

The Coming Y.C.L. Convention

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THE EIGHTH NATIONAL CONVENTION of the Young Communist League will meet in New York City from April 2 through April 5. The basis of representation and the scope of the convention tasks and deliberations will make it a unique gathering of American youth and a landmark in the history of the revolutionary youth movement of this country.

The building of a broader Young Communist League, the establishment of a front of America's young generation, and winning the youth for a united youth organization as part of the Farmer-Labor Party movement, place before the Communist core in the youth movement, and before the entire Communist Party, more serious and difficult tasks than ever before.

Representation at the Eighth Convention will be based primarily on the branches and units of the Young Communist League. Each branch will be entitled to one delegate. Those

having more than 25 members will be entitled to one additional delegate for every 25 or major fraction thereof. District committees will also have delegates to the convention on the basis of one for every 200 members in the district. In order to make possible the representation of every single branch in the Y.C.L. without placing an unequal burden on those branches farthest from New York, a three-dollar registration fee will be levied on each delegate. However, even this measure will not cover the tremendous costs of assembling the delegates from all parts of the country, and additional funds are to be raised in the Y.C.L., in the Communist Party, and friendly organizations.

On January 1-3, 1937, there took place an enlarged plenary session of the Young Communist League which adopted the procedure for the convention and inaugurated the pre-convention discussion. The order of business of the convention will be:

1. Guest speakers, including not only representatives of the Central Committee of the Party, but prominent trade union figures and youth leaders.
2. Election of convention officers.
3. Election of convention committees:
 - a. Presiding.
 - b. Program and Resolution.
 - c. Constitution and by-laws.
 - d. Education.
 - e. Auditing.
4. Report of National Committee: "America's Youth Faces the Future." Discussion.
5. Round-table discussions and special reports on the following subjects:
 - a. How to win young people for the trade union movement.
 - b. Young women and their problems.
 - c. The struggle for the rights of the Negro youth.
6. Evening discussion forums on the following lectures:
 - a. "Peace or War—Which Shall It Be?"
 - b. "Youth Under a Socialist Democracy."

7. Reports from convention committees and discussion following each.
8. Election of Chairman, Secretary and National Committee.

In line with the report of Gil Green to the last National Conference of the Y.C.L. the activities of the League and the preparations for the convention must in large part be based on the fact that many young people have been drawn into the basic industries of the country. Emphasis on the young people in mass production industries, and on winning the young people for the trade unions, will help solve the manifold problems facing the Y.C.L. In this regard, the resolution of the last convention of the American Federation of Labor, for winning the sons and daughters of labor for the trade unions, is of tremendous importance for the entire labor movement. Problems such as vocational training and apprenticeship have become more acute than ever, precisely in view of the upturn in production. The decision of the Central Labor Council of New York, calling for a special conference of the trade unions on this matter, again gives the entire labor movement a significant point of departure.

Because of the strategic position of the Communist Party in the trade unions, many of the problems facing the Young Communist League can be approached only with the closest guidance and support of the Party. Thus, for example, the Party is in a key position to help broaden the trade union base of the united front of American youth for progressive social legislation. In connection with the activity of the American Youth Congress and other youth groups for the American Youth Act, against child labor, for the withdrawal of the army from control of the C.C.C., for the Nye-Kvale Bill against compulsory military training, the trade union support for the united front of youth, for the American Youth Congress, has not been sufficiently established.

For some time, after the Sixth Congress of the Young Communist International, there was discussion in both the Party and the League as to the role of the Y.C.L. At the last conference of the League it can be said that most of the confusion and tendencies toward liquidating the Y.C.L. were overcome. In all the discussion there was clarity on the need for broadening the organizational forms and activity of the League, building the organization precisely in order that it might be a more effective instrument for building a united organization

of youth. Great stress was placed on education, and new forms of conducting educational activities. A comprehensive plan of activity in the fields of dramatics, sports and music was outlined. Again, it is precisely in such activities that the role of the adult movement, of specialists in such fields who are in or close to the Party, will prove decisive in enabling the youth movement to develop such activities.

Pre-convention discussion is being organized on the broadest possible scale. Every branch of the Y.C.L. is to set aside at least one month for such discussion. At the first meeting in pre-convention discussion there is to be a report from the district committee on the last Y.C.L. conference. Discussion on this follows. After that, the League branches organize their own discussions on branch experiences and problems, and in all cases are invited to draw up resolutions for the national convention, which will make the deliberations of the convention truly representative of the entire League. All district and section committees of the Party should likewise have some discussion on the Y.C.L. convention and on the activity of the Party in youth work.

Teachers' fractions and similar groups in the Party which are in contact with problems of the young people should arrange special pre-Y.C.L. convention discussions. This is the best time for the Party branches to examine what forces they have in the Y.C.L. or doing youth work, and to see whether they are helping prepare the Y.C.L. convention, and building the Young Communist League.

The February issue of *The Communist* contains the full report of Gil Green to the last national Y.C.L. conference. The *Daily Worker* and the entire Party press is utilizing its columns for this discussion. Party members especially should not only read but actively participate in this discussion.