

Danger Signals in the Fight for United Front of Youth

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ARTICLE 2

Another argument which was put forward by Olenhauer against the united front was that the Young Socialists "are bound" by the decisions of the Socialist International. Well said! Exactly! "Bound!" We will try to disentangle these knots, which it seems, hinder the free action of the Young Socialists in the creation of the united front.

First of all this argument is not especially new. It is old, like other dogmas of Social democracy. A long time ago we heard and read in the socialist papers, that first of all we must negotiate from the top and then we can create a united front from below. But the socialist youth most likely remember that not long ago it was forbidden to speak anywhere with the YCL on the united front, the motives for this being, that there was a decision which forbade this, because first of all we must set up an "international unity" and negotiate from the top between the 2nd and 3rd Internationals "with Moscow."

Come on Olenhauer, let's come to this decision, by which you are "bound," not abstractly but practically.

We will take life as it is. You most likely follow life and events in Germany. If you do then you most likely read the Fascist law published in the "Voelkischer Beobachter" which says that the youth up to 25 years of age should be laid off from industry. Tell us, what should the Communists, Socialists and reformist youth do when they are thrown into the streets by the fascists? Should they immediately unite and with the support of the workers defeat this reactionary law which is driving them to hunger and want? We think yes! Immediately! Only unity and joint action of all workers and youth can give a final blow to the fascist attacks. What do you think about it? Is it possible that you will tell the German youth that it is "bound" by the decisions of the Socialist International, that it should "wait" until the Second and Third Internationals get together and because of this should not struggle together for its rights?

You won't say that! And if you do say this, then the fascists and not the youth will be very thankful to you.

You also know, most likely, that recently in Spain a law was passed in which the younger sections of the youth are forbidden "because of age" to be members of political organizations. What will you tell the Spanish youth? To wait a while? Don't jointly struggle for your rights in political life? You are "bound" by decisions? The leaders have not yet got together and therefore while waiting for negotiations, disband your organizations since the capitalists "law" demands this?

No! You won't say this to the Spanish youth! If you do say this, they won't listen to you, but will unite for the joint struggle against this law.

You also most likely heard that with the help of the German National Socialists preparations are being made for a fascist putch in Austria. What will you say to the Austrian youth? Will you tell them that they should wait till the next Plenum of the ECYSI or until the end of the "discussion" on the united front by the Second International and that because of this they should not unite for anti-fascist struggle?

Or will you say what we say? Unite immediately! Struggle jointly against fascism!

Is it possible that in France the youth should tear up their already made agreement on the united

front, because it is "bound" by decisions which up till now have been carried out in life on an international scale. In other words, tear up the agreement already made and capitulate before the danger of fascism.

How about the youth in the factories, in forced labor camps, in the villages, in the universities? Should they wait until an "international agreement" is gained, for which, in your opinion, the "conditions" are not yet present, or fight and unite in the struggle for their economic and political rights, against fascism and imperialist wars, for socialism?

Concerning this, you can answer with excerpts from your speech which was made before the Plenum of the EC YSI, where you said that in different countries the question of the united front is placed differently. Yes. That is correct. We understand, for instance, that in Sweden or Czechoslovakia, where Social democracy participated in the capitalist government, it is hard for them to create a united front with the Communists. Before them stands the question—either united front with the Communists and defense of the interests of the workers or ministerial seats in the capitalist government; whether the policy of class "collaboration", that is, collaboration with the capitalists, or "class against class", that is, the struggle against the capitalists.

But for the toiling youth who are exploited and oppressed, these questions, as you know, stand differently. Yes, in different countries the question of the united front stands differently, but everywhere it stands concretely!

You must admit that it is so. And if it is so, and if the youth according to the corresponding conditions of class struggle in Germany, Austria, in France, Spain, Switzerland, Holland, in Britain and Sweden unite, you will not be able to tell them that they are "bound" that the decision of the EC YSI means that it takes no obligations upon itself, even if they have already begun negotiations for the united front.

Does this mean that the YSI is drawing away from the struggle of the youth? Or does this mean that they, although they are a leading organization, take, if not an opposing, then a neutral position in the struggle of the youth? Do you want to say that in the YSI there is democracy and because of this you do not want to tie yourself or others with any definite decision of the Socialist International?

And don't we and the Socialist youth know that they are forbidden not only to jointly struggle but even to speak with the Communist youth on the united front



until such time as the leaders get together? And don't you and we know that the Socialist Party demands that the youth does not decide by itself questions on the united front and on joint struggle against fascism and war?

Where is the democracy in this? You were compelled to "note the position" but did not decide the question of the united front on the basis of democracy.

We assume you that if we forbid the Communist youth to jointly struggle with the socialist youth, using as a motive that unity has not yet been achieved between the 2nd and 3rd Internationals, between the YSI and YCI, or if we took a "neutral" position on such an important question our members would immediately on the basis of democracy throw us out and dissolve such "leading" organs.

The Communist youth are independent in the class struggle. The leadership of the Communist Party does not "bind" it, but obliges it to use the maximum initiative, activity and energy in the struggle for the united front against the class enemy.

POLICE ATTACK PICKETS

LANCASTER, Pa.—Pinchot's police and deputy sheriffs attacked picket lines at the Aronson Silk Mills where a textile re-strike movement has already begun.

Soviet Students

Special to the Young Worker
By ANN TAR

USSR.—This settlement consists of a house.

It is built in the form of a closed square. In the yard there are tall trees and a statue of Lenin.

The street cars run as far as the new latticed gates. They stop before the signboard: "The Central Students Settlement, Commissariat of Education."

The architectural style of the street is severe and monotonous—the clean walls of the corridors and the glass doors are painted in delicate tints. On the first story the doors are marked with neat name plates—"Director", "postoffice", "savings-bank", "information bureau", "dispatch office". Then comes the library, reading

room, club, cinema, buffet, and dining-room. The shoe repair shop and tailor shop, mechanized laundry, bath house, polyclinic, drug store. The students occupied the second, third and fourth floors.

Three thousand five hundred students of seven universities set before themselves the task of organizing their life to be cultural, bright, happy and joyful.

In March, 1933, they started energetically to carry out this task.

In the students' settlement the inhabitants are connected among themselves by agreements and obligations. Student competes with student, room with room, group with group, institute with institute. Finally, the entire settlement competes with other students settlements of Moscow.