

June, 1933

Comrades,

You and members of the YPSL have been called to this meeting to be told what is wrong with the Socialist Party and the YPSL and why the Yipsels should join the YCL.

The speakers will score the Socialist Party on three counts:

1. Social Democratic policies have been exposed as bankrupt in Europe and in the United States.
2. They refuse genuine united front actions.
3. They have taken high handed actions against Left wing Socialists and the Yipsels (lack of inner democracy).

Yet on all three points--which are valid--the speakers will not be able to show how the YCL and the CP are superior to the YPSL and the SP.

We believe that in these respects the organization to which you belong is no better than the YPSL. For our part we do not choose between two evils, but build a truly revolutionary youth organization, the Spartacus Youth League, and a revolutionary party, the Workers Party.

We of course do not expect you to agree with us without an examination of our case against the CP and the YCL.

Here are some facts which you should put to your speakers:

1. (a) On the question of bankruptcy. Did not the Communist Party of Germany like the Social Democracy fail to lift a finger when Hitler came into power in January 1933? With over 400,000 members and close to six million voters as their forces, the CP of Germany collapsed like a house of cards.

What can be expected of smaller Communist parties during a war situation?

(b) In the United States. Why is it that the Communist Party failed to play any role in such big strikes of last year as Toledo and Minneapolis, and why did it fail to capitalize on the betrayal of the San Francisco general strike? Why is it today isolated from the struggles in Akron and Toledo? Why the sudden turn-about-face in the trade union field, "liquidating the "red trade unions" and concentrating on the A. F. of L., if not because of complete failure to reach the American workers?

2. On the United Front. How many of you remember that those who yesterday proposed a genuine united front--organization to organization--were denounced as "renegades" and expelled from the YCL? Have you forgotten the "united front only from below" tactic?

If so, ask the speakers to quote the bulletin issued by the national educational department of the YCL in Feb. 1933, on "The Situation in Germany", wherein it states that to have a united front with the Social Democracy is equivalent to betraying the interests of the working class. And those like the Trotskyites who do so are traitors. (The bulletin was never given to the membership because between the time it was issued and before it reached the ranks the Communist International had made a turn on the united front--February, 1933!)

Further. The present united front proposals are coupled with offers for "non-aggression pacts", that is, the Communist Party and YCL members will not be able to criticize the SP and YPSL. In France, several members of the CP have already been expelled due to such a non-aggression pact. For criticizing social democracy! (See the "Daily Worker" of April 1933 which confirms this statement. Letter of CP of France to the YCL)

Now, if a non-aggression pact is correct today, why was it not correct in 1932? At the time of the YCL's attack on R. Palme Dutt's "Fascism and Social Revolution" the YCL was ready to accept a united front with the CP on the basis of a non-aggression

fact! Ask the speakers how they will explain this away. But perhaps you may be expelled for asking "Trotskyist" questions!

For our part, we favor a genuine united front, which means that each participating organization retains its right of criticism--that is, unlike in France, its right to independent existence.

If you feel bold, ask the speakers why last year the YCL refused to have a united front on May 30th with the Yipsels and the Spartacus Youth League unless we accepted their name "National Youth Day", and that this year they have already agreed to "hand over" May 30th to the American Youth Congress--that caricature of a united front--and drop the name "National Youth Day"?

Or why the Communist Party broke the united front in Sacramento for the criminal syndicalism prisoners in which the Socialist Party, the Workers Party, the Communist Party, the ILD, and the American Civil Liberties Union participated? Or why they left their own comrades in jail for six months without bailing them out; and then only took action once the Workers Party and the Non-Partisan Labor Defense got active? Or why they have slandered Norman Mini, one of the defendants, who the "Daily Worker" was forced to quote as giving a revolutionary reply to the offer of probation for him?

3. Lack of inner democracy. In the past few months in New York alone a dozen or so members of the YCL have been expelled for "Trotskyism". In many cases this charge was hurled at them when they merely asked questions about "new turns".

Why were not the members of the CP and YCL consulted on the change of policy on the labor party? One day it was "social fascist", the next "good Bolshevism"; and woe to him who did not at each stage quickly fall in line!

Were you consulted when it was decided to dissolve the street units and send you into "mass organizations"? You joined the YCL as a young worker who knew nothing about communism and wanted to study communism in the YCL--through discussion, classes, and participation in the class struggle. And they drove you into mass organizations, without retaining street units, as though you were full fledged revolutionaries! Yet, were you given a chance to discuss this new organization form before it was adopted?

It should be clear that the new form was adopted because the YCL has failed to reach the masses of young workers. The change is an acknowledgment of such failure. Why do not your leaders say so openly?

The above are some of the examples which prove out contention that the Communist International no longer follows the revolutionary teachings of Marx and Lenin. These are briefly our reasons for believing that the YCL and the CP are bankrupt and are not the organizations for revolutionaries or young workers who wish to become revolutionaries. We could extend our examples indefinitely.

That is why we believe that consideration of these statements and our further reasons for the policies and practices of the CP and the YCL will convince both the YCLers and the revolutionary young socialists that their rightful place is in the Spartacus Youth League. Already, a group of 12 Yipsels in New York have recently joined the Spartacus Youth League.

We invite you to come to our meetings and further discuss with us the problems confronting the working class and student youth.

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