

The Work of the Communist Youth Movement

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

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By HERBERT ZAM.
(Continued)

In this situation, the basic task for our movement becomes the organization into class struggle organizations, into new trade unions, of the masses of the unskilled and semi-skilled workers who constitute, and will constitute to a greater degree the basic factor in the struggles which we are facing in the capitalist system. And in this connection, the question of the organization of the young workers, the question of the mobilization of the young workers for the class struggle becomes for the league a basic problem and the basic task which is analogous to the problem of the Party of the organization of the unorganized, the masses of the unskilled and semi-skilled workers. And, comrades, this is not a problem only for the Young Workers (Communist) League. While the Young Workers (Communist) League takes the initiative in this work, because it is the organization of the young workers, because it is the vanguard of the toiling youth, nevertheless, the Party cannot succeed in the task of organizing the unorganized unless it also undertakes the task in conjunction with the league, (the league playing the proper role in this task) of organizing the young workers. And it is for this reason that there are some new problems, new policies and new line for our work in relation to the youth which it will

be necessary for the Party to understand and, which at the present time is not yet sufficiently understood both in the league and in the Party, particularly in the Party.

I refer to the problem of the organization of youth sections in trade unions and the organization of economic associations of the young workers in those places where no trade unions exist, these economic associations to be a transition form to the organization of the young workers and also of the adult workers into trade unions, into new trade unions.

Because there are comrades in our Party, and many comrades in very important positions, who do not understand this problem, there has been some uncertainty and some reluctance in permitting the league to proceed with this work, in giving the league sufficient initiative in this work. Comrades, we must not forget that for the league, this problem is just as basic as the question of the organization of new unions and no comrade in the Party now has any doubt, any hesitation, any passivity in the task of organizing the new unions. No comrade should have any doubt, hesitation or passivity in the organization of the young workers thru the youth sections and thru the economic associations of the young workers.

Comrades, this general analysis, which I have just given you, and this general orientation has been the analysis and the orientation upon which the league and its National Executive Committee have endeavored to work in the period since our last convention in November 1927. Our line has been the line I have just given you, a line which was not static but which developed in the course of our efforts to adapt ourselves to the changing situation, to adapt ourselves to the processes which we saw at work and affecting the young workers.

(To Be Continued)