

" I TAKE MY PLACE IN THE RANKS
OF REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH....." 40

10/13/37

A LETTER TO THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE,

Dear Comrades,

I write this letter of resignation from the YCL not merely as a document for distribution among the more radicalized students, but as an actual letter to each and every one of you who is a YCLer and is interested in a Marxist approach to politics. I know, from my lengthy association with the YCL, that the overwhelming mass of members are today going thru a period of doubt, often resulting in disillusionment. It is not for nothing that the CCNY YCL has suffered such a sharp decline in membership from 225 to 110.

I think you should honestly ask yourself: why have so many YCLers quit and joined the Young People's Socialist League? Why have some of the leading and most experienced comrades done so? You know some of them--they were had-working active YCLers. (They were not Fascists, were they?) For years the YCL gained members the YPSL, today the reverse is true. Why has the tide turned?

The Answer's Simple. The conclusion I came to (and it was not easy to break old ties and surrender old prejudices in order to do so) is that the "Communists" have abandoned revolutionary Marxism, are now playing the role of reformism.

Need I go into details? You yourselves have been puzzling over these things, asking questions. Not, of course, the peanut politician "leaders". They never question, never wonder about anything; they are hardened. That is why, when asked "embarassing" questions by the revolutionists, they don't answer.

Think these things out. Do you honestly think the CP is correct in supporting Sales Tax LaGuardia? Was it upon the principle of class-collaboration--support of Capitalist candidates--that the Comintern was founded? Do you believe, as the Daily Worker says, Roosevelt's recent speech is a "step toward Peace" and not a preparation for war against Japan under the guise of anti-agressor action?

Can you believe that the members of Lenin's Central Committee, the Committee which led the October revolution, have become "conscious fascist agents"? Do you think that the liquidation of the Chinese Red Army into the ranks of the butcher Cheang-Kai-Shek was correct? Do you believe, that revolutionists should defend the US imperialist government in a war against any nation, except the USSR, as Browder recently said? These are but a few questions that strike me. There are many more. I could ask you why it was that the YPSL, the "Trotskyite-Fascists", who alone took the trouble to demonstrate against NAZISM last Sunday, Deutsches Tag? And where were the "Communists" then? But I needn't ask anyone. You know those things.

And You Must Answer Them.

You must critically re-examine your organizations's policies. I do not become convinced of the necessity of joining the YPSL over night. It is hard. But it must be done, because only a revolutionary party can achieve power.

In the few days that I have been a YPSL, I have been amazed at the devotion of its members, at its splendid activity, at its serious and democratic discussions, and at its high morale, firmly planted in revolutionary ideology.

You may wave this away as "Trotskyism" but we must not be misled by labels. If "Trotskyism" is a label applied to the revolutionary party, we accept it. With this letter I take my place in the ranks of revolutionary youth.

Irving Waler
Former member of YCL CCNY Exec.
Committee



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