

THE Y. C. L. IN THE SHOPS!

By GIL GREEN, Editor

The resolution of the Young Communist International demands a complete and decisive change in all of the work of the League. The fact that war has already started in the Far East, that the attacks upon the conditions of the masses in the United States are growing, that terror is increasing, these place higher demands before our League in the present period.

Our League must become rooted in the decisive sections of the American youth. This especially means being rooted in the factories of basic industries, the building of the League on the basis of shop nuclei.

The YCI resolution states:

"The question of winning the majority of the working class youth will be decided in the factory. The task of exposing the opponents, of drawing in the young workers from the opponent organizations into our ranks, will be decided in the factories. The economic struggles take place in the factories. The question of transforming the League into a mass organization, will be decided in the factories."

It is impossible to conduct a struggle against war without being rooted in the factories. It is in the factories that we can fight capitalism at its very nerve center—at the point of production. It is here that we can stop the production of ammunition and other war materials and its shipment to Japan.

It is in the shops that the League will be able to resist the attempt of the government to drive the revolutionary movement underground. Only on the basis of shop nuclei can we keep our organization intact, continue to keep daily personal contact with the masses of young workers, even in the height of terror. Only by turning towards the shops can we begin the process of bolshevization of our League.

No Line Toward Shops.
In the past period our League and its leadership, has had no line towards the factories. It has had no line on the organizing question. It has had an entirely wrong approach to the question of growth.

We looked upon the question of growth too mechanically, too narrowly. The fact that the League had tripled its membership in the period of a year and a half, had blinded us to the basic question. We did not understand that the question of growth can only be analyzed from the viewpoint of 1) where did we grow, and 2) how did we grow. When we analyze our growth from these two points, we find that our growth was more or less of an accidental character. We grew where it was easiest to grow and not where it was most important to grow. Our growth did not constitute the break with our past isolation. It did not root us among the basic sections of the youth.

Only 20 Shop Nuclei.
This can be seen all the more clearly when we analyze our growth in the various districts and especially in our recent recruiting drive. We have only twenty shop nuclei nationally. In the Chicago district for example, there is NOT ONE SHOP NUCLEUS! The figures of the recruiting drive show that only 10 percent of the new members nationally were Negro youth, and only 2 percent were young workers at

Beginning this week, the "Young Worker" throws its columns open to a thorough discussion on the letter of the Young Communist International to the Young Communist League of the United States.

This letter was printed in pamphlet form sent out to all districts and should be in the possession of every League member in order that he may be able to make it the basis of his discussion of the tasks confronting the League in carrying out what the Young Communist International

present employed. The bulk of the new members (59 percent) unemployed youth. The League recruited 21 percent students. In other words, as many students as young workers from factories. This is impermissible!

When we begin to analyze the factories in which these comrades who are working are found, the picture is even worse. The national registration shows only **A HANDFUL** of comrades in factories employing more than a thousand workers. The bulk of those working are found in the small shops of lighter industry.

Let us go a little deeper. What about these twenty shop nuclei? How do they function? What role do they play in their shop? How do they fight against the wage-cut, the lay-off and the dismissal? Let us look at our shop nucleus in the X plant. This is a nucleus of twenty-one members in a steel plant. It is our largest and most stable nucleus. It was organized more than a year ago, and has been successful in many of its demands. Let us see what let us go beyond these figures. What has been its work? In this shop there has been three major wage-cuts. The workers and young workers work only three days every two weeks. The masses are ready to fight, but they lack leadership. Our shop nucleus has not been able to come forward as the leader of the youth. It has been unable to react to the daily issues in the plant. It has been unable to react to the revolutionary situation in the country. It has been unable to lead the youth in the plant. It is a picture of our shop nuclei.

No Guidance.
What is the main reason for this. As was stated at the beginning, this is due to the fact that

on the part of the leadership there has been no line on the organiza-

Bolshevize the League

"...the basic task of the League and its leadership is the struggle for the bolshevization of the YCL, that is the sharp-est and most important task of the war and for the correct line of the Comintern and KPIB on the basis of the letter of Comintern's 1925-26 resolution to carry out the chief task of the League together with the Party — the mobilization of the masses of workers and peasants to fight against the capitalist offensive. It means the developing a mass organization of the workers and peasants in alliance with a proletarian leadership, basing itself on factory nuclei. It means fighting relentlessly against all deviations from the line of the Comintern and the YCL, against Right and "left" opportunism in all their forms and manifestations. It means making the League a mass organization of young workers by leading their struggles for all their political and economic interests, against fascist and imperialist rule over the whole bourgeois political state machine, and carrying out consistently the tactic of the front against the bourgeoisie."

—From the letter of the Young Communist International to the American Young Communist League.

outlines a
rigorous

The article by rank and file actively engaged and shop unionists tells us League must root itself in toiling people.

The ~~point~~ is co

tion question, no line towards the shops. Not once did the National Committee make a concrete analysis of the work of the above shop nucleus or any other nucleus. The nuclei were permitted to flounder by themselves with no guidance from the leadership.

The fact that our recruiting drive did not reach the League at the shops is no accident. In the recruiting plan drawn up by the National Committee for the Young Worker, the YOUNG WORKER, there was not the necessary emphasis on the shops. In the concrete tasks the plan spoke about the work of the street union, but we did not put forth the concrete tasks for the shop union. In an article in the Young Worker from some time ago, written by the author of this article, the same mistake is made. This article speaks of simplifying our work by giving every comrade one simple task. It does not however by the main emphasis on the shops, with the result that it leads to a line of least resistance and work in clubs, in neighborhoods, etc. instead of factories.

The failure of the League to understand that all of the work must be based upon the shops is shown by the "campaign" approach to shop work. The League does not understand that all of the campaigns of the League must find their meeting point at the shop. Every one of our campaigns must be used to penetrate the factories.

"Too Busy!"

For example, in a letter from California the comrades report to the National Committee that their main campaigns for the coming months will be 1) the election campaign, 2)

the Counter-Olympic campaign. "Of course that means that our campaign for instance can't go ahead as rapidly as if we had it as our main point of work." This he refers to our shop work" (our emphasis). The comrades in California put the Election Campaign against their unemployed and shop work. They do not see, that only by working at the shops and among the unemployed can they have a successful election campaign. comrades of California! The Election Campaign and the Counter-Olympic Campaign will only be successful to the extent that you are able to penetrate the basic factories and ports.

The same mistake was made by the comrades of Boston. In their plan for the State Hunger March, instead of linking up the demands of the unemployed with those working part time and full time, they visited factories entirely. The District gave the following instructions to those comrades working in shops. "All employed comrades must be involved in the work of collecting signatures, visiting contacts, visiting unemployed, collecting money, etc." Immediately after the march, the comrades working in shops were not told to work at their own factories, to link up their daily demands with those of the unemployed and the hungry

Work In The Factories. "It is necessary now that 'the whole League and its leadership will turn with Bolshevik determination to work in the factories.' The XCI Resolution! The National Committee! We must go to so to concentrate on six of the most important plants in the country. Every district should begin to concentrate at important war factories. We must go to the factories. Around the discussion of the XCI resolution, we must positively educate our membership as to the importance of factory work. This work must be conducted. Every existing shop nucleus must be given the most careful attention by the leadership, to see that it grows and develops as a leader. We must stress the growth in that shop. Only through these steps, by a conscious line towards the factories can we root ourselves in the basic sections of the vanguard."

A leading comrade will be responsible for every one of these. Every meeting of the National Bureau will discuss one of these points of concentration.

to carry on a successful struggle against capitalist demagoguery. Already, we can see that some comrades in Pittsburgh district are making false statements to the effect that Cox's influence is on a big decrease.

If we are to successfully combat
 ox's demagoguery we must avoid this
 opportunist underestimation and
 mistakes that have already
 shown themselves:

1) Not conducting a real ideological campaign in our own movement with the result that many comrades are misled and fooled by 'fox.

2) Too much of a tendency to confine our struggle against Cox to a few leaflets and speeches.

BATTER DOWN THE INFLUENCE OF "FATHER" COX AMONGST THE YOUNG

By IRVING HERMAN
A close examination of "Father"

Cox will reveal him as a tool of the steel trusts. He has the support of the big capitalists as well as the small owners. Such men as Gimbel, the owner of a big department store in Pittsburgh, and such organizations as the Allegheny Retail Merchants Association openly brag of their support of Cox. He has endorsed and supported such a strike-breaker and demagogue as Governor Pinchot of Pennsylvania, the man who is being supported by the Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association and such a

militarist as General Smedley Butler. Cox, in order to prevent the struggle for unemployment insurance, has erected a shanty town for homeless men. These shanties are not even fit for dogs.

Out of the hundreds of thousands of dollars collected by Cox from the workers at mass meetings, thru radio appeals, thru his stamp collections, etc., a very small portion of it is given out to the jobless workers. Most of the "food" that Cox gives out are "donations" by the big wholesale places of "food" that form the most part has rotted and can't

be sold. Significantly enough, Cox has never made a detailed account of all the funds collected and exactly where it has all gone.

In the 1930 strike of the taxi cab workers, Cox played a leading role as a strike breaker. In that strike, he called on the strikers to go back to work at reduced wages. When a certain section of the strikers did not fall for his "fatherly" advice, he denounced them bitterly.

The Hunger March conducted by the United Food Workers received a favorable response by the workers in the Pittsburgh District, the