

Open Idle Factories to Jobless Youth!

THE

CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

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375

Five Cents

All War Funds
to the
Unemployed!

Schools,
Not Battleships!

Seven Million Youth Jobless

Attempt to Herd Jobless Youth Into Army

By ROBERT STILER

A nation-wide campaign to herd the jobless youth of America into the armed forces has just begun by the U. S. Government. Utilizing every means of propaganda at its disposal, the press, the radio, the movies, advertising billboards, and schools, the government is trying to "sell" a life in the Army or Navy to the unemployed and poverty-stricken youth of America.

The billion dollar Roosevelt war budget requires a tremendous increase in the manpower of the Army, Navy, and Marines. Since there is no peace-time conscription or compulsory military service in America, the U. S. Government is compelled to rely on its ability to paint such an attractive picture of service in the armed forces that there will be a constant source of recruitment from volunteers.

Jobless Enlist

Nearly five thousand jobless youths a month seek relief from the misery of unemployment and poverty by attempting to enlist in the armed forces.

In New York alone from 750 to 1,500 applications per month are received by the Navy recruiting station in Brooklyn. In February, 1938, seven hundred and four applications were received in the N. Y. recruiting office of the U. S. Marines. Nearly all of these were high school students or graduates. They could not find work and were ready to accept the danger of being blown to bits in the coming war in exchange for a place to eat and sleep and the meagre \$21 a month paid to a new recruit.

The love of romance and adventure, played up widely in the streamlined advertising and recruiting campaigns, plays very lit-

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TO-DAY



TOMORROW



On the New Deal
Breadline

Open the Factories!

An Editorial

Have you been looking for a job lately? Have you been getting up every morning, thumbing through the want ads, running down to the business section of your city to answer a lonely ad, and then being told: "Sorry"?

Well, you're not the only one. There are seven million of us young people-looking for work. Some of us have been looking for jobs a pretty long time—so long that we're getting sick of looking—a year, two, three and four. Some of us have NEVER had a job. And there's a big new batch of college grads with shiny new diplomas who are going to join us—the unemployed youth.

We're told we're not needed. The doors of factories and offices are shut tight to us.

But why isn't there any work? Don't people need clothes and shoes to replace the shabby ones they're wearing now? Don't we need to build new houses to replace the slums we live in? Don't we need doctors to care for the sick, teachers to teach the kids?

AND AREN'T WE READY, EQUIPPED, AND WILLING TO DO ALL THESE THINGS?

Yet we can't get a chance. They tell us there's no market because people have no money. But people have no money because there's no work. Put us and our fathers and older brothers to work in the idle factories and there'll be plenty of money to spend!

Our answer must be:
THIS GENERATION OF YOUTH REFUSES TO BE LOCKED OUT OF INDUSTRY!

IF THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM CAN'T USE US, THEN WE HAVE NO USE FOR THE SYSTEM!

NO MAN, CLASS OR LAW CAN STAND BETWEEN IDLE MAN-POWER AND IDLE MACHINERY WHILE MILLIONS HUNGER!

OPEN THE FACTORIES, OR WE'LL OPEN THEM OURSELVES!

Mass lay-offs in the basic industries during the last eight months of recession and another two million young people leaving school to look for work have increased the army of jobless youth in this country to the all-time high mark of seven million.

Figures recently released by governmental agencies

Akron Cops Shoot Young Worker In Back

By SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

AKRON.—A tragic repercussion of the recent strike of Goodyear rubber workers was told to your correspondent by one of the victims of the police brutality which gave this strike nation-wide publicity. He was one of the hundred odd wounded, many seriously enough to be taken to the hospital, by the police attack on a picket line. Equipped with sub-machine guns and gas-bombs, the cops attacked a crowd of 3,000 unarmed rubber workers and sympathizers on the picket line, and a three-hour battle resulted.

This battle assumed the dimensions of a minor civil war and the vicinity of the gates of Goodyear No. 1 plant looked like a battlefield. When the battle was over, more than a hundred strikers were wounded, but the spirit of the workers was high and they determined to continue their struggle.

The young worker with whom I spoke, Donald Dixon, was not a striker. He was formerly employed at the city hospital but because of a foot infection, which was not properly treated, he was forced to quit and consequently lost his job. He has been unemployed ever since. He went to the scene of the riot with a brother.

"When the shooting started," Dixon told me, "we went into a

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Widow Hit by New Depression

PHILADELPHIA.—As news dispatches from the entire country told of increased unemployment among the workers, it was learned here that some of the capitalists are likewise in pretty dire straits.

Mrs. E. T. Stotesbury, widow of a multimillionaire, fired 62 of her servant staff recently in a desperate attempt to stem off the ravages of the depression. It is further reported that during the summer she will abandon her rather spacious 272-room mansion, White-marsh Hall, and live in the comparative squalor of El Mirasol, her Palm Beach villa. The dozen other houses of her estate will be demolished to save taxes, while no more than a mere fifty rooms of Whitmarsh Hall will be used for winter residence. It is announced that the portly widow will keep a crew of only six servants "to care for her wants." What Mrs. Stotesbury will do with her million dollar emerald collection is not yet known.

Local slum dwellers have expressed their deep sympathy for Mrs. Stotesbury's plight and are contemplating running a theatre benefit for her.

further show that these seven million represent one-half of the youth between the ages of 16 and 25 who are out of school and one-third of all the youth of those age levels.

These figures prove that all of the New Deal-tinkering with the problem of youth who are unable to find a place in industry has neither failed to reduce the number of jobless youth, nor even prevented it from increasing.

After five years of the CCC, NYA, and WPA efforts to cope with this problem, the number of unemployed youth today exceeds the total for the lowest point of the depression in 1933. Figures of the National Youth Administration show that there were 5,000,000 unemployed youth in 1937 at the peak of Roosevelt "recovery."

"Recovery" Vanished

Roosevelt "recovery" has since vanished into thin air. In its place we have a Roosevelt "recession," the New Deal label for the dizzying decline in production and employment. Whereas the Hoover depression began with a standing army of three million unemployed, the Roosevelt recession begins with a standing army of ten million unemployed. Despite the recovery of 1935-37, industry was unable to absorb more than one-third of the unemployed.

According to official figures, three million workers were laid off from October through December of 1937. In December 1937, the Government census on unemployment estimated that there were about 14,000,000 unemployed. The next month added 1,300,000 to this figure. With the decline continuing, estimates today place the total number of unemployed above 16,000,000.

Available figures on lay-offs in several of the basic industries for the period of September to December, 1937, show the following:

Iron and steel.....	161,500
Machinery	155,800
Textiles	218,400
Food	202,800
Railroads	125,800
Construction	333,800

The index of the Federal Reserve System makes the following comparison of production levels:

1923-25	100%
1929	119%
1932	64%
1937 (Sept.)	109%
1938 (Feb.)	67%

In addition to the increase of youth unemployment due to lay-offs, the National Youth Administration reports that there are approximately two million young people leaving school every year to seek work.



J.S.R. Appeals for Unity to Pivert Youth Group

PARIS, France—The "Jeunesse Socialiste Revolutionnaire," youth section of the French Fourth Internationalist movement, has issued an unity appeal in its paper *Revolution* to the Pivert youth, recently expelled from the French Socialist Party. The Pivert group, formerly the left wing of the French S. P., was expelled because of an anti-Daladier government demonstration in which it participated. It took with it the entire Seine section, which includes Paris, of the Socialist Party and is now forming its own organization.

The appeal of the JSR requested the formation of a "Joint Organization of Revolutionary Youth" in order to discuss prospects for revolutionary unity. It also requests immediate action against the Daladier decree laws, for the reduction of military service, for the formation

of a workers militia, and for youth representation in factory committees.

The expulsion of the Pivert group climaxes a series of systematic exclusions of all left-wing, or even potentially revolutionary elements, from the French Socialist Party by the conservative leadership. The first expulsion was directed against the Trotskyists in 1935, then a year later a section of the Seine youth was expelled. Later the student section of the youth was expelled. These expulsions are the result of the growing war danger, which force the patriotic bureaucracy of the S. P. to clamp down upon all dissident elements. Exactly what course the Pivert group will pursue is not yet known here, but one section of his membership has already suggested favorable action on the JSR appeal.

The text of the appeal follows:

GIVE BACKGROUND OF EVENTS

"To all young Socialists who do not want national unity:
"In 1935, the S.F.I.O. (French S. P.) bureaucracy, by dissolving the Seine Youth Federation and expelling the Bolshevik-Leninists, opened the door of repression against the revolutionists in the S. P. At that time, certain comrades believed that it was the sectarianism, intransigence and indiscipline of these militants which had provoked this act. They thought that the revolutionary re-

form of the S.F.I.O. was still possible, that freedom of action for a revolutionary minority still existed inside the S.F.I.O. Subsequent developments quickly disillusioned them of such ideas. A year later, at the Congress of Creil, they themselves were expelled. Then came the turn of the Socialist Student Federation. Finally, the repression hit the Revolutionary Left (Pivert's faction), decapitated its leadership, dissolved the Seine Federation, both Party and Youth.

WHY EXPULSIONS WERE NEEDED

"This incessant repression is no accident. It responds simply to the desire of the bureaucracy to maintain itself in power. Each blow of the bureaucracy against the left wing corresponds to a reinforcement of its alliance with the bourgeois. In 1935, at Lille, it was necessary to smash the revolutionary minority in order to establish the People's Front with the radical bourgeois, and in order to make the workers accept uncritically the Franco-Soviet Pact with its inevi-

table consequences. In 1937, at Creil, it was necessary in order to have the "pause" accepted to place the burden of the deepening crisis on the workers (devaluation, rising cost of living, strikes, etc.), thus better meriting the confidence of the bourgeoisie in preparation for Union Sacree and the anti-working-class and anti-colonial repression. In 1938, it was necessary in order definitely to seal the national union with the bourgeoisie against the workers.

CONCILIATION IMPOSSIBLE

"NATIONAL UNION — In 1914 the bourgeoisie demanded of the workingclass leaders that they betray the workers and help in the preparations for the war. Today it is the workers' leaders who demand entry into Union Sacree in order better to prepare the war. By smashing the Revolutionary Left, and dissolving the Seine Federation, the S.F.I.O. bureaucracy furnishes proof to the bourgeoisie of its capacity and willingness to betray the workers. . . . Neither conciliation nor reintegration is possible because of the bureaucracy's policy of Union Sacree. This, the comrades (of the Pivert group) must understand. . . .

"To the policy of the bureaucracy you have opposed the 'People's Front of action.' But the People's Front is above all an alliance with the bourgeoisie. It was formed against the united proletarian front. From the beginning it was the first form of Union Sacree. Who liquidated it? The Radicals, after the workers' leaders had done their betraying, after the bourgeoisie had extracted the maximum profit from it. The reality of the People's Front lies not in its program but in its daily betrayals. Revolutionaries cannot count on an alliance with the Democrats, Socialists, Communists, and trade union bureaucrats who are tied to the bourgeoisie, but on the capacity of the workers to reject these bureaucracies and to forge in the struggle a new leadership and a new vanguard based on a firm revolutionary program.

MUST PASS FROM WORDS TO ACTION

"REVOLUTIONARY ACTION— . . . It is necessary to pass from words to action against the bosses and the democratic bourgeoisie. We must show clearly the link which leads each reform, each conflict to the struggle for the social revolution. . . .

lated, to refuse all contacts and discussion with our militants is to confess bankruptcy, and to condemn with us the entire working class youth to defeat in the war and the victory of fascism. That is why we propose to you THE JOINT ORGANIZATION OF A NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH. In order better to prepare this conference, we must immediately have a united front of action. . . . Concretely, in the present stage that means it must be based on:

- "Against the Daladier decree laws of hunger and which stifle workers' liberties.
- "For the reduction of military service.
- "For the formation of workers' militia.
- "For youth representation in factory delegations and elections.
- "We are asking you for an immediate appointment to discuss these proposals.
- "Bolshevik greetings, Central Committee of the Revolutionary Socialist Youth. (Fourth International)"

Colonial Suppressions Pave Way for French Fascism

By WILLIAM SPENCER

One of the main reasons for the success of Franco's revolt was that the Loyalist Government allowed the Fascists to organize freely in Morocco and did not attempt to gain the support of the Moroccan nationalist masses by granting the colony its freedom. Franco capitalized on the disillusionment of the Moors to use them as the base of this revolt. In France, the People's Front government is likewise providing future colonial support for Fascism by its policy of brutally suppressing—like every other imperialist government—demonstrations and strikes in its colonies.

The People's Front governments, both under the "Socialist" Blum and the "liberal" Daladier, have appointed notorious reactionaries to rule over the colonies. The post of Resident-General of North Africa is given to Noques, infamous for his colonial suppressions in 1931. He, an appointee of the People's Front, refuses to allow any anti-Fascist literature in the colonies, having recently banned, for example, a pamphlet entitled "Italian Atrocities in Lybia." Colonel Millier, Political Affairs Director for Morocco, is a royalist! General Blanc, director of the Fes region,

and Mazayes, in charge of the Moroccan press bureau, are noted reactionaries, the latter connected with the royalist Camelot du Roi.

Conditions Wretched

The natives of the colonies—the workers, intellectuals and peasant "fellahin"—are living in the most wretched conditions. An item in the French press tells how several hundred starving natives at Casablanca seized a fishing boat and carried away several hundred kilos of fish. These starvation conditions are in part caused by drought. But the People's Front does not appropriate money for irrigation; it needs the funds for its imperialist military budget.

When the natives revolt, they are answered by prison and death. The Moroccan nationalist movement, led by young intellectuals and composed of Berber fellahin has been outlawed, its paper "L'Action du Peuple" suppressed.

In Tunis a demonstration last January, protesting the deportation of Hassen Nouri, local trade union leader, ended with six dead and 20 wounded when police fired on the workers. In April ten more were killed in an anti-imperialist demonstration. This was the 8th

time that natives had been slaughtered in North Africa since the People's Front, "the government of liberty," had come to power.

The Stalinist accusation in *L'Humanite* that these revolts were incited by Fascists plotting against the government were bitterly denied by the nationalist paper *El Ouma*, which declared its aim to be national independence for the North African people.

Leaders Imprisoned

In Algeria, the Party of Algerian People raised the demand for a national parliament elected by universal suffrage. For this it has been suppressed and its leader, Messeli, imprisoned.

In Indo-China, Ta Tu Thau, a Trotskyist, and a member of the Municipal Council of Saigon, has been imprisoned for his anti-imperialist agitation. He is ill because of a hunger strike he conducted against bestial prison conditions.

Many more such incidents can be related. But the lesson is clear. To these oppressed people all revolutionaries stretch out a hand of greeting. The Fourth Internationalist movement in France has the difficult task of preventing the colonial disillusion with the People's Front from flowing into fascist channels. Only a firm union between the French working class and the colonial masses can win freedom and independence for both.

League Action

By HAL DRAPER

GOING UP—Newark reports the organization of a new circle of high school students . . . its 21 members come from seven schools . . . one of the members comes from another school, the Young Communist League, from which members have been graduating into our ranks in increasing numbers . . . A New Jersey District Membership Convention was held on Memorial Day at which a concrete plan of action was developed

LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE

—This now seems to be an annual institution in Upstate New York . . . It's a summer school in Marxism and the labor movement, run by the Upstate comrades . . . Held at a farm-house in the countryside, near Syracuse, Cazenovia Lake and Chittenango Falls . . . Classes, discussion groups on everything from literature to sex, swimming, instructions in various sports, communion with nature . . . June 26 to July 5 . . . Also, all through the summer, the farm-house it YPSL camp . . . Big Fourth of July Jamboree, July 2 to 5 . . . For further information write to Marie Plassman, R.F.D. No. 1, Cazenovia, N. Y. (adv.) . . . Meet the best people . . . See you there.

LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI

—Comrades who don't know whether St. Louis rhymes with "Who is" or "hooley" may be interested to know that there is now a YPSL group there for the first time in years . . . They're working to be chartered by July 15, so that they can have a delegate at the National Convention.

YPSL FIRE BRIGADE

—The New York District is covering the fires now . . . The Lower East Side YPSL, together with the Party and the Workers Alliance branch, has formed the East Side Workers Housing Committee . . . A fire-trap burned down a couple of weeks ago and we organized a wide campaign . . . Nine street meetings were held nearby the first week . . . The Stalinists attempted to break them up and were challenged to a debate on our platform . . . They had to accept or crawl anyway . . . They accepted on the spot and the debate was held before a large audience of workers . . . on housing . . . Needless to say, the Stalinist program on housing struck no sparks in the workers' breasts . . . It's for an amendment to the New York State Constitution . . . The Stalinists ended the meeting by singing the Star-Spangled Banner . . . We won the singing contest with the International because it's easier to sing . . . Forgot to mention that we put out petitions—2,500 workers signed so far . . . Had tables on the streets with the petitions.

ATTENTION LONE-WOLF

REVOLUTIONISTS — Comrades who complain they're "isolated" as individual members in small places should cast an eye at Kent, Ohio . . . More specifically at Comrade Richard Gillis at Kent State University . . . Organized meeting of 25 for me when on tour, starting from behind scratch not long ago . . . Literature sold, interest aroused, new member gained . . . It can be done.

SHOCK TROOP

—The New District (what, then guys again?) is solving the unemployment problem. . . . Unemployed comrades and students on the loose for the summer have been organized into an industrial Day Squad . . . They cover the class-war front . . . As I write, they're picketing the Eagle Pencil Company—no lead in their pants—get the point? . . . Held a street meeting in the garment center a couple of days ago—200 workers around the platform . . . Other news of its doings in this issue.

LOOPING THE LOOP

—The Chicago District is beginning organization of NYA workers, what with NYA hours lengthened and pay per hour cut . . . Karl Marx Shier, Chicago big business man, is getting the ad book for the next National convention under way—you'll probably hear from him . . . Sports note: the YPSL indoor-baseball team beat the Party T-4 . . . Outstanding feature of the game was the strong YPSL battery—of Liebick and Draper

R.O.T.C. Trains Cannon Fodder

"Will America be able, and ready to defeat the enemy in the next war?" "The answer to this question," says Edwin Stoll, ROTC editor of the reactionary Chicago Tribune, in this month's "Current History," "depends to a large extent upon the Reserve Officers Training Corps."

This writer can be thanked for one thing, at least. He quite frankly admits the role of ROTC: to prepare for war. Only in passing does he dish out the soft soap propaganda about "ROTC building health, character, leadership." One of his illustrations shows, however, ROTCers performing physical drills such as were never seen by this writer in his ROTC regiment. Most schools have physical training classes where the students can do knee-bending exercises; they don't need ROTC for that!

Mr. Stoll is incorrect, however, when he states that the ROTC gives the youth training, so that he can better defend "not only his country but himself" in wartime. However, the military value of ROTC is not very great. Its real value (to the government) is that it instills in the youth the IDEOLOGY of militarism: "obedience, national defense, obedience"

While Mr. Stoll says that the ROTC does not try to instill pro-war propaganda, Major McNair, Commandant of the ROTC at Purdue, was more frank. "If a pacifist is one who believes that war is unnecessary and preventable," says the Mayor in the Purdue Alumnus, "then pacifism becomes a menace." Similarly Major-General Hagood, defending the ROTC's existence, says that while the ROTC does not give much military training, it puts youth in the "proper frame of mind" about national defense.

And General Hagood certainly has the right idea. From what this writer remembers of his days in the ROTC the officers were trying hard enough to inculcate the "proper," i. e. blindly obedient, frame of mind.



Enough of Hogwash

The following statements were sent to the CHALLENGE by two former members of the Young Communist League in Boston who joined our organization last month.

I joined the Young Communist League in March, 1937. I was a raw recruit. I knew nothing about Communism, but I joined because I believed that the Communist Party was a revolutionary party that was working for the overthrow of the Capitalist system the world over and for the establishment of Socialism, which would mean a better life for all. I joined because I believed Stalin was working for the best interests of the Soviet Union; to establish Socialism there, which would then spread to every country in the world. I joined because I saw all of the exploiters of the people lined up against the C. P. from the Roman Catholic Hierarchy to the petty bourgeois business and professional men.

Never was any new member of the Y. C. L. any more anxious to help, any more eager to learn, or any more ambitious to work for the organization.

I fought for instruction in the classics of Marx, only to be answered by a class on "Trotsky, the Traitor" and similar hogwash. They forbade discussion of religion and singing of some of the revolutionary songs that they considered too radical. In fact, I found that everything was imposed from above. The leadership told the rank and file what to think and when to think it.

Now they say that they are glad to be rid of me. There is no doubt of this. They do not like people who ask questions or can think for themselves.

Signed: John W. Hamilton.

Having had a similar experience to that of Comrade Hamilton, and having quit at the time that he was expelled, I can only say amen to what he has said.

Signed: M. M. Walker.

Frame-Up of Young C. I. O. Members Fails

NEWARK.—An attempt to railroad two militant young workers to prison for three years failed here when a jury returned a verdict of "Not Guilty" in the recent conspiracy trial of New Jersey vs. Kocial and Beatty.

The trial was an outgrowth of a strike at Hahne's department store last November, in which the company used every conceivable anti-labor tactic to successfully defeat the ten-week long strike. Not content with defeating the workers and refusing to reinstate the most active strikers, the company wanted to teach the workers a "lesson" in submission by framing Allan Kocial and George Beatty, the leading militants, on charges of throwing stink bombs into its store. Exactly who did throw these bombs is not yet known, though many of the strikers have charged that it was part of the provocation used by the gangsters who had been employed by the company to break the strike.

Lawyer Boss Stooze

For a time it seemed that the case would be dropped. But the case was brought to court after several postponements. The prosecutor for the state, Wm. Wachenfeld, was disclosed to be the lawyer of the Hahne Co. before, during and after the strike. But he appeared in court to represent the people of New Jersey!

When the trial opened, the defense made a motion that the indictment be squashed because the prosecutor acting directly in the interest of the company, had been instrumental in securing the indictment, and when this motion was denied, that he be disqualified from serving in this case because of his connections with the company. The judge blandly disregarded these points and the trial proceeded.

The prosecution attempted to use the old red herring with which to smear the two workers. He tried to show connections between the United Retail Employees Union, a CIO affiliate, and the "reds." Frequent objections from defense attorney were overridden by Judge Van Ripper.

The "basis" of the state's case was the "identification" of the two defendants by the wife of the druggist from whom they had allegedly purchased the capsules from which to manufacture the stink bombs. Strangely enough, however, the druggist himself, who is said to lead a happy domestic life, and who was supposed to have sold these capsules personally could not identify any of the strikers. The state disposed of this little contradiction in its case by merely not calling upon the druggist to testify.

Exposes Frameup

The defense was able to prove that at the time the bombs were thrown the defendants, according to the testimony of two officials of the Harrison Machinery Lodge, Steel Workers Organizing Committee, were selling strike raffles at that union's headquarters many miles away from the department store. This testimony was corroborated by the night superintendent of the SWOC building. Two other witnesses bore out the testimony of the young workers that they had, upon leaving the office of the Harrison Machine Lodge, attended a lecture by B. J. Widick on "The Trade Unions of Minneapolis" (which topic again provided the state an opportunity to bring in the red scare).

After a session of three and one quarter hours the jury found the defendants not guilty.

An interesting sidelight of the case was the visit of Kocial to the local trades council of the AFL to solicit defense funds. The local bureaucrats denied him the floor and when he insisted upon speaking for a minute, Leo Carlin, chairman of the council, said he would not let Kocial speak because "you're CIO." That this was an attempt to railroad two strikers to jail did not in the least change his attitude.

The defense was run by a special defense committee in which members of the Young People's Socialist League were active.

The Story of

THE TINDER-BOX SLUMS

By WILLIAM BRAD

It is four o'clock in the morning, before the sun's rays appear on the horizon and before any of the workers of New York's East Side have arisen for the day's labor. Suddenly the siren screeches—another tenement fire. The entire neighborhood wakes up and people stare out of their windows apprehensively—such shrill forebodings are not unusual in the East Side.

307 Houston Street is where the fire has broken out. Though it takes the fire-engines only a few minutes to get to the scene, they come too late. The whole rotten firetrap, of which the stairs are made entirely of wood, has broken into flames like a match box.

Some 20 tenants are caught on the upper floors, their escape cut off by the blazing stairs and the vertical fire-escapes, from which escape is almost impossible.

Heroic efforts save these tenants, although about a dozen are sent to the hospital. One of those seriously burned is, ironically enough, a bride-to-be, to be married within a few days.

But there is one victim who doesn't have to go to the hospital. Mrs. Esther Cohen is dead. Her husband and little son are in the hospital, near death.

Only yesterday a family had moved their meager possessions into 307 Houston street. Before they have had a chance to arrange their furniture it is burnt to ashes, and they must flee from their new "home."

* * *

This story of the Houston street tragedy swept through the East Side working class: Mrs. Cohen became the symbol of their fight against the slum landlord's greed and the LaGuardia fire-trap administration.

The very night of the fire, the Socialist Workers Party and the Young People's Socialist League local branches were on the scene, holding an open-air mass meeting directly opposite the charred house of death. They circulated a petition demanding the removal of all tenants from fire-traps at city expense and thousands of workers signed it.

CITY HALL TO BLAME

The blame for the tragedy was laid at the door of the fire-trap administrations at City Hall and in Washington. In 1902, 36 years ago, these tenements were condemned. There have been Democratic, Republican, Fusion, and American Labor Party administrations in the saddle. Yet these match-box houses still stand—symbols of the indifference of ca-



\$20,000,000 For Death

The New Aircraft Carrier Lexington

case of the Red Hook project. There are already 6,000 applicants for the 1,100 apartments, and the actual building has not yet been started.

Both LaGuardia and Roosevelt are responsible for this situation which forces millions to live in poverty. LaGuardia admitted before the N. Y. State Legislature that four to five billions would be needed to re-house New York City. Then he asked for 300 millions. It is such criminal indifference which caused the death of Mrs. Cohen and the others.

BANKERS UNTOUCHED

LaGuardia asked for only 300 millions because a real housing program requires taxing the bankers and kicking them out of the real estate business. And though he has no scruples about imposing the sales tax on the poor, LaGuardia is unwilling to tax the bankers, who helped elect and re-elect him.

But this "friend of labor" is only Roosevelt's N. Y. Charlie McCarthy. The workers and farmers in every state are similarly ill-housed. Various research agencies estimate a shortage of from six to nine million low rent houses. This situation represents a serious crisis of capitalism: it can no longer house its wage slaves.

Catherine Bauer of the U. S. Housing Administration estimates that one million new houses are needed annually.

pitalism towards the plight of the workers. Every year the list of fire victims grows larger. Since 1902, over 1,800 have been burned in the slums.

On the East Side of New York alone there was the Suffolk street fire last year which took three lives and injured scores. The very night following the Houston St. fire, a blaze broke out only three blocks away at 157 Rivington street, which was luckily extinguished. One week later a fire in Harlem took two lives.

AND LAGUARDIA?

And what has the LaGuardia housing plan done? It is supposed to close 'down tenements and build new houses. But neither is done effectively.

Some slums are closed, all right, but the tenants are not moved at city expense. They must shift for themselves. They are thrown upon the mercies of the landlords of fire-proof slums who raise their rents every time more old houses are closed.

The new houses which are built, such as the Williamsburg Project, are insufficient in quantity and prohibitory in rent. Those on relief and WPA are not eligible for such apartments. Middle class fa-

milies tend to get the rooms because they can show fixed incomes. The inadequacy of the housing project is shown in the

\$3,400,000 For Life

Cleveland Housing Project for Over 600 Families



YCL Sues for Name

NEWARK.—In line with its announced intention of driving the Trotskyites out of the youth movement, the Newark YCL hit a record breaking low last month when they sent a letter to the Youth Discussion Group, threatening to sue the organization for use of its name.

It seems that the YCL and a few independents founded the Youth Discussion Group three years ago, but the YCL leadership became so bureaucratic that the club passed a motion over their heads inviting a member of the Socialist Workers Party to a symposium on the People's Front.

With its grip on the club gone, the YCL walked out and set up a stooze organization with the same name. Meanwhile the old Youth Discussion Group has grown considerably under its new leadership, which includes several former YCLers who have joined the YPSL.

"Little Grad" - What Now?

The thousands of students graduating college this term were greeted with even more than the usual bombardment of commencement speeches. This year the speeches were especially vague and empty—verbose appeals to have faith, to uphold "democracy" from the "menace of communism," etc.—because the college presidents knew that they could offer no solution to the real problem of getting a job.

Thus, for example, Dr. Nicholas Butler, speaking at Columbia University, said that "it is the imperfection and moral dereliction of mankind which attempt to divide the State into permanent conflicting classes." He warned the students to steer clear of radical ideas and to have faith in capitalism.

At Drew University, Dr. O. Brown told his students not to bother fighting for a classless society since it would come auto-

matically when "the highly privileged would share their goods with the underprivileged."

Speaking at Russell Sage University, the arch-reactionary Mark Sullivan said that socialism meant becoming an ant in an ant-hill or a bee in a hive. "I do not want to become an ant in a hill. Do you?", the N. Y. Times quoted him as asking.

A comic touch was added by Dr. E. Walsh at Georgetown University when he rejected Earl Browder's appeal to Catholics for a united front. Said Dr. Walsh: "Browder would commend to our lips the poisoned chalice of class warfare." Has the worthy doctor never heard of the New Line?

Probably the only constructive commencement ideas were contained in a leaflet distributed by City College members of the Young Peoples Socialist League (Fourth International) to their fellow graduates, urging them to join in the fight for jobs and peace by fighting for socialism.

Attempt to Herd Jobless Youth Into Army

(Continued from page 1)

tie part in formulating the decision of these young workers and students to join up.

Enlistments Increase

The number of applications received for enlistment closely follows the fluctuations in employment. In 1937 when the effects of Roosevelt's pump-priming New Deal expenditures were still being felt and many of the mines, mills, and factories were operating at near capacity levels, only 7,782 applications were received. But with the collapse of the New Deal prosperity and the sudden increase in unemployment, we find that at the end of May 1938 there have already been received 9,077 applications for the navy.

Rather than be a burden upon their families, thousands of jobless youth, in desperation, seize

What has Roosevelt done about this? During 1936, 276,000 new homes were built. "During 1937, 289,000 homes were built . . . Moreover, evidence points to the fact that the houses constructed were only within reach of the upper quarter income group those with incomes above 5,000 dollars yearly—W.B." (From Labor Information Bulletin, Jan. 1938.)

In a tour of New York by the City Council, the following conditions were found: "They climbed rickety stairs, peered into dark bed rooms, looked at kitchens, piled high with firewood garnered from the streets, and heard tenants explain (sic) how they got along without bath rooms and hot water."

AT MRS. CIPALLA'S

At 153 Cherry street: "A wood fire was blazing in a stove in the Levy kitchen. Mrs. Cipalla's bedroom was only slightly larger than the bed and had no windows."

At 30 Scamwel street: "The party visited a 'yard house,' a four-story building in the rear yard of another house . . . garbage cans were piled high in the halls."

At 310 Henry street: "Mrs. Dreer pays \$15 a month without windows and no bath facilities, hot water or heat . . ."

The death of Mrs. Esther Cohen again poses the question of housing. Every worker forced to live in a slum is a marked victim. IT IS NOW A QUESTION OF LIFE AND DEATH.

PROGRAM OF ACTION

No trust in the boss politicians. They have shown what they stand for. This is a program which we propose to fight for decent living:

1. Immediate removal of tenants in fire traps to safe and sanitary homes at government expense.
2. No increase in rents for these families.
3. A five-billion expenditure immediately as the first step toward a real housing program for workers, with rents which the poorest workers can afford and open WPA and relief clients.
4. Close up and demolish the fire-traps. Immediate razing of those already closed as menaces to health. Work to be done by the unemployed at union rates.
5. Establish a rent maximum for privately owned buildings within reach of every working-class family.

upon this opportunity for a bed and food; even if it means selling themselves to be trained in the art of murdering the young workers and jobless youth of other countries in the interest of the American imperialist bandits.

The Young People's Socialist League is seeking to turn the desperation of jobless youth into the channel of militant struggles for a government program of jobs for youth. We are told that there is no money available for this purpose. We reply: "Let the government take the money it is spending for larger armies and navies and use it for creating jobs for the millions of unemployed youth."

ATTENTION ALL YPSL CIRCLES AND DISTRICTS!

The Convention Dues Drive is on now. It closes July 15. The apportionment of the number of delegates per district will be decided on the basis of the dues standing as of July 15 AS SHOWN BY THE RECORDS OF THE NATIONAL OFFICE. It is up to the districts to have a maximum representation at the Chicago Convention.

National Finance Committee.

THE CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

Official Monthly Organ of the
 Young People's Socialist League of America
 (Affiliated to the Youth Center for the Fourth International)
 116 UNIVERSITY PLACE
 NEW YORK, N. Y.
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A Coolie Wage for Youth

The term "coolie wage" has been used very frequently by workers to describe the wages paid them in industry. But until now it was generally considered a metaphor which indicated that the wages received were relatively those paid unskilled labor in China—considered the cheapest labor market in the world.

It remained, however, for the Roosevelt administration to pay wages that were absolutely on the coolie level. We refer to the recent report that on-third of the 600,000 young people employed on National Youth Administration projects received less than \$6 a month.

Will Roosevelt also say in this case, "We planned it so"? Since the millions of jobless youth will never work in industry under capitalism and will go on relief rolls permanently, could this be a far-sighted plan to accustom them to a hunger ration?

Or are youth paid \$6 a month in order to make more alluring the dollar a day paid in the Army and Navy?

No matter what the motive is, NYA workers will only receive a living wage if they organize into NYA unions and fight for increased appropriations and union wage scales.

FASHION NOTES

Youth will be wearing their belts much tighter this year.

Blowing Hot and Cold

Writing on the attitude of the Soviet Union toward the latest "evacuation" plan of the Non-Intervention Committee, the DAILY WORKER of June 1 says:

"The Soviet Union today balked at a British Tory plan to aid the Fascist armies in Spain under the guise of 'non-intervention.'

"S. B. Caban, Soviet Embassy Counsellor, informed the international committee that the Soviet Government refused to contribute to the cost of the unequal evacuation of foreign fighters from Spain.

"Moscow has held out single-handed against the other members of the committee in opposing the entire plan as a 'deliberate attempt' to aid the fascist troops to win a rapid victory, in line with the Chamberlain-Mussolini pact."

On June 3, three days after this plan "to aid the Fascist armies in Spain" has been rejected by the USSR, the same paper writes

"The British plan will be acceptable to the Soviet Government, Caban announced, only on condition that international observers be stationed permanently in Spanish ports to control and check unloading of cargoes.

"Other points in the British plan . . . (which are then enumerated—Ed.) are acceptable to the USSR, Caban said."

In other words, the "Chamberlain-Mussolini plan," this "deliberate attempt to aid the fascist troops in Spain" is acceptable to the USSR if only . . . it is properly enforced!

This, we submit, hits a new low in Stalinist hypocrisy. What right has Browder to demand that American lift its embargo from Spain if his Moscow masters agree to a plan which is a UNIVERSAL embargo?

We must oppose this "Chamberlain-Mussolini plan," as the DAILY WORKER so accurately labeled it, just as we oppose the embargo placed on the Loyalists by Browder's white hope, Roosevelt. We cannot depend on these people to aid the Spanish workers. Rather must the workers aid Spain themselves—independently, directly and amply.

Independence Day—For Whom?

In a few days phony politicians all over the country will be making patriotic speeches on the Fourth of July, in which they'll get excited about the glories of our "great democracy." This glorious land of the free . . . Declaration of Independence . . . American Revolution (long ago) . . . Freedom—all these time-worn phrases will be dragged out.

We can't get excited about the Fourth of July. We wonder what "freedom of speech" means to the sweatshop workers of Jersey City. We wonder what the phrase "all men are created equal" means to the sharecroppers of the South. We wonder what "Freedom" means to Mooney, to the Scottsboro Boys.

Franco, Two—Stalin, One?

News reaches us from Spain that Wilebaldo Solano, secretary of the P.O.U.M. youth organization, the Iberian Communist League, has been arrested and stands in danger of being given a "Moscow" trial and executed.

The Stalinist murderers have chosen as their next victim one who is widely known to the revolutionary movement of Spain. Solano headed an organization that gave thousands of heroic youth to the anti-fascist struggle.

The first secretary of the P.O.U.M. youth, Germinal Vidal, fell at the storming of the Atarazanas barracks in Barcelona on July 19th, 1936, the day of the fascist uprising. His successor, Miquel Pedrola, commandant on the Huesca front fell in action.

What more striking commentary can be made on the role of the Stalinists than to note that after one leader of the P.O.U.M., Maurin, fell before a fascist firing squad and another, Nin, before a G.P.U. murder gang, the first two secretaries of the P.O.U.M. youth should fall before fascist guns and the third face death at the hands of the Stalinists.

THINGS YOU'D NEVER KNOW

From a letter to PARTISAN REVIEW—" . . . the philosophy of dialectical materialism provides the working class with a firm base for its struggle against reaction and for a democratic front."



As Akron police fired into unarmed Goodyear pickets. In this riot Donald Dixon was wounded.

OF MICE AND MEN

The Inside Story of the Stalinist Red-Baiters in Marshall High School

By AL LOUIS

For years the students in the old building of Marshall High School, in Chicago, have been annoyed by the large numbers of mice which live in the wooden locker and feast upon the students' lunches. The Marshall News has often waged campaign after campaign against these conditions—but to no avail. The mice have grown into full-sized rats and on Thursday, June 2nd, became bold enough to march right into the principal's office to meet the head cheese.

ENTER: THE RED MENACE

The story began when the Peace Council arranged a symposium to be held on June 2, on the subject "Which Way for American Youth?" The speakers were to be Robert Ackerberg, attorney, for the liberal side, Norman Ascher, of the National Lawyers Guild, for the conservative side, and Hal Draper, national secretary of the Young People's Socialist League, who was to give the "revolutionary viewpoint."

The Young Communist League, for some time now the most mili-

tant of the pro-war mongers, upon hearing of these arrangements, sent their local stooge (a certain Frank Sherman) in frenzied haste to Mrs. Lee, the sponsor of the Peace Council. Squeaking with patriotic indignation, he protested against the RED MENACE invading the school. He pictured Hal Draper as a dangerous Red, a notorious character, a jailbird and degenerate, who would not be allowed to set foot in any New York School by any self-respecting true-blue American.

EX-CONVICT, INDIAN, OR BOTH?

After seeking character testimony about Draper from various students and Peace Council executive members, Mrs. Lee was hesitant about calling off the meeting. But Stodge Sherman, in order to save the good name of the school, threatened to appeal to the principal not to let a Red speak at Marshall! Fear of the stooge notifying the reactionary Chicago newspaper that "a Red is going to speak in Marshall," scared the principal and Mrs. Lee into calling off the meeting a half hour before it was to begin. American institutions were saved!

WHAT? NO HORNS?

But things soon began to pop. That day, after the conservative and liberal speakers were sent away, Hal Draper arrived on the scene. Mrs. Lee upon being introduced to Draper, was surprised to find that he had left his horns at home and that there was no hand grenade between his teeth. By this time a fairly large crowd of students had gathered to hear the symposium and crowded into the hall in front of the office, surprised that the meeting was called off. There was widespread indignation and protest against the Stalinist and the administration. Draper challenged the Stalinist lackey to come into the principal's office and present his case. The Stalinist

refused and was roundly ridiculed by the crowd of students. After much protest by the students, the principal pulled a Mayor Hague and ordered Draper to leave the school. The effect of the affair was to show the Stalinists up in their true colors—pro-war red-baiters, wreckers of the Peace Council. When the Communist Party members, Ken Born and Frank Myers spoke for the Peace Council, no one objected. But when the revolutionary Socialist anti-war position was to be presented, the Stalinists attempted to wreck the meeting.

It took one day for the Young Communist Leaguers to change their line! With all the stableness

Akron Cops Shoot Young Worker In Back

(Continued from page 1)

restaurant to wait until the riot was over. The irate owner of the place, afraid of trouble, kicked us out and we hid behind a garage. We were again chased away from this refuge, this time by the cops, and we fled down the railroad tracks. The cops fired after us, shooting me in the back. As I dropped to the ground a worker ran to my assistance. The cops continued firing, wounding the worker in the knee."

The bullet with which Dixon was shot came from a sawed-off riot gun used by the cops the night of the riot. Though this fact has been denied by the police, there is on record a statement from Police Lieutenant McGowan to the effect that it was a cop who shot Dixon.

When Dixon's older brother went to the police station to find out who shot him, he was cursed and beaten by the cops. The two brothers are planning to sue the city.

An important aftermath of the strike was the creation of a united front defense committee of AFL and CIO unions which both rallied to the cause of the Goodyear strikers. This defense committee has been set up as a permanent organization to protect the workers from any repetition of such brutality.

London Snakes to Get War Gas Protection

LONDON.—Special arrangements are being made to protect the snakes in the London Zoo from gas attacks in case of war.

Though this move is announced as a mere routine matter, usually reliable sources have informed your correspondent that this is a humanitarian measure to make certain that there will be some living creatures alive to start the process of evolution all over again in case Britain and the other nations kill off every human being in the coming imperialist war.

of a drunk and as late as the average Marshallite to his first period class, the Stalinists in a drunken rage psychoanalyzed Draper from a new angle. Their leaflet the next day came out just in time to be swept up by the after-school janitor and read by the few late stayers. The janitor swore, for he had to clean up the mess, but the late stayers laughed because through the unnatural magical powers of the Stalinists, Draper was overnight changed from a "wild red" into a "fascist dog." And to prove just how bad Draper was, the leaflet included the following crushing argument: "Hal Draper is such a 'friend of the people' that even his own brother, Theodore Draper of the New Masses, refuses to speak with him." And let that be a lesson to him!

Sequel: a week later, on June 9, the YPSL held a mass meeting across the street from the school, at which Hal Draper did speak. And even a couple of YCL members came to listen!

SPORTS

By MORTON PAUL

Summer being the time when one swims—if one does swim—it being much warmer in summer than in winter, therefore more conducive to pleasant swimming, a few do's and don't's on this dampish sport are on the order of the day.

Firstly, one should realize that swimming is much more pleasant than drowning, and that drowning is, in fact, quite unnecessary, especially if one is not in the water. By following a few safety firsts, we need never drown hardly at all.

Number one—never go into the water within four hours of a meal, since you will surely get a cramp and sink to the bottom like a rock. On the other hand, it is dangerous to go into the water on an empty stomach, since exhaustion from lack of nourishment will weaken your muscles and you will get another cramp and sink to the bottom like another rock. If you follow these two rules scrupulously, you will never drown—in fact, you will be lucky if you get your feet wet.

Number two—if you have not passed your swimmer's test, do not swim beyond the horizon, since you will be out of sight, and it will be difficult to rescue you if you are attacked by a man-eating shark. Of course, if you are not a man, this rule does not hold.

Thirdly—if you are seized by a cramp, while swimming gently through the cooling brine, grit your teeth, double up slowly, and slither calmly to the bottom. Do not yell or make other unseemly noises, since this will bring your family, your country, and your flag into disrepute and will frighten the ladies who are splashing around.

Revolutionary Life-Saving

When one has mastered the elementary principle of self-preservation, one is ready to tackle the more complicated procedure of life-saving. Let us assume you are resting comfortably on the beach, absorbing ultra-violet by the pound. You hear a scream—preferably a plaintive one. You look up. Far out in the surf, a cute blonde is busily drowning. You do not hesitate. Grabbing a Yipsel application card between your teeth, you plunge into the raging billows and strike out heroically. Before you begin to save her, sign her up. If she is obstinate, swim back and let her drown, unless she is particularly winsome, in which case, contact this column for further details.

When you have her Mary Hancock on the line, swim close enough to be in a front strangle hold. After you break this, turn around. She now seizes you in a back strangle. Break this also. Now she gets you in a double wrist lock. This, too, must be smashed ruthlessly. Now gently but firmly slug her between the eyes and haul her onto terra firma, where you may hang her out to dry for an hour or so.

These then are the elementary principles of safety first in the water. For further details, send a stamped self-addressed envelope as I am planning to open a stationery store.

SONG OF THE FROG MARCHERS

(To be sung at Rearmament Conferences, People's Front meetings, Youth Congress festivals, New Masses Balls, ASU conventions and YCL congresses)

The people's flag is palest pink,
 It hangs about the kitchen sink
 In Transport House, and there,
 they say
 It dries the plates from day to day.

Then raise the pale pink banner
 high,
 Within its shades we'll quietly
 die,
 Though Freedom fade from year
 to year,
 We'll keep the pink flag flying
 here.

Look how the tyrant loves its hue,
 The War of Class is lost to view;
 And while he sings its praise with
 glee,
 He has the Bosses Men to tea.

It waved above us in the fight
 To save our island from the might
 Of savage Huns across the sea,
 Who threatened our Democracy.

It proudly waves above us still
 As once again the call is shrill
 To cease disension in our rank
 Prepare to earn our Empire's
 thanks.

(Courtesy—London New L