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# YPSL Split in New York:

## 11 Left Wing DEC Leaders are Expelled

### [events of Aug. 13-20, 1937]

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Acting in combination with the right wing, the Clarity caucus moved the expulsion of 11 left wingers at the August 20 [1937] meeting of the District Executive Committee of the New York Young Peoples Socialist League. Each of these 11, among whom were three members of the DEC ([Hal] Draper, Garrett, Herman), were charged with selling the *Socialist Appeal*. Similar charges were to be brought against every member of the Youth Appeal Association in New York.

After the vote, in which by prearrangement Clarity and the right wing united, the left wing members of the Committee arose and declared that by its illegal action, the DEC had ceased to be a legal body and become a body no longer representing the majority of the League membership. As representatives of the larger section of the New York YPSL, the left wing of the Committee constituted itself as a Provisional New York District Executive Committee which would function until such time as a new committee could be regularly elected. All circles and members have been informed that the Clarity-right wing caucus DEC continues only in rump session, and that its decisions are not binding upon any member of the League.

### **Expelled on False Pretext.**

While the left wing has formally been charged with selling the *Appeal*, the motive for Clarity's disruption of the League are quite different. Legally, any member of the League or Party has every right to sell the *Appeal*. No less a right than the Militants had in the fight against the Old Guard to sell the *Socialist Call*; no less a right than Clarity has to sell its own factional organ, the *Socialist Call* of today. Clarity had a dual motive — to carry out [Jack] Altman's campaign

where Altman could not himself wage it; to scotch a left wing majority at the National Convention of the YPSL.

When the Clarity-right wing bloc dropped the four Yipsels from League membership on Altman's demand after they had been rejected for Party membership, it set a precedent for illegal actions of this kind. However, the same formula could not be used in the instance of those who had been expelled from the Party by the Altman machine. Altman had stepped brutally upon Clarity's bunions in order to guarantee his two-thirds majority, and the Clarity caucus had cried out in pain that the expulsion was an illegal act, and not to be recognized by the Party membership. Though a section of the Clarity caucus, as revealed elsewhere in this issue, favored a change in its position on the expulsions, a majority prevailed against. But expel the left from the YPSL they must. Altman demands it. Clarity itself demanded it in the interest of securing by hook and by crook an anti-Appeal majority at the National Convention.

### **Whole Left Wing Involved.**

A meeting of the DEC called for August 13 was deliberately sabotaged by Clarity. A formula had not as yet been found. That formula was discovered at a stormy session of the Clarity caucus on August 16. Charges involving every single Appealite, and many who are not members of the *Appeal*, were presented against the eleven on August 17, with a supplementary list held in abeyance for one week. On August 20 the expulsion vote was cast. Hardly a day wasted!

Thus, it can no longer be said that Clarity is *moving* towards a split. More correctly, Clarity, with its right wing ballast, has split the YPSL. The attempted expulsion, for it can only be an *attempt* to expel the League majority, climaxes a series of crimes against League democracy which would require columns to detail. Beginning with a vicious inner-caucus document directed against the *Appeal* some 5 or 6 months ago, Clarity has committed repeated acts of bureaucratic violence against the *Appeal* youth group, and consequently against the overwhelming bulk of the national League membership. These acts comprise in their totality a veritable Black Book. In many instances, so desperate is their anti-left wing campaign, they have shamed Altman with their methods. Not even Altman would have dared to rescind out of hand a referendum that had been constitutionally demanded on the dropping of the four Yipsels.

Their methods are air-tight. First, they try to expel 200 or more members of the New York League. Next, they plan to suspend the whole state of California, which it undoubtedly will now that the California [adult] Party has been suspended. Between times they use their control of the apparatus to inflate their support. They cheat, or try to, one circle after another out of its proper representation. Then they come to the national convention, “confident” of a majority — if they can first guarantee the support of the right by taking severe enough measures against the left. Finally, they delude themselves with the vain hope that the Appealites will be damn fools and revolutionary weaklings who do not utter a word of protest.

How they reckon without their host! Behind the *Appeal* stands the national League membership. As daily the revolutionary elements in Clarity’s ranks, disgusted with the capitulatory antics of its caucus leadership, join hands with the *Appeal*, that majority becomes more crushing. No more than the left wing tolerated disruptive tactics of the New York DEC, will the national League membership abide the machinations of the Clarity-right wing caucus. Expel, cheat, lie as that combination may, the League membership will be represented in Philadelphia in its proper proportions. And its revolutionary will will be done.

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

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