

OUR OPPONENTS

By GILBERT GREEN

"The leaders of the bourgeoisie are one and all well aware of the importance of the rising generation, and the bourgeois states are creating mighty organizations into which they are drawing the working youth."
—Manulsky at Y. C. I. Plenum.

Millions of dollars are spent every year by the American ruling class in order to permeate the minds of the young workers with bourgeois ideology. There is organized a system of youth clubs, which by their variety and nature, reach nearly every young worker in the United States. Close to 5,000,000 are organized into these organizations. Thus, half of the working youth are to be found in the organizations of the bosses, and the other half, greatly influenced by them. It is impossible to speak of the majority of the working youth without carrying on a merciless struggle against these organizations.

Largest Number in Sport Clubs

The largest number of young workers are found in the sport organizations. The United States Athletic Union has 2,500,000 members. This organization is composed of affiliated bodies, and has more influence among the young workers than any other organization in the United States. The complete open bourgeois character of this organization can be seen in the fact that in most states it is the official government amateur athletic body, making decisions in the name of the state legislature.

The Y's come next in size and importance. Although basically organized as religious groups, these organizations (YMCA, YWCA, YMHA,) have become in the main athletic organizations. The YMCA has a membership of 951,964; 458,562 of these are in the gymnasium classes; 70,227 in regular educational classes, and 210,750 in Bible study circles. The YMCA has yearly operating expenses of \$60,682,600.

The Y. W. C. A. has 609,738 members in 1,100 associations,

and 400 Girl Reserve clubs in the United States. The budget of 1927 of this organization, amounted to \$25,900,500. In 1928, \$1,102,500 was contributed to the YWCA. Mrs. John D. Rockefeller is one of the members of the Board of Directors.

The YMHA is a comparatively small organization with only 3,000 members. One of the most important features of the Y's is their industrial departments which are used as strike breaking agencies wherever possible.

Religious Groups

Hundreds of religious youth organizations are to be found especially in the South, and in the rural communities. These organizations publish many special youth magazines, and in many towns form the only medium of social life. Even in some large cities, youth organizations are formed around a church on the basis of the social needs of the Board of Directors in the neighborhood. The church with its hall, dance floor, picnics, etc., is a strong attraction to many young workers. One of the largest church youth organizations is the Baptist Young People's Union with a membership of 175,000. The Knights of Columbus, although not exactly a youth organization, has a membership of 637,122, a good percentage of which are young workers.

The above are only a few of the largest organizations. The 4-H Clubs in the rural communities, and dozens of other organizations, are part of the network of bourgeois youth organizations.

Recent Developments

In the past few years, the rationalization resulting in growing discontent among the young workers, has had its reflection in the approach and activities of these organizations. The Y's through their industrial departments have discussed the grievances of the young workers, and have attempted to assume the role of arbiter. This has been especially true since the beginning of the economic crisis. One branch of the Y, even went so far as to issue a call to its

members that all those dissatisfied with working conditions, who have special grievances, should come to the Y for advice. This is a new cloak adopted especially to turn the radicalization of the young workers into harmless channels.

The radicalization of the young workers has also resulted in a discussion of these organizations of their working methods, and how they can continue to hold their influence on the youth. A youth conference of church organizations in Cleveland, recently adopted a resolution for the abolition of the old prayer method, and for the institution of some special lighter features for the attraction of the young people.

Together with this, we find that the reformist youth organizations are also attempting to lift the heads at the present moment. The Young Peoples Socialist League, the Young Peoples Circles, and the League for Industrial Democracy, have heretofore been merely small sectarian organizations of college students with no influence among the young workers. Today we find that these organizations have suddenly become "interested" in the plight of the young workers. On May 12, a special discussion conference was held to take up unemployment and other problems of the young workers. These organizations, through the use of working class phrases, will attempt to turn the discontent of the young workers into reformist channels.

League Has Done Nothing

The Young Communist League has done nothing to struggle against these organizations. We have talked generally about winning the majority of the young workers, but have failed to realize that this can only be done by destroying the influence of these organizations. We have talked beautiful phrases about mass work, but have failed to go where the young workers are, in order to win them for the revolutionary class struggle.

The League must start a real struggle against these organizations. They must be exposed be-

fore the young workers with tools of that tremendous task before us which we call "the turn towards mass work."

"We must fully support the labor opposition in such opponent organizations, but we also must imbue it with a correct ideology of revolutionary struggle, which is just the opposite of what its own organization advocates and does."—Khitarov.

"In all of the opponent and 'neutral' organizations having many of the working class youth in their midst, it is necessary to work stubbornly and persistently for their disintegration and for the winning of the young workers to our side. For this purpose it is necessary to set steadfast young Communist members into such organizations and draw into this work organizations which are under young Communist influence."—YCI Resolution.

We must send our members into these organizations, formulate programs of demands for struggle from within to disintegrate the organization, and win over the young workers to our side.

Only through the penetration of these organizations and their disintegration, can we win the majority of the working youth. The struggle against the opponent youth in the present period of sharpening class battles, is of utmost importance, and is part

of that tremendous task before us which we call "the turn towards mass work."

GREETINGS

PITTSBURGH

Matt Patrick
Nick ⁰⁴⁻¹⁴⁻¹⁹
John Gade
Frank Keunich
G. Pinz
G. Pinz
Catherine Churjak
Anton Opava
Barbara Radosevich
N. S. Rodman
Nick Haduick
Andrew Kvaternik
Philip Schuler
C. Gerginsky
Joseph Rojce
Steen Uliacic
J. Sulky
Carman Brushi
Michel
J. B.

CHICAGO

Zlata Herich

ALEXANDER JURICH

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711 Penn. Ave.
Wilkesburg, Penn.

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from

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POMLADAK MILAN

GLUMAE (PIONEERS)

Chicago, Ill.

Eastern States Athletic Meet of Labor Sports Union of A.

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