
Manifesto to Socialist Youth.

Adopted by the Reorganizational Conference of the New York Young People's Socialist League, September 5 & 6, 1920.

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The YPSL of the State of New York, in general conference assembled, reaffirms its allegiance to the principles and aims of international Socialism, the Socialist Party of America, and the Socialist Party of the State of New York.

The national convention of the Socialist Party [New York: May 8-14, 1920] has completed its labors. With regard to the YPSL, the convention took the following stand in part:

The work among the young in the national field shall be under the jurisdiction and direction of the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party.

The state convention took a similar stand.

A little history will suffice to show the reasons for the stands the two conventions took. About six years ago the Socialist Party, at the request of a few young comrades, organized the Young People's Socialist League. The work ran along smoothly, and an organization was built up which was feared and hated by the capitalist class. The party spent thousands of dollars on organization work and on *The Young Socialists' Magazine*, asking nothing in return save an increased interest in international Socialism. Then came the split in the Socialist movement. A few of the younger comrades, influenced by the older ones, who were opposed to the Socialist Party, tried to bring the party differences into the YPSL. Instantaneously, the YPSL was turned into a battleground, where the whole "Left Wing" controversy took up the time of the organization. Instead of fighting capitalism, the comrades fought themselves.

A few members, seeing the harm that was done to the organization, took the position of neutrality. They formed an "Independent YPSL," but this "independence" was merely a guise under which a group of Communist leaders could put through their aims. The organization was independent in name only, but not in fact. The denunciation of the Socialist Party by the leaders of this so-called "Independent YPSL" is enough evidence of this. Those who were sincere in independence have failed; you know they have failed. The YPSL was not intact, it was not unified, it was not saved. The experiment has been a failure largely because those who are opposed to the Socialist Party refused to let the Yipsels solve their own problems.

A few members saw that this "independence" idea would lead to the ruin and disruption it actually did lead to. They took up the work on the basis of affiliation with the Socialist Party and have to a great extent succeeded in reviving the dead organization. We of the YPSL of New York State, in conference, reaffirm this attitude and declare that it is intention to remain affiliated with the Socialist Party. We heartily endorse the action of the national convention of the Socialist Party in this matter, and also that of the New York State Convention of the Socialist Party. We hail the nomination of Eugene V. Debs and Seymour Stedman as an inspiration to the youth of America and pledge our utmost support to the national campaign.

Yipsels! We call upon you to respond to the call for unity by the Prisoner of Atlanta [Debs]. Join with us in a united Socialist movement. Down with fragmentary independent organizations! Long live a unified Socialist movement.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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