

# 50,000 Answer Call to Smash Fascists

## Smash Fascist Gangs!

1. Organize Workers Defense Guards.
2. Defend Working-class meetings, newspapers, and halls.

# THE CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

Published Monthly by the Young People's Socialist League (Fourth Internationalists)

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Two Cents

## Fight Boss War!

NOT ONE MAN, NOT ONE CENT, to Defend Wall Street Profits! Give us Jobs, Not Guns!

# A JOB FOR EVERY YOUTH!

## Thousands of Youth Follow Y.P.S.L. in Anti-Nazi Actions

### BULLETIN!

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—Several hundred anti-fascists, under the leadership of the Socialist Workers Party and the Young People's Socialist League, drove to cover and severely beat scores of Nazi Bund Storm Troopers who sought to interfere with the peaceful picketing of the Deutsches Haus, during a Bund "Washington Birthday" Rally here.

The enraged anti-fascists charged to the very doors of the hall, where they were driven back with great difficulty by several police riot squads, hastily called to the scene by the besieged Nazis.

NEW YORK—Fifty thousand anti-fascists, the majority of them young workers and students, battled police for more than five hours here on Monday, February 20, in an attempt to smash New York's first big fascist mobilization at Madison Square Garden.

The mighty counter-demonstration assembled at the call of the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Peoples Socialist League. The city was covered with 200,000 leaflets and mobilizations were held in all workingclass neighborhoods.

The massed lines of 1,780 police, the largest number ever assembled against a single demonstration in the history of the city, succeeded in blocking all approaches to the Garden by brutally slugging and riding down the anti-fascist demonstrators.

### Police Retreat

The police lines were forced back time and again under the mighty charges of the counter-demonstrators.

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## DEMOCRACY—ON HORSEBACK



WORKERS AT 51st St. and Eight Avenue sought to follow mail truck (right) through police lines during anti-fascist demonstration in New York.

## 'Youth Must Unite to Win Demands' ---NYA Speaker

Charles W. Taussig, widely renowned expert on the "youth problem," and Chairman of the National Advisory Committee of the National Youth Administration, admitted in a speech before the Maryland Youth Congress, meeting at Johns Hopkins University that youth could secure "a greater share of our national wealth" only by organizing and competing with other pressure groups in forcing its demands upon the government.

"Organized youth has a right to ask their government, . . . that they aid them in their struggles," said Mr. Taussig. "If he (the young person) wants health and medical attention and recreation, he must compete for his share of the public monies devoted to that purpose."

### Chides Business-men

He chided business men for their attitude of thinking that the youth problem can be solved as it allegedly was in their youth, by securing a \$3-a-week job and working up to a good position. "We all know," he pointed out, "that that is not the answer, for today there frequently isn't even the equivalent of the \$3-a-week job in which to start and the competition at the top of the ladder has increased proportionately with the competition at the first rung."

He made no other demand of business, however, than that it "recognize changed conditions, stop preaching, and lend youth a hand."

Speaking of NYA relations with the trade unions, Mr. Taussig said, "Until they had found employment for their own unemployed, they did not look kindly on the employment of youth in their field." Here, again, Taussig was barren of suggestions

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## THIS EXPLAINS EVERYTHING

Young women seeking business careers after college should "strive to hold a wide variety of jobs before deciding which general type of occupation they respond to best," is the advice of Miss Constance Ball, manager of the commercial and professional sections of the New York State Employment Service, in a recent speech to college women.

So that's why there are so many thousands of jobless girls waiting around employment agencies. They have, no doubt, quit their old jobs in order to "hold a wide variety of jobs" before selecting a career.

## Socialist Youth Lead Mass Campaign for Jobs

NEW YORK—Plans for a nation-wide campaign to convert the National Youth Administration projects into WPA Youth Projects and finance them by diverting the two billion dollars appropriated for the war budget for this purpose, were formulated here by the National Bureau of the Young Peoples Socialist League (Fourth International).

Nathan Gould, national secretary of the Y. P. S. L., pointed out in announcing the plans, that "the NYA, at present, is designed to give 'supplementary aid' to a very limited number of the sons and daughters of families already on the relief rolls. The young people are not regarded as individuals, having the right to develop to adulthood, but as permanent units of the family. Their earnings on NYA are, therefore, made part of the family budget. A youth is given a WPA job only if no other member of the family is so employed, and the earnings, of course, support the entire family."

### Deny Fundamental Rights

"If he is fortunate enough to find a job in private industry paying as little as \$12 a week, the family is immediately taken off the relief rolls and he is expected to support them or permit them to starve. This vicious system denies to youth one of the most fundamental rights of man, the right to work, to spend his earnings as he sees fit, to live where he pleases, and to assume the responsibility of marriage and a home of his own."

Though the Y.P.S.L. is taking the initiative in this campaign, they are prepared to co-operate with any other organization prepared to support the two-point program of Youth WPA projects and financing with the 2 billions appropriated for the war budget.

The Y.P.S.L. will issue petitions in an attempt to get 20,000 signatures in support of the above demands. Model resolutions will be made available to members of trade

### OUR FUTURE?

"We know that a vast overwhelming majority of the children born in the last 25 years will never rise above a hand-to-mouth existence, that all their steps from the cradle to the grave will be dogged by poverty, sickness, and insecurity."

(From recent speech of Aubrey Williams, administrator of National Youth Administration.)

unions, unemployed organizations, youth clubs, and other organizations for the purpose of securing their endorsement.

### Delegation to Congress

The petitions and resolutions will be opened with "youth hearings" in all parts of the country, at which the jobless youth will testify as to conditions on relief, NYA, lack of possibilities for learning a trade, and other grievances. Teachers, social workers, NYA officials, and others interested in the "youth problem" will also be asked to testify.

Plans call for the distribution of 20,000 copies of the Open Letter to Mr. Taussig, appearing in this issue of the CHALLENGE OF YOUTH, at playgrounds, settlement houses, schools, and other places where youth gather.

## An Open Letter to Taussig, NYA Head

Mr. Charles W. Taussig, Chairman of the National Advisory Council, National Youth Administration, Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Taussig:

In your address to the Maryland Youth Congress on February 1st, you stated that "organized youth has a right to ask their government, . . . to aid them in their struggles."

The Young Peoples Socialist League, the organization of America's working, student, and unemployed youth, accepts this invitation. We have in fact been appealing for government aid for youth for a long time. We find, unfortunately, that it is not fruitful to "ask"—it is necessary to fight every inch of the way for relief from our deplorable plight.

You will not deny, Mr. Taussig, that the plight is deplorable indeed. The "broken down economic machine," as you call it, has driven us into a blind alley. All avenues of employment and normal life have been closed to us. We have the right to demand that the government which represents and defends that "economic machine" do something to get us out of the blind alley and give us a chance to live like human beings.

### SEVEN MILLION JOBLESS

There are 21 million youth in the United States. Seven million of us want to work—but we can find no jobs. One third of the youth of this country are denied the right to work.

According to recent surveys, forty-eight percent (i.e. 400,000) of the youth of New York City, 70% of the youth of Harlem, New York's largest Negro section, 45% of the youth of Pennsylvania, 57% of the youth of Denver, 57% of the youth of Newark, are unemployed.

Up until now, the government has done little more than "recognize" this horrible situation. But it is not enough to study the "youth problem." It must do something.

A large percentage of the youth who are lucky enough to have jobs, work only part time. And those who work full time, receive abysmally low wages, which they usually must share with their families, who are not given relief as long as one person is employed.

### HOPES ARE SHATTERED

What chance—what hope is there for the under-nourished, under-fed, ill-housed, and ill-clothed youth? Their hopes are shattered and their spirits broken by a continuous series of disappointments.

Tuberculosis, heart disease, and other deadly ailments have become prevalent among this depression generation of youth whose resistance has been worn down.

How can the government feel it sufficient to maintain such totally inadequate means of assistance to youth as the NYA, and CCC, when

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## HELP WANTED

# Government Job

By a Hunter Grad

Monday, February 6, New York Times:

### LABORATORY HELPER (WOMEN)

The City of New York will receive applications from candidates in person only for this position on Thursday, Feb. 9, from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. at the Armory, 125 West 14th St. (between 6th and 7th Ave.). Open to women of all ages. Salary, \$960 per year with possibility of increase to \$1,500. Twelve vacancies. Qualifying medical, physical and written tests. Appointments will be made in the order in which applications are filed.

Thursday, February 9, 9 A.M. There are some 4,000 of us standing in line at the 14th St. Armory. More women keep coming all the time. Some of us have been waiting all night. The women at the head of the line have been here for 25 hours. From the conversation I discover that those about me are the mothers of children,

girls just out of school, unemployed workers, the wives of unemployed men. There are around 4,000 of us—and 12 jobs open.

### Widowed Mother

"I am a practical nurse. A good one. I get \$35 for two weeks work. But I only average 8 or 10 weeks work a year. My husband died 5 years ago and left me with three children. The oldest is now 21. He's a good boy. He works hard and brings his money home, but he only gets \$10 a week. But if it wasn't for that, I don't know what we would do. I really need this job."

"Gee, I didn't think it would take this long; I thought I would get an application and be able to leave right away. It's a good thing my mother is over to my place to get the children their lunch when they come home from school. She'll be

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# Y.P.S.L. Leads Youth in Nation-Wide Struggles Against Fascism

## Thousands of Youth Follow Y.P.S.L. in Anti-Nazi Actions

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tion. More than a dozen anti-fascists were arrested and scores beaten. A large number of police likewise required medical treatment.

The counter-demonstration succeeded in preventing the attendance, or frightening away, more than 10,000 ticket holders from the Garden, as only 18,000, out of the 28,000 who had purchased tickets, attended. Scores of fascists and their sympathizers were caught in the streets by the workers and "educated" on the inadvisability of attending. Among them were several wearing Storm Troopers' uniforms.

The largest and most militant section of the counter-demonstration fought its way down West 51st Street from Broadway. It was halted at the corner of Eight Avenue by a double row of mounted police, reinforced by several hundred patrolmen.

### Gould, Panken Speak

Led by the S.W.P. and Y.P.S.L. members, the crowd held its ranks for hours. The assemblage was addressed by Max Schachtman, Martin Abern, and James Burnham of the S.W.P., and by Nathan Gould, National Secretary of the Y.P.S.L., and Irving Panken of the N.Y. Division Council.

Mighty cheers met the slogan of "Build Workers Defense Guards" and it soon resounded from tens of thousands of throats. This was followed with the mighty chants of "We demand the right to picket," "Down with Nazi terror," "Long live the united front," and scores of other slogans that either originated from the speakers or the crowd itself.

Thousands of rank-and-file Stalinists and sympathizers took part in the demonstration despite the orders of the Communist Party and Young Communist League to its members to stay away. One organized contingent of some forty or fifty Young Communists came down in a group and attempted to march behind a huge American flag. As they approached the police lines the mounted cops charged and tore the flag to shreds in an attempt to capture it. The Y.C.L.ers reformed their ranks and marched off singing the "Star Spangled Banner" (!) and shouting "Down with fascism, up with democracy" (!!) while feeling the democratic bumps on their heads, received during the skirmish with the police.

### March Down Broadway

After failing to penetrate the police lines north of the Garden, the demonstrators followed the S.W.P. steering committee in a march down Broadway. The famous "Great White Way" usually resounding to the noises of the traffic, intermingled with the blaring of orchestras in the night clubs, heard nothing but the mighty slogans of the demonstration.

The scattered police battalions made no effort to resist, and the march continued, swinging west and attempting to approach the Garden from the south by way of Eight Avenue. Here one of the most brutal police charges descended on the marchers. Dozens went down under the horses hooves. The tinkle of breaking plate glass windows was heard on every hand.

The marchers slowly retreated but showed no signs of panic. They had lost all illusions about the conduct of the "democratic" police. They gave evidence to their feelings by booing every police car or mounted cop that drew near.

Small groups of anti-fascists remained in the side streets after the Garden meeting adjourned, "meeting" Storm Troopers on their way to the buses and subways and giving them little "samples" of what would have happened if La Guardia's police had not saved their necks.

## COPS SLUG Y.P.S.L. LEADERS OF ANTI-FRANCO PROTEST

OAKLAND, Calif.—Myra Tanner, National Council member of the Young People's Socialist League (4th Int.) and Roland Bates, also a member of the YPSL were severely beaten and then arrested when they participated in an anti-Franco demonstration here. The demonstration was caused by the speech of one Aileen O'Brien, a Franco nurse.

Thirty-five cops charged the picket line and began to mercilessly beat Bates, since he was at the head of the line. When Comrade Tanner rushed to his aid, she was likewise beaten and arrested. Four others were also arrested.

### Stalinists Stool-pigeon

An odious aftermath of the demonstration was the action of Estolv Ward, a Stalinist who is local secretary of the CIO council, who rushed to City Manager Hassler disclaiming responsibility for the militancy of the demonstration and charging that YPSL members were responsible because they refused to "obey orders." Upon the request of the YPSL, the CIO council repudiated this stool-pigeon action of Ward. The protest was so strong that he was forced to deny having made the statement—despite the fact that all the papers carried it.

But the most damning evidence of the Stalinist attitude can be seen from their local rag, the "People's World" which wrote: "The Trotskyists who had joined the demonstration set up a cry to 'return to the picket line' directly in front of the auditorium where no permission for a meeting or picket line could be attained. . . . Roland Bates, Trotskyist leader, responded to one of the blows (from a cop—ed.) by knocking down an officer." This odious article, which fears anti-Fascist action unless "permission" is obtained from politicians and which condemns our comrades for their struggle against the cops' brutality, is adequate indication of the stool-pigeon role played by the Stalinists in the whole affair.

## Officers, Jingo Senators, Drive to Militarize CCC

### Special to the Challenge

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The drive of American war-mongers—particularly the Congressional variety—to militarize the CCC camps is continuing at an increased pace. The outstanding development of the past month was the fact that this drive has crystallized into definite legislative proposals.

In the House of Representatives, a bill to provide for 6 hours of compulsory military training a week in the CCC was introduced by Representative Richards. And in the Senate, when Senator Thomas introduced a bill to make the CCC a permanent institution, Senator Conally expressed a desire for an amendment to provide for compulsory gun-toting. Still another bill for compulsory militarization was sponsored by Senator Reynolds.

### Roosevelt's Views Indicated

Despite much speculation here, it is difficult to predict exactly what the public attitude of the Roosevelt administration toward the above bills will be. It is, of course, obvious to any observer that the Roosevelt administration is anxious to completely militarize the CCC. This fact was recently confirmed by the sensational dispatch which the chief Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Times, Arthur Krock, sent on December 15, 1938: ". . . most frequently suggested is that CCC camps have military training. The plan . . . is based on observations made by its authors in Nazi Germany and they propose to take a leaf from Hitler's book. . . ."

This dispatch, never denied by any public official, plus the frequent statements of Robert Flechner, National Director of the CCC, in favor of militarization, adequately indicates the real attitude of the government. Whether or

## Y.P.S.L. Pickets Fascist Meet On U. of C. Campus

CHICAGO—Nearly a hundred members of the Young People's Socialist League recently appeared on a picket line on the University of Chicago campus in protest against a lecture on fascism by Prof. Bruno Roselli, accredited spokesman for the Italian Embassy.

From the moment the announcement of the lecture was made, the YPSL kept the campus conscious of fact that a representative of the murderers of the Italian working class was to speak in its midst. Thousands of leaflets covered the entire campus and every wall and fence had its slogan, "Kick Roselli Out!"

### Students Respond

Scores of students who had attended previous lectures in the series responded to the agitation and boycotted the lecture.

The Chicago TIMES printed a story on the day of the lecture headlined "Fear Riot at U. of C. as Fascist Speaks." The story began by stating that the fears of a riot were the result of attempts of young Trotskyites to incite the student body against Roselli. This story marked the first use of the specific term Trotskyite on the part of the local press instead of the usual "Communists," "radicals," or merely "Reds."

### YCL Passive

Bud Ogren, campus leader of the YPSL, arose during Roselli's lecture to denounce Italian fascism and to expose the purpose of Roselli's lecture. Guards removed him bodily from the hall.

In contrast to the colorful picket line of the YPSL with its militant slogans, the Young Communist League passed out leaflets calling for passive resistance. The leaflet had a special note at the bottom pointing out that they were not connected with the "Trotskyite picket line."

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## BELIEVE IT OR NOT! COP HELPS Y.P.S.L.'er

By JIMMIE HIGGINS  
The age of miracles is not quite past. A few weeks ago, just before the New York division of the YPSL held its Lenin, Liebknecht, Luxemburg memorial meeting, I was distributing announcements at my high school which is located in Queens, the "territory" of Borough President Harvey, local admirer of Hitler and Hague.

It was desperately cold, way below the freezing point. . . . And my leaflets were going very slowly. I finally decided to quit, since my hands were numbed. As I turned around to leave I was suddenly confronted by a cop.

Here, I thought, is where I get the usual command from one of Harvey's "huskies" to either "quit littering the streets or come on to headquarters."

But here's where the miracle comes in. After reading the leaflet and inquiring about its heading, "Against Boss War," he asked me for a few more leaflets and promised to ask his children to come down to the YPSL meeting in Webster Hall. And deciding that it would be "a pretty bad thing" to have to waste the remaining leaflets, he led me across the road where there is a skating rink and helped me distribute the leaflets among the youth who were skating there.

Words can't describe the bewilderment on the faces of those fellows who, reading statements in the leaflet by Lenin, Liebknecht and Luxemburg calling for the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism, saw them being handed out by—of all people—a cop.

## 'Patriots' Fail to Stop Y.P.S.L. Meet

FRESNO, Cal.—When a "patriotic" professor tried to disrupt the first meeting of the newly-organized Young People's Socialist League Unit at Fresno State College by calling on American Legionnaires and police to scare the more than 40 students attending, he discovered, to his evident dismay, that the students, rather than showing fright, were incensed at the presence of the "cops" at a legal student meeting.

The meeting marked the organization of the new YPSL unit in this school, and the presence of the police and the Legionnaires did not impede its success. One Legionnaire aired his patronizing views about "youth being inclined to be sort of radical" but the talks of the YPSL speakers, one of them recently returned from Spain where he had served in the Lincoln Brigade, rallied much support among the students and thoroughly exposed the reactionary motives behind the visit of the cops. One student joined immediately and several others indicated an active interest.

its reactionary character by the fact that it is appealing, not even to the rank and file CCC boys, but to the commanding officers and senior leaders. As yet there has been no popular response to its organization drive in the camps—a symptom of the deep opposition of the boys toward military training.

These events of the past month place the entire question of the attempt to militarize CCC at the head of the agenda of youth problems in America today. The overwhelming voice of the CCC boys must answer to the jingos and fake "patriots": We want no part of your war-training schemes! We want jobs, not guns! We want to make the camps into vocational and trade training schools! Kick the Army out of the CCC! We want to train for life, not for death!

## To the Twice-Weekly Appeal—GREETINGS!

We are tempted to turn a few dozen editorial handsprings at the appearance of the twice-weekly *Socialist Appeal*. That the official organ of the American Fourth Internationalist movement will appear in these critical days twice as frequently as in the past is a cause for rejoicing in the revolutionary movement. And that it has been improved so much is again cause for rejoicing.

The *Challenge* can only hope that, when it too doubles the frequency of its publication to become a semi-monthly instead of a monthly, it will improve as much and will receive as enthusiastic a reception as the new *Appeal*. The twice-weekly *Appeal* is but a transition step to the daily *Appeal*. And the fullest support of the YPSL will help to make that transition as short as possible.

## IN THE LEAGUE

By IRVING BERN  
National Organizational Secretary

### GROWTH . . .

The "Plan of Action," released about Dec. 21st, called for 100 recruits by Jan. 21st. On the later date we reached the figure of 78. But five days later we achieved our quota.

However, since they were received after the deadline, the recruits were added to the quota for the new period. Sections that sent in applications late have merely caught up with those sections that achieved their quotas on time.

### SACRIFICE . . .

Due to the many other financial drives our movement has been carrying on, returns on the \$1,000 fund drive are very slow. To date (Feb. 8th), we have collected \$227.40, a little better than one-fourth. New York is the one bright spot. Despite sever drains on the membership by other drives, they have come through very well by rigidly adhering to "weeks of sacrifice" in which they abstain from amusements and "luxuries" (like candy) and donate the money to the drive.

### Flash! As we go to press, additional receipts from New York, Newark, Ohio, and smaller places boost total to over \$400!

Place	Quota	Achieved
Mass.	\$ 30.00	.00
New York	400.00	\$140.00
Newark	100.00	25.60
Eastern Pa.	25.00	8.00
Up-state N. Y.	15.00	5.00
Ohio	60.00	2.50
Chicago	210.00	25.80
Twin Cities	30.00	17.50
Los Angeles	100.00	3.00
Frisco-Bay Area	30.00	3.00

Totals \$1,000.00 \$227.40

### MEMBERSHIP BOOKS . . .

All comrades who are in good standing have received their new 1939 membership book.

### STICKER . . .

A striking sticker protesting war appropriations will be off the press in a few days. Order them immediately. \$1.50 per 1,000.

### BUTTONS . . .

The official League button is ready. It's a beauty. To divisions and territories in lots: four cents a piece.

## The Challenge Brigade

By RUTH WILNER

Once again, we begin our column with an excerpt from a letter from someone reached by the CHALLENGE OF YOUTH through our street sales. The letter, from San Francisco, says in part: "A young lady sold me your paper, the CHALLENGE OF YOUTH, February issue. I would like to subscribe to this paper, and I want ten copies of the February issue. I think this paper is fine. . . ."

The San Francisco unit takes honors for the month. Joe Ballard, CHALLENGE agent, writes: "Sales going fine. 110 copies sold today at a WPA meeting by comrades Tanner, Carson, and Ballard. Please send 100 copies more. Have to rush now for our CHALLENGE party."

You can't keep the Minneapolis unit, or its CHALLENGE agent, Jake Cooper, down. In a letter describing CHALLENGE sales in Minneapolis, he says, "I just returned from a meeting of Local 544 youth section. For the first time the CHALLENGE squad was stationed there. 22 copies were sold."

Mary Capella of Boston, back on the job after several weeks of illness, informs us that, "We had a street sale of the CHALLENGE last Saturday. It met with great success. Six of us sold 27 copies. We made 50c in tips. All comrades enthusiastic."

In Brooklyn, N. Y., one night recently, Milly Lowin and Charles Stewart met to sell CHALLENGES. With the thermometer down near zero, they decided it was too cold to sell on the street. So these dauntless Brigadiers decided to imitate the Fuller Brush man and go door to door with their revolutionary wares. They knocked on 38 doors and sold 18 papers. That's hitting just below .500. And as Al

Liebeck will tell you, if they could do as well in the "big leagues," they'd have the batting championship in their back pocket.

From E. S. of Cornell University comes the following comment: "The CHALLENGE is too juvenile." We feel that the best reply is contained in a remark made by Al Liebeck in a recent letter: "One good sign: In this new workingclass neighborhood I'm working in, the new young fellows we have just recruited are wild about the paper and asked if they could sell it! They say it's easy to read, enjoyable, and answers a lot of their problems."

"Another sign of the CHALLENGE becoming a paper for the real working class youth is that college students complain because of its lack of appeal to the highbrow, sophisticated students."

The following table shows that we have only begun to make a dent in our sub drive quotas:

Place	Quota	Received	%
Upstate N. Y.	15	7	.47
Boston	20	7	.35
Chicago	100	32	.32
Toledo-Detroit	10	3	.30
San Francisco	35	10	.29
Twin Cities	50	9	.18
Ohio	50	8	.16
Newark	50	7	.14
New York	250	15	.06
Los Angeles	65	0	.00
Philadelphia	25	0	.00
Miscellaneous		3	
Totals	670	101	.15

### NOTICE TO DIVISIONS

We would appreciate having divisions and units return all unsold copies of the October, January, and February issues to complete our files.



# WARNING!

Watch out for Nazi exchange students sent to American universities by the Hitler government! In several colleges, particularly in the mid-west, pretty blond German lasses have been sent in exchange for American students and have been spreading their anti-Semitic and anti-labor propaganda.

American students must act to put a stop to this practice. If on your campus there is even a snicker of Nazi propaganda, from exchange students or otherwise, it must be stamped out immediately! Demand that German refugee students be admitted into American universities on a scholarship basis instead of Hitler's student agents.

## STUDENTS LACK BENCHES, SO CITY FATHERS VOTE TWO FLAG POLES

NEW YORK—In a fit of remarkable good-heartedness the City Council has passed an appropriation of \$2,000 to build two new flag-poles on the Brooklyn College campus. It is expected that the students of the college will greet the flagpoles with wild enthusiasm, probably dancing around them in May-pole fashion.

The appropriation was inspired by the appeal of the Chamber of Commerce and the American Legion to construct the flag-poles as concrete manifestations of "patriotism." The fact that in the same school many students were denied NYA and that the \$2,000 used for the flagpoles could have

provided 20 students with NYA for one year is of course no reason why the poles should not be built.

The further fact that on the very same campus there are no benches for the students to sit on and that the money used for the flagpoles could be used to build benches and then still leave enough to buy every student an ice-cream cone is likewise no reason why the flagpoles should not be built.

Only an un-American agitator could suggest that the \$2,000 could be spent in a more useful manner. For patriotism is patriotism. And what can better help a needy student keep his mind off his poverty than the sight of "Old Glory" fluttering in the breeze?

## GOVERNMENT JOB

(Continued from Page 1)

worried stiff when she finds I'm not home. But there is no point leaving now. . . I've waited so long."

"No Harm Trying"

"I wouldn't mind getting to work late today, even though it means staying late until I finish up. But I have school tonight and I don't want to be late there. I know I don't stand much chance getting this job, but there's no harm trying. At least we colored folks are permitted to apply, which is more than we can do for jobs in private institutions . . . except of course for the really dirty jobs. Gee, but I would like to get this job. It's no fun taking care of rich folks' kitchens . . . particularly not after you been trained as a nurse."

"I just graduated from Hunter College. Oh, you're from Hunter too? Why you're the sixth Hunter girl I met here. I majored in His-

tory. I thought I would be able to teach when I graduated, but it doesn't look as though I will get an appointment for years. Here I have just finished four years of college and there isn't a single thing for me to do to make a living. Besides, I want to get married, but my fiancée isn't working either. He graduated from N.Y.U. last year. God, \$960 a year would look like heaven to us just now."

"Anybody Can Get a Job"

It's 1:30 P.M. I get my application, and a number—1,359. "Twelve vacancies. Appointments will be made in the order in which applications are filed." Not much of a chance, but anything is worth trying.

On the subway, at last. Heading home for a late lunch. Hungry and tired. Voices behind me. A portly, well-dressed gentleman is speaking to his friend.

"Why, if they would only cut out this damned relief business, they would find jobs alright. Why, anybody can get a job if he only tries."

# N. Y. A. REJECTS HALF OF APPLICANTS

## BOSS COURT GIVES FINAL ANSWER TO WILL LUBIN

The relief authorities and the boss courts gave their final answer to Will Lubin, whose fight to get relief has become a symbol of the plight of unmarried youth living away from home, when a Brooklyn court passed sentence upon 16 young workers arrested while serving on a delegation in Lubin's behalf that was brutally attacked by the police in a Williamsburg relief bureau.

The "Lubin case" began almost nine months ago, when Will Lubin, after walking the streets in a vain search for work like some 7 million other American youth, finally applied for relief. Since he had left his poverty-stricken home to avoid his authorities refused to accept his application, insisting that he should go home and live off his family.

Finally, in desperation, Lubin determined to stay in the relief bureau until he was given assistance. When the time came for closing the office for the day, the relief administrator called the police, who proceeded to arrest Lubin. The magistrate lectured him on keeping "order" and warned him to stay away from the relief bureau unless he wanted to risk being run in for good.

### Delegation Attacked

A few days afterward, a delegation of friends of Lubin, most of them members of the Young People's Socialist League, went to the bureau, along with Lubin, to demand that he be given relief or a WPA job. The supervisor called the police, who brutally attacked the delegation, arresting 16, including Lubin.

Four of the youths, Lubin among them, were tried on charges of felonious assault and given suspended sentences of three years. In a second trial all sixteen were tried on charges of disorderly conduct. This trial resulted in fines and suspended sentences.

Both trials were typical examples of how capitalist "justice" works when the word is given to "get" some "Reds" in order to make examples of them for the rest of the unemployed. The obvious perjury of the witness could have been seen by a blind cat.

### Points to Lawyer

When Miss Buxbaum, the relief administrator, was asked to identify the defendants, she pointed to their lawyer. It was only after some broad hints from the prosecuting attorney that she corrected herself.

The judicial and police machinery set in motion to prevent Will Lubin from getting relief, cost the City and the State thousands of dollars. Lubin could have been given relief for a minute fraction of that sum.

But that was not the question. Lubin and his comrades had to be taught a lesson so that they and other unemployed would be discouraged from further attempts to abolish the sacred rule of the relief authorities that no unmarried youth living away from his parents is to be given relief as long as there is the slightest chance of sending him home to share the misery of his family.

## 'YOUTH MUST UNITE TO WIN DEMANDS' SAYS N.Y.A. SPOKESMAN

(Continued from Page 1)

on how to solve the problem. He merely said that "we confidently expect to solve that problem in the near future."

### "The Cruel Fact Remains"

He referred to the capitalist system as "the somewhat broken-down economic machine." But his very next words indicated that he still hopes to repair it. "But the cruel fact remains that we have yet to learn how to put that machine together so that it will run properly."

In speaking of the danger of fascism, Mr. Tausig honestly described the lack of appeal that abstract democracy has to a youth who is hungry and jobless. "Let us not indulge in illusions that there is any deep understanding of the importance of freedom, to a youth who for years has been looking for a job and never got it, who has lost hope for the future, who does not in any way participate in the good things of our American life, who has not

By HAL LUBIN

NEW YORK—In the four free colleges of New York: Brooklyn, CCNY, Hunter, and Queens, one-half of the student applicants for NYA governmental aid are refused each year, despite the fact that it is precisely in these schools that the need is greatest.

This startling fact was revealed in an interview granted to the New York Times by the local director of student aid for the NYA, William Armin, Jr.

But as a matter of fact, even this picture is far too rosy. For far less than one-half of the needy students receive NYA. A large number are deprived of even the possibility of NYA by the school restrictions such as the "C" average requirement as a prerequisite for aid.

### Evening Students Ineligible

In reality, over three-fourths of the students in these schools needing NYA, are deprived of it, for in the evening sessions of these schools practically no one is eligible for NYA. For there is a requirement that a student must carry at least three-fourths of the

regular 16 credit program of study to be eligible for aid and in the evening sessions no student is allowed more than 9 credits. Therefore, evening session students are automatically ineligible for NYA.

As an example of the plight of evening session students, we cite the survey of the Brooklyn College Evening school paper showing that over 40% of the students there are unemployed during the daytime. And yet they cannot even receive the pittance of \$15 a month because of a miserable technicality.

In the high schools the lack of statistics is a convenient cover for the lack of student aid. The chances of receiving aid are so small that most students don't even bother applying. At that, one out of every five applicants is refused and the sum allotted per student has been cut by the Roosevelt government from \$6 a month maximum to \$4.18 maximum.

### Unfair Distribution

But the most vicious phase of student NYA is the manner of distribution of funds among the schools. This is so patently unjust that even our hysterical Roosevelt boosters of the American Student Union and Young Communist League must blush in shame—if they still can blush.

Quotas are assigned to schools on the basis, not of need, but of size. In each college, 9.3% of the total number of resident students 16 to 24 years old constitute a small table will show this injustice graphically:

### FREE SCHOOLS

School	Quota	Allotments
City College	840	\$113,400
Brooklyn	461	62,235
Hunter	634	85,590
Queens	37	4,995
Total	1,973	\$266,220

### PAY SCHOOLS

School	Quota	Allotments
St. Johns	606	\$ 81,810
Columbia	388	52,380
Fordham	410	55,350
NYU	1,230	166,050
Total	2,634	\$355,290

Here we see that in the tuition schools where need is much less, there are 662 more jobs than in the free colleges. Not that there should be any objections to St. Johns' quota. The students there probably need it very much. But (Continued on Page 4)

## Open Letter to Taussig

(Continued from Page 1)

according to the New York City Youth Board, "virtual slave marts exist on the street corners of the city, where both white and Negro girls gather in the hope of getting a few hours work for 15¢ to 20¢ an hour."

Referring to this condition, you say, "Most of our criminals are to be found in this social no-man's land." It is not by accident then, that the New York police records show that "youths under 25 figure in 35% of all arrests made in the city." What is the use of spending millions to fight crime when the "somewhat broken down economic machine" keeps manufacturing more criminals. The way to fight crime is by giving youth jobs and food and a chance to make a decent living.

### GRADUATE INTO BLIND ALLEY

Two million youth are graduated from the high schools and colleges every year—only to join the already swollen ranks of the unemployed. Their years of training avail them nothing, except to make their disappointment all the keener. They are graduated into the blind alley.

It is not very heartening for us to read from one of NYA Administrator Aubrey Williams' speeches:

"We know that a vast overwhelming majority of the children born in the last 25 years will never rise above a hand-to-mouth existence, that all their steps from the cradle to the grave will be dogged by poverty, sickness, and insecurity."

The present NYA allotment is so inadequate, it does not even scratch the surface. In 1938 the government appropriated 75 million for NYA. This afforded aid to about "327,000 high school and college students, and to approximately 179,000 out-of-school youth."

As for the "student aid" quota the figure 327,000 represents less than one-third of the number of students requesting aid, and rejected due to the inadequacy of the financial allotment. In view of the much graver sins of omission in dealing with the youth problem, it almost appears picayune to point out the obvious injustice in the proportions allotted to

free colleges and private schools. Though the allotments are made on the basis of total students in the school, they do not take into account the fact that it is precisely in the free schools that most of the needy students are to be found.

### DRASTIC CUTS

The recent cut of average payment to NYA students from \$15 per month for undergraduates and \$30 per month for graduate students to the ridiculously inadequate sum of \$12.11 per month for both graduate and undergraduate students is hardly in keeping with the sections of your Maryland speech dealing with the expansion of educational opportunities for youth. And the fact that these cuts are followed by allotments for the training of military pilots is sufficient answer to those official excuses that the cuts were necessitated by a lack of funds. The number of unemployed youth who are out of school, assisted by the NYA, is so insignificant in comparison to the 7 million jobless youth as to justify one in saying that you have not even seriously approached the problem.

In all, NYA, which aids 179,000 jobless youth, and the CCC, which "aids" about 300,000 youth (for 6 month terms) does not total more than one-half of a million of the 7 million in need of work. Let us generously assume that an additional 500,000 of the unemployed youth receive some sort of government aid by direct relief or WPA. That would still leave a good 6 million to be cared for. What plans, even abstract and theoretical ones, has the NYA or any government agency considered to solve this problem?

President Roosevelt and Congress have answered the problem of growing unemployment by slashing the relief appropriations by one billion dollars over those of last year. This will cut the already greatly reduced WPA rolls to under 2 million, i.e., to over 50%. They have in turn increased the military budget by one billion dollars because the ruling class demands adequate armaments to protect its foreign investments.

### RELIEF BUDGET FOR WAR

Even a large share of the NYA appropriation is really part of the war budget since it is being devoted to the aviation training project. The new CCC allotment also, up until now considered a relief and conservation project, will soon also be part of the war budget if the bills pending in Congress to arm and give military training to the CCC boys become law.

While hundreds of thousands of high school and college students are regularly rejected by the NYA at the beginning of each school term on the plea of a lack of funds, the ROTC very energetically solicits new recruits. It always finds enough money to take care of them. We, at least, have never heard of a case where a recruit for the ROTC was turned down with the plea that the lack of funds made it impossible to accept him.

The Roosevelt policy—famous for its liberal and pacifist phrases—"the forgotten man" and "I hate war"—now reveals itself in its true colors. "The youth have no jobs? Send them into the army. The youth want to learn a trade? Teach them to handle a gun."

### AND YOU, MR. TAUSSIG?

And, Mr. Taussig, what solution do you propose? No one, we are sure, knows the statistics on the plight of youth, better than you do. No one realizes the immense problem that the "somewhat broken-down economic machine" of capitalism has created for the youth of America better than you do.

Unfortunately, if your Maryland speech is an example, you utilize your knowledge of the youth problem, merely to pose the question. Your attempts at offering a solution are just so much generalization, if they are not the conscious attempt to cower before the magnitude of the problem and the radical solution needed by taking refuge in ambiguous and equivocal statements.

You say, "Extend the period of education." But how, Mr. Taussig, when youth are dropping out of school for a lack of decent clothes and in a desperate hope that they might find work and assist their families. You already said that "millions of youth and children are too poor to attend free schools even where they exist." Your solution for this, "NYA must be continued and perhaps increased," is like trying to cure tuberculosis with a cough drop.

We submit to you our program to assist the youth of this country. (Printed elsewhere in this issue—ed.) It is not a means of solving the plight of youth in the midst of a "somewhat broken-down economic machine." But at least it will give the victim of tuberculosis some fresh air, some good food, and a fighting chance.

### OUR TWO-POINT PROGRAM

We are taking you at your word when you say that the youth of America must bring pressure to bear if they are to receive "a greater share of our national wealth." We are launching a nation-wide campaign on a very elementary two-point program of demands for youth.

1. Convert the NYA into Youth WPA projects. Abolish the "supplementary aid" treatment given jobless youth. Give youth the right to work for himself, to stand on his own legs, to accept the responsibility of marriage and a home of his own.

2. Divert the two billion dollar war budget to finance such youth WPA projects. Two billion dollars will employ 1,300,000 jobless youth for 1 year at \$30 per week. Prepare youth for life—not for death.

Sincerely yours,  
NATHAN GOULD  
National Secretary  
Young Peoples Socialist League  
(Fourth International)



## THE CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

Young People's Socialist League of America

(Affiliated to the Youth Section of the Fourth International)

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FROM EAST TO WEST

# YOUTH TELLS ITS STORY

OF FIGHT FOR RIGHT TO LIVE

## YOUNG MOTHER ARRESTED WHILE FIGHTING TO FEED HER CHILD

By Fred Nash

NEW YORK—"You should get up every morning, kiss the ground and thank God you are living in a free country!"

These were the words of Magistrate Mogilesky of Bronx Court to Fanny Marcus, 23, lean and emaciated relief applicant, who had been arrested for disorderly conduct while demanding relief. Then—"25 or 5 days in jail." Sentence was suspended by the good-hearted judge with the warning that if Mrs. Marcus got into "any more trouble around the relief buro" she would have to serve her sentence.

For four months Mrs. Marcus had been trying to get herself and her three year old child, for whom she is the only provider, on relief. From the time of her application till she was arrested, she lost 34 lbs. Her child, sickly and starved, had fallen in the dark apartment, in a moment of weakness, and cut his head. There was no gas or electricity in the apartment.

Mrs. Marcus was served with a dispossession. The Relief Buro was informed of this. And still it did nothing.

### Case Publicized

By this time Mrs. Marcus had come to the Bronx Local of the Unemployed and Project Workers Union for help. Immediately a leaflet was published telling of her conditions and her impending eviction. Picket lines were organized in front of the Buro. And still nothing was done by the relief authorities.

Then Mrs. Marcus and her child were thrown out into the street.

The Bronx U. P. W. U. went into action. A horse and wagon were hired. Mrs. Marcus's furniture was put in the wagon and before the Relief Buro knew what was happening most of the furniture had been dumped into their office. There Mrs. Marcus and her child set up house, having no place else to go.

For 21 hours Mrs. Marcus sat in the Buro. Her child was taken from her. All possible means were used to intimidate her. Lies were told to her by the police about her child—that it was dying, etc. She was refused access to the toilet. Two police marons with guns sat on either side of her and did not allow her to move from her chair or catch a wink of sleep. After 21 hours of this torture, she was forcibly ejected.

This happened on Saturday morning.

### Militants Arrested

Monday morning, Mrs. Marcus and members of Local 5 were back in the buro. She was still refused relief. That same afternoon, Ruth Friedman, 19, a member of the Young People's Socialist League (Fourth Internationalists), and Sarah Sabelsky, 34, both members of the Bronx U.P.W.U., were arrested while picketing the Buro. A while later Mrs. Marcus, after she had been manhandled and threatened by the cops (her child even kicked by a Relief Buro guard while lying prostrate on the floor) was also arrested. And now irony of ironies—her child was taken from her by the . . . Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children!

The other two women were freed and Mrs. Marcus was treated in court in a manner already described.

The fight has just begun. The U.P.W.U.—both the young militants like Ruth Friedman and the adult fighters like Sarah Sabelsky—are determined to fight on for Mrs. Marcus and her child. Her child has already been returned to her and she has been given a furnished room. But that is not enough! Mrs. Marcus and her three year old child have the Right To Live . . . and so do the millions like her. And for that right we shall carry on an unceasing struggle until victory will be attained.

## Report Slave Markets in N.Y.

NEW YORK.—Reports of "slave markets" on city street corners, where young girls, both white and Negro, gather in the hope of securing a few hours work at 15 to 20 cents an hour, were heard by the City Council in a report on the plight of New York youth.

The committee stated that there were 375,000 young people "able and anxious to work," but unable to find jobs." More than one-third of this number have never had a paid job lasting as long as a week, it was reported. Seventy-nine per cent of all the city's youth were found to be out of touch with any recreational or educational facilities. It is the existence of such conditions which forced unemployed girls to go to the "slave markets" (as the report described them) to seek work.

The Council, annoyed at the facts presented to it, buried the matter by appointing a board to "consider."

## WALL STREET'S GOOD SCOUT



## NYA YOUTH ORGANIZATION FACES DECISIVE TEST IN MINNEAPOLIS

### NYA Rejects Half of Requests

(Continued from Page 3)

the quotas in the free schools have got to be jacked up; the quotas got to be based on NEED and on need alone.

#### The Money is There!

Do we hear the oily voice of a politician saying there aren't enough funds? Hokum, brother, hokum! Roosevelt never hesitates when it comes to appropriating millions for ROTC; he never hesitates at appropriating tremendous sums to train war pilots under NYA auspices.

Yes, there is money for armaments and for militarization of youth but only a sop for needy, desperate students. The YPSL demands that ROTC funds be turned over to NYA. Train students for life and not for death!

MINNEAPOLIS—The local organization of unemployed youth, the Youth Section of the Federal Workers Section of General Drivers Local 544, is preparing for a decisive test in its struggle to force the government to provide jobs for all Minnesota unemployed youth. National Youth Administration officials have informed the Youth Section that, until further notice from Washington, there would be no replacements, reassignments or new assignments made on NYA.

This move, part of the general administration program to cut relief to the bone, means that none of the present 150,000 unemployed youth in Minnesota will be able to receive any work relief from the NYA and the paring of the already very few NYA projects will be continued until they are a bare shadow of their former selves, existing merely for "show" purposes.

#### Millions for Air Reserve

It is important to note that at the same time that his cut is scheduled to go into effect, the sum of \$9,000,000 has been set aside for the training of 20,000 air pilots and mechanics by the NYA as an air reserve for war. This sum would be sufficient to keep the entire NYA functioning in the state of Minnesota at present levels for more than seven years.

A special mass meeting has been called by the Youth Section at the General Drivers' Hall, at which concrete steps will be taken to force the NYA administration to cancel this order. Among the speakers will be a representative of the committee appointed from the Minneapolis Central Labor Union to aid the Youth Section.

In addition, a delegation of the Youth Section is seeking an interview with Governor Stasson to present the problem of unemployed youth before him and to demand that he obtain appropriations immediately for the formation of state-wide youth projects at union wages. In view of the fact that Governor Stasson has been making many "liberal" speeches lately, the Youth Section is determined to give him this wonderful opportunity to make good some of his glittering generalities.

#### Youth Section Grows

In the past month, the Youth Section has succeeded in organizing to the point where it now has 400 regular dues paying members. The majority of them are on NYA projects.

It has won a name for itself among thousands of Minneapolis youth as a militant fighting force for the youth. As a result of the struggles led by the organization, free clothing has been won for the youth working on NYA projects, the quota of NYA jobs for the city of Minneapolis was raised by about 50% and some measure of security has been won for NYA project workers.

In addition to the regular economic activities carried on by the Youth Section, sports and cultural activities have been organized. The basketball team of the Youth Section is already known as one of the best in the city and is undefeated in the local park board league competition. The dramatics group, consisting of Youth Section members, is rehearsing skits and plays to be put on for the organization and the labor movement.

# A Program for the Youth of America

### 1. THE RIGHT TO WORK.

*We demand the right to work for every young person who desires it.*

The relief authorities do not regard an unmarried youth as an individual, having the right to work, to live where he pleases, and use his money as he sees fit. They regard him merely as a part of the family. The work they give him on NYA or CCC is called "supplementary relief," i.e. something added to the family budget. If he leaves home, he loses his work and the family budget is decreased.

We demand the right of unmarried youth to be considered as economically independent of their families.

We demand the conversion of all "supplementary relief" agencies such as NYA and CCC, into YOUTH WPA PROJECTS. The union wage scale shall serve as the minimum on such projects.

We demand the right of every jobless youth to a WPA job regardless of whether his family is on relief or not.

We demand an appropriation for such youth WPA projects large enough to employ all unemployed youth. Money for such an appropriation can be secured by using all army, navy, and other appropriations designed to defend Wall Street investments. If more is needed, let the government expropriate the Sixty Families who have monopolized the wealth of America.

### 2. THE RIGHT TO LEARN A TRADE.

*We demand the establishment of trade schools open to all youth who want to learn a trade, at government expense.*

Unemployment not only closes to the youth the possibility of working, but also of learning to work. It, therefore, doubly blocks their normal development to economic independence from their family and the possibility of marriage. Since it is impossible to find employment without previous work-experience, trade schools have become indispensable for young people who intend to enter industry. It is the right of every youth to learn a trade and to receive support during this period at an adequate living standard to enable him to pursue his studies under the most favorable conditions.

For those youth who are already employed and who wish to increase their skill and knowledge, we demand the right to ten hours attendance per week at trade or commercial schools at the employers' expense.

We demand the abolition of the Citizens' Military Training Camps, whose only purpose is to militarize the youth, and its replacement by a system of summer vocational training schools, providing the free vacation features which the CMTC now uses to attract recruits, together with trade school education.

### 3. THE RIGHT TO AN EDUCATION.

*We demand that the government provide free educational facilities for all youth through high school, and for*

*all youth who desire it, through college. We demand maintenance by the government to all youth who wish to go to school or college and who can not be supported by their families during their studies.*

The economic crisis yearly forces millions of students to abandon their studies and enter the labor market in search of work. Lacking experience, they desperately seize upon any opportunity to work, regardless of pay, thereby forcing down wage levels, particularly in white collar lines. It is, therefore, not merely in the interests of the students to demand free educational facilities and government maintenance, but in the interest of the entire working class. If the real needs of the youth who want to study are satisfied, the tremendous expansion of educational facilities in the form of school buildings and other construction would give employment to tens of thousands of workers. It would also serve as the only real solution to the problem of the thousands of teachers who are waiting for years for an appointment.

It is a farce to speak of the "right to an education" without providing for government maintenance for the students from families that cannot provide for them. NYA provides only for the incidental expenses of students, like lunches and carfare, and then only a very limited number of those in need. Government provision must mean more than lame support for those already in school. It must mean provision for those who do not even go to college at present because they have no hopes of being able to finish.

### 4. THE RIGHT TO VOTE.

*We demand that the right to vote be given to youth beginning at the age of eighteen.*

While the ruling class fixes 21 as the age at which young workers are permitted to take part in elections, it draws no such line at 21 when it needs wage slaves for its industries or cannon fodder for its wars. If a youth at 18 is old enough to hold down a job and help produce the wealth of the country, he is also old enough to help decide what should be done with it.

### 5. HOW THIS PROGRAM CAN BE REALIZED.

In raising these demands for the youth of America, we do not limit ourselves to what can be practically possible within the framework of capitalism. We are guided solely by the most urgent needs of youth. If capitalism cannot solve these needs, it is necessary to break through capitalist legality and make radical invasions on the rights of property and profits.

All history, however, teaches us that the working class cannot solve its problems unless it boldly takes power into its own hands and reorganizes industry upon a socialist basis.

It is, therefore, necessary to struggle for the creation of a Workers Government, based upon councils of workers and poor farmers, as the only form of government capable of building an economic order that gives youth its rightful place in life.

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