



VIEWS and REVIEWS

by

Gil Green

(National Secretary, Y.C.L.)

Accent on Youth

SEVEN million young people will be eligible as new voters in the coming presidential election. Hence, according to a story which appeared in last Sunday's New York Times, the two major political parties will in this campaign direct major attention to these first voters. Republican and Democratic youth clubs are being established throughout the country and the Liberty League has begun an enrollment campaign among college students.

This particular emphasis on youth is quite understandable. In previous elections it was usually taken for granted that most first voters would support the political parties of their parents. How often did one hear such remarks as: "My father is a Republican (or Democrat) and so am I." But not so in this election.

Young people today are ready to leave the beaten path. They are frequently more critical than the older generation and are certainly not as burdened by past precedents and tradition. This state of affairs makes possible the winning of large masses of youth for a new political party—a united party of all toilers, a farmer-labor party. The excellent response of young people to the recent radio address of Comrade Browder is an indication of this desire on their part to break from the parties of capitalism.

It would be a mistake however to believe that this excludes the possibility of the two old parties establishing new ties with the youth through the utilization of new slogans and promises. This is exactly what we must guard against.

Labor Party and Youth

IT IS for this reason, that in the work for the formation of a nation-wide Farmer-Labor Party, special attention must be paid to the problems of the young workers, farmers and students. In the last months numerous local labor parties have sprung into being. While some of these have placed special demands for the youth in their platforms, many have not. The local labor parties if they are to successfully counteract the intense activities of the Republican and Democratic parties, should take the lead in fighting for such measures as the American Youth Act and the Child Labor Amendment.

This is not all. The growing political interest of the young people must be organized. This is certainly understood by the Republican and Democratic Parties if one is to judge by the tens of thousands of dollars poured into their youth club movements. The farmer-labor party movement should also have youth clubs. In the state of Minnesota efforts are now being directed towards building the Junior Farmer-Labor Association into a large mass organization. It is necessary to follow suit elsewhere. Wherever a labor party movement is begun, labor party youth club should be formed. Thus, the organization of the youth will proceed simultaneously with the building of the farmer-labor party.

The Young Communist League should take the lead in all this work. Our work for the building of a united working class youth organization is directly linked up with the problem of building a farmer-labor party. The very first step in winning the youth for class struggle policies and for a Socialist world, is to convince them of the need for independent political action—for a political party of the united toilers.

Library Competition Hot

EVERY day brings more letters from Y.C.L. branches entering into the library competition. Two weeks ago we offered through the medium of this column a set of Lenin's works to that Y.C.L. branch which first collected a minimum of one-hundred books for a circulation library. It was understood that every branch entering into the competition would start from scratch.

We are happy to announce that the first round of this competition is over. A number of branches have already reached the above goal. In fact, the competition was so hot that we are forced to divide first place honors between two branches—Unit No. 5, West Side, Chicago, and Cornell University Branch, Ithaca, N. Y. Let us explain. Both of these branches informed us of their success at approximately the same time. While we were tempted to give the prize to Cornell for its superior selection of books, we also had to take into consideration the fact that the unit in Chicago was at a distinct disadvantage when it came to the time element. (Chicago receives the paper a few days later than New York.) And so, we've decided to give a set of Lenin's books to each one of these branches. We extend to them our sincere congratulations.

While we cannot give the same prize to the other branches that fulfilled their task a bit late, we are not forgetting them entirely. We shall send to each one of these a copy of Comrade Browder's latest book, "What is Communism?" Furthermore in order to continue the drive for circulating libraries, we pledge to send a copy of this book to every other branch that fulfills the above requirements by the end of April. Let us see how many more branches can have circulating libraries of at least one-hundred books by that time? Go to it comrades!