

Stalinists Hold Death Grip On Youth Congress

By a Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Over 4,600 delegates to the National Citizenship Institute of the American Youth Congress, meeting here from February 9 to the 12, marched through a driving rain on Saturday morning to stand on the lawn of the White House and hear President Roosevelt declare for American economic support to Finland in the present war and, thereby, place the United States in the Chamberlain-Daladier-Mannerheim camp in the present world war.

The statements of the President in reference to Finland followed a warning to youth not to pass resolutions on subjects they do not know about, like the war in Finland, a cautioning of youth not to look for panaceas, and a defense of what he alleged to be the economic gains of the New Deal.

The President's references to the Finnish-Soviet war brought forth boos and hisses from a section of the audience, composed in its majority of members of the Young Communist League and their close sympathizers. The booing caused the radio operators for the national hook-ups broadcasting the speech to cut out all microphones except those into which the President was speaking directly.

Lewis Hits F.D.R.

Speaking before the AYC gathering on the afternoon of the same day the President spoke, John L. Lewis, head of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, pouring biting sarcasm upon the President's advice to his youth audience. Pointing out that the President had failed to "tell youth where they could find a job," Lewis stated that the President did not know how to solve the question and, consequently, "is in the same boat as he claims you are on the Finnish question."

Pointing out that John Hamilton, the National Chairman of the Republican Party had snubbed the AYC by refusing to send a speaker, and that the President, as the titular head of the Democratic Party, had refused to support the program of the AYC, Lewis called upon the AYC to affiliate to Labor's Non-Partisan League.

Aubrey Williams, director of the National Youth Administration, was greeted with a storm of boos and hisses when he sought to defend his action in turning over the names and addresses of NYA

By ERNEST ERBER

The American Youth Congress gathering in Washington, D. C., was the occasion for two important speeches, the real significance of which will be even more fully revealed in the next few months.

President Roosevelt, having before him an audience of overwhelmingly Stalinist youth, but addressing his remarks to the nation as a whole, came out openly for economic aid to Finland in its war with the Soviet Union. This action was an open declaration that the United States is now to be counted as part of the British-French camp and opposed to the Nazi-Soviet camp.

Roosevelt, spokesman for America's Sixty Ruling Families, made his war-mongering speech allegedly only on behalf of Finland. In reality, however, it is calculated to involve the United States in the Finnish end of the war as a back door through which to enter the world war as a whole as an ally of the Chamberlain-Daladier camp.

The boos from the members of the Young Communist League expressed the disapproval of the American representatives of the Hitler-Stalin camp with the President's remarks.

Echo of the War

The speech of Roosevelt and the boos of the young Stalinists represented an ideological conflict between two imperialist camps which was but an echo of the military conflict now taking place on the battlefields of Europe.

These same delegates made the rafters ring with cheers for "support to the democracies—England and France" and "support for the President's program for adequate national defense" at meetings of the American Youth Congress prior to the Hitler-Stalin Pact and the 45 degree swing in the line of the Communist Party.

The air-tight hold of the Young Communist League upon the AYC prevented any democratic procedure which would have permitted the voice of Revolutionary Socialism to speak against Roosevelt-Chamberlain - Mannerheim and against Hitler-Stalin — for the Third camp, the camp of international workingclass action to end the war with the overthrow of the war-breeding system of capitalism.

THE

CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

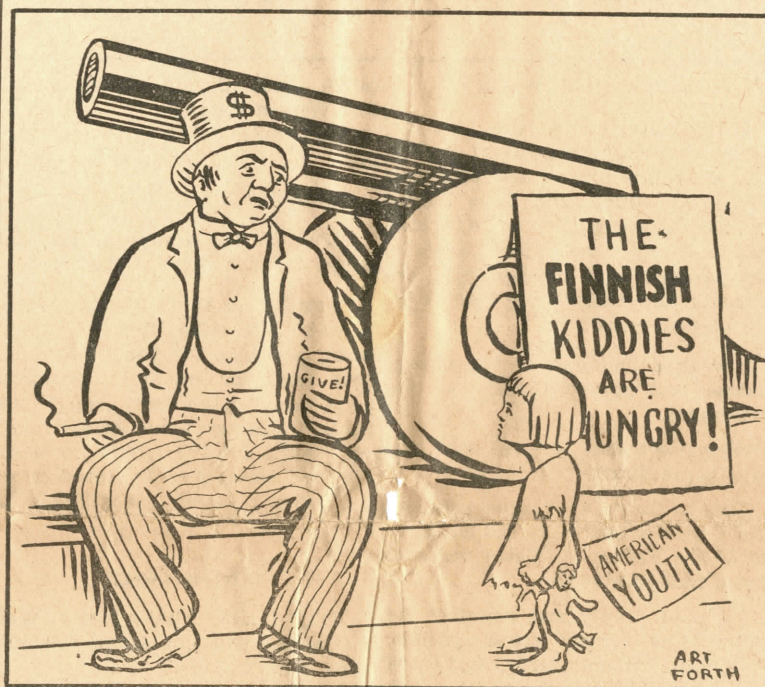
Vol. III, No. 21—February 15, 1940

Twice-Monthly Organ of The Young Peoples Socialist League (4th Int'l.)

Price: 2 cents

NYA BAITs YOUTH INTO GOV'T WAR MACHINE

"WE ACCEPT RELIEF CHECKS"



Give Youth Names To Army Office for War Recruiting

In the most drastic step yet taken by the Roosevelt administration to corral American youth into the war machine, the National Youth Administration has announced that all names of NYA workers would be turned over to the army.

The meaning of this seemingly "innocent" step should be clear to every American youth. Why should the army be given the names of unemployed youth who are temporarily hired by government relief projects if not to expedite possible future enrollments—voluntary . . . or forced—of these youth into the army.

The announcement spills the beans by declaring: "Perhaps many young men now receiving \$14 to \$21 a month from the NYA would find the army's base pay of \$21 a month for a recruit, plus food and clothing, more attractive."

CONGRESS AIDs FINNS BUT CUTS YOUTH RELIEF

While the Roosevelt budget cut sharply into youth relief—to the tune of \$72,000,000—preparations went ahead in Congress to divert funds to help "poor, little Finland."

The money which is nowhere to be found to keep American youth

But this is obviously a phoney excuse because 1) American youth can be informed of the great "attractiveness" of the army without the names of unemployed youth being turned over to the army and 2) the army has been spilling plenty of publicity over the American landscape already, at least enough to let people know of its "attractiveness."

•Real Motivation

Wall Street Endorses Roosevelt War Budget

"President Roosevelt's budget message is a notable document; the conservatives will find considerable comfort in the figures and the radicals will find considerable comfort in the words."—From the Wall Street Journal.