

Garbage

GARY, Ind.—The City government has announced that in order to solve the unemployment problem, it would be entirely legal from now on for the poor to search through garbage cans for "surplus foods." According to the notice, all scavengers will be supplied with licenses. Those fortunate enough to receive licenses must live up to the code governing the garbage hunt.

**Jobs,
Not
Guns!**

NOT ONE CENT TO DEFEND WALL STREET PROFITS!

STOP THE WAR-MAKERS DRIVE AGAINST LABOR, YOUTH RIGHTS

YPSL Calls for Armistice Anti-War Demonstration on Campus

FIGHT THE BOSSES WAR NOW-YPSL CALL

The Young Peoples Socialist League (Fourth International) has issued a call to the students of America to participate in anti-war demonstrations on or about Armistice Day, November 11. The text of the call follows:

ARMISTICE DAY is here. Armistice Day—The day to commemorate the "end" of one imperialist butchery—finds us on the brink of another. NOW is the time for students to unflinchingly oppose any and all attempts to sacrifice our lives in another imperialist massacre. This Armistice Day must find students solidly united in a militant anti-war struggle!

THIS IS NOT OUR WAR

The workers and youth of Europe have been plunged into a war, which is neither of their own interest nor of their own choosing. The War is an Imperialist War. It is a conflict between two camps of Capitalist robbers.

The first camp—England and France—fights for the perpetuation of the status quo: their "right" to exploit the workers at home and the colonial people abroad in India, Asia and Africa.

The second camp—Hitler, aided by Stalin—fights for its right to share the plunder by redividing the world.

We stand for the third camp in this war!—the camp of Debs and Liebknecht, the camp of working class struggle against all the capitalist countries as the way to end war. We call upon the American students to act against the attempts of the Roosevelt administration to drag us into war. We call for a fight against lifting the embargo as a fight against a concrete step taken to drag America into the war!

We repudiate the Stalinist youth and the American Student Union which they control. We brand their newly found discovery that this is an imperialist war as a fraud. It arises only as a result of the need to follow the twists and turns of Stalin's policy. Yesterday in the service of Allied imperialism, today in the service of Hitler! We refuse to act as the agents of EITHER imperialist camp.

We call upon the students to demonstrate against the war and American involvement in it. Down with the war!

We say:

1. **SUPPORT THE OXFORD PLEDGE**—Refuse to support the United States government in any war it may undertake.
2. **LET THE PEOPLE ON WAR!**
3. **ALLOW YOUTH TO VOTE AT 18**—"Old enough to die, old enough to vote."
4. **CONDEMN BOTH IMPERIALIST CAMPS**—The camp of Chamberlain-Daladier-Roosevelt, and that of Hitler.
5. **OPPOSE ROOSEVELT'S M-DAY PLANS**—No military dictatorship.
6. **JOBS NOT GUNS**—We can't eat battleships.
7. **AGAINST LIFTING THE EMBARGO**—The first step to war.
8. **ROTC FUNDS TO NYA**—Drive the War Department off the campus.
9. **THE MAIN ENEMY IS AT HOME**—Fight the war-makers and the system that breeds them.

YOUNG PEOPLES SOCIALIST LEAGUE (4th International)

British Revolutionary Youth Stand Firm In Opposition to the Imperialist War

The Challenge has just received the September issue of "Youth For Socialism," published by a revolutionary youth group in London, which, while not formally affiliated to the Fourth International of Youth, is a very close and sympathetic group.

Our English comrades came out with a courageous and firm revolutionary statement denouncing the war and pledging a fight to the finish against it.

Says "Youth For Socialism" to the British Youth: "British and

German workers have no reason to slaughter one another. Let us turn upon our real enemies, the German and British capitalist class. . . . Working youth, capitalism can only continue to exist on your bones. The sole way out for the youth lies in the overthrow of capitalism and workers power and socialism. Our path lies in building up the revolutionary socialist youth which alone can lead us from the nightmare of war which hangs over us."

What the War Is About



SHACHTMAN GIVES FIGHTING PROGRAM FOR YOUTH'S NEEDS

The following Platform of Youth Demands has been endorsed by George Lyman Paine and Max Shachtman, candidates of the Socialist Workers Party for the City Council from Manhattan and the Bronx.

1. YOUTH AND THE WAR

The youth of America—like the youth of the countries at war today—have nothing to gain from the present war. It is a war between two imperialist camps to re-divide the earth. No matter which side wins, totalitarian dictatorship will triumph.

The Wall Street banks are trying to involve the United States in the war of American imperialism. Unless the youth of the nation is reconciled to becoming cannon-fodder in an imperialist war, it must fight with the Young Peoples Socialist League for the following:

(Continued on Page 3)

Coughlin Calls for World War Against the Workers

In the October 23 issue of "Social Justice," the pro-Hitler and anti-working class line of Father Coughlin has received a new and clearer expression than ever before.

"Social Justice" prints a letter from one of Father Coughlin's "admirers" who asks why Coughlin has supported Hitlerist imperialism as opposed to English and French imperialism.

The editor of "Social Justice" answers with an article which shows clearly the pro-Hitler line of the Coughlinites—but which also shows that the basic loyalty of the Coughlinites is to America's 60 Families.

Writes the editor of "Social Justice": "Nazism, with its Hitler, arose as a defense mechanism against Communism. There is no question but the rise of Hitler stopped an invasion of Russian Communism into Germany, and so for a time saved Christian civilization in western Europe. However, instead of hailing a deliverer and instead of forming a Christian alliance with Germany against the international menace of Soviet Russia, Christian England and

Christian France talked of an alliance with the Ghengis Khan of the Kremlin to once more smash Germany."

What Coughlin wants is clear. He wants a "holy" crusade against Soviet Russia, together with Hitler. Now we have time and time again made clear our unalterable opposition to the Stalin bureaucracy ruling in Russia but the people who have to overthrow Stalin

(Continued on Page 3)

Block the "Blitzkrieg" Against Labor Rights

While all the papers are howling about a military "blitzkrieg" (lightning war) in Europe, a less noticed but at least as important "blitzkrieg" is taking place right here in America: the drive of the bosses and the government against the rights and civil liberties of the workers and the youth.

In every section of the country, reactionary groups of vigilantes and professional patrioteers have begun a drive against the civil rights of the workers and youth. These drives have in almost every case been aided by the government.

KKK STUNG BY YPSL EXPOSE

LOS ANGELES—The Ku Klux Klan has raised its filthy head in the latest issue of its rag, "The Fiery Cross," to issue a violent attack on "The Challenge of Youth" and the Young Peoples Socialist League. Touched to the quick about the expose which the CHALLENGE ran in its August 1st issue of the Klan's anti-Negro, anti-Semitic, and anti-labor campaign in the farm area of California, the "Imperial Wizard" (read: Imperial Nitwit) attempts to smear the YPSL in his lead article of the September issue of "The Fiery Cross."

The article in the August 1st CHALLENGE had described the attempts of the KKK to spread terror against Mexican laborers in the town of Azusa, an agricultural center. This it had done by the process of an attack on all "foreigners", Jews, Negroes, Mexicans.

In its paper, the KKK—the most notorious of all organizations preaching race hatred in America—suddenly took on the appearance of an innocent little lamb. All that it was trying to do, says "The Fiery Cross," was to urge Americans to have meetings and to support President Roosevelt's drive against agitators. And that is why the CHALLENGE got so mad, says the "Imperial Wizard." In fact, says the Inferior Lizard, there are "shivers of fear" running up and down our backs.

It would be a waste of space to retell the history of the KKK as the outstanding agent of race and religious intolerance in America. Suffice it to quote from one of its leaflets: "The KKK, a national organization of native born, white, Protestant, Gentile Americans. . . ."

The article ends up by mocking the YPSL Challenge to the KKK in the agricultural area of California. Yes, we repeat that challenge. We will fight every attempt of this fascistic, labor-hating gang to raise its head and spread hatred against the workers.

Hit Workers Rights

Here are a few of the specific instances of the drive against workers' and youth rights:

- (1) On the University of Chicago campus, issuance of leaflets has been banned. The administration of Chicago has also passed a ruling prohibiting any student organization from protesting an administration ruling unless the approval of the faculty advisor is first obtained!
- (2) At the Commerce Center of City College of New York, all copy to appear in the student newspaper must first be censored by an administration official.
- (3) At Columbia University a naval ROTC unit is being set up.
- (4) The administration of the University of California at Berkeley has decided that no motion pictures may be shown by the campus student groups.
- (5) At Cornell University, several large youth clubs were forbidden use of the large rooms . . . because it wasted electricity!
- (6) In Minneapolis, a number of youth have been indicted in the WPA "conspiracy" trials. Several unemployed leaders have already been found guilty. Their great crime was leading the workers in a fight for relief.
- (7) In New York, the candidates of the Communist (Stalinist) Party have been ruled off the ballot on a ridiculous technicality. The Manhattan candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, George Lyman Paine, has likewise been removed from the ballot.
- (8) In Sevierville, Tenn. a mob of 100 "vigilantes" order two union organizers to leave town. This drive against the rights of the youth and the workers must be stopped. No M-Day in America. No blackout of workers rights.

"LEON TROTSKY PRESENTS"—A Profoundly Brilliant Defense and Exposition of the Basic Principles of Marxism

LEON TROTSKY PRESENTS THE LIVING THOUGHTS OF KARL MARX — Longman, Green and Co. (184 pp. \$1.00. Hard cover.)

By **IRVING HOWE**

Only a few years ago it was the fashionable thing in American intellectual and student circles to pose as a Marxist. In the early 30's this had become something of a fad, like psychoanalysis or miniature golf. With the advent of the Roosevelt administration and its New Deal program and with the appearance of the Second



Hobbes and Locke—who said: Man does not live as the image of ideas. No, for all human knowledge is furnished by the human senses, and therefore all our ideals and concepts are but the images and pictures of the real world. This philosophy of materialism (materialism here means, not selfishness or miserliness, but merely reference to the actual material conditions of life) was the starting point of Marxian thought.

Marx Adapts Materialism

But Marx did not accept it as it was. For in the above outlined form—it should by the way be remembered that all this is greatly simplified—it is a static philosophy. It says: there are things, and ideas are images of those things, and that's that. This does not allow for the idea of change.

Marx added to the materialist concept the ideas of an old German thinker, Hegel. His idea was: nothing remains stationary; all things move; motion is the basic law of life. And conflict is in turn the basic law of motion.

It is on the basis of the above ideas that Trotsky sums up the Marxian method as follows:

"Marx's method is materialistic, because it proceeds from existence to consciousness, not the other way round. Marx's method is dialectical because it regards both nature and society as they evolve, and evolution itself as the constant struggle of conflicting forces."

Trotsky then proceeds to show that on the basis of these concepts, the study of political economy is not the study of "eternal laws" but study of the laws of one economic system: in this case, capitalism.

Trotsky then proceeds to a brilliant summation of Marxian economics. In a few brief pages he packs in the entire economic system of Marx.

The Law of Labor Value

The fundamental law of Marxian economics, he tells us, is the law of labor value. Here is Trotsky's statement of that law:

"Society has at its disposal a certain reserve of living labor power. Applied to nature, that power produces products necessary for the satisfaction of human needs. In consequence of division of labor among independent producers, the products assume the form of commodities. Commodities are exchanged for each other in a given ratio, at first directly, and eventually through the medium of gold or money. The basic property of commodities, which in certain relationships make them equal to each other, is the human labor expended upon them—abstract labor, labor in general—the basis and measure of value." In brief, the value of a commodity is determined by the amount of socially necessary labor in it, and its price fluctuates, according to market conditions, about that value.

One commodity, however, is the basis of the growth of inequality under capitalism. That is: labor-power. When the boss purchases the labor-power of a worker, he hires him to work for a day. At the end of a certain time, the worker has produced enough value to equal his wage. But he does not quit work. He works a full day. This process is called, by Marx, surplus value. The value produced during the rest of the day is the source of the accumulation of wealth on one pole and poverty on the other under capitalism.

Trotsky then proceeds to show how capitalism leads to the growth of large scale industry, of monopoly control of industry and of the concentration of wealth into a few hands. He marshals a large number of facts from the American scene to prove his point, and engages in a delightful polemic with the N. Y. Times, the acknowledged organ of American capitalism.

Trotsky Answers His Critics

We now come to a fascinating section of Trotsky's essay: the section in which he answers those "thinkers" who say that Marxism is outmoded.

These anti-Marxians have three arguments.

ARGUMENT No. 1: "Marx's theory of increasing misery has been proven false. Everyone knows that the conditions of the workers today are better than 50 years ago." You have, no doubt, frequently run into this argument.

Trotsky answers this as follows: The theory of increasing misery means that, as the productive facilities of civilization expand, the share of the workers, in relation to the share of the capitalists, will decrease. This is an obvious fact. The standard of living of the masses has not kept pace with the growth of productive facilities. This, then, is a relative decline of the masses' standard of living. But we live now in a period when there is an absolute decline, even in relation to years ago, in their standard of living. As Trotsky writes:

"With 6 percent of the world's population, the United States holds 40 percent of the world's wealth. Still, one third of the nation, as Roosevelt himself admits, is undernourished, inadequately clothed and lives in subhuman conditions. What is there to say, then, for the far less privileged countries? The history of the capitalist world since the last war has irrefutably borne out the so-called 'theory of increasing misery'."

ARGUMENT No. 2: "Marx said that as the crisis of capitalism develops the middle class would decline, most of them becoming workers. This has not happened."

This argument is really a play on words. The old middle class of small business men is rapidly disappearing. Trotsky quotes the U. S. Government statistics to this effect. What has grown somewhat, and still exists, is the so-called new middle class: clerks, technicians, etc. But these are merely the hired dependents of capitalism. They play no independent role in capitalist life, as did the "old" middle class. Here, too, Marx was right.

The Crisis of Capitalism

ARGUMENT No. 3: "Marx said that capitalism would suffer a violent collapse. This has not happened."

This argument appears absolutely ridiculous today. Trotsky points to the last twenty-five years—from the first to the second World War—and asks: has this been a period of peaceful development in which the difficulties of capitalism were "ironed out" or a period of crisis and catastrophe? To merely pose the question is to answer it.

Capitalism has two methods of trying to overcome this crisis: Fascism and the New Deal.

"Fascism," writes Trotsky, "bases its program on the demolition of labor organizations, on the destruction of social reforms, and on the complete annihilation of democratic rights, in order to forestall a resurrection of the proletariat's class struggle. The Fascist state officially legalizes the degradation of workers and the pauperization of the middle classes, in the name of saving the 'nation' and the 'race'—presumptuous names under which decaying capitalism figures."

Trotsky then devotes a considerable section to the New Deal.

The New Deal tries to overcome the problems of capitalism by indulging in a liberal spending program, giving a few sops to the farmers and workers, while granting large sums to the capitalists. This it does—or rather, did—in order to increase purchasing power and extend production. But the Roosevelt government contradicted itself, says Trotsky, by offering premiums to the farmers . . . to decrease production! The New Deal is the last attempt of the richest capitalist country in the world to save itself from death in a "liberal" fashion. Unless the Socialist revolution sweeps the whole mess away, Fascism is the next point on the agenda.

Trotsky then indulges in a sharp polemic with Secretary of Agriculture Wallace on the applicability of Marxism to America. Wallace had imputed to Trotsky . . . a dogmatic thinness which is bitterly un-American." Trotsky shows that the reason that the opportunist spirit of Jefferson, to which Wallace appeals, was vibrant in times past was that America had a rich, expanding economy.

"America was free of 'dogmatic thinness' only because it had a plethora of virgin areas, inexhaustible resources of natural wealth and it would seem, limitless opportunities for enrichment. . . . the material conditions which made

up the basis of 'Americanism' are today increasingly relegated to the past. Hence the profound crisis of traditional American ideology. . . . America developed economically not in accordance with the principles of Jefferson, but in accordance with the laws of Marx. . . . the teaching of Marx is far more permeated with new 'Americanism' than the ideas of Hoover and Roosevelt. . ."

Socialist United States of Europe

Trotsky ends his essay with the following stirring words:

"Partial reforms will do no good. Historical development has come to one of those decisive stages when only the direct intervention of a new régime. . . . The contradictions which rend Europe and the entire world asunder will find their natural and peaceful solution within the framework of a Socialist United States of Europe as well as in other parts of the world. Liberated humanity will draw itself up to its full height."

Trotsky has in the past shown his ability in the field of complex theoretical applications of Marxism. In this essay he shows the many sided nature of his genius by his defense and exposition of the most basic principles of Marxism.

It is an essay which every revolutionary youth should read. It is also an excellent introduction to Marxism to those youth not yet acquainted with it.

The book also contains an adequate condensation of Marx's Capital.

Technically, the book is excellent. Firmly bound, beautifully designed, it is a pleasure to look at as well as to read.

The translation of Charles Malamuth is smooth and lucid.

World War in which America would participate in the name of "democracy," Marxism lost much of its "glamour" to the "young thinkers" and they soon came to the profound discovery that it was . . . obsolete.

It is against this background of American intellectual life—the trend away from Marxism—that Leon Trotsky has written his introduction to a condensation of Marx's masterwork, **Capital**. Suffice it to say at the outset that Trotsky has written an amazingly compact and skillful summary and defense of Marxism. It is the purpose of this article to present the highlights of Trotsky's argument and to provide one or two notes of background for the reader of Trotsky's essay who, because he is unacquainted with the works of Marxism, may find the essay too compact.

Two Great Names

If nothing else had happened in the 19th century, it would be noteworthy as the century in which the last great superstitions of mankind had been destroyed.

Darwin and Marx—these are the two great names of the century! Darwin established the fact that man had not been "created" in seven days, but had developed over a long period of time from a lower form of animal life. Darwin looked for the solution of the problem of the origin of man, not in any mystical conversations with Heaven or any beliefs in ideas determining man's development. Darwin looked for the answer to this question in the actual, material conditions of life. He freed science of mystery and superstition; he based it upon actual human experience.

Marx did the same for what is called social science: the economic and political development of mankind.

Trotsky summarizes Marx's achievements on this score in a few sentences:

"Having established science as cognition of the objective recurrences of nature, man has tried stubbornly and persistently to exclude himself from science, reserving for himself special privileges in the shape of alleged intercourse with supersensory forces (religion), or with timeless moral precepts (idealism.) Marx deprived man of these odious privileges definitely and forever, looking upon him as a natural link in the evolutionary process of material nature; upon human society as the organization of production and distribution; upon capitalism as a stage in the development of human society."

Into these few remarkable sentences, Trotsky has packed the entire Marxian method. Let us try to restate the matter in simpler and more detailed form.

The Philosophy of Idealism

Most pre-Marxian thinkers had been what is called idealist philosophers (idealism is not here used in the sense of struggling for a worthy goal). These thinkers said that society develops according to the will of a supernatural being or according to certain moral laws which exist forever. What did this philosophy come to in practice? It always meant a defense of conditions as they were, no matter how bad they were.

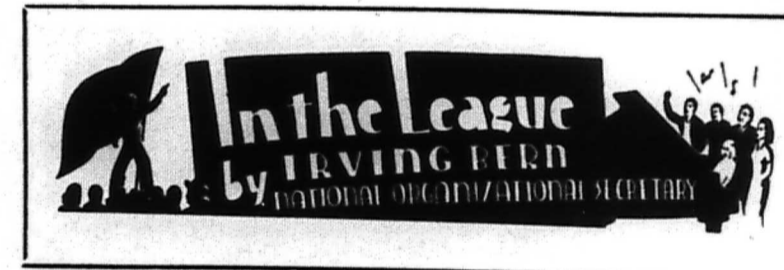
Why? Because if the thinker was one of those who believed in a supernatural being, then he would say that all that was happening was according to the will of that supernatural being and that the only way to change things was to pray. If the thinker was one of those who believed in timeless moral concepts as guiding the world, then it was hopeless to change the world; what was necessary was to purify the individual in harmony with those concepts. This was the theory of idealism.

In opposition to these thinkers, there grew up a school of thinkers in England—led by Bacon,

come a special point of concentration. The Negro youth as the white have all to lose by the war and nothing to gain. But even in times of peace they are the worst treated section of the 'Locked Out Generation.'

MARXIST EDUCATION: The majority of our members, being in the League less than a year, have not had the Marxist training of many of the older comrades, though they are better educated than other youth, even those belonging to organizations. It is important to educate our comrades by practical participation in the class struggle and by study so that they will be able to act and analyze problems as revolutionists. Connected with this question was the related problem of more concentrated effort being made in training comrades locally for readership.

THE CHALLENGE OF YOUTH
From January 1939 to June 1939 we had reestablished the Challenge as a regularly appearing monthly paper. At the April Plenum we decided to raise a \$500 fund for the establishment in July of a Twice-Monthly. We went over our set figure and received \$600 for the establishment of the twice monthly. Since July 1, 1939, we have had a regular appearing twice a month paper. No other working class youth organization in the United States but ours can boast of this fact. The problem of expansion, financial responsibility was stressed. This is especially important in this period when we must keep our BEST weapon of propaganda going full blast.



Report on the YPSL Plenum

MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL Y.P.S.L.

The imperialist bandits having plunged the world into a catastrophic blood bath gave special significance to the meeting of the anti-war youth fighters gathered at the National Plenum of the YPSL held in Philadelphia October 14th and 15th, 1939.

Present at the meeting were 19 members of the National Council, including the Socialist Workers Party representative and 34 invited observers who participated in the proceedings.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The keynote address dealing with the question of the War and our tasks was delivered by the Party representative. It was stressed that only the working class can stop war by fighting their enemies at home and establishing a Workers government. As long as there was a capitalist regime in America with Roosevelt as the representative of American imperialism, the United States participation in the war is inevitable.

THE TASKS OF THE ANTI-WAR FIGHTERS

The next report, entitled 'An

Evaluation of the Past Work and Perspectives for the Coming Period In Light of the War Situation.' The main points that were stressed in this report and in the thorough discussion that followed were:

INTO THE STREETS: This is a continuation of our past efforts to get the League into the streets in a dramatic way to spread our propaganda and agitation to wide masses of youth with greater effect. This is especially important NOW when we must INCREASE our anti-war agitation and point to the correct road in the fight against war.

INTO THE FACTORIES: This slogan stresses the fact that the League must become more and more an organization whose basic ranks are composed of young workers. By this slogan is not implied that our excellent work among the unemployed or student youth is slackened.

INTO THE NEGRO NEIGHBORHOODS: This has been one of our points of emphasis in the past in order to change the composition of the League. It has been carried out partly by some sections. But at the present time it must be

LIVING THOUGHTS of MARX
Edited by **LEON TROTSKY**

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RUSH SUBSCRIPTIONS

CHALLENGE of YOUTH
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KEEP SONS OUT OF CCC IN FEAR OF WAR TANGLE

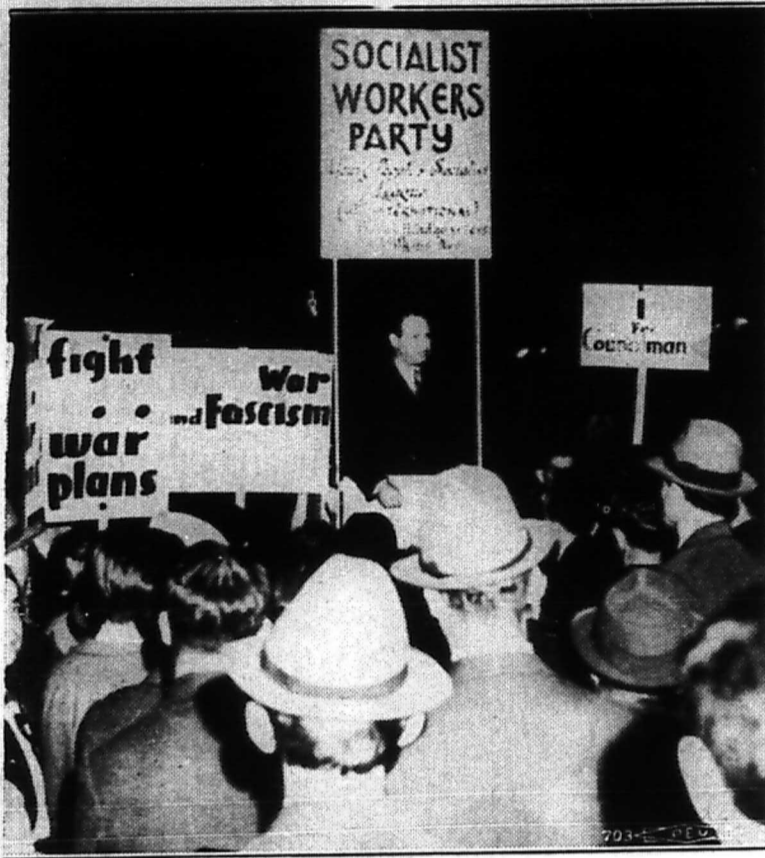
The mothers of America are on the war path—against war. In its last issue, the CHALLENGE commented on the drive of the Michigan mothers to keep their sons out of the CCC because they don't want their boys to be connected with any agency that might lead their boys to war.

Dispatches from New Jersey tell the same story. According to the New Jersey CCC office, there is a "holding back such as we have never seen before" from enlisting in the CCC. The difficulty in making placements, declared Dr. William Ellis, head of the Jersey CCC, stems mainly from the parents of the boys. Parents come to the offices of the CCC and remembering the last war obstinately refuse to let their sons go to the CCC.

The mothers are right—absolutely! The boys of America have a place at home, building a decent society which will take the place of the misery and want we have today, and not going across to fight for the profits of the 60 Families.

Socialist Workers Party's Fighting Program for Youth

Max Shachtman Addressing Campaign Rally



(Continued from Page 1)
 A People's Vote before war can be declared. Let the People Decide! Lower the voting age to 18 years to permit the youth, who will be called upon to fight in war, to vote on war.
 Against all appropriations for armaments.
 For the protection of all civil liberties in time of war as well as in time of peace.
 Against the Mobilization Day plans for a military dictatorship in time of war.
 Against the Roosevelt War Deal.
 For permanent peace through Socialism.

- 2. YOUTH AND UNEMPLOYMENT**
 Mass unemployment has remained the unsolved problem through four years of the "Old Deal" and six years of the "New Deal." A job for every worker, including the young people, can become a reality only under a system of collectivized and planned production.
 It is the duty of those responsible for the continuation of unemployment to pay for the maintenance of their victims on a minimum standard of health and decency. This is doubly true in reference to the youthful victims of the crisis—the "locked-out generation" of some seven million youth who are neither at work nor in school. We therefore propose a taxation of wealth to pay for the following:
 A. Youth WPA Projects instead of NYA handouts; a 20 billion dollar housing program.
 B. \$40 per month to needy college students; \$20 per month to needy high school students. Relief bureau certification shall NOT be necessary to qualify.
 C. Transfer the two-billion dollar war budget to provide youth with jobs and a chance to live, instead of guns and death.
 D. Restore all cuts in educational budgets. Make federal funds available to state, city, and county to maintain all educational facilities.
 E. Open the idle factories under workers' control.
 F. Increase wages to keep pace with the rising cost of living.
- 3. YOUTH AND FASCISM**
 The decay of capitalism has given rise to movement that cater to the backward prejudices of sections of the population in an attempt to rally support for a seemingly anti-capitalist goal. These organizations follow the path of Fascist movements of Europe. Their real goal is the same—the annihilation of organized labor, the lowering workers' living standards, and the salvation of capitalism by shifting the burden of the crisis to the backs of the working people and farmers.
 The leaders of these movements make special demagogic attempts to appeal to the dissatisfaction of youth and to organize the young people into the storm troops of their movement. Unless a bold, fighting movement of the working class, with a program for the solution of the economic problems of youth, appears on the scene, American youth will in their despair, turn to the Coughlins and other imitators of Hitler, in a desperate effort to find a way out of their plight. We propose the following to fight the Fascist menace:
 1. Counterpose to the demagoguery of the Fascists a thorough program of economic measures to give jobs to youth.
 2. Organize Anti-Fascist Defense Guards on a military basis to defend labor organizations and racial and religious minorities in their enjoyment of civil liberties.

The most important measures against war, Fascism, and unemployment proposed in the above paragraphs can only be realized on the national scene. Using these objectives as their guides, however, the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party for the City Council stand pledged to fight for all municipal legislation that enacts any phase of the above program or facilitates its adoption by state and national legislation.

WESTERN UNION BOYS STRIKE

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal.—One of the most significant strikes is taking place in this city—the strike of the Western Union boys who have been out for 2 months demanding decent conditions. The young fellows who are employed by Western Union under absolutely miserable conditions finally made up their minds two months ago that they couldn't stand it any longer; so they went out on strike and they've been out 100 per cent ever since.

The thing which finally convinced the Western Union guys to go out and strike was the decision of the company to cut wages below the then level of 25c per hour. In reality, this didn't come to 25c an hour because the boys had to buy bicycles out of their wages. So when the company decided to lower wages even further, the boys just stood up and went out on strike.

The outstanding feature of the strike is the fighting militancy which the boys — whose average age is from 15-17 years display.

Negro Youth Must Participate In United Struggle Against War

By J. R. JOHNSON

Negro youth of this generation face a difficult task. All things considered, few groups in the population have so many adjustments to make in a world rocking beneath their feet and tumbling about their heads. Before the first World War, the American Negroes were in their great mass an agricultural people. During the war there began the great migration which brought millions of them from the South into the industries of the North.

With the development of industrial production in the South, they also began to take greater part in Southern industry. Thus the post-war generation of Negro youth gained its first footing in the country's industries.

The Negroes shared in the capitalist prosperity of 1924-1929. They still lived on crumbs and bones, but the crumbs were a bit larger and the bones had scraps of meat on them.

Then came the crisis of 1929. The Negroes were the first to be hit. The latest generation of Negro youth, particularly in the North, are the children of parents bitterly disappointed in the expectations raised by the migration to the North and prospects raised by the boom. They have been plunged into the crisis and capitalism shows them no way out.

Youth Are Restless
 The youth are restless and dissatisfied. They are not prepared to accept their lot with the fatalism of elder generations.

Furthermore, Negro youth have been living in a world which imposes a certain education on them. The crisis has brought the white and Negro workers together. The organization of the CIO with hundreds of thousands of Negroes, has been a great object lesson.

International events, beginning with the rape of Ethiopia by Italian Fascism, have not only stirred

(This article is the first in a regular series which will be printed in the CHALLENGE on the problems of Negro youth. The author welcomes all opinions from readers and any information which they may have on the question—Editor.)

ASU In Hot Water

Rumours often have a peculiar habit of being true. That is why the rumours which persist about a split in the top ranks of the American Student Union between its Stalinist mortgagées and its liberal tenants, led by Joe Lash, are so interesting.

Rumour further has it that Lash, who has never been adverse to unprincipled combinations, is fishing in the troubled waters of the Youth Committee Against War, trying to find himself a comfortable bailiwick there.

The split in the ASU can by no stretch of the imagination be described as one between pro and anti-war forces. It is merely a dispute as to which imperialist gang to support. Lash still remains faithful to the English-French gang, while the Stalinists, obeying their Masters voice, support the Hitler-Stalin gang.

Exactly how the Lash group could fit into the muddled isolationist YCAW is not exactly clear. But, then, when two groups get together, neither of which have a clear anti-war line, then any kind of combination can be expected.

But of course all this is merely rumour. . . .

THE REVEREND WHO LIVES IN THE MOON

Rev. Edward J. Flanagan, founder of Boys Town: I am happy and the whole world should be profoundly grateful that American boys are armed with baseball bats and not rifles, that they are taught to throw baseballs and not grenades, and that they are trained in the arts of peaceful play and not in the science of artificial murder."

We wonder, where has the good Reverend been living: on the moon? Hasn't he heard of the American military budget, the largest in peace-time history? Hasn't he heard of the plans to militarize CCC and to teach NYA students military flying? Or is Reverend Flanagan too busy making speeches to notice such things?

BULL--etin

Governor Lehman of New York believes that there is still great opportunity for American youth under capitalism. He believes that it is merely a lack of initiative that prevents youth from getting jobs. (In simple English, this means that youth is lazy!)

Says the worthy Governor: "Broad and unrestricted opportunities still exist for those who have the equipment, the industry, the vision and the courage to carry on."

We really wonder if the worthy Governor ever TRIED to get a job!

YOUTH TELLS OF RUN AROUND IN SCHOOLS; DUE TO BUDGET CUTS

By EUGENE VICTOR
 "Our city has free trade schools," I was told. "Go two nights a week for six months and you can learn a trade. Learn a trade and you can get a job." It sounded too simple. I was skeptical; but I went.

Brooklyn Technical Evening High School is one of the best equipped in New York City. Many stories high, this building is furnished with millions of dollars worth of machinery. Corridor after corridor is divided into shops with the most modern tools of production — recently developed lathes, gigantic printing presses, water - cooled spot welding machines—a sight to stimulate the eagerness of any young apprentice who likes the feel of a machine humming at his touch, subject to his will.

Outside of the school on the evening of Oct. 16th another side of the picture presented itself. Five thousand young workers were lined up along the iron fence at 7:30 p.m. They had rushed through supper and hurriedly changed their clothes in order to get there early. They came from all parts of the city and some of them from New Jersey. They had either worked hard all day or walked the streets looking for jobs. Sincere, ambitious, they were here to learn a trade.

intervals of five minutes. I was in that line. I waited for an hour until my turn came to enter the building. The size of the turnout discouraged everybody. We had been told that fewer than a thousand would be accepted but every one of the boys felt that he had to get in.

After registration we were gathered in the auditorium. The principal mounted the platform and took his place at the microphone. In a quiet voice, as polished as the rostrum on which he leaned, he began his apology.

Budget Cut

The state and city governments had cut eight million dollars out of the educational budget. The City Board of Education had been faced with the problem of arranging the classes to fit the money on hand. Half of the shops which were open last year will be in operation this term, he said. Half of the teachers who were retained last year had been dismissed. There was no money for supplies. Students would have to pay for their own. There was enough money to run the schools only until January. After that it was hard to predict what would happen.

For these reasons it would be necessary to eliminate all but a few hundred of the applicants in the auditorium. Classes would be opened only to those people who could bring letters proving that they were working or had worked at the trade. In cases in which this eliminated too few applicants a number of years of experience would be required. The measures adopted would be very severe. He was sorry. However, there was nothing he could do. There was nothing the teachers could do. There

Coughlin - -

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 are the workers not the joint fobber gangs of England, France and Germany. We would defend the remnants of the great gains which the workers achieved during the great Russian revolution, and which still remain despite Stalin, "Social Justice" says: "England's zeal to destroy Germany has now removed that nation as her own safeguard against Communism's invasion of the West. . . If the capitalistic nations (Incidentally, Father Coughlin, isn't Germany capitalistic, too?) carry on their three years' war needed to destroy Hitler, both England and France will become Communist before even Germany cracks."

It is clear, now, that what Coughlin fears above all else is a militant working class. He has no particular objection to England and France, or to Germany. He just thinks that they should all get together to smash the Soviet Union and the workers everywhere. He would have no objection to that kind of war.

We say that Coughlin's position is reactionary to the core. We say: Down with both imperialist camps.

FIGHT AGAINST THE WAR; JOIN THE YPSL!

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