THE FIFTH R.I.L.U. CONGRESS APPROACHES

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This is the second installment of an article on problems and tasks of the R.I.L.U. which must be discussed at the coming world congress. In the first installment, Losovsky told of the Fourth Congress as a historic turning point of revolutionary trade union movement, from which an upsurge started. He criticized some right wing deviations, and pointed to the great importance given union organization by the Bolshevik Party even during czarist times. It ends with a discussion of the movement in Latin America and Pacific coast countries.

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The Fifth Red International of Labor Unions Congress will take place in conditions of the developing forward surge of the labor movement. With regard to the upsurge, the Trotskyites and Right Opportunists have, as is well known, their special stand. They are of the opinion that the upsurge has been "invented" in Moscow, especially for the purpose of spiting Brandler, Trotzky and Co.

No one issue of the opposition papers in France of the "Verité," La Lutte des Classes," "La Revolution Proletarienne," or the "Opposition Bulletin" issued by Trotzky; no issue of the Lovestone paper in the U.S.A. or the organ of the Rights in Sweden and the papers of the German Rights and so-called "Lefts," which should not attack precisely the basic line of the Comintern regarding the upsurge which has now started, although this upsurge is today an indisputable fact, and it is rather difficult to argue against facts. A characteristic peculiarity of the present stage in the development of the international labor movement consists in the upsurge being evidenced everywhere, though not alike in all countries.

There are two examples which emphasize the correctness of the line taken by the Comintern and R.I.L.U. in connection with this question. In telegrams received from Australia, we see that the miners have set up two self-defense corps. These self-defense corps are called in the bourgeois press "the Red Army." One of the corps consists, according to the papers, of 400 persons, and the other of 350. However, also another figure is named—2,000 members of the self-defense corps. Some of the bourgeois papers speak of two armies, numbering 8,000 and 6,000 persons. Hence, without the aid of the Communist Party, the workers themselves in Australia—in New South Wales—are organizing, under the leadership of some of the ex-soldiers, former soldiers in the imperialist war, self-defense corps. And for what purpose? In order to struggle against the "Labor" Government. Facts of a partisan war in such a far-off country like Australia, bear witness to a great deal.

The Correct Line.

Here is another fact, already from another angle, speaking of the correctness of our policy in Germany. The Opportunist Evert sent a declaration to the Central Committee of the German Communist Party in which he completely recognizes his mistakes and incorrect policy: both in connection with the question on the general line of the Party. On the trade union question, with regard to his stand toward the factory committee elections, concerning the question of he upward surge, etc. What does this mean? It means that the upsurge has even been recognized by the most backward elements. At one time the bourgeois and social-democratic press, having heard of the capitulation of Bukharin, Rykov and Tomsky, wrote that the latter were "compelled" to capitulate by means of threats, in view of the fact that there is "terror" reigning in the U.S.S.R., that there is a dictatorship here. But what forces the opportunists to capitulate in Germany? Why, over there there is the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie! It is clear they capitulate because facts go against them. The meaningless and slanderous explanations of the Right opportunists to the effect that our Rights and conciliators capitulated "because of fear," tell nothing. But, on the other hand, the fact of capitulation of the conciliators in Germany prove clearly and vividly that the correct line of the Communist International compels those who do not desire to break with the revolutionary labor movement, at least today to come out frankly and honestly admitting their mistakes. I believe that this fact, taken from altogether a different view, also bears witness to the upsurge and relentless class struggle.

Agenda of the Fifth Congress.

The Fifth R.I.L.U. Congress, as I said above, is confronted with the task of, on the one hand, summing up the past battles, and on the other, to point out forms and methods for the future struggle.

The agenda of the Fifth R.I.L.U. Congress is not very extensive: (1) Report of Executive Bureau and Tasks of the International Women Workers' Trade Union Committee, the R.I.L.U. Youth Secretariat, and the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers (2) Struggle against danger of new imperialists wars. (3) Role of the Trade Unions in the Socialist Construction of the U.S.S.R. (4) Tasks of the Trade Unions in the Colonial and Semi-Colonial Countries. (5) Problem of Cadres in the Revolutionary Labor Movement. (6) Elections.

It seems as if the agenda is "short." In actual fact, however, it embraces a vast number of questions, it embraces all political and organizational problems of the world revolutionary trade union movement; the results of the work carried out by our trade union organizations from the point of view of self-criticism; results of the development of the labor movement; our victories and defeats from the point of view of taking the lead in the economic battles; forms and methods of winning over the majority of the working class; experience in solving the problems of the united front from below at the enterprises; the question regarding the organization and activities of the factory committees, revolutionary trade union delegates; the problem of the mass political strike, of organizing Red trade unions, the work of the revolutionary oppositions, methods and forms of organization.

We will have to pay particular attention to the different manifestations of the Right deviation and conciliation in practice which have been evidenced within our ranks, inasmuch as the Right deviation and conciliation in theory and practice, during the course of these last two years, were sharply resisted by us. Then follows our work in the colonial countries, the question of activities of the U.S.S.R. trade unions in the field of the Socialist reconstruction of the U.S.S.R. national economy, forms and methods of organizing the unemployed, work in countries with an illegal trade union movement, combination of the illegal, legal and semi-legal forms and methods of struggle, the problem of cadres—in a word, the joining up of all political and organizational problems confronting the world trade union movement—such are the questions embraced by the agenda of the Fifth R.I.L.U. Congress.

Disputable Questions.

There are a number of disputable questions which, of course, should be decided upon by the Fifth R.I.L.U. Congress:

1. Is it necessary to preserve in such countries like Germany, England, Poland, etc. the slogan: "Workers, line up in the reformist trade unions?"

2. Now is it necessary to organize trade union oppositions in such countries like Germany, England, Austria; are the present organizational forms of the trade union opposition sufficient in conditions of the ever-increasing class struggles and the provocative actions of the social-fascists?

3. How should the unorganized be organized in those countries where there are no devolutionary trade unions; should the unorganized workers be called upon to line up in the reformist trade unions, should they be joined up with the trade union oppositions, and if so, on what basis?

4. Has the question of setting up new trade unions in such countries like, for example—Germany, become ripe? If so, how should this be accomplished?

5. What is social-fascism, and to what degree have the reformist trade unions been fascisized?

6. Should the slogan be used of "winning over the reformist trade unions," or should this slogan be dialectically taken off and instead another slogan issued: "to win over the members of the reformist trade unions," which means, of course, to continue to work inside the reformist trade unions.

I have only enumerated those basic questions which will be subject to preliminary detailed analysis by us.

However, the principal thing in preparing for the Fifth Congress is to lead these preparations out of the premises of the central organs, to make these preparations widespread among the masses, to make it the common knowledge of the workers that the Fifth Congress is approaching, and that the questions on the agenda of the Congress be really widely discussed at the workers mass meetings.

The "Young Worker" and Our Immediate Tasks

By SAM REED.

OUR League has recently demonstrated that it is capable of doing Communist work, and of building the organization. On March 6, on May 1, as well as in other campaigns in recent months the League has played a leading role.

The establishment of the Weekly Young Worker must be considered as an outstanding achievement of our League.

However, the gap between our organizational strength and our influence is as yet too wide. The Young Communist League is not yet rooted in the factories and shops. It is not even known yet among the broad masses of young workers. As one of the best means to further extend our influence and our organizational strength, is to build up the Young Worker as the paper of the masses of youth in industry. When the young workers read our paper they will learn more about the class struggle of the role of the youth in that struggle, and the part played by our League in leading the young workers in the fight against the bosses. Hence, by building up of the circulation and influence of the Young Worker, we are laying the ground for the building up of our Young Communist League as a mass youth organization.

The drive to establish the Weekly Young Worker which has started on March 1, has revealed some very serious weaknesses in our work, weaknesses which we must overcome if we are to complete the drive successfully, and maintain the Young Worker as a weekly. What are the shortcomings in ouur work so far?

First of all there seems to be a general underestimation of the political importance of the Young Worker as a medium of reaching the American proletarian youth. Our membership does not yet understand that as a means of crystallizing the present growing discontent (due to the effects of the economic crisis, unemployment, speed-up, etc.) among the young workers must be made into a mass organ, as