs of the youth aroused an instant response. Hundreds came down to Washington expecting to participate in any action, ready to demonstrate, to throw all their strength and energy and enthusiasm into the fight. But the American Youth Congress had a different line. It had spent months in respectfully soliciting the support and testimony of the "best" people (ministers, liberals and government officials - Warden Lawes, William Chamberlain, Bishop McCarnell, etc - were its star witnesses), and it did not propose now to lose this "mass base" by some "unwise" action. To turn now to mass pressure - a parade, picket line, march, mass meeting - anything that might bring out class lines and expose the class character of the bourgeois state, would "antagonize" the senators and hurt the chances of getting the bill passed. No, the American Youth Congress has a better, a "more effective" method. The young workers and students were told to go to "their" senators and representatives to impress upon them the urgency of supporting the bill; they were told to go home and get their clubs and organizations to write letters to "their" senators. These were the methods which the senators would understand and appreciate.

The American Youth Act itself was conceived in this same spirit of class-collaboration. It provides for commissions to administer the Act, to consist of one-third youth representatives, one-third labor, and one-third bourgeoisie ("social service and education")

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N A T I O N A L   T O U R

(Editorial Note - Comrade Street-er, National Secretary of the YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE, continues here his notes and impressions on his Coast-to-Coast tour, from which he has just returned. The first part of these notes, dealing with the trip from New York to Chicago, have already been published in the January 1936 issue of the CALL TO ACTION).

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 Rather than enter into a long discussion on the specific situation of each of the 18 or 20 towns and cities visited on the tour, I want to speak here generally on the situation in the country as a whole. As one leaves the East and heads South and Southwest thru the agricultural regioio of Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, etc, the country grows more and more poverty-stricken. The shacks and hovels betray a fearful destitution. Their occupants, buffeted back and forth by every blow of the crisis, barely manage to exist on their mortgaged land. The marks of the 7-year crisis stand out on every side: the return to homespun clothing, the unrepaired roofs, the cars rusting in the sheds because there is no money for gas, in the haunted, desperate look of the man who sees no future.

In the industrial sections all this is covered by the tinsel and glitter of the city, by the noise and glamor, the fanfare and bright lights. But here too, unemployment remains stationary, wages come down, and the relief rolls mount. From one end of the country to the other, in one town after another, whole families and whole villages are dependent on the WPA and relief for their livelihood.

Everywhere Roosevelt is a last desperate hope. "Roosevelt at least tries. He put thru the New Deal. He sees the problem of the poor man." Everywhere the masses pin their faith on this illusion. Among the youth the support for Roosevelt exists, but with a dis-

tion with things as they are. Proposals for militant action, whether by the fascist demagogue or the revolutionist, strike an instant response.

It is noteworthy that the cry for a Farmer-Labor Party comes almost entirely from the advanced, radical element, from those in the orbit of the Stalinist and Socialists. It is they who, acting as an organized force, are raising the Farmer Labor Party as a solution. But this 'solution' arouses little response, even among the dissatisfied and leftward-moving elements. It seems to them too academic, too far removed from their own lives, too much, in a sense, a repetition of Roosevelt. They tend to swing much more easily to militant and revolutionary tactics. Nevertheless the steady pounding of the reformists (Stalinists, Socialists, etc) is likely to succeed in creating the party, especially since the revolutionary party is not yet able to counterpose its line in action.

Perhaps the most striking fact to the New Yorker is the startling contrast between the strength of the radical movement in New York and five or six other cities. The Socialist Party is practically nonexistent. The Stalinist party has some strength on the West Coast. Otherwise, it too is insignificant. Town after town without even a member of the Socialist or Communist Parties! City after city with a group of ten or fifteen Stalinists, and three or four Socialists! Thruout the entire industrial region of the country, even in the Great Lakes-Illinois-Indiana-Pennsylvania area, the Communist and Socialist Parties represent a relatively tiny force. "Mass meetings" in cities of 50, 60, and 100,000 population draw 50, 60 and 100 people. As to the youth organizations, groups of the Young Peoples Socialist League and the Young Communist League can be found only in the larger cities.

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M O N G O L I A N      S O V I E T      I N V A D E D !

Soviet territory has been invaded! On March 31, the long series of "border incidents" engineered by Japan on the Mongolian-Manchukuoan frontier flared up into the most serious conflict to date. A strong Japanese force backed by field artillery and tanks and preceded by air raids, captured the border post of Adik-Dolon and penetrated as far as Tamsik-Bulak, 30 miles within Mongolian territory. There it came into conflict with the Red Mongolian forces, in a 24-hour battle ending with the decisive defeat of the Japanese expedition. On April 2, the Mongolian troops reoccupied Adik-Dolon.

The invasion was the climax of a series of border incidents provoked by Japan against the nomad Soviet. On March 30, the first attack was made on Adik-Dolon by seven truckloads of Japanese troops, and another attack was made on Bulan-Dersu to the south. In each case, the Peoples Army garrison drove off the invaders with little trouble.

With the invasion of April 1 there ended the first period of peace in the history of Central Asia. Since the days of Genghis Khan, when lack of food drove the peaceful nomads of the Gobi half around the world, the plains of Mongolia have been stained by the blood of countless invasions and counter-invasions.

The people were ruled by a feudal nobility and priesthood whose wealth was counted in cattle. The poor herdsman had to follow his oppressors in everything, for they owned stock and he did not - and in a nomad region livestock means life and its absence, death. In addition, the land lay under the rule of the emperors of China. Just as they drained the last possible cent from the Chinese peasant, so they exploited the Mongolian nomad to support their far-flung state bureaucracy.

Then came the October Revolution. As news of it swept eastward revolution blazed thruout Siberia. The Chinese government sought to reenforce its hold on Mongolia and sent the infamous "Little Hsu" northward, massacring whole towns as he went. Downward from the north, the Russian White Guards, greedy even in death, sought to establish a basis for oppression in

Gobi. From Vladivostok east, Baron Ungern-Sternberg, agent of Japan, sought to establish his "Pan-Asiatic center" there, culminating in his capture of Urga and massacre of the Jewish section there.

With each invasion, the discontent among the Mongol people grew. They saw the Living Buddha, head of their religion, smile benevolently on the murderer from China, the White Guard torturers, and the mad Baron alike. A popular uprising against oppression occurred in 1921, the Red Army crossed the frontier, and the Mongolian Peoples Republic arose, based on a Soviet structure and controlled for the first time by the Mongolian people.

There was literally no proletariat in Mongolia; hence, it could not be a workers' state. The task of the Soviet government was, under the leadership of the workers of the Soviet Union, to introduce modern machinery and industry and develop this area to an equal level with other countries. This task has been only partly carried out. The Stalinist betrayal of the 1927 Chinese Revolution made it impossible for Mongolia to have free access to its economic parallel, the crowded plains of China.

But in spite of Stalinism, the Mongolian Peoples Republic has advanced. The power of the nobles has declined; a small proletariat has appeared. The Stalinists today prepare the "defense" of Red Mongolia by letters of protest to the Japanese consulate. It is our job to do what they cannot - call on the workers of America and the world to defend the Mongolian Soviet - to defend the Soviet Union - by mass action in support of the Soviet st

A N A C T O F G O D ?

The harrowing story of the flood which rushed into the workingclass quarters of Pennsylvania, Connecticut and surrounding areas and which carried away with it innumerable lives has already been told and forgotten by the capitalist press. But they have covered their story of this great catastrophe with criminal lies and distortions.

With pious hypocrisy they have described it as an absolutely inescapable fact of nature, and an "act of God". An honest analysis of the flood, however, throws this great lie back into their faces and establishes at the same time the responsibility for the unnecessary loss of life and destruction upon the absolutely negligent and chaotic order of capitalism. These honest facts, however, it remains only for revolutionists to tell.

The low level areas of the flood regions have almost every year been visited by slight floods of water entering workers' basements and threatening life on a large scale. For this reason, these areas have generally been tabooed as residential areas, but also for this reason rents here are cheap and the poverty-stricken workers were thereby attracted to establish their homes here with their families. The flood therefore hit the workingclass! The wealthy, in the main, were not there. Those few well-to-do who happened to be temporarily living in the hotels there were, it is significant, the first to be saved by the rescue squads.

This year in particular scientists have warned many months in advance of the danger of the frozen rivers and streams in bringing about a terrible flood situation. But the ruling class in Washington took not the slightest notice of the warning. For 25 years legislation for flood control, for building of dams and dikes, for the regulation of rivers has been considered and then hypocritically denied. No funds! But what of the billions appropriated and used for

war purposes? That is another story.

Thus capitalism stands condemned as the murderer of countless workingclass families. It proved its inability to safeguard human lives and to utilize the laws of Science. Only a communist society, planned and ordered, utilizing science to its fullest for the purpose of preserving and not destroying life, can end such catastrophes.

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AMERICAN YOUTH ACT  
(cont from p. 5)

ational"). The Act is framed along the same lines as Roosevelt's National Youth Act and provides also for a separate Youth administration, the only result of which can be to divide the class and confuse the youth.

What could have been an inspiring lesson in class solidarity and the determination of the American youth to fight for their needs against the capitalist state and its ideology, was seized by the American Youth Congress and twisted and distorted into purely legalistic and false parliamentary channels. Organized on a false basis, dominated by the pacifist and reformist policies of the Young Stalinist League, the American Youth Congress is an obstacle in the development of the workingclass youth. Not an amorphous, loosely federated, pacifist American Youth Congress, but the program of the united front of action and the building of the Young Workers League as the new revolutionary youth league in the U.S. is the way out for the American youth.

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Join the Y.W.L.

"OUR COUNTRY" TALKS PEACE

The annual report of the secretary of war to the President of the US is not meant for the workers and is not usually read by them. Hence the reporter speaks more freely about matters close to his heart. The fundamental military problems of the American war-makers must be discussed and solved. These devoted guardians of the interests of the bankers find it necessary to get to the core of the matter. This makes it possible for us to discover what is usually kept a dark secret - the altruistic regard of the militarists for our American youth.

On Page 5 of the annual report of 1935, Secretary of War Dern writes as follows about his class problems: "It seems that West Point cannot supply a sufficient number of officers. Hence to provide for an increase in commissioned strength it will be necessary to draw on young men from alien life. Large numbers of young college graduates who had Reserve Officers Training Corps training and who now hold Reserve Commissions will be available for appointment to the regular army and will be excellent officer material".

Such is the problem of the government and the proposed solution. To draw in youth men from alien life, the military propagandists will refer to patriotism, publish periodicals which have pictures of pretty girls and sporting uniforms, and appeal to the yearning for adventure. In this way the problem of the government will be solved only to create a problem for the duped youth.

On page 6: "In terms of real wages, Army officers and enlisted men are worse off today than they were 3 years ago. I hope that as soon as the economic conditions of the country warrant the added

expense, the Congress will consider an upward revision in the army pay schedules." The underpaid uniformed youth must wait to raise what even the hard-boiled imperialist considers low wages, for impossible "economic" conditions. Meantime, however, they must serve patriotically, sacrifice life and limb.

But on Page 14 the bourgeoisie is also called upon to serve patriotically. "While it is highly important that war-profit be kept within a reasonable limit, this worthy undertaking must not be allowed to assume any form which by unfairness to any element of our people and adverse effects on the national morale, would prevent attainment of the vital good of producing the necessary war material". Unlike the laborer and the soldier, the bourgeois need not serve unless he is well-paid.

It is popularly believed that the US is not militaristic, that it does not prepare for war. The army, it is assumed, is too small for attack. People go so far as to say that America is not even ready for "defense". We have always insisted that this idea is false. The Secretary of War proves our point and demonstrates that he knows his military business.

"Soldiers without officers" he states, "are more useless than officers without soldiers, for trained officers can take men off the street and make soldiers of them, while soldiers without officers are little better than a mob. The success of an army depends on having an adequate number of trained officers."

This is the key to American military problems. Therefore, the ROTC, CMTC and other outfits for corraling the youth play the

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## R I D I N G   T H E   R O D S

The train roared along thru night... We crouched with our teeth chattering, lighting paper matches to warm our fingers.

It was a cold, raw January night. Three of us, my buddy Jim and I, and a kid who looked to be scarcely sixteen, stood shivering in the only empty reefer on the freight. We had started early that evening from Fort Worth, Texas, going west to El Paso. All three of us had hit upon the same reefer (a small ice or gas compartment in a box-car), and had climbed in by common consent.

The kid lit another match.. its flickering beam threw a weird light over the tiny pitch-dark room. I looked at my two companions. Jim, with whom I had teamed up in Missouri, and the kid who had been thrown together with us for the night. Both of them were typical products of the depression, homeless boys on the road - railroad bums. The kid wore a grey shirt, an indescribably filthy frayed and tattered sweater, two pairs of overalls and a pair of sneakers with gaping holes in the soles. Strips of newspaper, cardboard, even a strip of tin, lined the bottom of his shoes. Jim was no better - torn trousers stolen from a clothesline, an old jacket which had once been blue but which now had no discernable color, a piece of string holding together the shirt collar to keep the wind out, and a dirty sweaty cap pulled down over one ear. I was the only one with an overcoat, threadbare as it was.

Their faces! Dirty, begrimed, unshaven, unkempt! Their physical weariness and hopelessness showed in their eyes, in their sullen beaten bearing, their sickening sloppiness. And over at all was the

deep roar of the engine, the choking, blinding coal-dust, the soot and the grime, the chill bitter cold of the night.

If ever there was a lost generation, this is it. Thousands, and thousands upon thousands, they stream through the South, away from the winter and the cold, wandering aimlessly from city to town and from town to city, begging for a handout, a bite to eat, a piece of clothing. They are of all types and all ages, from the 16-year old boy with us to the grey-haired old beggar I came across a few days later who said he was seventy-two years old. But the great majority range from 18 to 25. Relatively few are from the big cities. Almost all hail from the smaller towns, villages and farms.

They start out looking for work, full of hope and ambition and pride in their adventure. The job remains unfound but they are hungry - so they bum a meal. It is very easy, simple. Work remains a distant goal. They are ashamed to go home empty-handed; they drift gradually into begging and bumming. The "jungles" are full of hundreds of boys who show them the way, and by their numbers and the fact that they all do it, help them to forget their pride and their shame. And as they grow demoralized, by some sort of compensation they begin to take pride in their exploits, to lie and steal, even from one another...

...It was cold in the reefer. There was no use trying to sleep. We would lie down and doze for a few minutes. The cold would creep in. There were no covers. Our toes would go numb. After a time the cold crept up and our

(continued on page 11)

blood would chill. The sleeper would shiver and groan in despair, arise, and jump and stamp to start the blood circulating again. But we dozed standing, sitting, in any position.....

The freight stopped. We had reached a junction town where the train would stay for some time changing engines and crews and taking on new cars. We jumped off and walked back and forth, trying to get some heat into our chilled bodies. Where to go? It was four in the morning. Too early to bum a meal, and if we went into town some cop might pull us in. We decided to go to the "jungle".

We came upon it almost two miles outside the city limits. A makeshift camp with a tiny fire and a half-dozen figures slouched around it. Someone stirred the coals and we huddled close to the heat, gratefully drinking it in. No one spoke. There was nothing to say.....

.....Two days later Jim and I got separated while bumming our meals. We had divided up the street, he to take the odd side and I the even. (We worked well together and knew almost by instinct which houses to bum. A wealthy-looking place we generally passed by - only the poor will feed the poor). While I stood knocking at a door I saw him across the street, also knocking. Then the door before me opened and I was saying, "Excuse me, ma'am, could you spare a bite to eat. I haven't eaten since yesterday." I was invited in. When I came out I went over asking for Jim, but he had left some time ago. I never saw him again.

\* \* \*

.....The "manifest" (express freight) was pulling out of the town of Toyah. As she picked up speed, the road suddenly

swarmed with hoboes running out from behind bushes and trees to catch the train. The word had gone around that Texas Slim, the Toyah "bull" (railroad detective and watchman), was tough on the bums. So about twenty-five of us had circled the town and now were catching the freight as she pulled out the other end. It was a glorious sunny afternoon. Even in early February the Texas sun beat down warmly. We stood on top of box cars and clung to oil-tankers, basking in the warmth and the breeze. We were in the midst of the desert - the tracks stretched out unendingly into the distance. On either side were great arid reaches of land as far as the eye could see. The dry air reflected the sun in a myriad of brilliant rainbow colors. We laughed and sang and told jokes.

Suddenly we looked up. Texas Slim had foiled us after all. He had hidden in the engine and now was coming down the tops of the boxcars with a pistol in his hand and a leer on his face, driving everybody before him. The train sped along. To jump meant certain injury, perhaps worse. We were trapped. Having rounded us all up he waved to the engineer and the train stopped. We were ordered off. Then the train started. He stood watching, gun in hand. No one moved. It went faster...And was gone. We were left stranded in the desert. It was thirty-one miles back to Toyah; forty miles ahead to the next town. It was midafternoon. To hike the thirty-one miles back to Toyah meant another possible encounter with Texas Slim. We began to trudge forward along the railroad ties.. There was no water and no food... The sun beat down.....

(to be continued in next issue)

NEW YORK MAY DAY CONFERENCE

On April 3 the May Day Conference called by the Stalinists, Socialists and by the trade unions was held at the Hotel Delano. About 600 delegates and 5 to 600 visitors and observers attended. Both the Young Workers League and the Revolutionary Workers League sent delegates.

An outstanding characteristic of the conference was its narrow trade union base and the overwhelming predominance of the Stalinist cultural and fraternal organizations. Thus the International Workers Order was represented by 300 delegates for 150 branches, while 18 AFofL locals had 20 delegates. The organized labor movement - the International Ladies Garment Workers, Amalgamated Clothing Workers, Building Trades, etc, are with the Old Guard Socialists organizing an independent May Day celebration in the Polo Grounds.

The conference was well-oiled. Everything ran with machinelike efficiency and a beautiful "unanimity". Murray Barron of the Socialist Party was "unanimously" elected chairman. All the committees were "unanimously" elected, with Stalinists and Socialists equally represented. The Continuations Committee is headed by Thomas (Socialist) chairman, and Louis Weinstock (Stalinist) secretary.

The conference became a platform for organic unity. Altman, speaking for the SP and giving the Stalinist line, and Amter, for the Communist Party, each gave a fine illustration of a mutual admiration society in full swing. The Lovestoneites were in excellent shape with Wolfe acting as marriage broker. They succeeded in reducing the whole conference to a trade union level.

The speeches, arrangements, and the organization of the conference all proceeded from this level - class conscious trade-unionism. Even the attempt to un-

ite the demonstration with the Polo Ground meeting of the Old Guard was marked by a sickening readiness on the part of both Socialist and Stalinist to crawl before the Old Guard. It is an open question whether the Stalinist-Socialist Fifth Avenue march will go through at all, whether it will not be abandoned altogether for a "united" celebration with the Old Guard at the expense of all pretense of militancy.

Although the conference has not yet officially adopted a manifesto, its line is clear for a united front May Day on a false and reformist basis, supporting the Stalinist social-patriotic stand on war, the Peoples Front, a Farmer-Labor Party, etc.

The YWL, which together with the RWL sent delegates to the conference because it stands for a fighting united May Day celebration, raises the warning signal right now: The program which Stalinists and Socialists are preparing for this May Day flies in the face of all the revolutionary traditions that this day stands for. Instead of a May Day celebration it may turn out to be a complete capitulation. Our forces, who have not yet been seated at the conference, will continue to fight for a class-struggle, militant celebration of this 50th anniversary of International Labor Day.



A S T H E Y S E E T H I N G SDisarmament Conference Explained  
In Simple Terms

"This international business is pretty complicated, so today we will have a little lesson in how disarmament conferences work, explained so that even a child could misunderstand it. Let us say you and I are slightly at loggerheads. I own a pillow which I might throw at you some day, and you have a box of matches with which you might attempt to burn down my house .

So, in order to get along better with each other, we get up a disarmament conference. This means that you insist on having a pillow too, and I, to protect my rights, hold out for a box of matches. Both of these are duly acquired, and we are now on our way to disarmament. I now call to your attention that you also possess a carving knife, which is undoubtedly a dangerous weapon, and you retaliate by pointing out that I have an ax with which I might wreak havoc. This makes for a fine peaceful feeling between each other, and I immediately get myself a carving knife while you are acquiring an ax.

Things are progressing in the best approved international style now, and I point out that since your weapons neutralize mine, I owe it to myself to get hold of a revolver quick like a weasel. This is fair enough, and you also get hold of a revolver q.l.a.w. at the same time acquiring a very nice sword. Naturally, I get a sword, and also a submachine gun, in a frantic attempt to disarm as fast as you.

Good will is now approaching its acme, and you promptly get a better submachine gun, and also a small cannon, with which you could blow my roof off if you so chose. I accordingly get a small cannon also, and at the same time I order several cylinders of the duckiest poison gas you ever saw. This will turn you and your chil-

dren purple, and shrivel you up like a last year's turnip. You thereupon get some gas which will cause my arms, legs and head to fall off, and acquire a bombing plane. Well, of course, I get a plane also, and we are now so beautifully disarmed that a war between us is unthinkable. A few days later we succeed in destroying each other, but, that, I am sure, is just an accident."

(reprinted from Sat. Eve Post)

\* \* \* \*

....."Two WPA workers robbed of pay checks in City Hall of Records. Mayor and 50 police rush to guard records".....After all, you can always get more WPA workers. But Ridder's going to get pretty mad with all these gangsters muscling in on his field.

.....Mexican Stalinists have been playing Cardenas up as God's gift to Marxists.....In a speech at Monterey, Cardenas stated: "After investigation, I have not been able to find any signs of Communist activity in Mexico".....Better to have them against you than with you, maybe.

.....Helen Boswell, Republican leader, urges women to make coming election a campaign of ideals .....None of this damn hunger stuff around here, you, we got ideals now.

....."US Trade Pact Opposed; But Nicaraguan Congressmen Are Expected to Pass Treaty" - Headline in N.Y. Times.....Now, how does the times manage to figure these things out?

....."Mussolini Fiddles in Rome to the Delight of Fascisti"..... While Britain fiddles around for a bloc with Hitler.

.....  
 T H E   S T U D E N T   S T R I K E  
 .....

"The Association of the Veterans of Future Wars" is sweeping the campuses. The students are preparing now for what they know is inevitable - another world slaughter. They are expressing themselves badly, their spirit is being diverted into ineffectual and harmful channels. But the will to fight is there.

The student strike which is scheduled for April 22 shows that. It shows also, that in one sense at least they have learned since last year - more are going to participate. But in another, larger sense this year is a decided step backward. April 12, 1935 the students had the conception of a strike as a militant protest against imperialist war. The program and slogans were not entirely correct - the strike did not have workingclass leadership; but the policy was not one of catering to the administration, of outright capitulation to it.

The American Student Union which is attempting to lead the movement this year comes out flatly for "Peace". It has made every effort to take the spirit and heart out of the student movement. It is openly collaborating with the school authorities. It is teaching the students that they and the heads of their school have a common fight. It is blurring over all class lines.

The students are not one homogenous group. They have different backgrounds, some coming from the proletariat, some from the petty-bourgeoisie. The struggle for immediate demands is not a really vital question to them. What concerns the great mass is how they are going to live, what they are going to do, when they get out of school. In other words, it is inevitable that

they take an active part in the class struggle. Any organization which attempts to lead them must point this out to them. Any organization which claims to solve their problems must show them that their interests lie with the working class, that the only way out is joint struggle with the revolutionary Marxists for a better society. The question of war is a part of this question. War is a product of capitalism. Students cannot avert war, nor can student demonstrations. Only the action of the workingclass led by the revolutionary Marxist party can put an end to war and the system which breeds it. This lesson must be repeated over and over again.

This is what we have to say to the students. We have to once and for all dispel the illusion created by the social-pacifists and social-patriots that peace assemblies are going to accomplish this end or even do anything to further it. A militant student demonstration under workingclass leadership cannot do this either. But it does solidify the students with the workingclass, it does educate them as to their role in society and the relationship in which they stand to the proletariat. It is the duty of the revolutionists, here, to point out the only way to fight imperialist war and to put an end to it - thru turning it into civil war and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The only organization fulfilling this task is the YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE. Our members everywhere are raising the voice of revolutionary Marxism against the bitter opposition of the ASU and all the church groups and pacifist organizations which it has in tow.  
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## STUDENT STRIKE (cont)

In Jefferson High School, New York comrades were thrown out of an ASU meeting, expelled from the organization for daring to call for a student strike instead of a peace assembly addressed by the principal. By this act alone the ASU has placed itself on the side of the powers that be. It is not enough that its policy has long ago placed it there, in actual practice it forms a united front to stifle revolutionary working-class elements.

All the more imperative now is the task of the YWL to bring its program to the students, to lead them in their struggles. We say, "Support the April 22 strike but around the slogan, 'Against imperialist war', under the workingclass leadership, no compromise with the agents of capitalism!"

NATIONAL TOUR  
(cont from P6)

In all of these sections the Socialist and Communist Parties are, however, well known but completely discredited by their past and present policies and tactics.

More than anything else, a trip through the country brings the realization that the U.S. is a virgin field, whose surface even has scarcely been touched by the radical parties of the past. Once we leave New York City the field is clear for an active, militant Marxist force to make giant headway almost overnight. The decision of the Revolutionary Workers League and the Young Workers League to transfer their national offices to Chicago and make their first concentration point the Great Lakes area lays the basis for really creating the new revolutionary party of the American workingclass and its youth section, the YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE.

"OUR COUNTRY" AND PEACE  
(cont. from P.9)

most important part in American military plans. For this reason, the secretary calls for an increase in CMTC, ROTC and National Guard appropriations - with emphasis on the young officers. This cook is preparing a peppery dish for the youth.

In the light of these facts, and many more, one can almost see the agents of the boss class laughing as they sign so-called navy limitation treaties and shout about their peaceful intentions. But for the Young workers this is not a laughing matter. The guns and airplanes that are being made by the thousands, and of which Mr Dern talks so glowingly in his report, can mean death to millions. But they can also mean death to the oppressors, to the bosses, to this whole system which breeds war, if the young workers will only learn to use those guns and in which direction to shoot.



## R E D P H O T O G R A P H Y

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Picture making, from the days of the first pin-hole camera, has become a tremendous industry and a recognized art. On the industrial front, photography has become a national industry valued in millions of dollars. Tremendous corporations have grown up on the basis of little bits of sensitized celluloid and chemicals. Eastman-Kodak, Agfa-Ansco (a German-directed corporation), and many others are examples of such corporations. Rochester, Binghamton and many cities exist almost exclusively on the basis of photography. Hollywood is built on motion picture photography. Then too, there are the various offshoots of photography, the New York Daily News, for instance, and our thousand and one motion picture houses.

On the art front, photography has become as much a recognized branch of cultural development as painting or etching. Whole art exhibits have been given over to photography. It has its masters, much as Rembrandt or Titian were recognized masters in another field of art.

Perhaps the most interesting type of photography is newspaper photography. Newspaper photographers go thru almost unbelievable difficulties to get their pictures. These men have literally taken their lives in their hands to "get that picture". A fire, a flood, a war...everybody wants to see pictures of them. It is the newspaper photographer's job to get them, and get them he does.

It seems to me that for the revolutionist, it is this type of photography that must be accented. Portraits and artistic photos are all very nice; but it is difficult for us to use them in our daily work. Perhaps in the day of the American Soviet we will de-

velop our communist artists, and among these will be the photographers. But in the period of struggle in which we are now engaged, it is this type of news photography that we must concentrate on. When we have a social we give a skit. It is not just any old skit. It is a skit with a story, and it must be, because we must devote every effort to getting our story across...the story of the class struggle. When we go on a hike, we go there to enjoy ourselves; but while we are there we use this hike to further our cause. And in photography, we must use this method of getting our story across. We must have pictures for the FIGHTING WORKER and for the CALL TO ACTION when it gets to be a full-sized sheet, pictures that tell the story of the class struggle: a picket, a strike-line, a demonstration, an attack by the police and so forth. And, too, "human interest" pictures, the unemployed worker examining his torn shoes, the hungry mother, the emaciated babe, the homeless boy on a park bench, the despised street girl. A thousand and one such subjects spring to mind. We try to bring them to the attention of the workers by mouth, but the visualization is a thousand times more effective. We can use these pictures in our organs, enlargements in our halls and meeting places, a thousand and one uses. This is Red Photography.

Like everything else, when we speak of Red Photography, we must speak practically. What to do to further this idea? Well let's find out what kind of equipment we need. There are many kinds of camera. There is the motion picture camera, effective but expensive. There are the high-priced, big-lensed cameras,  
(continued on page 18)

THE STRIKE IN JEFFERSON HIGH

As April 22 approaches, the question of what to do on this day is growing clearer in the mind of the Jefferson student. The Y.W.L. on the Jefferson campus has continually issued leaflets calling the students out on strike at 11 AM on April 22 and warning them not to follow the leadership of the American Student Union. The ASU is going to hold a "peace assembly" on April 22 in collaboration with the school authorities.

In answer to the call of the YWL the ASU has threatened to expel any of its members who go out on strike and has attacked representatives of the YWL who attended ASU meetings to present their point of view on the strike.

At first when the YWL issued the strike call the YPSL wasn't decided on what action to take. Seeing that the student sentiment was growing strong for the YWL, it decided to call for the strike. But the YPSL soon changed its attitude when the YCL approached its leadership with the proposal for a walkout in the middle of the assembly.

Then the YCL changed its line again and decided not to walk out at all, because the YWL had exposed this move to the students, as well as the fact that the ASU was controlled by the YCL. This left the YPSL still undecided. Its capitulation to the ASU is practically certain.

At a conference on April 4 of Brooklyn schools and colleges held under ASU auspices the featured speaker was none other than Dr Elias Lieberman, principal of Jefferson High School and inveterate enemy of the strike. He was roundly applauded by the liberals and YCLers. The sole opposition voice was that of the YWL spokesman who took the floor and called for strike

The position of the YWL is to hold an independent militant student strike against imperialist war and to condemn so-called "peace assemblies" together with the authorities.

REVIEW OF "BITTER STREAM"

After a few months of relative inactivity, the Theater Union has returned to the stage of the Civic Repertory in a vehicle which bristles with fighting condemnation of the Italian Fascist regime. This latest play is based on that hit-novel by Ignazio Silone, "Fontamara", arriving on the stage under the name of "Bitter Stream"

The setting is a village in Italy, in the first decade of the Fascist regime. The farmers who eked out a miserable existence under ordinary conditions are threatened with complete starvation. The stream which runs thru Fontamara is to be diverted to run thru the rich promoter's land. The villagers know only very vaguely of the Fascist regime. To them the government seems to be about the same. It differs only to the extent that heavier taxes are being imposed. But when, upon going to the Mayor in Fucino (the former People's friend) to protest, they are ordered to take part in the general demonstration of greeting to Mussolini who is passing thru, and then return home empty-handed. When they see that despite the Mayor's assurance that the stream would go to those "who could make the best use of it", the stream is actually being diverted, they begin to understand. The slaughter of farmers in the neighboring village who attempted to protest also brings the lesson home vividly. The brutality of the Fascist regime, the disregard of the feelings, the needs of the peasants, the manner in which they are addressed or herded back and forth - all these are powerfully portrayed in the various scenes.

The book much more successfully portrays this little group of peasants who heroically held out against the Fascists. The play nevertheless is quite effective. The acting in spots is good. But

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## Red Photography

(continued from page 16)

very nice but far beyond the reach of the workers' pocket. On the other hand there are the small cameras that sell for a dollar, and are little more than a device to extract that same dollar from the worker's pocket.

For the individual who on his day off wants to roam about and see what he can do in the way of photography, I can suggest only the usual "Brownie" camera. It isn't much of a camera, and it only works in good light, but if the light is good, the hand steady and the mind willing, it gets the picture.

For the organization, the best camera I think would be the reflex type. These are expensive cameras; they run anywhere from \$25 upwards. But by pooling resources the local organization should be able to get one and set up a "staff" photographer. The reflex camera is of the type that has a hood, shielding a bit of ground glass from the light. On this ground glass one sees the picture as it is to be taken. One determines whether or not it is "in focus", whether or not it really is as interesting as it might be, and all things being well, one "shoots". Varieties (cheap ones, comparatively) of this type of camera are the Kawee Reflex Box, the Foth-Flex, the Rolleicord, etc. Respectively, these three cost in the neighborhood of \$24, \$38 and \$50. It's a lot of money, but you get a camera that can always be relied on, even under the most adverse conditions.

Having set up a "staff" photographer the organization will not be satisfied. Next, the group that has charge of the camera will want to start doing their own work, developing, printing, etc. Why go to a store and pay fifty cents to have eight pictures developed when you can do the same thing yourself, with little practice, as well as the

store and better? So the next thing will be a dark room. And then you will want to start decorating your halls, and this will mean enlargements of your pictures. Here again, why go to a store and pay half a dollar for an enlargement when you can do it yourself for a few cents? There will, of course, be an initial outlay. But again, by pooling resources, it will be possible to get the necessary equipment. The best and cheapest equipment for this purpose, to my knowledge, is the Eastman home enlarger, costing approximately fifteen dollars. When you've gotten this, you're all set...a Red photography unit has been established, and the Fighting Worker and CALL TO ACTION start to get workingclass pictures on the front page. Your halls become centers of visual instruction and propaganda and the workingclass has scored another advance in the cultural field.

We suggest that you comrades and sympathizers that are interested in this idea get in touch with us at the New York City headquarters, at 28 East 14 th Street. For the New Yorkers, we can offer a certain amount of good equipment. For the out-of-towners we can offer advice and assistance. Let's try to get together, and put this visual propaganda, this "Red Photography", over with a bang.

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#### REVIEW OF "BITTER STREAM"

the play is much too obvious in its propaganda efforts. In the final scene the actors all but outrightly call for a Farmer-Labor Party.

Despite all its faults this play must nevertheless be applauded for its value in exposing the fascism behind the scenes. Some more of similar and more effective plays are what is needed

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## WE WENT HIKING

(Editors Note:— It seems that our New York comrades took the bit in their teeth last Sunday, April 5, and organized their first hike of the season. It was at the same time the very first hike of the YWL. Despite the raw, wintry weather and threatening rain all day, the event proved so spirited and enthusiastic that these comrades have written in describing the hike. We publish below one of these letters):

Dear comrade Editor:

In years to come, when the state is withering away, little children will hear the story of the pilgrimage of the Young Workers League to Hunters Island. No, dear children it was not a utopian socialist colonization venture. It was something much more significant in the history of Socialism. The YWL went on its first hike.

The weather threatened. A bitter wind smote the face. Rain clouds stormed across the sky. But like young soldiers of Communism we marched forward undaunted, with determination and audacity, with our banner high. We proclaimed the Hunter Island Soviet!

Like Alpinists we scaled walls, tramped through wet sand and soggy swamp, and climbed breathlessly around wire fences. That hung precariously over the bay. We discovered a summer-house, ate our lunches, played Association, Cat 'n' Mouse, and Chinese Tag. We sang, we wrestled, we danced.

And then in the evening — a house social, with franks and Yiddish rye (some imaginative comrades thought it was tea).

Little children, next morning we had Charley Horse. But let us mercifully draw the surtain over that next day.

The YWL will go on better hikes, and bigger ones. But never will we forget this first one and the memory we planted there — "Young Soldiers of Communism, Onward!

N. Y. C.

## CHILD LABOR AND THE ALBANY HEARINGS

In vain does the bourgeoisie attempt to gloss over the fact that children, barely out of infancy, are forced to do work which stunts their whole lives, both mentally and physically. Since the introduction of labor-saving machinery the capitalists in their eternal drive to lower costs have herded the children of the poor into shop and field. Instead of increasing the families' incomes child labor enabled the capitalist to lower the wages of adult labor, for now the family's support did not depend solely on the adult worker. To poverty was added the disruption of the formative years for millions of children.

We have witnessed at Albany hearings on the proposed Child Labor Amendment, a debate between 2 sets of "humanitarians". One set was represented by Mayor La Guardia who accomplished the unaccomplishable. He made state legislators weep by his word-picture of children at work in the factory hell. This said LaGuardia has, by hook or by crook — witness the elevator strike — done all in his power to prevent improvements in labor conditions. His tear-jerking against child-labor is therefore so much hypocrisy.

The most elegant representative of the opposing humanitarian clique was Judge Talley, delegate from a Catholic organization. Talley courageously defended liberty from all assaults. Imagine depriving the little citizens from freedom to be exploited by bloated plutocrats. Think of the family income! Nicholas Murray Butler, another of this faction, is opposed to a new 18th adendment. These people make a business of humanitarianism. They carefully forget that child labor actually lowers incomes and that without child labor competition adult workers could command higher wages.

We must answer with the force of the entire labor movement.

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## REVOLUTIONARIES PERSECUTED IN GERMANY

Two years ago, on February 26, two German Young Socialists, Franz Bobzien and Kurt Lieberman, delegates to an international conference of independent Communist and Socialist youth, were arrested by the Dutch authorities and turned over to the German secret political police who took them back to Germany. The "democratic" government of Holland showed its true color by throwing into the clutches of Hitler two young workers whose sole offense - which is not supposed to be one in a "democratic" country - was their participation in a conference. Comrades Lieberman and Bobzien were sentenced to six and four years respectively, and they are now in jail for the "crime" of being Socialists.

The arrest of these two comrades by a so-called democratic government serves to remind us that all bourgeois governments, "liberal" and conservative alike, are hostile to the workingclass. It serves to remind us that the democratic government of the United States is first of all a bosses' government, and that it is not our job to "reform" it with a Labor Party, but to build a revolutionary party and overthrow it.

Comrades Bobzien and Lieberman are sharing the fate of thousands of workingclass political prisoners in Hitler Germany, youth and adult. The struggle for their liberation is one of the primary tasks of all revolutionists.

The fact that comrades Bobzien and Lieberman were participating in a conference to build the new youth international has made the bureaucracies of the two existing youth internationals undesirous of fighting for their release. The struggle for the release of these two class war prisoners and of thousands of others is inseparably bound up with the building of the YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE of the United States, and the foundation of a new revolutionary youth international.

throw of capitalism.

\* \* \* \* \*

We have received a letter from the International Bureau of Revolutionary Youth Organizations (Oslo-Stockholm Bureau) asking us to protest the jailing of Comrades Bobzien and Lieberman. The National Executive Committee replied, expressing our solidarity with the victims of the Hitler Terror, but pointing out the futility of writing to Hitler, as proposed by the Bureau, and proposing instead mass pressure, including a campaign for the right of asylum of all workingclass political prisoners. The National Executive Committee further pointed out that our protest campaign must be a step in a larger strategy of agitating and organizing the workingclass youth for the broad aims of overthrowing the Hitler regime and establishing a Communist Germany.

On May 1 and May 30, when we fight for the freedom of those who like Tom Mooney, the McNamaras and Schmidt, Norman Mini and countless others are in Yankee jails for their devotion to their class, we demand also the liberation of our class brothers throughout the world, who by the thousands are paying the penalty for the one crime the bosses never forgive - loyalty to the workingclass.

The YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE will do all in its power to organize a broad movement in defense of comrades Bobzien and Lieberman and all class war prisoners. We send this pledge to all those who are today languishing in the capitalist dungeons. Only this militant mass movement can wrest our comrades from the murderous hands of Hitler.\* \* \*

## CHILD LABOR (cont.)

We must set all the mass organizations of the workingclass of the workingclass into motion against child labor. At the same time we must struggle for improvement in the adult living standards. The opposition of the bourgeoisie can be met only by our mass action directed toward the over-