

DECEMBER 30 IN CHICAGO

PLANS FOR CYO CONVENTION IN HIGH GEAR

Preparations are in high gear for this year's convention of the Communist Youth Organization. The date has been reset for December 30-January 1 in order to give CYO members enough time to prepare for the main discussion which will center on the adoption of a new program.

The convention is scheduled to take place in Chicago, and several hundred delegates and observers are already making plans to travel from all areas of the country.

Among the main issues planned for discussion will be the question of bringing the CYO more actively into the fight for jobs, against cutbacks, discrimination and police repression and other struggles of the people.

During the past year since the founding CYO convention last November, the organization has made its main focus on consolidation of its membership around the basic principles which it previously adopted. According to CYO Chairman Roy Smith, "this focus of getting the CYO firmly on its feet has limited the amount of mass work of the organization."

"Throughout the CYO," said Smith, "the main weakness has been a lack of consolidation of our mass work." But, he added, that in some places, "the error has been made of turning the CYO into a narrow study circle with

limited or no mass work." Smith added that through criticism and self-criticism these errors are being corrected and that the upcoming convention will be a chance to firm up the CYO around a correct orientation and stronger unity between study and action.

Also central to the convention discussion will be the adoption of a program of struggle for the CYO. This program will sum up the CYO's stand on the burning questions of the day and state clearly its aims and principles. The draft program will be circulated between now and the convention so that it can be thoroughly discussed by the membership.

The program draft will put forth the view that the CYO should be built as a "mass organization of advanced youth," according to CYO Vice-President Marja Wessels.

"By a mass organization," ex-

plained Wessels, "we mean to distinguish ourselves from the new party or from the various pre-party organizations which have their own role to play in the struggle. Our organization is aimed specifically at the masses of revolutionary-minded youth. It cannot have the same form of organization as the party will have when it is formed."

Wessels added: "By advanced youth, we mean those who are open to the principles of communism and who are actively engaged in the struggle against capitalism. The most active and most revolutionary-minded youth have the responsibility to get organized and bring the ideas of Marxism-Leninism to the broad masses of youth."

While distinguishing itself from the pre-party and party-type organizations, the CYO leadership is not trying to separate itself from the party-building efforts nor from the party itself when it is formed.

The relationship between the party and the CYO will be specifically discussed at the convention. How can a communist youth organization follow the line of the



FIGHT AGAINST CUTBACKS, like Rockford, Ill. student strike pictured above, has brought thousands of youth into the struggle.

party of the working class while at the same time retaining its own independent organizational character with its own principles and its own leadership? Both CYO leaders pointed out that "independent" doesn't mean we are independent from the proletariat, from its party or from its line."

Another important feature of the upcoming convention will be its broad character. While the convention will be an opportunity for consolidation of the leading CYO cadres, it also provides a chance for many young activists to be introduced to Marxist-Leninist

politics for the first time.

The CYO is planning to provide housing in Chicago for all those who wish to attend, although food costs will have to be met by individual delegates.

The prospects for the CYO's continued growth and its development on a higher level are bright. The Dec. 30 convention marks a new step forward in the development of communist leadership for the masses of revolutionary youth in the country. Those interested in attending should contact:

Communist Youth Organization
P.O. Box 5698, Chicago, Ill. 60680

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