

Young Worker

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YOUNG WORKER, NEW YORK, TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 1935

BRING ANOTHER PAGE TO AMERICAN HISTORY

By Gil Green

THE faces of thousands of youth throughout this nation will be turned toward Detroit on July 4th. For on this day will convene the first session of the historic Second American Youth Congress. Hundreds of young men and women, from varied walks of life, from trade unions, "Y's," churches and settlement houses, will gather to discuss their common problems—their traditional right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

A year ago when the First American Youth Congress with the official blessing of Mrs. Roosevelt and Mayor LaGuardia assembled in New York City, few indeed realized that in the course of but three days the entire character of this congress would be altered. The semi-fascist program of Viola Iima was bootied out. In its stead was adopted a united front program based on the most burning immediate needs of the young generation.

As extraordinary as was this accomplishment, the most difficult task was still to come. Cemented in unity by their common aversion to the program and tactics of Viola Iima and her supporters, the question arose as to whether these organizations could maintain this unity for any length of time after the first congress. There were many who were openly skeptical. There were others who secretly hoped that the united front left to its own ends would disintegrate and be destroyed by internal bickering.

But those honorable gentlemen did not reckon with their host—the young generation of this nation. The Second American Youth Congress will give a fitting reply to both the skeptics and the avowed opponents of the youth congress. In great part the answer has already been given. For in the short span of ten months this movement has spread from coast

to coast, embracing ever larger masses of young men; to date some twenty-five regional congresses have been held, including groups in hundreds of cities and towns; Seamen and beet-field workers of every nationality; drought-ridden farm youth of our great wheat and corn belts; packing-house workers from Chicago and steel youth from Pittsburgh and Youngstown; students from universities, colleges and high-schools; Negroes and whites; Catholics, Protestants and Jews—all find their common ground in the program of

the American Youth Congress.

THIS is what brings us together. This is what keeps us united despite all differences. This is what makes the Second American Youth Congress of such historic importance. For the voices of aroused youth will be heard in Detroit. They will speak from shop, school and field. They will let their voices ring throughout the length and breadth of this land, calling upon the masses of youth to remember the stirring words of the Declaration of Independence and to pledge to fight for a Declaration of Rights of



the Young Generation, a declaration which shall point the way toward Peace, Freedom and Progress.

FOR PEACE: What young man and woman can be opposed to this aim? Who can dare speak against peace? And yet we know that every day the forces to destroy peace are growing. Listen to the rattle of sabers in the land of the fascist madman, Hitler! Listen to the roar of Italian guns against the people of Ethiopia! Listen to the machine-gun beat of Japanese machine-guns in Northern

China! And in the United States, see the increased funds for war preparations. These are meant for you and me. We will be called upon to give our lives for the profits of the American bourgeois.

But merely being against war is not enough. What we need is unity in the struggle for peace. This is what the youth congress offers. Think of the effect that the determined opposition of millions of youth towards war would have on the policies of the government, on the plans of the war makers.

FOR FREEDOM: The street car men of Omaha are striking for improved conditions. Police and militia are used to break their strike. Freedom—for whom? One hundred and seventy-five thou-

sand students strike on April 12 against war and fascism. Their leaders are suspended from school. Freedom? Yes, this is the kind of freedom those who fight for a better life meet up with every day.

All men are created free and equal! say our law books. What mockery! Negro people are burned at the stake for no crime but being poor and having dark skins. Foreign-born workers are deported. Laws are passed in state legislatures gagging our right to free speech and to the press. It is our generation which must fight to maintain all democratic rights won by the masses of people through generations of struggle.

FOR PROGRESS!

It is impossible to have freedom without progress. For freedom for the masses of people can only come as a result of greater economic security, greater facilities for education and cultural advancement, the abolition of all forms of oppression and the complete conquest of nature on the part of the mankind.

When the most developed industrial nation in the world permits its factories to remain closed, to rust and rot while millions of young men and women in their prime of life are jobless and hungry. If this be progress, give us less of it. Our land is large and beautiful. It has all the natural resources and the material and human means by which to provide for all its people in comfort.

But certain gentlemen, people who even consider themselves creators of culture, men who publish and edit, call the movement Communist. Well, Mr. Hearst, are you ready to call the 175,000 students who went on strike on April 12th Communists? Are you ready to brand the millions of "Y's," churches, trade unions and settlement houses, also Communist? See the stupidity of the whole thing. Every sensible young man and woman knows how foolish is this charge. Then why is it made? So as to frighten the masses of youth from united action. But honorable hypocrites, once more you have not reckoned with your host. The American youth have passed the "boogy-man" stage. They understand your motives.

As for us, the members of the Young Communist League, we will prove to the masses of youth our right to leadership and the correctness of our whole program—precisely by our firm and consistent struggle for the demands of America's youth—for Peace, Freedom and Progress.

Let Hearst rave. America's youth marches on!

Next week's special 16-page July 6th edition of the YOUNG WORKER will contain an important article by Comrade Gil Green on how the masses of youth can achieve the program of the American Youth Congress, and the concrete tasks before the Second Congress.