

ACCEPTING THE Y. C. I. DECISION DIPLOMATICALLY

By SHACHTMAN.

THE membership meetings of a number of Young Workers League units throuout the country on the recent sessions of the executive committee of the Young Communist International have already given an opportunity to draw a balance as to the position of the membership as a whole, the supporters of the national executive committee, and the opponents of the latter: the minority.

The results of the Chicago, Philadelphia and Baltimore meetings have already been announced. The other meetings, carried by the supporters of the minority are as follows: Boston 29 for the minority and 27 for the national committee; New York (total of all meetings) 238 for the minority and 91 for the national committee; Newark, unanimous for the N. E. C.

What was the basis upon which the minority comrades introduced resolutions in opposition to those of the supporters of the N. E. C.? What were the arguments presented to justify their "diplomatic" acceptance of the Y. C. I. decisions, and their virtual ignoring of one of the most vital points contained in it?

I pointed out in a previous article that the minority (composed mainly of the leaders of the New York district) centered their attack against the N. E. C. upon what they wrote was the complete incompetence of that committee, the fact that it had drawn the league into a swamp of stagnation, that it was absolutely incapable of leading the organization. As their document presented at the New York membership meeting in January proved ONLY A SMALL PART OF IT WAS DEVOTED TO THE QUESTION OF THE LABOR PARTY!

Now, having had their criticisms of the N. E. C. decisively and unmistakably rejected by the Y. C. I. they make the attempt to switch the entire question solely and exclusively to the controversy of the labor party. It is beyond a doubt true that the political line of the movement is of supreme importance, and we shall thoroly discuss that point when the discussion is officially opened, and then compare our position with that taken by the minority. But we must continue to point out that the attempt to forget, or push into a mere nothing, the points on which the minority made their main struggle throuout the

League against the N. E. C., will not be permitted.

In the minority resolutions now being presented, a number of further sharp attacks are made upon the national committee, to which we shall briefly reply:

1. The League's educational work in N. Y. was turned over to the party. A slight exaggeration! The league work was turned over to a sub-committee of the league in New York, so as to obviate conflicts with the party courses which often ran parallel with these of the league. This committee is now working and has already prepared a series of courses (see another part of this issue) to be conducted for league members. The anger of the comrades of the minority is simply that the N. E. C. removed from their hands work which they were making use of for the interests of their particular faction. Nothing else.

2. The dissolution of the district Jewish propaganda committee, and in connection with this charge the most vicious and unfounded slanders are made against some of the best comrades in this eld of work, while others are lauded to the blue heavens. Here also, the D. J. P. C. was a factional instrument which was sabotaging the N. J. P. C.'s work because it supported the N. E. C. In fact, the minority made the astounding charge that the N. J. P. C. was a tool in the hands of the N. E. C.! What else should an appointed committee be if not a tool, an insturment of the national committee for carrying out work on a certain field. It is humorous, to consider this question. It seems that it was only yesterday that the comrades of the minority, in particular Zam and Stachel, were furious in their denunciations of comrades like Dunchin and Glass for their terrible non-Communist, cultural and nationalistic tendencies. Zam launched one volley after another wherever he could find space or listeners. Today, these two comrades are supporting the minority. Having come under this magician's wand, they are transformed into kosher, super-Communist Leninists having "a uniform revolutionary ideology" and belonging to the select "Leninist cadres" of the minority, who are spitting in the face of the most elemental principles of Leninism. Incidentally, the D. E. C.

has abolished the city committee and organization because the district committee can function for both. Why cannot a national propaganda committee, working in New York, function also for a district propaganda committee, as a "tool" of the N. E. C.

3. The talk of a split in the New York organization. It was not we who spoke of it, my dear indignant comrades, but the comrades of the minority in Moscow who began an hysterical communication to the C. I. with the words: "We must call the attention of the American commission to the growing danger of a split in the American party."

4. The decision to suspend the bulletin of New York. It was Comrade Stachel himself who told Comrade Carlson when the latter was eastern representative of the N. E. C. that there would be no use for a bulletin, and that he would be willing to suspend it, if the activities of the New York league received a certain amount of space in The Young Worker. This proposal was accepted. No attempt to turn this blade into a factional weapon will succeed.

5. The demand to withdraw Williamson from New York. As a piece of self-sufficiency and provincialism, this has few equals. The comrades of the Y. C. I. were the ones to suggest to us that upon our return—we were criticized for nat having done so before—we should send one of our most capable comrades into the East in order to work together with the eastern comrades for the improvement and intensification of the mass activity and for the liquidation of remnants of factionalism and lack of co-operation and harmohy. We did send one of our best comrades, one who has had a great deal of practical experience, and who is, besides, a member of the executive committee of the Young Communist International: Comrade Williamson. The series of humiliations, discourtesies, sabotage, open opposition, and even threats of personal violence he encountered from the comrades of the minority have never been equalled and will not serve to enhance their prestige or add to the weight or sincerity of their arguments. Yes, even after the New York league has entered into the stage of mass activity, due to the constant pressure of the Y. C. I. and its American "tool," the N. E. C. of

the Young Workers League, we still find them making errors in the manner of conducting this work. Do the minority comrades or leaders attempt to co-operate with the representative of the N. E. C. to ask his opinion on moot questions, or work in the necessary spirit of harmony? On the contrary. On Williamson's head is heaped the most vicious personal abuse, the most unscrupulous and vindictive tales are spread about him and the national committee, and he finds himself in a position where he must make a fight to obtain even the use of a desk in the office of the New York league!

This is the type of argument which is used by the comrades of the minority to cover their rejection of the decision of the Y. C. I. It states quite clearly in that document the criticisms of the minority are REJECTED and that the Y. C. I. can have complete confidence in the N. E. C. and that it is convinced of the ability of the national committee to lead the league, not only now but also in the future in accordance with the lines laid down in the decisions of the Y. C. I. and of the C. I. But nowhere in the resolutions presented by the minority at the membership meetings now being held do we find a single word about endorsing that part of the decision reached by our international leadership after careful deliberation and study. This decisive point in the decision is COMPLETELY IGNORED. Why? Because the minority does not accept that part of the decision. And, when pressed, especially in private conversations, the reply is that the Y. C. I. is correct in general, but it has not sufficient information about America! This gets concrete expression in the rumor which the minority persistently spread to the effect that they would send their representative across in order to inform the Y. C. I. How well this resembles the arguments that used to be made by the Proletarian Party and, once on a time, by the Socialist Party, that the Communist International knew what it was doing, but that it did not have sufficient information on America when it recognized the Communist Party as its only section in this country.

Not for nothing did the recently published letter from the E. C.: Y. C. I. on the end of the fractional strug-

gle speak of "especially the minority" when it referred to the ending of fractionalism in the league. . .

We again make the demand that the minority recognize the decisions of the Y. C. I.—not with diplomatic phrases, nor by clever evasions, but by actual and wholehearted acceptance of the spirit and letter of that document. No screen of smoke however black, can succeed in covering the clear, illuminating statement of the Younf Communist International.

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