

# YPSL Convention Adopts Fighting Policy

## Decision Will Make League Mass Youth Organization

68 Delegates Represent Young Fourth Internationalists; Gould Elected National Secretary

(Special to Socialist Appeal) CHICAGO—Determined to build a militant mass movement of revolutionary youth in time to defeat the forces of fascism and boss war, the delegates to the Tenth National Convention of the Young People's Socialist League meeting here November 25-27, went on record for a complete rebuilding of their organization along the lines of a colorful, fighting movement.

The resolution on the "Role of the Y.P.S.L." which outlined the new course for the organization was adopted with only two dissenting votes. The seriousness with which the delegates regarded the fact that the discussion of the resolution and various amendments consumed 14 hours of the convention's sessions.

**Spirited Mass Meeting**  
The opening of the official sessions was preceded by a well-attended and spirited mass meeting on the evening of Nov. 24th which was addressed by Max Shachtman and Martin Abern, delegates from the Socialist Workers Party, and Hal Draper, Nathan Gould, and Ernest Erber of the National

**Y.P.S.L. CONVENTION GREETIS TROTSKY**  
The National Youth Convention sent the following telegram to Leon Trotsky:  
"The Fourth Internationalist Youth of America in convention assembled sends you its warmest fraternal greetings. Your ideas and unquenchable spirit guide and inspire us in our struggle to win the oppressed youth to our banner."

Committee of the Y.P.S.L. Irving Bern, head of the Chicago Arrangements Committee, acted as chairman. A chorus served as guard and a chorus served as symbols of the new enthusiasm with which the pre-convention discussion had infused the movement.

The first session was opened by Ernest Erber, National Chairman, on Thursday morning with 65 regular delegates in attendance, who had come by train, bus, hitch-hike, and freight car from points as widely separated as Los Angeles and Boston. In addition some 25 alternates and fraternal delegates and a score of out-of-town visitors attended. The session elected the standing committees of the convention and organized its work.

**Youth Transition Demands**  
The first major item of business was a report on a "Program of Demands for Youth," designed to serve as an extension of the Party's "Program of Transitional Demands" to the field of students, young workers, and jobless youth. The report, given by Irving Bern, was followed by a discussion that brought forth many new ideas on how to make the demands concrete and realistic to young people in factories, schools, and in the ranks of the jobless.

On Thursday evening the convention heard a report from Nathan Gould, delegate to the founding congress of the Youth Section of the Fourth Internationalist held last September in Switzerland. The report on the heroic struggles of the Fourth Internationalist youth in Europe and the founding of the new international at a congress forced to meet under illegal conditions in the midst of the September war-hysteria, inspired the conviction to pass a number of motions designed to strengthen the international movement and further the education of the American comrades in the spirit of international solidarity. These motions included the regular publication of the English edition of the Youth Bulletin, the raising of a \$100 fund for the French youth section, and the initiation of correspondence between local units of the American and foreign sections.

On Friday morning the convention heard Hal Draper report on the work of the organization for the past year. The report indicated that the last year was one of political consolidation following the break with the Norman Thomas youth at the previous convention. The report, however, showed that this period saw no absolute increase in membership, though some 325 members left the youth movement to join the party.

**New Organization Course**  
The report on the new course for the organization, given by Ernest Erber, was followed by a minority report by Gordon Haskell of California. The Haskell resolution denied the possibility of a rapid growth of the Y.P.S.L.

into a mass movement and set forth the perspective of continuing for a long period as a small propaganda group. The Haskell position received two votes.

Various amendments that sought to modify the majority resolution were all defeated. A long series of practical amendments that sought to add corrections and improvements to the resolution were referred to the incoming National Council for consideration.

The new constitution changed the name of the local group, heretofore called a "circle," to "unit." The name "National Council" precedes the term "National Executive Committee" for the leading national body. The constitution contains a pledge of loyalty to the cause of the working class, and the banner of the Y.P.S.L. for new members.

**Commemorate Martyrs**  
The convention adopted a resolution of commemoration to Leon Sedoff, Rudolph Klement, and other young heroes of the Fourth International who have been killed by the Stalinist and Fascist foes of the movement. It also sent a wire of greeting to Leon Trotsky, adopted resolutions for the freedom of Tom Mooney, for the freedom of 16 jobless youth arrested in Brooklyn in the fight for relief, hailing the proposal to issue the Socialist Appeal twice a week, and officially adhering to the Youth Section of the Fourth International.

The newly elected National Council met immediately after the adjournment of the convention. It established the following posts and elected the following officers to fill them: National Secretary, Nathan Gould; Organizational Secretary, Irving Bern; National Propaganda Director, Ernest Erber.

## WALGREEN MEN IN HOUSTON STRIKE

### Unions Come To Aid Of Sixteen Workers

(By a Special Correspondent) HOUSTON, Tex., Nov. 29—The militant young workers who last week struck the warehouse industry in one of its most vital spots, the Walgreen Drug and Supply Warehouse, are determined to win a real victory. Only sixteen in number and entirely new to unionism, they are fast learning the value of progressive unionism and the need for workers' vigilance.

The warehouse is tied up 100 per cent, and effective secondary picketing is being conducted at all the key downtown stores of the notorious national drug chain, Chester.

### Finks Stand "Guard"

The company, in a desperate effort to smash the effectiveness of the strike, has hired almost fifty ten-dollar-a-day finks who just stand around and look at the pickets and "guard" Walgreen's precious real estate. Squads of union cabs are parked near the key stores waiting for any finks who might dare to attack the strikers. The store managers, in some cases against their will, have been forced to put "follow-up" pickets out on the sidewalks, carrying great yellow signs (scab-painted, too) saying "We are satisfied," "No strike here," etc.

This has served as a boomerang to the company in that it has created more discussion and interest in the fight and because the union warehousemen sign up the soda clerks and the table girls who march behind them. Several soda clerks have struck in sympathy rather than carry out orders to so publicly condemn bonafide union practices.

Tonight the National Maritime Union branch, a progressive local of the C.I.O., donated funds and promised complete support. Other C.I.O. locals such as steel and oil are expected to do likewise. Warehouse workers throughout the entire city are watching the outcome of this strike.

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## "WHY DON'T YOU GET SOME 'BOY FRIENDS'?"

### LaGuardia Relief Investigator Advises Girl Applying for Welfare

By PAUL KUJAC

"Do you see this pretty dress I'm wearing?" said the Home Relief investigator, crossing her silk-stockinged legs. "You could have pretty dresses, too."

The young applicant for relief protested—how could she when she couldn't even get relief?—But our sympathetic social welfare worker had her answer ready. Leaning confidentially closer to the young girl, she whispered: "You're a pretty girl. Get a couple of boy friends—it's not hard—let them give you the things you need." In other words: Why degrade yourself by living on home relief?

This is the formula for success given to the unemployed by LaGuardia's blood-hounds who call themselves "social welfare investigators."

### Family Evicted

This young girl is a member of the Rothman family, an unemployed family of five which includes an 84-year-old woman. They were thrown out of relief by the Avenue D Home Relief Bureau, and evicted from their home. The landlord threw their furniture and all their belongings out in the snow. Why? The Home Relief Bureau wanted to know what happened to \$5,000 in compensation the family received seven years ago. The Home Relief Bureau would not accept the ample evidence furnished by the family in the form of doctors' statements to the effect that the money had been used to pay for much-needed medical attention.

Immediately upon hearing of the eviction of the Rothman family, the unemployed of the East Side, led by the militant members of Locals 15 and 22 of the Unemployed and Project Workers' Union gave a fitting answer to this outrageous attack upon unemployed workers. A large delegation went to the Bureau demanding immediate aid for the Rothman family.

### Quick Action

Administrator Levine, self proclaimed friend of labor, refused point blank. The workers' delegation began to press their demands and Levine called the cops. The delegation obtained a horse and wagon, picked up the belongings of the Rothman family, carted them to the Relief Bureau, and dumped them on the sidewalk before the amazed and disbelieving eyes of the relief officials and the cops.

The action took place so rapidly that, although there were half-a-dozen police in the bureau, and two patrols in front, they could not get their "wits" together before the furniture was dumped in their laps. The police rushed to do their duty by God and Country. One shouted: "Where's the driver of this wagon?"

"I'm the driver—what about it?" answered a young worker.

"Who told you to bring the furniture here?"

"Well, you see, officer, it was this way. . . I was walkin' along minding my own business when a friend from the Unemployed and Project Workers' Union comes rushing up to me and tells me the Home Relief ain't tendin' to the business seein' as how the Rothmans was put out into the snow and the Relief won't do nothin' about it. I says to myself: 'Jake, man and boy you've been tryin'

### ADVICE TO THE NEEDY

to do things what's right, and it ain't right that poor people should be evicted in cold weather like this.' So I say to myself, 'I gotta see what can be done!'"

### Seeing Is Believing

"So I goes over to the Union and they says to me 'The Home Relief don't believe there is an eviction, what can we do to prove there is?' So I scratches the old beard and says, 'Well, maybe the Home Relief don't know there is an eviction because they is so far away—maybe if we bring the furniture up there we can prove there is an eviction.' You know, the old saying Officer—'Seeing is Believing.' That's all there is to it, so help me Officer."

The cop was speechless. Finally he said: "I guess if they told you to bring the furniture to the police station, you'd do it."

"Well," said the young militant, "if we had to prove to the cops that there is an eviction, we'd do it. You know, Officer, 'Seeing is Believing.'"

On the basis of this militant unemployment action, not only was the Rothman case opened for relief, but also all the emergency cases Locals 15 and 22 had pending in the Bureau. Administrator Levine was removed from the Bureau.

Once more there exists in New York City an unemployed movement whose fighting powers will improve the conditions of the workers.

The Unemployment and Project Workers' Union challenges the right of the Relief Administration to starve the unemployed. The U.P.W.U. rightfully lays claim to being the only organization the unemployed and W.P.A. workers should support.

## General Motors Attacks Auto Union

(Continued from page 1)

authorized" strike one year ago. The most popular Pontiac committee-man has since been returned to his job because the company feared another strike if he were not rehired. However, the U.A.W. international representative had signed an agreement with the company that this unionist can hold no office in the union for one year after he has returned to work.

### "Sweat Blood" for Boss

In his place on the bargaining committee is a company stooge who openly told the workers in the presence of the plant manager, who had threatened to fire employees for not meeting production schedules to "work until they sweat blood" to conform to company standards.

As a result of this union-company "cooperation," the union has been practically wiped out. Men tell of speed-up worse than when the union was first organized. This plant, still under the jurisdiction of an amalgamated local of all plants in Pontiac, has been promised a separate charter from the International. This the workers feel will free them from the heavy hand of the local bureaucrats.

In the Lansing Fisher Body plant the two leading committees and the chairman had been suspended from the union by the regional director. They were then removed from the committee without a hearing or trial. Soon after, union membership in the plant fell from 95 percent to less than one per cent.

Since production began to rise with the 1939 models the militancy of the workers has likewise risen. The corporation is again using the union "letter of responsibility" to discipline those who insist too strongly that they still have a union.

When men on certain operations do not meet standards set by the company they are threatened with firing, penalty lay-offs of a week or two, or transfers to another plant or department where they may be fired as incompetent or be laid off because of lack of seniority in the department to which they have been transferred.

### Discrimination at Fleetwood

The company's method of undermining the union was well demonstrated at the Fleetwood Fisher Body plant. For months the management had been complaining that the men in the cushion department were slowing up production. The bargaining committee made time studies of the men in that department. They also compared the production standards with a comparable group of men doing similar work in Flint. Flint builds Buick bodies and Fleetwood Cadillac bodies. 7:30 p. m.

## FOOD WORKERS FIGHT RACKETEERS

### Progressives Enter Fall Slate Against C.P. Clique

New York—The coming elections in Local 308 of the Foodworkers Union will mark the climax of a long and bitter struggle against gangsterism and Stalinist mismanagement. The membership is rallying in large numbers around the United Progressive Group and its program to smash the combined forces of Stalinism and gangsterism once and for all.

In the Spotlight, organ of the progressives, a long series of questions are directed to the union administration asking the bureaucrats to explain the connections between the racketeers and the union officials. The charges are substantiated with names, dates and places.

### Slam Slander Campaign

On the other hand, charges of the administration against the progressives are refuted and the facts challenged: "Do you refer to your comrade Harry Leibin, who in addition to framing up and beating witnesses in his territory, has now been found to be making 'side money' by installing cigarette machines in the shops under his jurisdiction?"

"Do you refer to your comrade Arthur Bary, who acted as the 'Secretary' of the 'Defense Committee' for the indicted racketeers?" (This committee spent \$20,000 of Union funds in defense of the racketeers, according to the charge of the progressives.)

The Spotlight further charges that the administration of the local engaged in sheer adventurism and seriously endangered the union by calling a premature strike in the Horn & Hardart Chain in the hope of getting the support of the Bosses' Association who expected to thus force the Automat restaurants into the Association. This strike failed miserably and set back union organization for a long period.

### Racketeers' Friends

Another question directed at the Stalinists and their henchman by the progressives gives a clear insight to the working of the C.P. line of class collaboration. "Do you refer to your comrade Jay Rubin, who was mainly responsible for the building of the Metropolitan Racketeering Association, who declared: 'That if we build the Association, we will smash the "United" and by smashing the "United" we will smash injunctions.' And was it an accident that the day after the 'settlement' of the Sherman strike,

### ANNOUNCEMENT

"STORY OF A CHEAT" the Sasha Guitry Film of the Year can be seen at any time—cut-rate prices. See L. Reynolds at National Office for tickets. Downtown Branch.

### NEW LABOR FORUM

Wendell Thomas speaks on "From Weimar till Hitler," Thursday, Dec. 8, 8:30 p.m., 137 E. 13th Street. Admission free.

### NEW YORK CAMERA CLUB

A camera club for amateur photographers is being formed. Both beginners and experts are invited to join. Those interested are invited to attend a meeting at the district headquarters, 116 University Place, N. Y. C., on Wednesday, December 14th at 7:30 p. m.

## 'HUNGER FIGHTER' LASHES N.Y.C. RELIEF SET-UP

### Jamaica, L. I., Jobless Expose Do-Nothing Agency

New York—Out in Jamaica, Long Island, the unemployed workers are beginning to find themselves and give voice to their grievances. After years of affiliation with the Workers' Alliance, they were one of the first locals to break with the class-collaborationist policy of the Stalinist bureaucracy and form a real fighting, militant organization, the Unemployed and Relief Worker's League, affiliated with the Unemployed and Project Workers' Union.

Otto Popovitch, veteran fighter for unemployed workers in Queens county and Chairman of the League, has a small hand printing press, and puts out a series of leaflets, issued in the form of a paper under the title: **The Hunger Fighter**. Here's an extract from a recent number:  
"Let us yell Hip-Ho-Hooray for the fake politicians that were elected."

"They promised us a lot, but will give us nothing. Little Pot-Bellied LaGuardia is still in office. We pay him \$25,000 a year and he, in turn, gives us a lot of ballyhoo. Miss Harris, the Big Shot in the Home Relief Bureau is getting so fat on our misery and on her \$60.00 a week do-nothing-big-job, that we are looking forward, in the near future, to see her forcing herself through the door sideways or else the door jams will have to be ripped off, so she can pass through them."

"We the unemployed, when we come to the bureau to tell these fakers our troubles are pumped full of 'hot air.' Our wives come here and shed bitter tears. Eviction notices are disregarded. Bare-footed children are told to stay home from school. Toothless people are told to eat mush. Blind people are told to buy a Seeing Eye Dog. Ruptured people are sent on the W.P.A. to swing a pick and shovel. Good investigators are terrorized and rats are made out of them."

"Communist investigators write up funny stories about honest clients and write up pathetic stories for communist clients."

"These are the horrible stories in the H.R.E. We the unemployed people must recognize the fact that the only way we can clean house in the E.R.B. is by joining the "Unemployed and Relief Workers League" and all together, with our strong will and powerful working class arms, we can swing the big broom of decency and sweep these rats from the E.R.B. and force them to give us jobs or Adequate Relief For Our Families."

"We meet every Wednesday night at 8 p.m. at 146-37 South St., right on the corner of Waltham St., Jamaica."

the bronze buzzard, symbol of the Association appeared in all of their shops? We ask you, Messrs. Kramberg, Rubin, Bary & Co., do you seriously pretend to come before the membership as fighters against racketeers—you who made a deal with Pincus-Epstein-Coulcher-Williams and their racketeering Metropolitan Association by which you were taken into Local 302 and given jobs, in return for supporting those rats in Trade Union clothing and defending them when they were exposed?"

The leader of the progressive ticket is Larry Phillips. He is supported by a complete slate of leading militants, including Harry Pinsky, Phillip Nims, Juan Aviles, Charles Mitchell, James Gordon, and many others.

### Program of Progressives

The program of the United Progressive Group makes a clear analysis of the long series of crimes and betrayals of the present administration. This program demands an end to the terror carried on against the membership; for complete democracy in the union; for the strict enforcement of the union contract; a reduction in dues and the abolition of the Arbitration Board which is used at present to break down militant action and gives the bosses a death-grip on all job action.

The progressives point out in their paper that the present administration, if defeated in the elections, can only go back to the Communist Party headquarters for assignment to some other union-busting job. They are not workers in the trade and never have been. The slate of the progressives is made up only of food workers. The membership is demanding an end to the control of their union by "organizers" sent from Browder's headquarters.

## APPEAL ARMY

### FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN AND REGULAR APPEAL FINANCES:

The news from Comrade Rose Karsner, in charge of the \$3,500 campaign for the twice-weekly paper, is that everything has started off with a resounding bang. This is fine news and may make it possible for the Appeal to begin its more frequent publication ahead of schedule.

But we must warn against any tendency on the part of branches to forget about or sort of ignore current Appeal bills. There is no conflict or contradiction between a branch raising its Fund quota and paying its debts to the paper. On the contrary, by supporting us financially right now the branches make it that much easier for the twice-weekly to be successfully stabilized. The drive for the new Appeal and support of the paper today go hand in hand. It is particularly the job of local Appeal agents to see to it that the bills sent to them two weeks ago are taken care of immediately.

### HAS YOUR BRANCH STARTED A SUBSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN?

New York City has been conducting a highly successful subscription campaign. An average of about 20 subs has been turned in each week.

New Haven, Conn., is in the midst of an intensive campaign for renewed subscriptions and new subscribers. Comrades in

charge of both these drives assure us that subs are easy to get, especially when the subscriber-to-be is told that he'll get twice as many papers for the same price as formerly.

Branches should get going on local sub-campaigns and let us know the results.

Following is the list of subscriptions received this past week. Notice that Minneapolis has again returned to the challenge of New York City's supremacy:

NEW YORK CITY ..... 18

Minneapolis ..... 11

Massachusetts ..... 2

New York State ..... 2

South Dakota ..... 2

Pennsylvania ..... 2

Ohio ..... 2

Newark, N. J. .... 1

Connecticut ..... 1

Chicago ..... 1

California ..... 1

Indiana ..... 1

Total ..... 45

Small bundle order increases have come in from our agents in Houston, Texas, and Oakland, California. Incidentally, Elsie Meyers, the agent for East Oakland, is one of California's most ambitious and up-and-coming lit. specialists.

### REMINDERS:

(1) Organize your local subscription campaign: 104 issues for \$2.00.

(2) Take care of your monthly Appeal bill.

## SCORE BOARD

(Continued from Page 1)		
East Chicago, Ind.	10.00	0 0
Gardner, Mass.	10.00	0 0
Indianapolis, Ind.	10.00	0 0
Joplin, Mo.	10.00	0 0
Kansas City, Mo.	10.00	0 0
Lexington, Ky.	10.00	0 0
Louisville, Ky.	10.00	0 0
Olivia, Minn.	10.00	0 0
Plentywood, Mont.	10.00	0 0
Reading, Pa.	10.00	0 0
Sacramento, Cal.	10.00	0 0
Seattle, Wash.	10.00	0 0
South Bend, Ind.	10.00	0 0
Worcester, Mass.	10.00	0 0
Evansville, Ind.	5.00	0 0
Fitchburg, Mass.	5.00	0 0
Flaxton, N. D.	5.00	0 0
Fresno, Cal.	5.00	0 0
Hartford, Conn.	5.00	0 0
Portland, Ore.	5.00	0 0
Thermopolis, Wyo.	5.00	0 0
Windsor, Conn.	5.00	0 0

## SHARECROPPERS FACE EVICTIONS, WHITFIELD WARNS

(Special to Socialist Appeal)

ST. LOUIS—O. H. Whitfield, Negro organizer and second Vice-President of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, spoke November 29 at a highly successful meeting sponsored by the Marxist School of the St. Louis Socialist Workers Party. The chairman of the meeting was Martin Lechner, St. Louis labor organizer who has done much work in behalf of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union. Whitfield came to St. Louis with two other representatives of the S.T.F.U., a Negro, President of one of the S.T.F.U. Locals in southeast Missouri, and a white man active in the organization there.

Brother Whitfield told a moving story of his 35 years as a sharecropper, and described vividly the misery and degradation that the mass of the sharecroppers and agricultural workers of the South endure—misery that becomes more acute as the system of hiring and firing by the plantation owners becomes general. Most of the sharecroppers do not have time to establish their homes before they are forced by the planters to move on. A wage of 75c a day for cotton picking is the average, with a 14-hour day. The sharecropper seldom makes anything out of his own crop; \$100 in the clear at the end of a year is considered exceptional, and about the best that can be done.

Whitfield was active in organizing the recent cotton-pickers' strike in southeast Missouri. He described how work under semi-legal conditions had brought 35,000 workers into the S.T.F.U., throughout the South, since 1932. Lynch mobs, and every device of the all-powerful plantation owners, had not been able to break down the unity of the white and black workers. An attempt by

Stalinists, during the discussion period, to pin the speaker down to an unqualified endorsement of the Roosevelt administration and all its acts, was countered by the speaker and the Chairman with a description of how the plantation owners, unhindered by the Department of Agriculture, get all the crop reduction payments for themselves and prevent the sharecroppers from benefiting in any way; and how complaints from sharecroppers to the Department of Agriculture in Washington are almost invariably returned to the county relief committees, dominated by the Democratic plantation owners, with the result that the complaining sharecroppers are evicted without delay.

Whitfield described how the rural W.P.A. authorities work hand-in-glove with the planters, by making it obligatory for workers to accept cotton-picking jobs offered to them by the planters, regardless of the slightly more favorable condition of employment on W.P.A. The W.P.A. authorities drive the planters out to the W.P.A. jobs and tell them to pick out the workers they want.

Mass evictions face the sharecroppers in southeast Missouri on January 1. Whitfield and the other representatives of the S.T.F.U. are attempting to arouse public protest against these evictions and create public demand for the Federal purchase of land on which to settle the sharecroppers. The millions spent on rural W.P.A. could be more profitably devoted to the purchase of arable land now producing nothing but weeds, of which there are 100,000 acres in southeast Missouri. Such Federal settlements for sharecroppers have already been established on a very small scale, and have proved highly successful.

Prolonged applause greeted Whitfield's statement of the aims of the S.T.F.U.: "Land for the landless; clothes for the naked; food for the hungry; freedom for the wage-slave!"

## PIONEER Does It Again With a New Year's Eve Party to Remember!

### Gala Dance and Floor Show

Featuring An All-Star Cast  
Princess Maravaia doing the African Makumba  
Kawaika in several native Hawaiian dances  
Mary Frieman recapturing the high spots of Pioneer's Last Party plus  
Swing Music • Drinks • Food Bar  
at IRVING PLAZA, 15th St. & Irving Place  
BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!