

Gil Green Analyzes YCL Work Since Last Nat'l Convention

League Has Made Progress In All Fields Since Sixth National Convention In 1931; Is Now Stronger Than Any Time In 12 Years Existence

(Excerpt from the report of Comrade Gil Green to the Seventh National Convention of the Young Communist League.)

Three years have passed since the 6th National Convention of our League. Three years of the greatest importance for the revolutionary youth movement. For much has happened in this short span of time—work in the daily life of the young workers—and in the work and life of our Young Communist League. It is the important task of this convention, of you, comrades, who have traveled from all over the country to represent our League, to analyze this past period. This must be done not abstractly or generally, but concretely in the light of how our political and its National Committee has reacted to the most important political events; how it has participated in the daily struggles of the young workers and students, to what extent it has begun to break its sectarian narrowness and to emerge as

a mass organization, to become the closest co-worker of the Communist Party in the struggle for the majority of the working class. At the outset it is necessary to say that in the period since the 6th convention our League has made progress. It has grown, it has become consolidated politically and organizationally, it has improved its connections with the basic masses of youth as reflected in its social and national composition, and it has both in quantity and quality improved its leadership. At the 6th convention our League had 3,000 members. Today, more than 6,000 members, we have more than 40 shops but had eight shop units. Today, although the number is still very small, we have more than 40 shop units. The League has also considerably widened its mass base, having built auxiliary units in the South among the share-croppers, in the West among the farm youth, in the colleges and high schools among the students, and among other strata of the toiling youth.

1. Growth of League Direct Result of Its Improved Participation in Struggles

This growth of our League, was a direct result of its improved participation in the daily struggles of the youth, especially those of the mass struggles. It is a result of the fact that our League unreservedly took the line of the fight against American imperialism, its labor lieutenants, and against those who would keep the youth in the ranks of the bourgeoisie. It is a result of the fact that our League has emerged as an organizationally stronger than ever at any time in its 12 years of existence. It is completely behind the Central Committee of our Party, which in the United States is the only organization that has won the support of the mass of the youth, the path marked by Lenin and Stalin. It is the League, recognizing the progress made by our League, and while fighting any tendencies to underestimate the importance of this, it is the duty of this convention to give an answer as to why this progress has been so small. Our League has not yet become a mass organization, larger than our Party, in every sense the leader of the masses of toiling youth.

2.—How Did League React to Wave of Strike Struggles Since Beginning of New Deal?

How did our League react to the wave of strike struggles which swept the country, especially those which called "New Deal"? It is necessary to say that our League participated in a large number of strikes and in a few of them played leading and important parts. Daily this is the strike in Trenton; the mining strikes in Utah and Colorado; the strike in the Amalgamated, the hotel strike in Pittsburgh; the marine strikes in Philadelphia; the radio strikes in Baltimore and the knitgoods strike in Philadelphia. Second, and this is most important, we must say that the majority of strikes, especially the strikes in the basic industries in mining, auto, etc., passed over our heads.

What is the reason for this? Let us take the mining strike in Pennsylvania as an example. Prior to the strike we hardly had a single worker in Pennsylvania and in the coal fields. We had very few decent in the Pittsburgh district and from the center had paid little attention to work in this district for years. This is the reason why we "don't send in outside forces." We did nothing to bring together our local workers and the workers in the fields, to give them a perspective, a program and concrete guidance and leadership.

2. We completely underestimated

Says Your Money, and Gets Your Choice



It. Wilson thousand youth were addressed in New Jersey and New York to the Young Communist League and its National Committee.

von the majority of the N.M.U. and our policy, his one mine have been for speaking to all miners, for organizing a youth demonstration.

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Main Task of Convention Is to Discuss Why YCL Has Not Made More Progress; Why It Is Not Yet Mass Organization of the Toiling Youth

The main purpose of breaking the pendulum swing of the struggle is to bring the youth to the company union.

While it is undeniably true that the majority of the young workers, as the adult workers, are opposed to company unions, it is also true that among the youth, there is a minority who have been influenced by the labor of the company unions. This was done by the argument that all union work is a waste of time, and that the workers, etc. We cannot ignore this argument, which is spread by the company unions, and which, to a certain extent, influences the present youth generation who, having grown up during the war, know through many sad experiences of the wide activities of the gangsters and racketeers.

Here our job is to try to turn this justified hatred towards racketeering in our favor. We must explain patiently to these youth why the company unions these arguments, and why they should not follow under their own leadership and where the A. F. of L. has the field call upon them to go to these unions and clean house from within.

In places where there is discrimination against the youth, as in the case of the youth in the Y. C. L. or in voting or holding office in the company unions, these issues should be brought up. In these places, by exposing the fact that young workers are being discriminated against, we can win the youth to vote and those less than 6 years

in codes, etc. We must especially

The adult workers, to the extent that they improve the conditions of youth labor; to that extent it will be important for the employers to use the youth against the adults.

Every one of our districts in this country should study this problem, as around it may depend the whole fight against the company unions.

Our comrades should not come out for anti-seniority rights, but should come out for it, as our union comrades in Detroit advocate. The abolition of seniority is the only one, if we are to solve the problem of the youth not from sectional interests, but from the interests of the whole working class.

Thus, we have a complicated question. The A. F. of L. supposedly represents the youth, and the company union, the youth. Correctly solving this question is of extreme importance in fighting company unions, in uniting the youth with the adult workers.

What must be our position? (1) We are against discrimination against the youth. (2) We are against the firing of old workers without provisions for old workers. We must unite youth and adult workers for a more intensive fight against discrimination against the youth, for a shorter work week for youth without reduction in pay, for more training, against discrimination of youth.

By using the work among the youth as a basis for the movement, we can increase our movement among the young workers in the Sparrows Point steel mill, began work in other plants and, I. F. of L. unions, with the result that the whole movement grew. Here is the whole concentration in marine in Baltimore influenced the other masses of the youth. Furthermore, created mass influence, especially for our union in all the other parts of the U.S. Had we such example in the youth, the whole story could have been far different.

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fight Against Company Unions Is One of the Most Important Tasks Facing the League

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6.—League Must Work To Destroy Company Unions and Build Militant Organization

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