

The Work of the Communist Youth Movement

Editorial Note:—This is the second installment of the report delivered at the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party on the activities of the Young Workers (Communist) League by its executive secretary Herbert Zam. Additional installments will be published until the report is completed.

By HERBERT ZAM.

We can therefore summarize as follows: that the weight of young workers in industry is increased, the youth problem is made an outstanding problem, not only to the young workers themselves, not only to the League as the vanguard of the toiling youth, but to the working class as a whole. And the attacks upon the standards of the working youth, which rationalization makes necessary, bring about the worsening of the conditions of the young workers, bring about a desire on the part of the young workers to resist and to struggle against these attacks, and consequently affects their radicalization.

This general process also intensifies the class differentiations, both economical and ideological, between the young workers and the non-working youth. We know that in the United States in the past large sections of the youth did not have what we can call a proletarian orientation; that is, they did not orientate towards industry, but rather towards clerical occupations, because they filled a large portion of these occupations. This is now changed. The orientation of the youth is changed. The differentiation in the ranks of the youth is made sharp and the general process of the development of class-consciousness of the young workers is greatly accelerated.

Proper Orientation Necessary.

At the same time there is an uneven tempo in the development of rationalization and its effects; there is an uneven tempo of development and sharpening of the contradictions resulting from capitalist rationalization, resulting from the general contradictions of capitalism. Radicalization therefore also develops unevenly. It affects some sections of the young workers sooner than other sections. It affects some sections of the young workers to a greater degree than it affects other sections.

Our task as a Communist youth organization is to see and understand this change, to see the uneven tempo of development and to orientate ourselves, to direct our efforts towards those sections where the development is fastest, where the tempo of radicalization and the processes of radicalization are proceeding at the greatest rate, where the conditions are such as to set the young workers in motion.

And if we fail to understand this, but deal only with radicalization in general, the result will be a disorientation of our work, a disorientation of our League. We cannot put into the same category the mining industry, or the textile industry, where the process of radicalization has proceeded fastest, where we really have masses of young workers already an active force in the class struggle; we cannot put those industries in the same category as the biscuit industry, in the same category as the mail order houses.

And it is precisely because we have not understood this sufficiently in the past, that we had to a certain extent, a wrong orientation. For this reason our league is past years did not orientate itself towards the heavy industries, towards mining, towards textile, but our league orientated its main efforts and its main line was directed towards activity among the young workers in the biscuit industry, among the young workers in the mail order houses.

This, comrades, resulted in a condition which necessitated and still necessitates at the present time the clarification of this problem and the proper orientation of the entire league on the basis of a correct analysis, of a correct understanding of the results of rationalization and of the process of radicalization.

It is in this sense that we speak about a turn that we are going through

in the conditions of our work. It was in this sense that we spoke at the December plenum and to a greater extent even, we have to speak at the present time. This does not mean that the young workers in the United States are already radicalized. This does not mean that the majority of the toiling youth in this country are no longer politically apathetic. It does not mean that we can longer give the characterization of the young workers as being politically apathetic which we gave one and a half years or two years ago, and content ourselves with that. We must see what has happened which is new in the situation is what I have just described.

While this process has not yet affected all the young workers, the process is general, but the results have not been achieved in all sections of young workers, the results have already been shown among some sections of young workers, these results are indications of the direction in which the general process is heading and it is on these results and on this general process that we must concentrate, that we must orientate our league.

(To Be Continued)

DEFEAT TROTSKY TRAITOR AT MEET

Workers Refuse Floor to Swabeck

CHICAGO, Ill. (By Mail).—When the Trotskyist, Arne Swabeck, attempted to exploit for anti-Communist activity personal friendship among non-Communist Party members at a recent meeting of the Karl Marx Scandinavian Workers' Club, militant members of the club, among whom were 200 Party members, turned the meeting into an anti-Trotskyist demonstration and refused Swabeck the floor.

Swabeck had succeeded in getting the executive committee of the club to pass a motion inviting him either to address the club membership on "Trotskyism" or debate the subject with a member of the Communist Party. Rejecting the subsequent invitation, the Communist Party pointed out the counter-revolutionary maneuvering of Swabeck, and urged the club to reconsider the motion and listen instead to defenders of, rather than renegades from, the Communist International. By a narrow margin the club executive voted against calling off the meeting. When it refused to print leaflets advertising the meeting, however, Swabeck issued leaflets on his own initiative.

Following the break-up of the meeting, the Trotskyists withdrew. Public educational meetings, to complete the ideological and organizational defeat of the Trotsky-Cannon Swabeck group, which incidentally was never strong enough to stage a public meeting here, are now being arranged by sections of the Communist Party.

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