

Communist Youth

The United Front and the Young Communist International.

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The needs of the young workers grow from day to day. If we examine the statistics and reports on the situation of our proletarian youth, our opening statement can be substantiated by thousands of examples.

Many attempts have already been made to improve the condition of the proletarian youth. All these attempts, however, were isolated and consequently they could not help but end in failure in the face of capitalist and governmental resistance. We see for example, that a certain bill submitted years ago to the German Parliament was pigeonholed up to the present time, only to be defeated. In Czecho-Slovakia, the Workers' Vacation Law in conjunction with which the question of the vacation of minors was to be considered, is postponed and hindered. The economic crisis in that country has thrown many young proletarian out of work. As a result great distress is prevalent. In Austria the proletarian youth has made a very elementary gain in that direction. The benefits gained have however, long ago been wiped out by the ever-growing need. In Switzerland, in Sweden, and in England, many young proletarians have likewise been thrown out of work by the economic crises existing in those countries. No one seems to be concerned about them, however; so that they suffer immensely. This is true of every capitalistic country.

The proletarian youth suffers not only because of the economic crisis, but it is also a victim of the general reaction. In Italy many young proletarians fall a prey to Fascisti bullets. In Germany the young workers are badly mistreated by the reactionaries who even threaten their lives. In France, Belgium, Czecho-Slovakia, Roumania, Jugoslavia and Poland the young proletarians are forced into the straight-jackets of capitalist militarism and then used to suppress the revolutionary movement of the workers. They are made to serve the purpose of maintaining the bankrupt capitalist economic system by means of bayonets.

The proletarian youth must be helped out of its misery and distress. The situation of our youth is only a partial phenomenon of the present situation of the entire world proletariat. For this reason the improvement of their situation is possible only to the extent in which the working class succeeds in improving its own condition. Even the dogmatic advocates of a separate struggle against capitalism by the proletarian youth will give up such illusions when they come to realize that even the adult workers were compelled to retreat step by step in their isolated struggles.

The adult proletariat has made an attempt to organize a united front against the onslaught of capitalism. The Communist International proposed a World Congress to include all the proletarian parties, and at which the demands of the proletarian youth are also to be discussed. Hundreds of thousands of young proletarians looked forward to this congress with great impatience. But unfortunately its hopes were shattered by the unwillingness of the Social Democratic Internationals to participate in this congress.

But our responsibility for the condition of our youth is too big for us not to make every possible attempt to find ways and means of drawing the adult proletariat to their aid. It is there-

fore necessary for every youth organization to use all its influence and moral persuasion on the respective parties and trade union organizations and to see to it that the united proletarian front become a reality in the interest of the working class in general and the proletarian youth in particular. The Young Communist International is fully conscious of the condition of our youth. It has therefore decided to convene a congress of young proletarians in which all proletarian youth organizations are to take part. The great importance of this decision should be clear to every young proletarian; for it shows that the Young Communist International has not yet given up hope of winning over the other proletarian youth organizations to a united action, in spite of the fact that the latter have so far disregarded or evaded all such proposals made by the Young Communist International and its various sections. This Congress which the Executive Committee of the Y.C.I. decided to call, will be confronted with many important problems. One of its chief tasks will be to formulate joint demands that are intended to influence the proletarian parties to organize a united front that would include the youth organizations. A second task of this congress will be to take defensive measures that would protect our youth against reaction and against capitalist militarism.

It is understood that this congress will not touch the problematical principles of this or that organization, just as it does not mean agreement. This congress does not eliminate the free criticism of one organization by the other. It is only a question of formulating slogans that would correspond to the daily struggle, and would bring the workingclass and the proletarian youth into a united front for the purpose of realizing their demands.

We, the Communist Youth, believe that the present situation forces us to make this step. We think that we should take advantage of every opportunity to improve the condition of our youth. For this reason we firmly believe that no proletarian youth organization that takes the needs of our youth to heart can possibly refuse to participate in this congress. Hundreds of thousands of organized young proletarians and millions of unorganized ones are waiting for our aid. The Young Communist International is ready to do everything in its power in that direction. The proletarian youth of other organizations must decide whether they will cooperate or not.

Young proletarians in the factories, in the schools, trade unions and other organizations, define your attitude to this congress, give expression to your will; we are awaiting an affirmative answer from your organizations.

Long live the Proletarian Youth Congress!

Long live the united proletarian front!