

World Socialism

THE YOUTH INTERNATIONAL

By HERBERT ZAM

THE Congress of the Socialist Youth International which recently met in Copenhagen was dominated, both organizationally and politically, by Scandinavian reformism. This was due partially to the recession of the revolutionary spirit which had swept the youth movement after the German catastrophe; partially also to the fact that the Congress did not truly reflect the sentiments of the membership of the Socialist Youth movement.

The representation was poor. There were no delegates from any country outside of Europe. The Italian, Spanish and Estonian League sent no delegates, but gave their mandates to the Belgians and Letts. These mandates were not recognized at the Congress. The delegate of the Prague Central Committee of the German Social Democracy was recognized, however, although his right to represent the German Socialist Youth was not established. The delegates from the Polish "Zukunft" (youth movement of the Bund) had to leave after the first day owing to passport difficulties. Thus five left delegations were automatically eliminated.

In spite of all these arrangements, there was a considerable left block at the Congress, including the Belgian, French, Lettish and Russian delegations, and on some questions the Polish and student delegates. The Norwegians appeared only as guests and did not participate in the Congress, but read a declaration in favor of organic unity with the communists. The right wing bloc in addition to the Swedes and Danes included also the Dutch, British and Czech delegates and the Prague representatives.

The line of the right wing was given in the address of the chairman, Vorrink of Holland. So crass was it that Friedrich Adler, the secretary of the Labor and Socialist International, was compelled to take issue in his greetings to the Congress. Vorrink's entire speech was a song of praise for democracy in general. He referred ironically to Marxists as "doctrinaire," and condemned all "appeal to force" in human relations. He has no patience, he declared, with abstract dreams of the beautiful but distant future. Socialism must be democratic and must give the masses concrete, immediate help.

"Our power is contained in spiritual, not in physical arguments," he declared. "We cannot confine ourselves to the limits of one class. Our task is to save Western culture and we must find partners. The Socialist movement must become the symbol of the fight for democracy and general human culture. This is the big task of our time.

Adler's speech was directly and indirectly an answer to Vorrink. After discussing the war situation, he began to polemicize against Vorrink. He cannot accept, he declared, a democracy which is based only on spiritual values. Democracy must be looked upon by Socialists as a period for the struggle for the emancipation of the working class.

Kern of Czechoslovakia and Beck of Austria led the discussion on the struggle against war and fascism. Kern presented a definite reformist line—democracy and League of Nations and nothing further; in the democratic countries allied with the Soviet Union the workers must defend their

fatherland. Beck warned against substituting the alternatives of "Dictatorship vs. Democracy" for "Socialism vs. Capitalism" as the basic concepts of the movement. He declared in favor of the capture of power by the working class in case of a war, but at the same time urged support for a war if it were against fascist countries. Under all circumstances, he ended, it is necessary to preserve the International.

Belgians Are Left

The opposition was led by the Belgian delegates. Delbrouck warned about the withdrawal of the Latin countries, who, he declared, were embittered over Scandinavian defeatism, and who were defending the "methods of the other side of the Pyrenees." Godefroid denied, on the basis of the experiences with the Belgian government, that bourgeois democracy meant civil peace. He spoke very sharply against the idea of civil peace. He also opposed permitting the Soviet Union foreign diplomacy to influence the policies of the SYI. He insisted upon a return to Liebknecht's slogan: "The main enemy is at home."

The right wing also spoke militantly. Wallenstein, Sweden, threatened with a split from the right. He declared that the Swedes would sooner leave the SYI than work with the communists. The resolution proposed by the right-wing leadership was finally adopted, with the Belgian, French, Lettish and Russian delegations voting against it.

Unity Is Issue

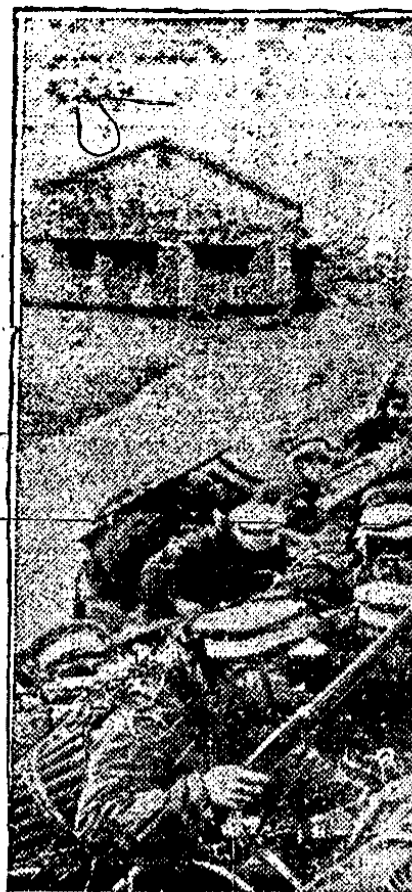
The question of the unity of the labor movement was another issue bitterly debated. Cochoy, France, and Hansen, Denmark, were the reporters. Cochoy defended the united front in France and demanded that the SYI adopt a course toward organizational unity with the communists on a national and international scale. Hansen spoke against fascism and communism, for culture and humanity. Cooperation with the communists he declared to be impossible as long as they were in favor of dictatorship. A resolution in favor of negotiating with the Communist Youth International was introduced by the Belgian, French, Austrian, Polish, Danzig, Russian and Lettish delegations. No action was taken on it, however, as it was finally unanimously decided to await the action of the LSI on this question. The negotiations in individual countries were given semi-approval, however, and it was declared that the SYI would follow the lead of the LSI. The individual leagues are to follow the lead of their respective parties.

Hansen Elected

The differences in the Congress were also reflected in the elections. Vorrink, who had been elected chairman of the Dutch Social-democracy party, did not run for re-election as chairman of the SYI, and H. C. Hansen of Denmark was elected chairman.

In general, the Congress accomplished very little. The lead which the revolutionary Socialist youth had a right to expect was not forthcoming. No adequate answer was given to the many problems which the movement faces. The Congress showed itself incapable of assuming leadership over the youth in the fight against war and fascism and for Socialism. Partially responsible

NIPPON'S



With war clouds hanging in the air, extensive war-rehearsals. Sold eyes," a new invention enabling

The Role Of Farmer-Labor

This is the last of a series of Socialist Party members, by Glen articles have discussed various phases

This is the final article on Farmer-Labor problems based upon a questionnaire sent to active party workers throughout the country. Before taking up the problems remaining let us summarize what has gone before. Only fourteen per cent of my correspondents believed that the Socialist Party could become the majority party in time to avert fascism or capitalist collapse. Ninety per cent believed that we should join a genuine Farmer-Labor Party.

The minimum requirements for "genuineness" were that such a party make a complete break with the Republican and Democratic Parties, and start life as a democratic federation of worker-farmer organizations, having at least a class program with worker-control of the means of production as a final goal, and providing adequate machinery for control and discipline of elected officials.

Our Major Objective

Three quarters of those answering felt the party should work now for such a federation; a majority felt that this should be our major immediate objective. Most felt that we should take an active role in initiating a Farm-Labor federation while at the same time we should avoid making it appear a purely Socialist affair. The alternative to our initiative was third capitalist, potential fascist, or "pure and simple" trade union initiative. Any of these would be a set-back to the true interest of the working class.

Once in, our role would be that of "guardian angel" and "ginger group" educating and leading toward a realistic attack on the problems of the working class. Our recruiting within the federation would be directed toward in-

for this is also the fact that the left-wing was unprepared and unorganized. These shortcomings will have to be overcome if the SYI is to really fulfill its function as the organizer of the youth of the world.