

We Won't
Die For
Boss Profits

THE CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

Let Bankers
Fight Their
Own Wars

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Monthly Organ of the Young People's Socialist League (Fourth International)

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American Youth Hit Fascistic Conscription Plans:

YOUTH SAYS: DRAFT BANKERS' PROFITS, NOT PEOPLE'S LIVES!

Labor Leads Opposition to Draft Plans

Despite the tremendous hysteria which the press, and the statements from the Washington administration, have been attempting to whip up, the voice of the working people opposed to military conscription is making itself felt.

Foremost among these is John L. Lewis, chairman of Congress of Industrial Organization. Lewis, in a speech to the Auto Workers Union Convention assailed the conscription proposal as a step towards Fascism in America. He declared that a step which would force American youth into military camps at \$21 a week would be "adopting Hitler's methods."

In the meantime, Senator Vandenberg of Michigan announced that he had received the unprecedented number of 10,000 letters in one week, almost all of which opposed conscription of American youth.

In a special dispatch to the New York World-Telegram, Ruth Finney reported that opposition to conscription was growing by leaps and bounds. She reported that a poll of the Congressmen from Ohio showed that for every letter they received favoring conscription, they also received twenty opposed to it.

As a result of this opposition from their constituents, a number of Congressmen are growing leary about immediate passage of the Burke-Wadsworth bill in its present form. Attempts have been made by Republican Senators to sugar-coat the bitter pill by restricting the age limits of registering men from 21 to 45, instead of the previously proposed 18 to 65.

It is likewise expected that a short delay in passing the conscription bill will take place in order to let the popular resentment blow off, and to then pass the bill quietly and quickly.

Only the vigilance of the American people, of the American youth and workers, can prevent the passage of the bill which would drag the country one step further towards an armed totalitarian camp!

YPSL Opens Anti-Draft Fight

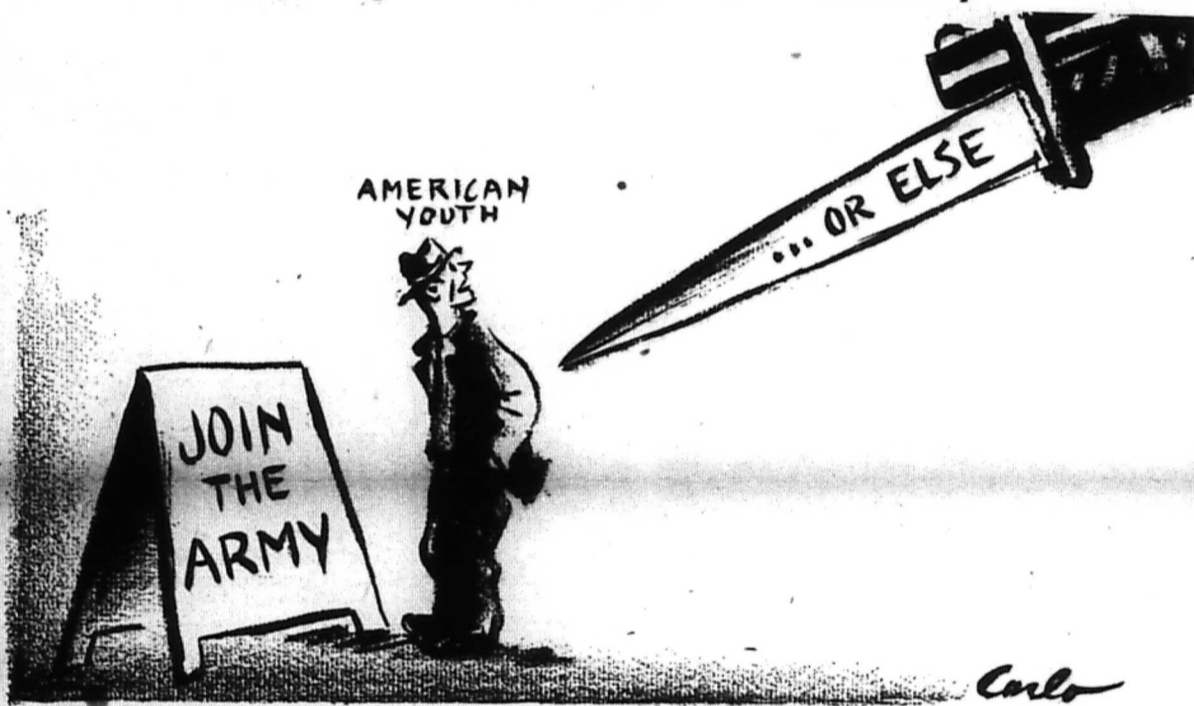
The National Committee of the Young Peoples Socialist League (Fourth International) announces an intensive campaign against the pending Burke-Wadsworth conscription bill. In this issue of Challenge, is printed a statement of the National Committee giving the political basis of its opposition to conscription.

The campaign will take the form of circulation of anti-conscription petitions to be presented to local Congressmen. Mass meetings in many cities are planned and demonstrative activities are also planned.

A special penny pamphlet will shortly be published on the question.

Youth organizations will be approached by the YPSL to plan joint activity on this specific point.

Preparing For The "War For Democracy"



Government Trade Schools Keep Out Inexperienced Youth Seeking Skill

Initiating a national defense program last month to train mechanics, the government locked out inexperienced youth from the trade schools. In every state of the union just enough money was spent to retain already experienced metal workers. Jobless youth who have never worked in the trade are discriminated against and saved for the draft. That is the net effect, despite the ballyhoo, of the "defense training" projects.

Fifty thousand tried to get into the schools thus far in New York City. Five thousand were accepted. Only a few thousand will receive training in the entire state of Pennsylvania. Michigan, Ohio, California, Illinois—stories appear in the papers about youth who line up to register in the hundreds of thousands and are turned away with a promise.

This September those youth, with no training or skill as metal workers,

will be drafted into the army. The government boasted about using every trade school facility, every machine, every teacher, every shop, every tool to train America's youth. A billion dollars worth of shop machinery stands idle in New York City alone, while a hundred thousand N.Y. youth clamor for courses.

Those who were lucky enough to get into the trade schools face an even more bitter disappointment. There is no shortage of mechanics right now. Sidney Hillman of the Defense Board admits that in public statements. Why then are they spending millions for training? "To provide against a future shortage," says Mr. Hillman.

A story lies behind Mr. Hillman's answer. Today there are thousands of skilled machinists unemployed. If there were a shortage the factory owners would have to pay \$2 and \$3 per hour. As long as there exists an unemployed surplus, the wage scales can be kept down to 75¢ per hour, the usual rate in large cities.

When the war industries boom, however, the present surplus will be absorbed. A new surplus must therefore be created to keep the wage scales down.

Tens of thousands of unemployed or employed metal workers are in training to become a labor surplus. Almost half of them work eight or nine hours a day in hot factories and then, after snatching a hasty supper, run to school for another four hours on a bench or a lathe. They are trying to improve their skill and obtain higher wages. In a year or two they will receive greater skill to contribute to the bosses. In return they will receive wages as low as those they are paid now for less skill. If they complain their "deferred" conscription will be cancelled and the army will take care of their complaints.

NEWS ITEM: Congress preparing to pass Burke-Wadsworth bill to conscript men from 21 to 31 for military training.

NEWS ITEM: U.S. Steel Corporation profits for June quarter rise to 19 million dollars. This represents an increase of 18 times over the same period of time during last year.

In these two news items is concentrated the tragedy and danger of what has been happening in America during the last several months.

A hysterical jingoistic campaign has been whipped up for conscription. Republicans and Democrats, the Siamese Twins of boss politics, have both chipped in. The bill for conscription is sponsored by Senator Burke, an admirer of Hitler and a Willkie Democrat; it is supported by President Roosevelt; it is supported by Republican Stimson. Leaders of both parties rally around the proposal to regiment American youth. They prove in practise that there is no real difference between them.

But why conscription? America is supposed to be preparing for a "war for democracy." How can it be a "war for democracy" if in the meantime all democratic rights are scrapped? How can America fight a war against Fascism if it adopts one of the most important of Fascist methods: military conscription and forced labor camps?

Is that to be the fate of the American people: To become the victims of a gradual Fascist encroachment, a gradual trend towards totalitarianism—all in the name of "democracy"?

The real character of the war for which the American Coupon Clippers are preparing is shown by the second news item. While plans are being completed to draft American youth, to drag them into camps, to regiment them, march them till their feet fall off, to pump them full of an attitude of unquestioning obedience to the war-makers so that they will be docile suckers when the Big Show starts—at the same time the profits of Big Business are skyrocketing by leaps and bounds. The figure quoted for U.S. Steel is not exceptional. It is typical of all industries involved in war production.

We are to become soldier boys for \$21 a month. We are to be prepared for death.

But they are doing "business as usual"—better, in fact. The American capitalist class is coining new fortunes on war profits. (President Roosevelt says he'll limit war profits to "merely" the same as was allowed during . . . the last war! Who does he think he's kidding?)

That's the real meaning of the war preparations. The American bosses are preparing for a showdown with their European and Asiatic rivals. They are planning to regiment us in Hitlerite fashion for that purpose. Since American youth, wisely skeptical about another "war for democracy", has kept clear of the army so far, the government plans to drag us in.

But not if youth and labor have their say about it! Let them conscript the wealth of the Coupon Clippers, who are the real danger of Fascism in America! For a 100% profits tax!

We know that conscription means a step towards Fascism in America. We know that conscription is planned to fight a war of the bosses. Now before it is too late let us rally, the youth and workers of the nation:

Against Conscription!

Draft the bosses profits, not the peoples lives!

EXPOSED

Senator Burke, Draft Leader A Fervent Admirer of Hitler!

Senator Burke is the Senator who has just introduced the conscription bill.

Two years ago this same Senator Burke went on a tour through Europe, during which he visited Germany.

When he came back to America, the New York Herald Tribune of August 30, 1938 carried a story which was headlined: "Senator Burke Praises Hitler and Nazis' Rule as He Returns."

The article quotes Senator Burke directly as saying: "In the things Hitler is actually doing to bring about the well-being of the entire German people, I think he is greater than Bismark."

Is it not highly significant that the Senator who yesterday praised Hitler is today introducing a bill which would militarize American youth in best Hitler fashion?

Is it not highly significant that the Senator who yesterday praised Hitler is today the leader in the attempt to begin the Hitlerization of America?

Four Young Negroes Dared To Fight For Their Rights

By TOM BAKER

ANN ARBOR, Mich.—The state of Michigan, a northern state where Negroes are supposed to be "free," has a Civil Rights Law which states that anyone who discriminates against a customer in restaurants, eating places, amusement places etc. in prices, methods of service, time, quality . . . any difference in service, on the basis of race or color, is guilty of a criminal offence, and liable to a fine of \$100 and 6 months in prison.

Sounds good, huh?

But let's see what really happens when a Negro in the sovereign state of Michigan tries to exert his civil rights.

Four Negroes, citizens of the United States of America, and students of the University of Michigan, went to a beer garden in Ann Arbor. The

(Continued on page 4)

Conscription Means the Regimentation of American Youth for Imperialistic War!

Bluebloods Play Tin Soldiers At Ritzy Training Camp—Kind You'll Never See!

A few years ago, Carole Lombard and William Powell played in a neat little picture, named "My Man Godfrey." In this picture Carole, a rich society lass, went on a "scavenger hunt" where she picked up William, a down and outer, and proceeded to amuse herself by learning of the life of the poor.

We were reminded of this "scavenger hunt" when we read in the papers of the Plattsburg Military Training Camp. A group of knock-kneed young blue bloods, the callouses on whose hands come . . . from playing golf, have gotten together and are playing soldier.

In fact, they are marching, toting guns and everything.

In view of the fact that the Whitneys and Rockefeller and their likes at the camp will rake in plenty of millions in war profits, their stay at camp takes on the character of a "scavenger hunt." That is, they're finding out how the lower half lives.

But life isn't so tough for them, at that. We see in newspaper pictures that they have individual tents, that they lead a pretty merry life. When the small-fry (you and me) get dragged into a camp, we won't be leading the life of Whitney.

True, it is said that Newbold Morris, Manhattan Borough President, is busy shining the shoes of his fellow trainees. But that may be due to the fact that this politician has finally decided to learn a trade where you have to work for your money.

In any case, this camp of the sons of riches is being used by the yellow press to advertise the joys of military training. They show Rockefeller 3rd in ecstasies about training. Which leaves us all very, very unmoved. In fact, the way we look at it Rocky likes fighting" so much let him stay in the army as long as he likes. It's his army—and his war—anyway.

YPSL HOLDS CONVENTION

The Young Peoples Socialist League (Fourth International) held its national convention on July 4 weekend.

The convention was characterized by the seriousness with which the 50 delegates considered the problem of organizing the youth in a struggle against war and against conscription. The delegates realized that they faced an immense task and the discussion of this point took up almost the entire convention. A series of new youth demands was elaborated to meet the nearness of war.

A decision was reached to change the name of the youth organization from Young Peoples Socialist League to another name to be chosen by national referendum. This referendum will be held in August.

The average age of the delegates was extremely low, 20 years. Despite their youthfulness, they were comrades of considerable experience who had been in the Socialist struggle for some time. They all went home determined to carry out the decisions of the convention and to continue as devoted fighters in the youth movement for Socialism.

Roosevelt's Record on Youth

By IRVING HOWE

About eight years ago, when Franklin Roosevelt was first elected President, America became "youth conscious." To a people burdened by the worst depression in its history, suffering from the collapse of a rotten economy which resulted in untold misery, there suddenly was brought home a new, startling problem: the youth problem.

The youth was the "locked out generation." Not only couldn't they get work; they couldn't even get near a trade. A whole generation was growing up without a future. Hanging around pool rooms, riding the rods across the country, hopelessly in search of jobs that were not available—this was the plight of a generation up a blind alley.

This situation was extremely dangerous for American capitalism. A

whole generation of "uncontrollable" grew up: youth who were wild, restless, many of them given to delinquency and petty crime. There was incalculable social dynamite in such a group, enough to touch off the fuse that would blow up capitalism.

President Roosevelt, aware of this problem and sensitive to issues he could exploit to advantage, tackled the youth problem dramatically—in words. He made a number of speeches about the plight of youth, very concrete in the description of youth's plight, but very vague about the remedy.

Ballyhoo Begins

But he began to "do something." Youth was treated to the alphabet-relief system—NYA, CCC, WPA, etc. The ballyhoo was tremendous. But how much, we must now ask our-

YPSL CONDEMNS CONSCRIPTION AS STEP TOWARDS DICTATORSHIP

The following statement has been issued by the National Council of the Young Peoples Socialist League (Fourth International) in explanation of its stand against conscription:

For the first time in the peacetime history of America, the forced conscription of American youth looms almost as a certainty. Regardless of any delays or strategic retreats which the Administration and Congress may adopt, there can be no doubt that conscription has been decided upon as necessary by the leading spokesmen of capitalism in Washington: i.e., the Roosevelt administration.

And not without reason. American capitalism is learning the lessons of Europe well. It is learning that in 1940 it is possible to fight a successful imperialist war only if the entire nation is regimented into one vast military machine. American capitalism is learning that the "encumbrance of democracy" must be swept aside if a capitalist power hopes to win a war. Hence, the steps towards preparations for such a "total war." The American government, while piously mouthing phrases about "defense of democracy", is proceeding cynically and deliberately to totalitarianize the country.

The most extreme step yet proposed in that direction is the conscription bill. American imperialism wants conscription for two reasons, military and political:

MILITARY REASONS FOR CONSCRIPTION

1) MILITARY—American imperialism has decided on the perspective of building a mass army of millions in preparation for a world-wide war. It sees this necessity as a result of a possible victory of German imperialism over British imperialism and the inevitability of a showdown with Germany in South America and perhaps with

Japan in the Far East. For this purpose it is necessary to prepare mass armies which may be transported to any section of the globe, to fight there for American imperialist interests. It is significant that the conscription bill labels that part of the youth, under 21, not scheduled for military training as Home Defense. The youth actually receiving military training can expect to die anywhere except near their homes. The interests of American imperialism are world wide; they penetrate every continent of the globe. And the preparations of American imperialism for struggle against its competitors require an army of similar proportions: a mass, mechanized army. The same factors apply to the other branches of military service.

PREPARATION FOR DICTATORSHIP

2) POLITICAL—At least as important as the military reasons for conscription, are the political factors. One of the deterrents to even quicker involvement in the European war than has already taken place, has been the obvious opposition and skepticism of the masses of people towards war entry. Despite the patriotism that has been whipped up in the country, the people are still wary of war entry. As a result, the administration feels it necessary to be able to isolate millions of American youth away from their usual environments, and to there prepare them "ideologically" for the war.

For the American youth, even its most reactionary and non-political sections, are not the "best material" for war. They are a disorganized generation, a generation locked out of society for

years now and hence none too receptive towards the claims which capitalist society makes upon them. American youth has been brought up on the tradition of debunking the last "war for democracy" and still retains considerable skepticism towards the next one. That is why the imperialist governments find it necessary to regiment the youth into conscription camps, to mold them into one homogenous, unthinking organization of mass-murder.

It is in view of the above considerations that we oppose conscription.

We are not pacifists. We believe that there are some things worth fighting and dying for. Our objection to conscription is not that of one who has a principled and blanket objection to the use of weapons, even though we wish to achieve the sort of society—socialism—where it will not be necessary to use weapons.

We object to conscription because it is another—and vital—step in the preparation of American capitalism towards war. Conscription cannot be approached in the abstract, as an isolated proposition. It must be clearly seen as an integral part of the movement towards "total war"—and as such, through a whole series of discriminatory provisions, it places additional hardships on the working youth.

The answer of American youth must be clear:

Against conscription!
Against Imperialist Britain and Imperialist Germany!
Against Roosevelt's Intervention in the Imperialist War in Europe!
Only a Workers Government Can Stop Fascism!
For Peace! For Jobs! For Freedom!—Through Socialism!

Draft Pay Raised 16 Dollars—Suckers Bait

Most of us are sitting around looking pretty glum these days what with no jobs and conscription coming hot off the griddle, but just to make us happy the government informs us that instead of the originally stated \$5 a month salary when we're conscripted we're going to receive the staggering sum of \$21 per month. That makes a few of us perk up and smile, and realize that maybe after all this conscription racket isn't going to be so bad, because look at that terrific raise in salary we've just received. But the rest of us who aren't so dumb are taking this raise in salary for our preparation to act as human cannon fodder with a grain if not a whole barrel of salt.

We know the way the U.S. government works things like conscription. They know, just like most of us, that American youth doesn't want to be conscripted for a new war "to make the world safe for democracy." First they throw us this conscription bill with a \$5 a month salary, and when they meet with the opposition of guys like us they throw us a bone. That is, they raise the salary and expect American youth to lie down and lick their boots for being so kind to them.

But it's all a fake. If these guys think that the raise in salary that they've so kindly offered is going to make us happier to die in their war they're making a big mistake. We've got bigger and better things to do than to die in a war for the interest of the Morgans and the Rockefellers.

Stalinists Pull Strings—And Youth Congress Dances

MADISON, Wisc.—The Stalinist Young Communist League engineered another of its so-called American Youth Congresses here on July 4. From the top steering committee which ran the Congress down to the faked delegations from Stalinist "innocent" groups which flooded the Congress, the affair was under airtight control of the young Browderites.

Those genuine youth organizations present—the number was less than last year, many groups, such as Young Judea having withdrawn since then—were either fooled by the Stalinist eye-wash or never had a chance to put up a fight against the Stalinists. The possibility of a progressive, anti-war opposition organizing at the Congress, which would attack the pro-Hitler-Stalin line it adopted, was smashed by the Stalinist machine.

They passed their resolutions as

per schedule, condemning American and British imperialism, but keeping mum about Stalin's role as agent of Hitler. This exposed their basic hypocrisy. In order to placate the genuine anti-Hitler sentiment, Mac Weiss, YCL Beloved Leader, found it necessary to verbally attack Hitlerism. But one could never imagine from his speech that Hitler ever even had a partner named Stalin!

The task of hoodwinking non-Stalinist delegates was made easier by the presence of a reactionary gang of fake "youth" led by Gene Tunney. The Stalinists used this group as a straw man and attempted to identify all opposition with this reactionary group.

Considerable anti-war sentiment, against both imperialist camps, was present, but the Stalinists never let the lid blow off. After all, it was their party.

Elbert Williams Lynched

Elbert Williams was a resident of Brownsville, Tennessee. He was also a member of the rapidly growing branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in his locality.

The population of Brownsville, which is predominantly colored, hadn't dared to vote for some time. The NAACP decided to challenge the Jim-Crow tradition and demanded the right to register in the coming election. The white bosses didn't like this. The Negro population was becoming too unruly. It had to be given a "lesson."

On Thursday, June 20, a car drove next to William's home and took him to the City Hall. Three days later a body was found floating down the Natchez River. Anny Williams, Elbert's wife, identified the battered body.

The Southern "gentlemen" had given the Negroes a lesson on how to behave.

Heads, Workers Lose—Tails, Bosses Win

With the war drive going full blast in this country, 2 little incidents occurred recently which illustrate vividly what the whole thing is about.

1) Some four weeks ago the workers in the Kearney, N.J., shipyards went out on strike, demanding wage increases of 2 cents an hour. For this, they were condemned in the halls of Congress as Fifth Columnists. A resolution was introduced by Representative Hoffman to investigate the strikers. G-Men flooded the town, and mysteriously yapped about "subversive activities." The papers yelled blue murder about how the workers were sabotaging national defense by striking for 2 cents more an hour.

Result: the union leaders got cold feet and backed down.

2) Two weeks ago, Packard Motors Company was rewarded with a large order of airplane motors by the government. Behind that is an interesting story. For previously Packard had refused to take the order on the grounds that the profits offered by the government were insufficient. Only when the Administration jacked up the profits did Packard become sufficiently "patriotic" to take the order. There were no G-Men near Packard. No Congressmen denounced them. No paper got hysterical. Everything was quiet and profit was king.

Need we point out the moral?—Just the same old game, heads the bosses win, tails the workers lose.

one in six youth got any kind of government aid.

Even in the peak of FDR's "recovery" in early 1937, when there were only 5,000,000 youth unemployed, this youth program didn't begin to scratch the surface. And those youth who received government aid were by no means well off. The NYA worker got an average of \$5.50 a week, hardly enough to amass a fortune. The CCC workers got a dollar a day, but most of it was sent home so that the relief appropriation of his family could be cut.

Jobless Increase

When the depression hit a new low last year, youth was in an awful fix. Each year, two million youths graduate from school but only a few get jobs. As a result, the number of youth who are unemployed keeps increasing each year. By 1939, there were about 7,000,000 unemployed youth.

Not only has the New Deal failed to provide jobs for the American

youth, it has not given him a chance to learn a trade nor has it prevented the decline in the quantity and quality of education. Trade school facilities are today utterly inadequate, but 50% of these available are not even being used. Child labor has taken a big jump upwards in the last five years, increasing by at least 500%!

Is it any wonder that Aubrey Williams, NYA administrator and FDR's youth expert, declares that: "We know that a vast overwhelming majority of the children born in the last 25 years will never rise above a hand-to-mouth existence, that all their steps from the cradle to the grave will be dogged by poverty, sickness, and insecurity."

The real final solution to this problem can only be a Workers Government. A government devoted to the interests of the people, and not to protection of imperialist profits, could really solve the youth problem. That is the goal for which American youth must struggle.

NON CONSCRIPTION

WHAT SOCIALISM COULD DO FOR AMERICA!

We Have A New Life to Build

By LOUISE BROWN

- Can you imagine a country where —
- every man has a job.
- there are enough, more than enough food, clothing, houses for all.
- where the average family could live on an income close to \$4,000 a year.
- where there would be education, recreation for all.
- where there would be no more slums.

But what's the use of going any further. You know, as well as I, that there's no such country. You know that in America, supposedly the richest country in the world, there are instead one-third of the nation "ill-fed, ill-housed, ill-clothed." There are 14 million unemployed; there are millions of semi-slave sharecroppers; there are 4 million homes without decent toilet facilities; there are slums that send cold chills down your back.

And you probably are beginning to suspect, in view of what's happening in the world today, that no such country could exist. But you're wrong. Such a country could exist—right here in these United States! A government, an economic system that would organize for the purpose of really providing for the needs of the peoples, instead of profits for the bosses, could do so easily.

The FACTS prove it. Listen:



If We Made Houses Instead of Cannons

Why is there poverty and misery in America?

Is it because the land is barren and the heavens rainless? No. The National Resources Committee tells us that our soil and climate are such that we can produce all of the major crops we need except rubber, tea and coffee. We are among the leading producers of basic foods. Our temperature is so different in each section of the country that we can produce every type of food, from wheat to citrus food.

There is enough oil in the Rocky Mountains alone to last for 400 years at least. We have 57 billion dollars worth of farm property and our industrial property is estimated at 190 billions.

From the point of view of natural resources, then, America has everything.

Yet they are not used. New, wonderful inventions are hidden, never used for fear of competition they might provide; machinery lies idle and rusts; working hands are idle, restless, desperate. Crops are plowed under; oil running thick in the Rockies sinks back into the ground.

All is wasted. That is what capitalism means: Waste the products the people could use. If they produce too much, the prices, and the profits, of the capitalists will go down. What do they care if you haven't enough? Profit is king!

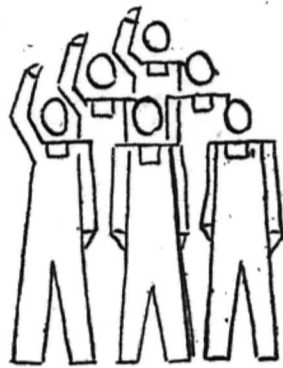
But imagine what could be done in America. Imagine what a real land of milk and honey we could make of America. Just to give you an idea—

For the last 8 years there have been from 8 to 16 million men unemployed. Had the available manpower and machinery been fully used in the eight years we could have produced two hundred billion dollars—which is not exactly chicken feed—worth of additional goods and services than we actually did. What this means concretely is told in a report of the National Resources Committee:

"If all the idle men and machines could have been employed in making houses, the extra income would have been enough to provide a new \$6,000 house for every family in the country. The lost income could have been used to build railroads, the entire system could have been scrapped and rebuilt at least 5 times over. Failure to use available resources meant a lower standard of living for practically every group in the community."

Again: if man and machine power available for the last 8 years had been fully used, then every steel plant, cotton mill—in fact every industrial plant from Ford's Baton Rouge Plant to the local tinsmith could have been rebuilt five times over, in addition to normal national expenditures.

Work to Do But There Are No Jobs



Even in the boom year of 1929 when production was at its peak, capitalism was unable to fully use our productive facilities. The amount of consumers goods produced that year came to 38 billions; it could have come to 72 billions. (But, yelled the capitalists, there is no work; mouths were and are hungry; hands eager to work; yet "there is no work.")

This National Resources Committee, from which we have been quoting our figures, estimated that two-thirds of the people's needs in clothing were unsatisfied. Yet only 33% of production capacity in men's clothing and 23% of capacity in women's clothing were utilized.

But it is in another field—that of housing, that the shocking deficiency carries with it an additional factor of biting irony. Between half and two-thirds of the population cannot live in houses, which some of them produce, until they are sufficiently in decay to charge low rents. So long as the buildings are fit to live in, most of the American people can't afford to live in them. It is only after the buildings outlive the purpose for which they were constructed that they become available to the average man.

If only the present available resources of the

country were used, the national income would be doubled; that would be enough for all. But if the national resources which have not yet been tapped were made available for the use of the people, then the average American family would really be on easy street.

Such a step would make possible the building of 1,000,000 new homes each year to replace the 10,000,000 slums. These homes could be built with modern designs, well equipped and durable.

If only the idle textile factories were opened, wool, cotton and silk production could each increase 2½ times. This would be the end of clothing shortages.

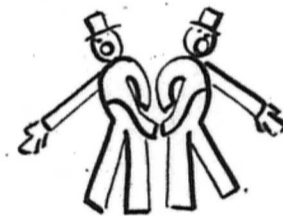
Soil production can be tremendously increased. Scientific farming can yield on the average of 4 times as much as ordinary farming. Who then could find an excuse for lack of food for the people?

In the fields of recreation, of health, of education the same possibilities exist, too. It is unnecessary to repeat figures in these fields; in all of them, America could have undreamed-of resources and wealth. A real, fine, rich life could be developed.

If the nation stands to benefit so greatly from planned economy—that is, a socialist system run by and for the masses of the people—why then is this not done? The answer is simple enough: The only incentive for production under the capitalist system is the profit motive. As H. L. Gantt, foremost American engineer, says in his book *Organizing for Work*:

"The aim of our efficiency has not been to produce goods but to harvest dollars. If we could harvest more dollars by producing fewer goods, we produced fewer goods. If it happened that we could harvest more dollars by producing more goods, we made an attempt to produce more goods, but the production of goods was always secondary to the securing of profits."

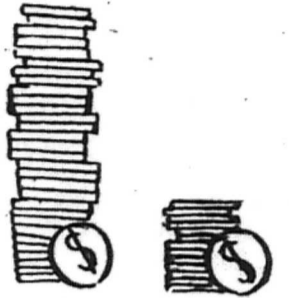
Why They're Rich and We're Poor



In these words are contained the tragedy of American life. A country rich, overflowing with potential wealth—yet poverty-stricken in the broad masses of its population. A country where the few men who control industry run it for their

own selfish interests, and refuse to run it when the profit incentive is "insufficient."

How the Rich Get Richer . . . and Richer



To the manufacturer an increase in production means one thing:—a decrease in the market value of his product and therefore a decrease in his profit. National welfare, the needs of the people—these are good phrases for 4th of July speeches. But they have little connection with the real way capitalism functions. As a noted banker, A. H. Wiggin, said before a Congressional Investigating Committee:

"A manufacturer produces goods as long as he can sell them at a profit, and when he cannot sell them at a profit he begins to reduce his production."

But a decline in production means a further decline of the purchasing power of the people, so that even the goods produced can find no market. This, plus the fact that the national income is divided in increasingly unequal shares, the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer, is the concrete meaning of the phrase: the crisis of capitalism. In this miserable tangle in which capitalism gets caught, where the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, we find the source of evils of present-day life.

Thus, we find that what labor produces it cannot enjoy because, although its productivity increases, its reward decreases. Those who reap go hungry, those who weave go ragged, those who create the wealth are forced to live on the crumbs thrown to them by the masters of industry.

America can be made a wonderful country to live in. It can be rich enough to not only support its own people comfortably, but even many people who live in other countries.

We Have A New Life To Build



We can build ourselves a country to be proud of, a country of peace and security, of happiness and freedom. We can build a country where the breadline, the slum, the lynch-mob will be a thing of the dim past.

This we can do by taking industry, the means of production, into our own hands. Out of the hands of the Coupon Clippers into the hands of the working people!

We can reach heights of plenty and security never yet known. All we need is the strength of the working people to rise up and make itself the master of its own destiny.

For that kind of an America we will fight; for that kind of an America—a Socialist America—we will sacrifice.

That is a goal worth fighting for.

Republican and Democratic Siamese Twins Against War - - BUT ONLY AT CONVENTIONS

The Smiling President in the White House didn't even bother to show up at the convention that nominated him for a third term as President. Meeting in Chicago under the watchful tender eye of Mayor Kelly and his ward-healing hooligans, the Democratic convention went through the motions as though it were in a daze. It was Roosevelt all the way.

After months of careful preparation, the third term steamroller put on one comedy act before mashing everything in its way. Roosevelt "freed" the delegates pledged to him. They could vote as they pleased, he said. But he very carefully refrained from declining the nomination. The convention went wild over this acceptance speech delivered for Roosevelt by Senator Barkley before the actual nomination.

The previous month, the Republicans nominated Wendell L. Willkie, utilities magnate. In a "wide open" convention this "90 day Republican" blitzed the older war-horses like Taft and Vandenberg. In word and in song, the GOP remembered the good old days,

branded the Democrats as the "war party" and called it a day. It was as exciting as a horse race. But it didn't make clear how interventionist Willkie was going to fight the Roosevelt war party.

The Democrats took some nasty digs at Willkie's utilities connections but failed to mention the altogether satisfactory price at which the New Deal bought out the Tennessee Valley interests of Willkie's Commonwealth and Southern boys.

The most edifying spectacle of the Democratic shindig was the big yellow streak shown by Senator Wheeler, John L. Lewis' isolationist Boy Scout. The Democrats adopted a foreign policy plank that doesn't look anything like FDR's foreign policy yesterday, today or, most important, tomorrow. Wheeler said he was satisfied with the pledge that American soldiers will not be sent overseas. When it actually happens he'll squeal that he's been "betrayed"—that is, if he doesn't vote for it himself.

Neither convention pointed the way toward peace and an end to the eleven-year old depression. Neither could show the way to the

jobs that even the much-touted war boom has not brought. Both were conventions of Wall Street.

American youth have nothing to gain from support of either Roosevelt or Willkie. Their fight is the fight for peace, for jobs, for socialism.

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NEGRO YOUTH MUST OPPOSE JIM-CROW ARMY CONSCRIPTION

Negro Girls Slave As Domestic

NEW YORK—They sit on shopping bags and soap boxes, and lean against store windows, the hundreds of Negro women, waiting for work. Every morning they go to the street corners of the Bronx and wait, hoping for a day's work.

They don't talk to each other much, these girls, and they find it's better to stand while they wait, because the housewives who come out to hire them will pass them by if they don't look anxious enough to take the very lowest wage, or if they make the mistake of looking tired.

When they do get work, which may be once, twice, or three times a week, they're expected to work all day for \$1.75, or maybe \$2. It's what they call "paying by the job" instead of the hour, going to work for a flat rate, and being made to stay all day, scrub floors, wash curtains and blankets, and clean windows.

Some of them have learned better than to take these jobs; they demand an hourly wage. At nine o'clock they ask for 35¢, by ten-thirty they're down to a quarter, and by noon, those who spent their last nickel to come up may be working for 10 or fifteen cents an hour.

And even then, the chiseling isn't over. The girls who unwittingly accept a bite of food at lunch-time, may find 20 or thirty cents missing from her wages at the end of the day. Or the housewife may find herself short a quarter or so, and tell the girl to "come back tomorrow." Or else she's sure she could never have agreed to pay so much. Or else the extra three quarters of an hour just doesn't count.

Because most of them have never heard of the Domestic Workers Union, and those who have heard of it, remembering its short and unhappy excursion into the field of Negro domestic workers, are even more convinced of the hopelessness of their condition.

But today, a few, a very few, to be sure, are beginning to realize that for them, as for other workers, organization is the only way to get a living wage and decent conditions. These girls, too, are beginning to learn that a strong union, strong enough to enforce its demands is the one method of insuring security for themselves and their fellow workers.

We Negro Youth Must Take Lead In Anti-Fascist Ranks

The War which drives against us from every side . . . Fascism, a new menace and what it will mean for Negro youth . . . Negro-baiting and Anti-Semitism, both hitting at minority groups . . . where shall we turn in these days of crisis, what shall we do . . .

Aren't these the things which thousands of Negro youth are wondering about these days?

We think so. And so do John R. and Bill, two young Negro fellows. Bill is a member of our organization, the Young Peoples Socialist League. They've been writing letters to each other, telling what they think about these matters. Bill turned over some of these letters to the CHALLENGE, because he thought they were interesting. He was right. So we're printing one of the letters Bill wrote to John R. The letter, except for a few personal matters, is printed in full:

Dear John:

Yes, you are absolutely correct when you say that the British Empire is a dangerous enemy. For centuries, the British ruling class has enslaved the Negro people in Africa—as well as colonials everywhere else—has held them in inhuman subjection. And I, as a young Negro revolutionist, won't feel at all broken hearted if the British Empire falls apart.

Of course, as you say, most Negroes aren't falling for this stuff about fighting a "war to make the world safe for democracy." Boy, can we see through that one . . . especially after a newspaper story about a lynching in the "democratic South" has burned itself into our minds!

And though I disagree violently with the other things you go on to say, I think you're on the right track when you heap scorn and hatred on the Allied gangsters, who are even today murdering our brothers in Africa in their robber war. (Just to think that the African slaves have to fight in both the Italian and British armies, against each other, in order to help decide which will be their slave-masters!)

We're Not Fooled

Yes, we're not falling, we Negro youth, for this "democratic war." We know from our own terrible experiences that it's a robbers war, which we Socialists call an imperialist war. And there's no reason to fall for the stuff even if the man who says it has the initials of FDR.

But I think you're justified hatred of the British Empire, which enslaves millions of our brothers, has led you to make some serious mistakes.

You write in your last letter that maybe it would be wise to be a little friendlier to Hitler, so that the British Empire could be busted

up easier. I think that such an attitude of tolerance or friendship toward Fascism would be a great tragedy for the Negro people.

Of course, you say, you hate Fascism but today Hitler is destroying the British Empire. Let me ask you: In order to do what? Why, in order to build up an empire of his own!

Can anyone believe that Hitler wants to really bring freedom to the Negroes, or to anyone else? Of course not! Hitler is merely the



front-man for the German bosses who are trying to muscle in on the British bosses.

Can you imagine what Fascism would mean for the Negro people? Can't you see that every one of the lynchers in the South, the reactionary Cotton Ed Smiths, the Tom Connollys, the Gene Talmadges, the Ku Klux Klanners would be the ones who would lead Fascism in America?

Negro and Fascism

If you can imagine anything

worse than the Negro's conditions now, then it could exist only under Fascism. That is why what you say is so dangerous. To make any compromise with Fascism, either foreign or American brand, is to sell our people down the river!

Don't play around, John, with such ideas! Fascism is the most horrible thing in the world today. And the Negro people, like everyone else, have nothing to gain from it.

In Germany, they persecute the Jews, because the Jews are a convenient scapegoat to blame all troubles on. We would play the same role in America. That is why we must drive out any tendency towards Anti-Semitism which may develop among the Negro people. Wouldn't it be heartbreaking if we, an oppressed minority people, were to favor the suppression of another minority?

Together With The Poor

No, we who are persecuted in every way—we must stand with all the persecuted and all the oppressed. Our place is with the poor people, and not with those few miserable Negroes who, having made a little money, think they can escape the fate of their people by living aside from the masses of poor Negroes. Our place is in the heart of Harlem, in the Chicago Southside, in the Alabama cotton fields, with the Okies—wherever there are poor people, Negro and white, fighting for a decent life and for a job.

You ask me: What can I do?

I answer: Why, join up with us, of the Young Peoples Socialist League (Fourth International), who are fighting for Socialism. You have come to some of our meetings, you know we are a serious organization.

That's the way to get freedom and security for our people. Not by fooling around with ideas about supporting Hitler, but by lining up with the workers everywhere. Sure, it's a hard fight; but it's the only one worthwhile.

Courage, devotion, sacrifice, work—these are required of the young fighter for Socialism. But can't we Negro youth give all that and more?

Is there anything else worthwhile except the struggle for freedom?

BILL

Would Suffer Same Discrimination as Last Time

What will conscription mean to us, the Negro youth?

This question is of immediate importance to us and we must answer it quickly.

First of all—conscription means for us what it means for all other youth. It means being prepared to die in a war to protect and extend the profits of Wall Street bankers. It means having a year of our lives, taken away from us, a year in which we will have to march up and down for \$21 a month. It means being subjected to the hysterical pro-war propaganda which will undoubtedly flood the conscription camps.

And that is no bargain for us, just as it is no bargain for other youth.

But there is something even more sinister in these camps for Negro youth. Not only will we, together with others be trained to serve as cannon-fodder for the next bosses war—but we will be trained to do so under Jim-Crow conditions.

The conscription advocates have been mum as hell about this business. Why do they so suddenly get tongue-tied? Is it not because of the fact that conscription camps will indulge in the same Negro discrimination as the army has in the past? Is it not because Negro youth will be given the most miserable tasks in the camps, that they will be made to do the dirtiest work, that they will not even have the same inadequate rights which white conscriptees will have?

Isn't that a fact?

Who can seriously believe that the "lily-whites" from the South who are at the head of the Democratic Party in Congress will give Negro youth an even break in the conscription camps? We can say, in advance, that in the South, and perhaps other sections of the country, Negro youth will be segregated in separate Jim-Crow camps. We can also say, in advance, that even in camps where Negro and white youth are together, the reactionary army officers will treat Negro youth in the harshest fashion.

These are not guesses. These are facts. For that is what happened in the last war.

What a joke it is then! They ask us to fight in their war "for democracy" and at the same time don't give us any democracy.

We come from Missouri. We want to be shown. Before the politicians and Coupon-Clippers can convince us about a war for democracy, we'd like to see some at home.

Right now, we're still saying: thumbs down on their plans to make us into the cannon-fodder of tomorrow.

Sickness As Result of Poverty Is Negro Lot

Earning about one-half the wages of the white man, with discrimination and jim-crow laws, and a social outcast because of his black skin, it is no surprise that the American Negro suffers from ill-health and has a much higher mortality rate than the whites. Singling out tuberculosis, which is among the first causes of death in the Negro community, the following chart speaks for itself:

DEATH RATE PER HUNDRED THOUSAND

Year	White		Negro	
	North	South	North	South
1933	40.0	50.1	230.0	129.6

Taking another severe ailment, heart disease, we find the same to be true. In 1932, the mortality due to heart disease was 40% greater among the Negro than the white.

These two ailments—tuberculosis and heart disease—are not isolated examples. The Negro receives more than his "due share" of typhoid rickets and venereal disease as well.

Sickness and Poverty

The Negro does not suffer from ill-health due to any physical inferiority. The reasons for sickness among the colored population can be traced to two main causes. First is the question of finance. Every year one percent of the American population finds it necessary to spend one-fourth of its income for medical treatment. The Negro, whose earnings are about one-half the wages of the white man cannot afford to spend an equal sum for needed medical care. Poor finance spells poor living conditions

for most of the Negro people; poorly-ventilated houses, no sunshine and poor food or none at all result in tuberculosis and rickets.

Secondly, discrimination is a cause for ill-health among the Negroes. Colored patients are looked upon as trespassers in public hospitals and clinics, Negro doctors are excluded from internships and Negro students are excluded from tax-supported medical schools.

The question that the Negro people must ask themselves is, "How can we improve our health and living conditions?" The answer is simple. Organize and fight together with the white workers for jobs, for higher wages, shorter hours, better working conditions and against segregation and jim-crow laws.

With conditions as they are today in America, the Negro has little to look back upon and still less to hope for from the "land of opportunity."

What do you think about this Negro page of the Challenge? Have you any ideas, any criticisms?

Would you like to write for this page?

If so, the columns of the Challenge are open to you. Write us about what you think of the problems of Negro youth, about your personal experiences, about any article which you liked or disliked.

It's your page. Write for it!

They Fought For Their Rights

(Continued from page 1)

waiter took their orders, but never returned during the 55 minutes that they patiently sat and waited.

During this period, they called the manager twice and the waiter four times. The result was the same . . . "We will soon get to you." So after waiting for a glass of beer for 55 minutes, during which no less than 100 people came and were promptly served, these four citizens of the United States, who were "protected" by the Michigan Civil Rights Law from discrimination, got up and left; went to the County Prosecutor's office and signed a complaint for the arrest of the proprietor of the joint.

The defendant, the owner of the beer joint, asked and got a jury trial.

ENTER A GANG OF SCURVY RATS

The school went into a turmoil. For a while the school administration laid low (only to peep up later.) But the Stalinist-controlled American Student Union put in its snout with the usual filthy results. They advised the four Negroes to call off the case. They went to the prosecutor and told him the Trotskyites were pushing the case; they even went to the Negro-hating defendant, who had refused to serve beer to the boys! But the case came up—on June 7th.

The trial was what can politely be described as a . . . farce. The owner of the beer joint, the Pretzel-Bell, Ralph Neelands, is a large landowner and big boss of Ann Arbor. His lawyer was an unscrupulous shyster, named Shillings. The four colored boys were represented by the Assistant county-prosecutor—Forsythe.

This is how the jury was picked. A list of 80 names was handed by the court marshal to Neelands, the Negro-hating defendant. He picked his own men for the jury, then gave them for approval to Forsythe, the prosecutor. Suddenly one of the six jurors said that he was employed by Neelands and would prefer to be excused from the jury so that he could return to work. Some trial, eh? Where the defendant picks his own jurors!

The lawyer for the Negro-hating defendant then pulled the usual red scare, with a liberal side-dish of anti-Semitism. He said, "This is not a result of discrimination, it is the result of the activities of foreign Negroes from St. Louis (!) and Jews and Communists from the campus. These same Communists hoist the Nazi flag on the campus; these same Jews hiss at President Roosevelt. Imagine, gentlemen, this foreign Negro

from St. Louis (!), could not even go four blocks away to a Negro beer shop. As you know, sometimes we white people like to have our little fun to ourselves."

THE PROSECUTOR PREFERS TO SLUMBER QUIETLY

The prosecutor, who was supposed to be representing the Negro boys, was as feeble as a decrepit grand-mother in his presentation. He made a fumbling statement about discrimination, and sat down and went to sleep.

But the lawyer for the beer-joint sprang up to his feet and was on the aggressive. "This is not a case of discrimination," he said, "it is a case of Communist Jew Boys and foreign Negroes from St. Louis." (Throughout the trial, this lawyer refused to believe that St. Louis was also part of America!)

It got to the point where the prosecuting attorney, presumably on the side of the discriminated Negroes, was asking the jury to have pity for them. You began to wonder who was on trial—the beer joint owner who had discriminated against the Negroes, or the Negroes.

The verdict was—not guilty. How could it have been otherwise when the Dean of the University of Michigan gave material for the case of the Negro-hating defendant.

HIS NIBS, THE PRESIDENT PUTS HIS FINGERS IN THE PIE

The first noticeable result of this case was a speech made by the University's President, in which he said—not that he regretted discrimination against Negroes—but that he would purge the school of radicals! Then the four Negro students were expelled from the school. Their crime?—They dared to fight for their rights! Then another Negro student received a letter telling him that he was not wanted in the University of Michigan. He was told by the President that his crime was that of "stirring up" the Negro students, that is, urging his fellow Negro students to demand the right to live like any other human being.

These Negroes are typical of the 15,000,000 Negroes in America. They are still young, they still have spirit. It is they, who have felt in their own lives the meaning of Jim-Crowism, who must lead our people in the struggle for a better world in America. For Socialism—which will end the boss system which develops antagonism between black and white. The Negro youth—they have the task of leading our people out of the capitalist wilderness and into Socialist freedom, together with all the workers of this country.