
Circular to All District, Sub-District, and Section Organizers of the CPA Regarding the YCL, from Charles Dirba [“C. Dow”], Executive Secretary of the CPA in New York, circa June 6, 1921.

Transcript in DoJ/BoI Investigative Files, NARA collection M-1085, reel 942, file 202600-2265.
Aug. 4, 1921 report filed by Agent F.M. Ames of Pittsburgh, citing a “confidential source.”

Comrades:—

The 2nd Congress of the Young Communist International is meeting this week in Moscow.† The delegate sent to this Congress by the UCP to represent the Young Communist League of America [Oliver Carlson] reports that the YCL has been recognized officially as part of the International of Communist Youth, affiliated with the Communist International.

The Young Communist League, which we inherited from the UCP, consists of about 20 groups in half a dozen of the largest cities. The CEC has decided to give this YCL energetic support. The comrade whose signature appears below [=???] has been elected to act as National Secretary for the YCL until a national YCL convention is held.‡ Two members from the nuclei that the CP had formed within the Independent YPSL have been added to the Executive Committee of the YCL. All members of these nuclei are to join the YCL at once.

A National Convention of the YCL will be called as soon as the International YCL delegate returns, but there is no need to wait until then with the organizational work. Underground groups of the YCL should be started wherever possible at once. Only they will

be entitled to participate in the YCL convention.§

Please report at once what the prospects are in your jurisdiction for the immediate organization of underground YCL groups. YCL members need not be Party members if not of age, but they must of course all be safe.

If there are such prospects, then send good cover address for the BEST one, through Party channels, so that the YCL Secretary may communicate directly. Also keep in personal touch with the young people, and assist them to organize their group, if they are ripe for it.

The success of the revolution tomorrow will depend very largely upon the work done among the Young People today. Do your duty in regard to the YCL. It is one of the greatest services that you can perform for the Communist movement.

Yours for Communism,

C. Dow [Charles Dirba],
Executive Sec. per Carr [Katterfeld].

[Signature of YCL Secretary.]

†- After an abortive effort to hold a 2nd Congress of the YCI in Jena and Berlin in April 1921, a 2nd Congress of the YCI bearing the Comintern's cachet was held in Moscow, beginning Thursday, June 9, 1921, and running through June 23.

‡- By 1922, former YPSL leader Oliver Carlson was serving as the provisional Secretary of the YCL. Since he is known to have been in Sweden attending a convention of the Swedish Young Communists in Stockholm on May 1921, it is presumed that Carlson proceeded to Moscow and was the American delegate “H. Edwards” to the 2nd Convention of the YCI in Moscow in June of that same year. Since he was out of the country, it is highly unlikely that he would have been the YCL signatory to the current document.

§- The founding convention of the YCL was not held until early in May 1922 — 11 months after the transmission of this circular.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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