

# The Anti-Fascist Fight Begins at Home!

The American masses have reacted to every act of horror within Nazi Germany and every new victory of Hitler with a mounting and justified hatred.

But there is a danger that, instead of taking steps to prevent the victory of fascism in America, they will permit the American ruling class, its clever spokesman, Roosevelt, and their Stalinist lackeys, to divert their hatred of fascism into a defense of American imperialism.

These are days when we must resist mass hysteria and keep a cool head. Otherwise we will find the Wall Street interests playing us for the suckers we

were in 1917.

If we get these few essential propositions straight in our minds and stick to them, no amount of pro-war propaganda will be able to cut us loose from our moorings:

1. America is still a capitalist country. Its ruling class will never have any other goal than defending its profits.
2. If imperialist America fights imperialist Germany it will only be for imperialist profits.
3. If America goes to war to defend "democracy,"

it will start by erecting a military dictatorship at home.

4. If the going gets rough in this country, Big Business will adopt fascism as readily as the German capitalists did.

5. If we want to stay out of concentration camps, we will learn that

**THE MAIN ENEMY IS IN OUR OWN COUNTRY!**

and that  
**THE FIGHT AGAINST FASCISM BEGINS AT HOME!**

**Smash  
Fascist  
Gangs!**

Organize Workers  
Defense Guards!

THE

## CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

**Fight  
Boss  
War!**

Not One Cent to Defend  
Wall Street Profits!

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# OPEN FIGHT FOR JOBS

**Y.P.S.L. Anti-Franco  
Pickets Attacker  
By L. A. Police**

by HAYDEN PERRY

LOS ANGELES.—Some workers still believe the cops are just big brothers who will protect our democratic rights against the fascists if we ask them nicely. But for the Young Peoples Socialist League members and other anti-fascists who recently picketed a pro-Franco meeting in Los Angeles, this illusion was completely shattered.

It was shattered by the crack of police clubs and the hiss of tear gas shells as the cops smashed a demonstration called to protest a fascist rally. Eileen O'Brien, a former nurse in Franco's armies, was to speak on "Social Reconstruction in Nationalist Spain."

Members of the Y.P.S.L. dramatically exposed the nature of the "reconstruction" by appearing with a coffin bearing the inscription "Franco's Social Reconstruction." Six Y.P.S.L. members bandaged, on crutches, and chained together, depicted the fate of the workers under Franco's rule.

**Fascists Attack**

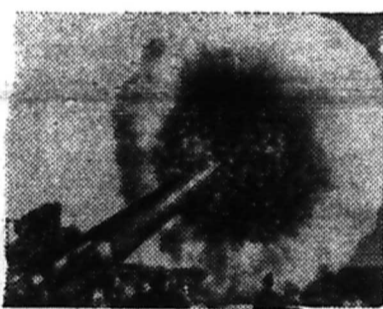
With this dramatic touch added by the Y.P.S.L., the line of some 250 pickets paraded before the building shouting "Down with Franco," while frightened dowagers were "escorted" into the hall by college boys.

Meanwhile the fascists were plucking up their courage to attack the picket line. At their first attack he fascist hoodlums received an answer that floored them—literally.

(Continued on Page 2)

**STUDENTS! REFUSE TO BE CANNON FODDER**

## STRIKE AGAINST WAR!



**STUDENTS  
OF AMERICA!**

Do not let this April 6th pass without a repetition of the militant strikes against war of 1934-36. Do not let this twenty-second anniversary of America's entry into the last world slaughter pass without demonstrating to the American ruling class your refusal to serve as cannon-fodder to defend their profits.

Do not let the Stalinist betrayers of the anti-war movement—the Young Communist League

and its American Student Union—sweep you off your feet with their howling for a "defensive war against fascism."

What has changed since the days when the American student move-

ment made as the key-note of its program the militant Oxford Pledge—"I refuse to support any war the government of the United States may conduct."

Does not America remain the foremost imperialist power—owned and ruled by its top clique of bankers and moguls of Big Business, the Sixty Families?

Does not American imperialism still exploit and drain the life-

workers on strike for decent living conditions?

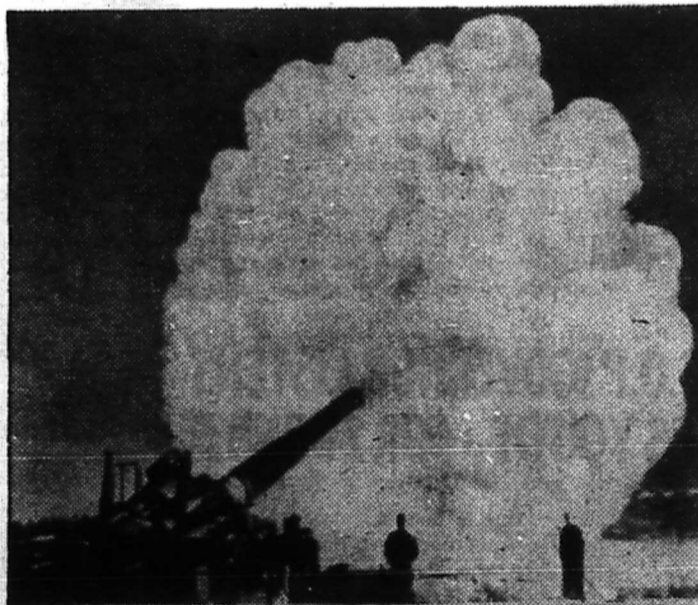
Is not this the same America we have so many times pledged never to support in its imperialist wars? And what other kind of war can an imperialist government wage?

"But the victories of fascism," argue the Stalinist allies of the American ruling class, "have made the defeat of fascism the first goal."

Right! But the fight against fascism is hopeless unless we stamp out its seeds—the misery and hopelessness of the masses caused by the decay of capitalism. And that will not be accomplished by a war against foreign fascism. Such a war will only place a military dictatorship in the saddle in America and end up with the victory of American fascism.

**THE FIGHT  
AGAINST FASCISM  
BEGINS AT HOME!**

**THE MAIN ENEMY  
IS THE RULING CLASS OF OUR  
OWN COUNTRY!**



blood from the masses of Latin America, the Philippines, and other places within its "sphere of influence"?

Do not 12 to 15 million unemployed still rot in idleness? Does not poverty still stalk the streets of workingclass neighborhoods?

Do not the millions of American negroes still live in their ghettos and, in the South, still dread the lynch mob?

Is not the bullet and tear gas still the answer of the bosses to

**CHAPTER QUILTS  
A. S. U.**

NEWARK, N.J.—A further step in the disintegration of the American Student Union, Stalinist pro-war student organization, was taken here recently when the Newark University A.S.U. chapter voted to disaffiliate from the national organization on the ground that it was now part of the Roosevelt war machine.



There is no time to lose! This year's student strike may be our last "dress rehearsal!"

Let us raise our voices and make our attitude known in clear and unmistakable words.

**NOT ONE CENT FOR WAR PREPARATIONS!  
BUILD SCHOOLS AND HOMES,  
NOT BATTLESHIPS!  
ONLY SOCIALISM CAN END  
FASCISM AND WAR!**

## 'JOBS-FOR-YOUTH' FIGHT UNDER WAY

**SUPPORT THE 3-POINT PROGRAM  
TO GIVE JOBS TO YOUTH**

**1. JOBLESS YOUTH AID**

a. Convert the NYA into "Youth W.P.A. Projects." Abolish the "Supplementary Aid" treatment given jobless youth. Give Youth W.P.A. jobs at union wages.

b. Transfer the two billion dollar war budget to finance such "Youth W.P.A. Projects." Two billion dollars will employ 1,300,000 youth for one year at \$30 per week.

c. A twenty-billion dollar Federal Public Works and Housing Program to give jobs to the unemployed.

**2. STUDENT YOUTH AID**

a. A \$500,000,000 student aid program for assistance to ALL needy students WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION. \$500,000,000 to aid 200,000 needy college students at \$40 per month for twelve months per year and to aid 1,750,000 needy high school students at \$20 per month for twelve months per year.

b. No suspension of aid to needy students during the summer months.

**3. HOW TO FINANCE THE PROGRAM**

a. Transfer the present two-billion dollar war appropriation to NYA (Youth W.P.A. Projects).

b. Tax the millionaire bankers, industrialists, and coupon clippers.

The proposal of the Young Peoples Socialist League to organize nation-wide mass support in behalf of a demand upon Congress to pass legislation aiding jobless youth and needy students took concrete shape with the formulation of a three-point program, the formation of a "Jobs-for-Youth" Campaign Committee, and the publication of a 12-page pamphlet and petition blanks.

## G.O.P. Gov. Listens To Jobless Youth For Two Minutes

MINNEAPOLIS—Governor Stassen of Minnesota showed his contempt for organized labor and the unemployed youth, when he gave a delegation from the Youth Section of the Federal Workers, Local 544, a grand total of two minutes in which to present all the facts on youth unemployment and make clear the Youth Section demands and proposals on youth unemployment.

Although the delegation—consisting of N.Y.A. workers and unemployed youth—had been given an appointment with the governor weeks in advance, they were forced to cool their heels for an hour and a half in the corridors of the State

A sample testing of sentiment in the ranks of the leaders of unemployed organizations and progressive trade unions in New York City, Newark, and Minneapolis found not only enthusiastic endorsement, but specific advice on ways and means of concluding the agitation on behalf of the demands.

Though the initiative in the campaign came from the Y.P.S.L., it has stated its readiness to cooperate with any working-class or youth organization prepared to support the three-point program. Organizations taking a large enough number of petition sheets will have their own names printed on them. The Campaign Committee has set itself the goal of collecting 20,000 signatures.

The petition blanks are addressed to the "President of the United States and to the U. S. Congress."

The petitions and resolutions will be taken to Washington by a delegation representing all organizations that have participated in the campaign, supported by NYA workers, jobless youth, students

## HELP WANTED

### 'No Experience Preferred'

By J. LAWRENCE

**HELP WANTED**

YOUNG MAN, competent typist and stenographer, recent commercial school graduate, no experience preferred. Good position with future. Address Box—Times.

Perhaps that ad needs some explaining. You see, my boss doesn't want to hire experienced workers. "When I tell someone to do something around here, I want it done my way," he says, "I don't want to have anyone telling me that when they worked for Mr. X they did something in such-and-such a

way. I'll train my own help." He doesn't mention, of course, that you can hire a kid fresh out of high school for a lot less than you'd have to pay someone with experience. In addition he doesn't want girls around the place because a typist and stenographer who works for him has to be able to help out as a stock boy, packer, shipping clerk, porter, and what have you. So when the season came on he had that ad put in the Sunday Times.

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued on Page 2)



# Y.P.S.L. Wields New Blows on Anti-Fascist Front

(Continued from Page 1)

By HOWARD IVES

A few well directed blows from some pickets, and the line moved on.

Then an ally came to the fascists' aid—the police. Wielding clubs on the heads of men and women pickets impartially, the cops gave the fascists a much needed helping hand. One Y.P.S.L. member was knocked unconscious, another received a crack on the head that required five stitches, while a girl was struck in the face by a bottle thrown by some fascist "hero."

But the fascist hoodlums could not smash the demonstration even with the aid of police clubs. The line reformed after each attack, and the slogan "Down with Fascism, roared defiance at the Fascists.

Seeing they could not break the picket line themselves, the fascists turned the job over to the police. A call was sent to police headquarters, about 60 additional police rolled around, and the fascists retired to the hall, leaving the scene clear for the cops to do their dirty work.

Without warning the police fired several tear gas shells at the picket line, frocing the demonstrators back, blinded and choking. The Fascists cheered—but not for long. Rallied by the cry "Back to the line!" the pickets reformed their ranks and once more marched before the hall.

### Gas Scatters Anti-Fascists

But the police had their orders to smash the demonstration, and they obeyed. Hurling shell after shell of tear gas into the picket line, they filled the space before the hall with blinding, acrid gas, scattering the demonstrators once more.

Red-eyed and gasping, the demonstrators gathered across the street, prepared for yet another attempt to assert their democratic right to picket. But the chemical warfare of the police made resistance by unarmed workers impossible. No more graphic illustration of the need for Workers Defense Guards against both Fascists and cops could have been given.

Preparing to leave, the demonstrators sang the "International." This gesture of workingclass militancy was too much for the Los Angeles Cossacks who advanced on the group shooting more tear gas shells. As the poisonous fumes spread the demonstrators scattered, but the starins of the "International" still rang out, and clenched fists were raised in revolutionary defiance.

### Trotskyists Give Leadership

The Y.P.S.L. and the S.W.P. can claim full credit for the militancy of the demonstration. Though the Stalinist North American Committee also called for the picket line, (refusing a united front with the Trotskyites), they had no desire to oppose the police. They had voted for the "democratic" Mayor in the last election, and a clash with his "democratic" police force would be embarrassing. So the only militant leadership came from the Trotskyists who rallied the line. This did not prevent the Stalinists from serving as stool pigeons, and pointing to the Trotskyites as the "instigators" of the riot, at a protest meeting with the Mayor the next day.

## "Flying Squadron" Beats Anti-Semite

MIAMI, Florida.—Activities of a flying squadron formed to combat the "White Front," an anti-Semitic organization, sent one Fascist to the hospital here on March 21.

"White Front" literature describes the organization as a militant Anti-Jewish gang formed to "defend the white race." When it scheduled a mass meeting a few days before, protests forced the group to cancel it, and some time afterwards one of its members was beaten by this flying squadron, the exact nature of which is as yet unknown.

This incident illustrates the broad sweep which the anti-Fascist movement is assuming all over the country. That militant action against anti-Semites is being taken even down here in the deep South shows how well the slogan "smash Fascist gangs" has been received by workers everywhere.

Not only did the magnificent demonstration of New York workers against the Nazi meeting in Madison Square Garden serve as the opening blow in the drive of the Fourth Internationalist movement against Fascism, but it became the topic of conversations and discussions for weeks afterwards. Young people everywhere in New York were heatedly discussing the demonstration.

One of the most significant of these discussions took place in City College (Main Day session) the day after the demonstration. A contingent of some 50 CCNY students had participated in the demonstration and they came back to school eager to explain their actions to the student body.

### Meeting Starts Spontaneously

At 12:00 a spontaneous discussion broke out in the lunchroom. In a few minutes it developed into a meeting at which members of the Y.P.S.L. and of Avukah, Zionist organization which had endorsed the demonstration, were explaining the demonstration. Despite the fact that they were all hoarse from shouting the night before, comrade after comrade spoke, emphasizing the fact that only independent action by the workers could stop fascism and that the first point on the agenda for the workers was the organization of Workers Defense Guards.

The meeting rapidly assumed mass proportions and in 15 minutes here were 400 students participating. Despite the necessity of attending classes, the students continued to stay at the meeting. Comrades Howe and Lubin, leaders of the local Y.P.S.L. unit, and members of Avukas met with excellent receptions from the students who realized the only real way to fight fascism.

By 3 o'clock, after the meeting had continued without interruption for 3 hours, the local Stalinists could no longer stand the sight of hundreds of students listening to Trotskyist speakers and began to heckle. (While they didn't dare challenge the right of the Nazis to free speech the night before, they could hardly allow the same privilege to Trotskyists, who, you understand, believe in revolution!)

### Stalinists Heckle

Whereupon a Stalinist was invited to present his viewpoint. He explained that the reason the Communist Party had not demonstrated against the Nazis was because it would antagonize the Mayor, and "anyway, the whole business is just a Trotskyist provocation." When the Stalinists saw that most of the unaffiliated students didn't accept this balderdash they tried another tactic. They called for the "democratic" election of a chairman. This after the meeting had been going on for 3 hours!

After the president of the Student Council had been elected chairman of the meeting, it was adjourned to a large classroom seating 200 students. The room was packed to overflowing. Since the meeting was now under "impartial" auspices, speakers from the YPSL, the Stalinists, and the Catholic Newman Club alternated and gave their positions on the question of fascism. It was not until 5:30 that the meeting adjourned.

### Elect Impartial Chairman

A humorous afternote was a letter written to the school paper by a Stalinist, one Woofsy, charging the Trotskyists at the meeting with 'physical suppression of all other opinions.' In the following issue of the school paper, a letter from the Y.P.S.L. nailed this Woofsy as the liar he was. The fantastic charges which this Woofsy made about the Y.P.S.L. kicking and beating opposing students at what was an extraordinarily disciplined and orderly meeting (until the Stalinists came over) was further proof for the students who had been at th meeting that Stalinists are more interested in fighting the Trotskyists than in fighting the Nazis.

The left-wing section of the student body regained a lot of its morale from the demonstration and once again the Y.P.S.L. was shown to be the only organization actually fighting the fascists. The recent membership gains of the C.C.N.Y. Y.P.S.L. unit show that the students are beginning to understand this.

## BOSTON AND NEW YORK WIN BANNERS



The National Bureau of the Young Peoples Socialist League has awarded the above banners to Boston Territory and the New York Division. Boston got one for its success in recruiting new members. New York for turning in the first \$100 in the drive to raise \$1,000 through the personal sacrifices of the membership.

## Anti-Negro Policy At U. of Rochester Exposed

ROCHESTER, N.Y.—An example of the discrimination against Negroes practised more or less openly by colleges throughout the country was revealed here recently when it became known that the University of Rochester does not allow Negroes to attend its medical school, Negroes applying for admission receive a form letter telling them that "it would be impossible for us (the University) to offer clinical training."

The President of the University, Alan Valentine — afraid that the tax exemption which the University now enjoys would be taken away from it because of the state provision that tax-exempt institutions cannot discriminate against anyone because of race, religion or color—issued a mealy mouthed statement trying to deny discrimination. He stated that the motive behind the refusal to admit Negroes to the medical school was the fact that the refusal of white women to be examined by Negroes made clinical training impossible. He declared his policy was based on "the existing attitude of society" rather than on discrimination.

The patent absurdity of this excuse can be seen by anyone. It is first of all to be doubted whether most white people are really as anti-Negro as Valentine is so anxious to establish. Secondly, a University as an "institution of enlightenment" should be in the forefront of the fight against Negro discrimination. This it can best do by setting an example.

But why can't, at the very worst, Negro medical students take clinical work with Negro patients, of whom there are quite a few in this city? Why can't they receive the training with all those patients who don't discriminate against Negroes as readily as Pres. Valentine would have us think?

These disclosures play the spotlight of publicity on the University of Rochester. This situation is merely a more crude and open example of a condition prevalent throughout the country. The Young Peoples Socialist League calls upon all students to ferret out the truth in their local schools about Negro discrimination and to fight, both Negro and white, against such conditions.

## MINNESOTA G.O.P. GOVERNOR LISTENS TO JOBLESS YOUTH -- FOR 2 MINUTES

(Continued from Page 1) Capitol, before they were received by Stassen, the white hope of the local reactionaries.

### Know What to Expect

In the two minutes allotted to the delegation, it was impossible to go into any of the facts on youth unemployment. There was enough time, however, for every member of the delegation to be amply satisfied as what to expect of the Republican Governor.

Upon being asked what he intended to do about youth unemployment, Minnesota's Governor Genius sagely stroked his chin and observed that the Junior Placement Bureaus—a fancy name for employment agencies—were doing a "fine job" of finding employment for the young people in private industry.

When members of the delegation pointed out that youth unemployment has been rising in Minnesota, and that it was up to Stassen to sponsor an immediate \$5,000,000 appropriation by the state legislature for state wide youth projects, Stassen merely told the delegation to write up their proposals and he would see what he could do about them. This ended the "conference."

It has become clear to all members of the Youth Section that Stassen has not the slightest intention of doing anything at all for the unemployed youth, unless he is forced to do so. With this in mind, the Youth Section is drafting a state bill to provide jobs for youth, to be introduced into the state legislature and backed by militant actions on the part of the youth. The bill demands the immediate formation of state wide youth projects for all unemployed youth.

## Open Fight For Jobs

(Continued from Page 1)

who have had their applications for NYA rejected, and others whose daily life is a testimony to the need of adopting the three-point program.

The campaign will be opened with public hearings on the plight of youth in all important cities. Witnesses will testify as to the impossibility of finding employment in private industry, conditions on relief, inadequacy of NYA, lack of facilities to learn a trade, and others interested in the "youth problem" will also be asked to testify.

## IN THE LEAGUE

By IRVING BERN  
National Organizational Secretary

PINCH-HITTING — Irving Bern, National Organizational Secretary, and regular conductor of this column, is on a national tour of "inspection," checking up on the progress of the Divisions and Units since our last national convention. Members of the office staff are therefore pinch-hitting for Comrade Bern in the preparation of this column.

First a few impressions of local groups as culled from Comrade Bern's letters:

PHILADELPHIA — Spirit very good . . . reaching new people through two study groups and a music appreciation group . . . doing well on the \$1,000 fund drive.

YOUNGSTOWN — A group with plenty of pep . . . promise to really go places . . . excellent comrades among new recruits. . . Two young Negroes have just joined . . . Good headquarters for youth organization . . . (I have already trimmed them all at ping-pong) . . . Members sell "Appeal" on streets regularly . . . starting the same with the "Challenge."

AKRON — The whole town is talking about the "Sol Goldberg case" . . . it involves a comrade who was advised by the school authorities that he was wasting his time by studying to be a teacher, since they would never appoint a "red" . . . The League has issued three public leaflets on the matter.

WELCOME, NEW UNITS—The League continued to expand into new territory last month with the addition of new units in Lynn, Mass. and New Brunswick, N.J. The Lynn group is composed of young workers of various occupations. The New Brunswick group is composed of students at Rutgers University. Ernest Erber, National Propaganda Director, will formally launch the Lynn unit on its revo-

lutionary career during his tour of the Boston area, March 17-19.

RECRUITMENT — When the Boston Territory walked off with the awards in the membership campaign, there was considerable raising of eye-brows by comrades who thought it must be a fluke. But the Boston comrades were unconcerned. They nonchalantly continued to recruit new members. And now, with the addition of the unit in Lynn, they have walked off with the honors for the second lap by fulfilling their quota on March 10, 51 days before the May 1st dead-line. But you can still take their banner away from them by going over your quota, i.e., to a higher percentage than Boston promises it will.

SACRIFICE-FOR-THE-LEAGUE FUND—The first section to ring the bell is Minneapolis. The Twin Cities came across with their final payment as we go to press. However, the rapid tempo of other contenders, like New York City and Newark, seems to have slowed up in the last month. Are the comrades pausing to take a good, deep breath for that last lap? We hope so. But L. A.? We wonder whether there is anything to the rumor that they have been spending their time in an oxygen tent in preparation for the sprint? They'll need it or be left at the post. Here is the League standing on March 18:

Place	Quota	Ach'vd	%
Minnesota	\$30.00	\$30.00	100%
Eastern Pa.	25.00	18.69	75
New Jersey	100.00	68.45	68
Massachusetts	30.00	20.38	68
New York City	400.00	260.00	65
Frisco-Bay	30.00	19.00	63
Chicago	210.00	99.38	47
Ohio	60.00	26.35	44
Upstate N. Y.	15.00	5.00	33
Los Angeles	100.00	3.00	3
	1000.00	550.55	55%

## The Challenge Brigade

By RUTH WILNER

By RUTH WILNER

The most gladdening news that this department has heard this month, (except for the magnificent anti-fascist demonstrations in New York and Los Angeles, and the chattering of some hungry-looking sparrows in Central Park who informed us that Spring is coming), is news of the CHALLENGE sale of Unit 9, on the wind-blown streets of Albany Park, Chicago. They held the first street sale of the CHALLENGE ever held in Albany Park, and sold out every copy they had—71 in all. Good work, Unit 9. And congratulations, Organizer RETCHIN for organizing the sale, and blue ribbons to the other comrades who demonstrated to the League that you can sell the CHALLENGE, even in a new territory, if you just get out and sell.

The comrades of the City College Unit in New York decided that they were tired of looking at the pictures of the pretty girls in the subway ads on their way home from school. They now hawk the CHALLENGE on the subway. They sold well over 100 copies this month. The indefatigable SAMMY PORTNOY sold more copies than any of the other boys.

SAM MARGULIS, of Philadelphia, who is trying hard to make the City of Brotherly Love CHALLENGE-conscious, reports that "40 copies were sold at a street sale yesterday by four comrades."

HAROLD SCHONBRUN, of Toledo, writes that he is considering taking 100 extra copies of the CHALLENGE for high school distribution.

And from Detroit, Michigan, HAROLD FOX writes: "Please send 25 copies this time. A few unemployed comrades sell them with success at Wayne U."

Welcome to the new crop of CHALLENGE agents who are assuming their duties this month. SAM STORM, Chicago, replaces BERNIE EMIL. JEANNETTE COHEN, Akron, takes over the CHALLENGE reins from RUTH

HAYES. (See what you can do about paying up that back bill, Jeannette.) NORMAN ATKINSON will, we are sure, continue the good work of JOE BALLARD in San Francisco. Joe just got a job which doesn't leave him the time to continue as CHALLENGE agent. . . . Other new agents are: RICHARD SWIFT, for Kent, O., who is starting with a bundle of 10, JULES GELLER for Flint, Mich., who is taking the same number to begin with, and DON MARTIN of the newly-formed Lynn Unit who is taking a bundle of 20 as a starter. . . . We're expecting big things from all our new agents.

The approach of Spring, and warmer weather should see the fancy of every Y.P.S.L. member (male and female) turning towards sales of the CHALLENGE at the beaches, picnic grounds, playgrounds and hiking trails. Remember to take the paper along to sell when your unit goes out on its first excursion.

The drive for 650 new subs has been extended to May 1st. This gives your unit a chance to make good on its quota. Good returns this month from Chicago with 49 new subs, Los Angeles with 21 new subs, New York with 35 new subs, and Rochester with 12. Smaller numbers have come in from most other units. Special mention goes to AL LIEBICK of Chicago who got at least 40 of Chicago's total of 81 subs, and R. E. of Rochester, who practically single handed over-fulfilled the Upstate New York quota by sending in a total of 19 new subs. Grand total so far: 260 new subs. 390 to go by May 1st. Let's go!

Here's the way they stood as we went to press (March 16):

Place	Quota	Received	%
Upstate N. Y.	15	19	120
Chicago	100	81	81
Toledo	10	5	50
Mass.	20	9	45
Newark	50	19	38
Los Angeles	65	21	32
Eastern Pa.	25	8	32
Frisco-Bay Area	35	11	31
Ohio	50	12	24
Minnesota	50	11	22
New York City	250	51	20



# RELIEF SET-UP GIVES RAW DEAL TO SINGLE MEN

## Rochester Figures Reveal Plight of Youth

ROCHESTER, N.Y.—A startling and dramatic example of the plight of youth was given here by a report published at the beginning of the year by the Council of Social Agencies. Despite skillful juggling of figures, the report shows that at least 50% of Rochester youth are seeking jobs but cannot find them.

An extremely interesting comparison can be made between the statistics of this report and the figures of a report issued by the same agencies at the end of 1936. Here we find a splendid measurement of how much Roosevelt has "helped" youth since his re-election. And since Rochester is a fairly typical middle-sized city, its situation can be held typical of most other places.

According to the last census there are 55,619 youth in Rochester. Using this figure as a basis, the first report, at the end of 1936, showed that there was a total of 18% of the youth attending high school and college. According to the second report, at the end of 1938, there were 21% of the youth attending high school and college. It is significant that the increase took place exclusively in the high schools, thus showing that unemployed youth, having nothing else to do, continue going to high school because it is free, but cannot afford to go to college.

### Figures Juggled

The first report estimates that 25% of the youth were unemployed in 1936. But this, large as it is, is an amazingly juggled figure. For it does not include—heaven knows why those youth who were registered with the State Employment Agency in the hope of securing jobs. If these youth are included we find that there were in reality 36% of the total youth unemployed.

But this is not all. For those youth going to school cannot in reality be considered as either employed or unemployed. They are merely occupied. Hence if we eliminate them from our consideration, we find that 45% of all Rochester youth seeking a job could not find one.

### Jobless Increase

Compare these figures with those of 1938, after two more years of Roosevelt's New Deal. Now we find that there were in 1938 an increase of 3% among those estimated as unemployed, of 1% among those registered with the Employment Service and of 3% of those attending high school. This means that 51% of the young people looking for jobs in Rochester during 1938 could not find them.

An even clearer indication of the continued severity of the plight of youth can be had from the fact that there was a decrease of 7% among those listed as either gainfully employed or housewives (down to 35%). Since this classification includes work relief recipients as well as housewives it is safe to say that only 1 out of every 4 Rochester youths had a job in 1938.

### Even CCC Limited

One out of every 4 has a job; one of every 2 looking for a job can't find it! This is a picture of Rochester youth in the sixth year of the New Deal.

A further indication of the seriousness of the situation is shown by the fact that in October 1938 there were 400 applications for the 36 CCC places allotted Rochester. That is, not even one of every 10 applicants received the jobs!

In view of this desperate situation, the panaceas which this liberal crew of social workers that prepared the report propose as the solution for the problems of youth become almost laughable. Listen: "Study relations between training and vocational achievement." Or, the necessity for case work guidance for maladjusted youth (no mention, of course, of the system causing this maladjustment).

### A Fighting Program

No, the problems of youth cannot be solved by polite conferences of lady-like social workers. Only a fighting program, such as the Young Peoples Socialist League advances for the youth of Rochester and every other place, can be the basis of getting a break for

## 700 Philly Youth Riot for 5 Jobs

PHILADELPHIA, Penn.—A dramatic answer to the reactionary propaganda that "youth could get jobs if it weren't lazy" was given here on March 16, when 700 boys rushed to answer an ad for five workers between the ages of 19 and 21 to do light factory work.

Though the ad called for applicants to appear at 9 o'clock in the morning, boys began streaming in at midnight near the plant that placed the ad, the Art Novelty Manufacturing Co. At 7 A.M. the crowd was so large that it blocked traffic, near the plant. When 20 employees tried to get in to work, they were hauled back by the job-seekers who thought that "they were trying to pull a fast one" by sneaking in.

### Company Calls Police

Two people were badly injured in the melee that ensued, and even after the first five applicants had been hired, several hundred boys hung around in the vain hope that there would be some sort of work available. It was not until the company called the police that the boys were dispersed.

This incident, not unique by any means, is proof of the fact that youth need and want jobs. When the capitalist press writes about youth being lazy and wanting to work only for high wages (this job paid the magnificent wage of 30c per hour!), it is merely hiding the inability of the system to provide jobs for youth.

Demand that NYA appropriations be increased by \$2,000,000 to employ 1,300,000 at \$30 per week. Demand that the money used to prepare American youth for death in a future imperialist war be turned over to this constructive purpose. Demand funds for life, not for death!

This is the road along which youth can solve its problems. We must fight now, before it is too late.

### ATTENTION SUBSCRIBERS!

If your subscription wrapper is marked No. 13, your subscription expires with this issue. Renew your subscription immediately!

## "NO EXPERIENCE PREFERRED"

(Continued from Page 1)

Within three or four days we received over 300 replies and I was given the job of going thru them and picking out the ones which appeared worthwhile asking the writers to come in for an interview. I can tell you now that it's a job I don't want to have again. It's a rotten job only fit for someone with a cast iron stomach and a skin made of armor plate. After I went thru those letters I felt sick.

Over half of the letters were the conventional type that you find in most Business English text books as models. You've probably seen probably written them. They go like this—"Dear Sir, in answer to your ad, beg to state, ambitious and honest, best references, appreciate them—and, more than likely, you've an interview, very truly yours, etc." They weren't so hard to take except that the realization that one tiny ad had the force to make 200 or so people sit down and write these letters didn't make me feel any too good. Every time I read one something in the back of my mind would whisper, "How'd you like to be applying for a job?"

### PLEAD FOR JOBS

The other letters tho . . . the writers kept breaking every rule in the text books. There were some who, try as they might, couldn't confine their desire and need for a job to the conventional phrases. Time after time I'd find recurring—"I need a job" . . . "my family relies on me" . . . "please" . . . "please" . . . And there were the others who had grown cynical . . . "I know that I haven't got a chance," they'd write, "and I'm a fool for wasting my time but" . . . then they'd go ahead and state their qualifications and at the end, for all their cynicism, I could see the same desperation and same hopeless clutching at hope. . . . "Please consider my application, I am sure an interview would convince you of my qualifications, etc."

The ad had been very specific in stating that what was wanted was a young man with no experience preferred, but there were dozens of letters from older men begging for the job, "salary no object," pointing out how their experience would better qualify them for the place. One man had even had an attractive circular printed on which appeared a picture of himself, his

wife and child, and in which his qualifications for a job, any job that would help him in supporting his family were bravely put forth.

### GIRLS REPLY

The ad had been very specific in stating that what was wanted was a man and appeared in the Help Wanted (Male) column, but we got almost 30 replies from girls. They needed jobs too, they were expert typists and stenographers, they were sure they could convince my boss that he would be better off to hire them, please . . . an interview . . . please . . . please . . . please . . .

And it was my job to read these letters, sort them out, and put aside for my boss' consideration the "most likely." Do you wonder that I felt a cold shiver of fear at the possibility of being out of a job and in the same position as these letter writers?

There was one letter in particular whose words went thru me like an electric current. It may have been a phoney but even so it was still a horrible indictment of a system which reduces anyone to writing a letter of its kind. This letter stated very simply—"I meet all the qualifications stated in your advertisement. I am a young man of 22 and have never been able to find a job. Unless I do find something soon, I shall have to kill myself."

## FROM THE DIARY OF A CCC BOY

The following is an extract of a letter received from a CCC boy by a member of the Young Peoples Socialist League:

"A captain came down here last payday and we had to write "yes" or "no" whether the food was good in quality and in quantity, whether there was enough or not. About 75 fellows including myself wrote "no", the rest put "yes." "He beat around the bush by using technicalities or in such a way we couldn't say much and he didn't let us ask him more than 2 or 3 questions, and he told us the best thing to improve, if they could, by giving suggestions on paper about the mess and putting it in the mail box and if they thought they could do it at the same amount why they would try it. . . ."

"Well, what's wrong with this country anyway? Don't young people have it pretty soft after all. Even those on relief aren't so bad off."

You've probably heard that as often as we. Usually it comes from a well-fed boss or an oily politician. Well, I decided to see how youth on relief live. I decided to investigate the Single Men's Relief Bureau on Spring and Mercer Street in the Lower East Side of New York, the poorest section of the city.

I spoke to a good many young fellows, single and living by themselves, about relief conditions. And I found a picture of unrelieved misery and rottenness, of young people eking out a half-starved living, that made one grit one's teeth in anger.

I am not exaggerating. In reality, when the facts are written down they do not even approximate the terribleness of the situation. And here are the facts, plain and unadorned:

### Two Types of Cases

In order to get on relief, you must be over 21. Exactly what you are to do if you are under 21 I haven't been able to find out. There are two kinds of relief. The first, single men's relief, is for young men without a family. To get on relief, they must prove need, residence in the city for one year, and here's the catch—that they had never gone to any public agency for help during the past year. But suppose some poor devil got sick and went to Bellevue or some other city hospital. That disqualifies him, technically, from getting relief! This may sound incredible but it is precisely on such technicalities that hundreds of needy youth are kept off relief.

The other type of case is where a fellow has a family but is living apart from it. He also must be able to establish residence for one year.

Now suppose you had come to New York three years ago and you try to get relief now. In such a case, the relief bureau will write to the place you came from and ask if they'll take you back, if New York pays your fare. The fact that you may have personal reasons for living in New York has, of course, nothing to do with the matter. One of the most vicious forms of this practice is to send back needy people who have come from American colonies (Porto Rico, etc.), even if they have been in America for years.

### Must Know the Ropes

You go to the relief bureau to fill out an application. But don't think you'll get that application so easily.

Not on your life! Before you can get it you've got to prove need and residence, and show how you've "maintained" yourself for the past year. (That's what you've been wondering about). And here it's so damned easy to make an error which the interviewer jumps on as an excuse for not giving you even an application card. This can go on for weeks—unless you're helped by people who know the relief ropes, say the Unemployed and Project Workers Union or the unemployed members of the local YPSL unit.

Well, let's say you finally get your application. Your hands trembling at the touch of the imposing document, you fill it out. Then you come before the "intake" who interviews you and records it on a dictaphone. Now you're just trying to get some food, remember, and you haven't been convicted in the Musica-Coster case, but still the law's the law and your every precious word is taken down.

Then the original interview, the application, and your second interview are checked. And if their's any discrepancy—if you said you worked for three weeks last year at one time and in your application you said two weeks—you're cooked. You can start the rigamarole all over again, with little chance of success.

Well, let's say you were born with a rabbit's foot in your pocket and all has gone well so far. The bureau sends an investigator out to check up on your "story." And boy does he check! He comes around to your house and asks where you got the furniture, how you could afford the luxury of a worn-out bath towel. He checks up on all your old jobs for the past year, finds out why your boss fired you, and if one of your old bosses doesn't remember having employed you, or if he doesn't want to remember, then you're out of luck. A discrepancy has been discovered in your story and you've got to reapply. You've got to rewind yourself in red tape—but what do you eat in the meantime? Even the diligent reportorial staff of the Challenge can't answer that one.

Finally, the "Means test" is applied. If you have any relatives scraping through any sort of living, if you have an uncle in the Bronx who is a junk-dealer, or a brother-in-law in Hoboken trying to support a wife and four kids with an \$18 a week job—they try to send you back to them and have them support you.

Well, let's say the unemployed youth has overcome this obstacle too. (And incidentally, it's a lot easier to overcome them in print than in real life). You dance in the streets, you throw your old hat in the air, you kiss your landlady—now you'll be able to eat occasionally: you're on relief.

That's what you think. Just take a look at what this relief that you're finally getting is like.

Twice every month you're to get the magnificent check of \$6.25 for food. This would mean, figuring on the ridiculous basis of three meals per day, 15c per meal. Now isn't that something. But hold on. It's not even that. Because that figure is based upon dividing the \$6.25 into two weeks. But every one except relief supervisors know there are 30 or 31 days in the month and those 2-3 extra days just don't count in the appropriation. Really, it's very healthy for the digestion to stop eating for a while at the end of each month.

You get small appropriations for gas and electricity and you get a rent appropriation. The rent appropriation varies according to the sort of place you live in but doesn't go above \$18 per month. But the catch is that in order to get \$18 for rent you've got to live in a 3 room apartment, with steam heat and bath. Try and find such places. Usually you've got to make an arrangement with your landlord whereby you pay the two or three extra dollars from your food money.

(Continued on Page 4)

# Save B. H. Orphan Home!

To the world at large, April 1 is a day of jokes and fun: April Fools Day. But to you, that date has another, a more sinister and tragic significance. To you it is a date of fear, of impending doom. For on April 1 it is proposed to close down the Brooklyn Hebrew Orphan Home.

All of you, as you go through the motions of daily life, are wondering: What will I do then? Where will I turn? How shall I live? Perhaps the younger children will be provided for in some way or other. But above all, those of you who are a little older, from 14 up, are wondering how you shall live after you have been cast into the streets and told: Terribly sorry, but there just isn't any money to keep the asylum running.

It isn't enough that you have been so unfortunate as to be without parents, that you have had to spend your youth in the restricted atmosphere of an asylum. It isn't enough that you haven't tasted of joys which ordinary young people have—and no one who hasn't actually lived in an asylum can know how miserable it is to live without any parents to help and comfort you, without any kind adult friends, but always under the "supervision" of supervisors, always having to ask for, and sometimes being refused, the most ordinary liberties.

Now you are to be thrown into a world which has no place for you, where there are already millions of young people who cannot find jobs. Many of you are still too young to be able to work. What will happen to you? Others of you are going to high school or college. Why should you be forced to quit school and search for a job? Why can't you have the same rights—meager enough, to be sure—as the other youth living in New York?

### CROCODILE TEARS

Oh, yes, the "refined" society ladies and philanthropists will tell you how it breaks their hearts to have to close the asylum down. They'll shed plenty of crocodile tears. But just think—what hypocrisy this is!

Here are these millionaires, whose sole function in society is to exploit the working people as much as possible in order to make as much profit as possible. It is precisely by their ruthless exploitation, by their low wages, by their speed-ups, by their rotten working conditions, that they make the life of the poor people working for them completely miserable. It is they who cause the workers to die prematurely because of the wretched conditions they impose on the workers. Why, some of your own parents may have died for just those reasons—their lives smashed by the steamroller of capitalism.

And yet the comfortable representatives of capitalism who make up the Board of Trustees of your Home say there is no money. Let the rich, the exploiters of labor, dig down a little bit deeper—and they'll find plenty of money.

There is no reason why you can't be given the Right to Live. But

that right will never be handed down to you on a silver platter. That right you can get only by your own strength, by your own efforts.

We of the Young Peoples Socialist League say to you: You have only two choices: either to keep quiet, to "behave" yourselves and then be tossed out of the Home; or to FIGHT, to organize so that your voices will be heard. If you keep quiet, then the trustees of the Home will smile sympathetically (when they kick you out) and tell you how much it breaks their hearts to see you go.

### RAISE YOUR VOICES

But if you FIGHT, if you raise your voices in a mighty and united cry: WE REFUSE TO BE THROWN INTO THE STREETS; WE DEMAND THAT THE HOME BE KEPT OPEN, then you have a chance to win. Then you are at least fighting for what you know is simple justice for the fellows in the home.

We of the Young Peoples Socialist League (Fourth Internationalists) fight for the interests of the most oppressed sections of the working class.

### SUGGESTED PROGRAM

Here is a program which we propose as the basis for a fight around the idea that you have a Right to Live. Most of the points apply to other orphan asylums as well.

What do you think of this program?

1. Against closing any asylum. Organize to fight against being thrown into the streets.
2. For WPA youth projects at trade union wages.
3. For immediate NYA jobs to those in the asylums.
4. Against the eviction of any boys because they are jobless.
5. For the right to a College and High School education.
6. Against the forcing of orphans to go to CCC camps.
7. Jobs for those already kicked out of the Institutions.

These, and other similar points, are our suggestions for the basis for a fight for the rights of orphans. We extend to you our most cordial aid in your fight for these rights. We, as revolutionary youth, fighting against all oppression and misery, are sincerely interested in your conditions. We extend to you the warmest greetings; we invite you into our organization where you shall find comradeship and joy in the common struggle of youth and the working class for a better life.

And we repeat once again: You are at the crossroads: Either surrender or FIGHT! Those are the only possibilities. And when you fight we shall be standing right beside you, just as we stand together with all youth who are fighting for their security and freedom.

Brooklyn Section  
Young Peoples Socialist League  
(Fourth Internationalists)



## Action -- Camera!

By HANS ADLER

The rulers of the world are rushing humanity into the next World War. This statement is so obviously true that even the writer of a movie column may dare to make it. And it is because of that fact that "Idiot's Delight" is a timely film indeed, for it deals with the outbreak of this coming war.

The picture is based on the play of the same name, a play with great weaknesses and with much confusion of ideas. Its transformation into film has, if anything, accentuated the weakness and shorn it of its stronger passages. That is so typically Hollywood that it would by now be ridiculous to complain about it.

The picture concerns itself with an American vaudeville man of the hooper variety, and a lady acrobat who have spent a night together in a hotel in Omaha many years ago. They meet each other again, when a war crisis forces them to stop their respective journeys, in a winter resort near the border of a small European country. He, Clark Gable, still a hooper, is touring Europe with six blond chorus girls but Norma Shearer, the lady-acrobat, has transformed herself into a Russian princess, and is now the mistress of a powerful munitions magnate. In spite of her rather amazing change, he recognizes her, but she, quite obstinately, simply cannot recall having ever had any acquaintance with Omaha, Nebraska.

The crisis leads to a war, which in turn leads to many eloquent, if meaningless, "why all this stupid horror" speeches. A pacifist wandering in the vicinity is arrested, a moneymoon of a young English couple hastily terminated and a doctor's research in cancer ended. And most important of all, it brings on a break between Miss Shearer and her munitions-king sugar daddy, who leaves her to the merces of the enemies' bombs and Clark Gable.

Thus ends the film. The world is thrown into a war more horrible than the last one, but it would be the height of your adolescent folly to feel too bad about this, for, when all is said and done, Gable gets Shearer.

Perhaps the film should get some sympathy because it strikes out (however feebly) against war, against jingoism, because Gable (in between refreshing Shearer's memory about Omaha) speaks sarcastically of "making the world safe for democracy." But the answer which the picture gives is pretty hard to swallow. In these days, when most governments are worrying about how to arm quickly, it is somewhat ridiculous to place the blame for war in the munitions-makers alone, since everyone, except Clark Gable, knows that there are more fundamental economic roots of war.

Technically, the film is pretty good. It is well directed and produced as lavishly as you would expect a Gable-Shearer opus to be produced. As in most Hollywood light comedies, the dialogue and the situations are frequently amusing and in other cases silly and trite. Gable is good as the tough, but sentimental hooper, but Shearer seems to be suffering from a bad case of the disease known as: Stiffness-induced-by-Marie-Antoinettes.

It is somewhat distressing to know that this palsied little piece should be hailed by Hollywood as a bold and daring production. But one must become resigned to Hollywood as an unnecessary evil, like Goldman's Band, say, or Bingo. After all, if Hollywood were the worst of capitalism's evils, life would still be tolerable.

### JUST OFF THE PRESS

#### 'Youth Want Jobs'

A 12-page illustrated pamphlet containing:

AN OPEN LETTER  
TO MR. TAUSSIG,

Head of the NYA Advisory Council

THE PROGRAM OF THE Y.P.S.L.  
FOR THE YOUTH OF AMERICA

Young People's Socialist League  
116 University Place  
New York City

# O, SAY CAN YOU SING?

By AL LIEBICK

Newspaper publishers, radio magnates, clergymen and movie moguls sat listening to the Big Shot's words:

"Boys, we've got a job to do. We have to make the American people National Anthem conscious! It is our sacred duty to Gawd and Country to implant the words of the Star Spangled Banner into the heads of each and every citizen. To the kiddies the National Anthem must become as popular as lolly-pops and the Lone Ranger—to the adults the Anthem must become as familiar as wage cuts and 'Flat Foot Floogie'! Remember boys, the Star Spangled Banner must cop first place in your 'Hit Parade'!"

Something like the above scene must have taken place just a short while ago. For the jingo's attempts to whip the people into a patriotic frenzy in preparation for the coming war has already reached great heights and is climbing higher every day.

#### Even Sluggers Sing It

Sunday editions of the newspapers have full-page portraits ("In their natural colors and suitable for framing for our readers") of Francis Scott Key—paintings depicting the "rockets red glare," etc.—and facsimiles of the sheet on which the song was originally written. The Golden Gloves championship tourney opens with the audience and the sluggers singing the National Anthem. More than one fighter has been carried out of the ring with "bombs bursting in the air" still ringing in his ears.

Not a few radio shows have begun to end their program by asking the invisible audience

to join with the studio crowd in standing at attention and singing the National Anthem. Soon, if the Big Shot's plans work out, you'll be getting your Star Spangled Banner with every weather report and "TRY SPRY" blurb. Reports have it that an enterprising paper manufacturer has asked the Big Shot for permission to print it on each roll of his product.

At church gatherings and various social and sports programs the Anthem has a very conspicuous part in the program. It's getting so that every time the home team sinks a basket, the Anthem is sung!

#### Endangers Double-Feature

But the boys who have really gone to town on the Anthem are the movie bigwigs. With Warner Bros. in the lead and all the rest of the studios running a close second in the patriotic production race, it looks like we're going to spend most of our time standing at attention in the movie hoeses! Why, with each producer trying to "outpatriot" the other, we'll soon be having the Anthem played every time the hero kisses the heroine! This move may force an end to the double feature—at least when Gable and Taylor are on the bill!

Why, things are in such a National Anthem state that one can almost forgive one of the leading "20th Century Americans"—sometimes known as Stalinists—at the Central YMCA College in Chicago, who, when in a psychological experiment was hypnotized by a professor and then asked to sing any song she desired, burst forth with the Star Spangled Banner.

Yes sir—it sure looks like we're in for a "Banner" year.

## The Initiative Of a Rugged American

**CLEVELAND, Ohio**—It seems that there are so few jobs available for youth these days that when an ambitious young fellow makes a serious attempt to get one he is suspected of being insane. Ray Stana, 19, had been out of a job for a long time, and he didn't seem to have much chance of getting one.

Trying to find some sensational way of displaying his abilities, he climbed a 70 foot girder of Cleveland's largest bridge and sat there for six hours. After he had been taken down by the fire department, he was examined for insanity. He declared that "by showing such initiative I could get my name before employers."

Stana is not anywhere near as crazy as the economic system which prevents him from getting a job. His desperate solution is, however, not really of much help. Youth has to fight for its rights, not sit on girders. And there aren't even enough girders around for the unemployed youth to sit on. A much better place to sit in is the relief bureau which doesn't help the unemployed youth or the bosses' factory which doesn't give him decent wages. That's a form of sit-down that gets results.

## Movie Prices Cut by Youth-Labor Action

**KENT, Ohio**—The youth of this town have recently learned a fine lesson in the meaning of mass pressure when it is applied by labor—at least, in a small sort of way.

When a delegation of students, including members of the Young Peoples Socialist League, went to the local Central Labor Union to ask them to pass a resolution requesting the "Kent Theatre" to reduce prices for students, the unionists upped and passed the resolution. When the management heard of this, it became jittery, afraid of a fracas with the joint forces of the Labor Union and the students. It promptly agreed to the request and prices were reduced from 35 cents to 25 cents for all students.

When youth and labor begin working together for even more important things than movie prices—then things will begin popping.

## SINGLE MEN GET RUN-AROUND, RAW DEAL FROM HOME RELIEF SET-UP

(Continued from Page 3)

But wait a minute, something good is coming up! You get food allowances too. This is the standing joke among relief recipients in New York. In the single men's bureau they give occasional batches of the most rotten food imaginable. It's absolutely putrid. A continuous stream of beans is sent you till you don't know what to do with them. Occasionally you get some cornmeal, which, as one fellow said, is so stale it could be used for cement. These allotments are haphazard and irregular. There is the hilarious incident of last year when the bureau got in a tremendous supply of fish—and each fellow was required to lug home 10 pounds of fish. For the first time in years, many Lower East Side cats had swell meals.

On the diet recommended by the relief bureau—a typical breakfast is oatmeal, bread and salt butter, and coffee—there are no eggs, and, most important, there is no milk.

You don't get anything for haircuts. For once you realize the virtue of being bald. There is no appropriation for cigarettes. And that is particularly annoying to young fellows. You don't even get car-fares to go to the bureau, despite the fact that it covers a radius of many miles.

The clothing allotment for the Single Men's Bureau is the lowest of all in the city. No shoe appropriations have been given out for

months. And when you do get one it's for a \$1.80 pair. That is to make sure you don't march in too many demonstrations. At the Single Men's Bureau there are 4,000 cases and the clothing appropriation for the Bureau from the Central Office in the past month—the heaviest in winter—was \$750. Just about 16¢ per person! There is some clothing being given out but the pitiful inadequacy of it can be seen from the fact that only 70 quilts were given out this month and no winter underwear at all.

In view of the fact that many fellows don't even have winter coats yet, the lack of winter underwear is extremely serious. There is no guarantee of getting a coat or a suit. But you can't even try to get a job without them. You're caught in a vicious rotten circle and you don't know what to do.

#### For a Chance to Live!

There are many individual stories I heard that dramatically bear out the above points. But the fellows might get in trouble at the relief bureau if their cases were printed—and they're in enough trouble as it is.

What are these young fellows to do? There's only one answer: FIGHT. They've got to fight through relief unions for decent treatment. They've got to act in an organized manner. But more than that, they've got to fight the system that doesn't give them the chance to live.

Yes, that's what American youth wants—A CHANCE TO LIVE.

## STALINISTS FAIL IN ATTEMPT TO SPLIT JOBLESS YOUTH ORGANIZATION

**MINNEAPOLIS**—Youth working on the N.Y.A. here have just had an instructive experience on how the local Communist - Party - led Workers Alliance functions.

After months of hard work, the most progressive and militant unemployed youth of the city succeeded in organizing the majority of the N.Y.A. workers into the militant Youth Section of the Federal Workers of Local 544 of the Truck Drivers Union. Readers of the Challenge are already familiar with the successful fights put up by the Youth Section to secure a larger quota of N.Y.A. jobs for the Minneapolis youth, to secure free clothing for N.Y.A. youth coming from relief families, etc.

Try to Split Banks  
Running true to form, after the

N.Y.A. workers began to organize into one organization, the Stalinist leadership of the Workers Alliance suddenly announced that they intended to organize the N.Y.A. youth!

In spite of the regular Stalinist hot air bombardment of newspaper publicity, leaflets, rumours circulated on the projects about the "racketeers from Local 544," the Stalinists didn't get to first base. At the meeting called by the Workers Alliance, a grand total of THREE people were present—including one fulltime organizer of the Alliance. Since then the silence of the Workers Alliance "Youth Section" has been embarrassingly loud.

# BOOKS

And Their Authors

By IRVING HOWE

In most histories of American literature you will not even find the name of Ambrose Bierce. Those few that do mention him tell you that he lived at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th, and that he was a skillful, if artificial, writer of macabre short stories modelled after the work of Edgar Allen Poe.

And as far as this goes, it is correct. But Bierce wrote one book that will live and will forever endear him to all those who hate the oppressions of capitalist society. This book he called the "Devil's Dictionary." Containing a series of ironic and humorous "definitions," the book is the high point of the inverted and obscured revolt against the injustices of capitalist life which was being expressed by a section of the Western humorists.

Combining the use of sly understatement and howling exaggerations, these humorists wrote with incredible bitterness against the increasing rottenness of American capitalism.

#### "... a Lost, Embittered Soul"

It would, of course, be ridiculous to say that Bierce was a Socialist. He was merely a lost, embittered soul, sensitive enough to see the truth and honest enough to tell it. I think that the best way for you to catch the flavor of Bierce's work is to quote as many of his better definitions as possible. Here are some of his political ones:

**ABDICATION**—An act whereby a sovereign attests his sense of the high temperature of the throne.

**AGITATOR**—One who shakes the fruit trees of his neighbors—to dislodge the worms.

**ALLIANCE**—In international politics, the union of two thieves who have their hands so deeply inserted in each other's pockets that they cannot separately plunder a third.

**ANOINT**—To grease a politician already sufficiently slippery.

**CAPITOL**—The seat of misgovernment.

**CONSUL**—A person who having failed to secure office from the people is given one by the President on condition he leave the country.

**EXILE**—One who serves his country by residing abroad, yet is definitely not an ambassador.

#### Keen Political Observation

**GRAPESHOT**—An argument which the future is preparing to answer the demands of American Socialism.

**HISTORY**—An account mostly false, of events mostly unimportant, which are brought about by soldiers mostly fools and rulers always knaves.

**PATRIOTISM**—Combustible rubbish ready to the torch of anyone ambitious to illuminate his name.

**PEACE**—In international affairs, a period of cheating in between two periods of fighting.

**POLITICS**—Conducting of public affairs to private advantage.

**POLITICIANS**—Eel in the fundamental mud upon which society is based.

**PRESIDENT**—Leading figure in small group of men of whom it is positively known that large groups of their countrymen didn't want any of them to be President.

**REPRESENTATIVE**—In national politics, member of the Lower House of this world, and without discernable hope of promotion in the next.

#### Too Hot to Handle

These, I think, are a pretty fair sample of what Bierce wrote. Little wonder that most historians of American literature conveniently forget to mention this book. It's too hot too handle, even now!

As you can see, many of his "definitions" are merely wisecracks and superficial remarks. But some, like the ones of Grapeshot and Alliance, show keen observation of capitalist society. Even if Bierce didn't understand why things were wrong, he at least saw that they were wrong. And he expressed these wrongs in such sharp and colorful ways that his Dictionary may even now be the envy and model of every radical speaker and journalist.

## CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

Young People's Socialist League

of America

(Affiliated to the

Youth Section of the Fourth International)

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