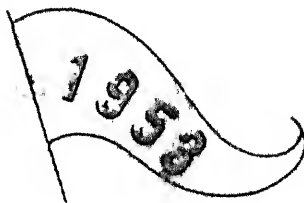


CONSTITUTION
OF THE
SOCIALIST
YOUTH
LEAGUE



1953

CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIALIST YOUTH LEAGUE

ARTICLE I NAME

THIS ORGANIZATION SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE SOCIALIST YOUTH LEAGUE, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE SYL.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

THE PURPOSE OF THE SYL IS TO BRING THE POLITICS AND PROGRAM OF SOCIALISM AND MARXIST EDUCATION TO YOUNG WORKERS AND STUDENTS; TO MAKE THEM CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED FOR ORGANIZATION DIRECTED TOWARD THE ABOLITION OF CAPITALISM AND BUREAUCRATIC COLLECTIVISM (STALINISM) AND THEIR REPLACEMENT BY A DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST SOCIETY.

ARTICLE III AFFILIATION

THE SYL IS AN ORGANIZATIONALLY AUTONOMOUS AFFILIATE OF THE INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE. THE PROGRAM AND AIMS OF THE SYL SHALL BE IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF THE ISL. POLITICAL DISPUTES BETWEEN SYL UNITS AND BRANCHES OF THE ISL SHALL BE REVIEWED BY THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF THE SYL AND FINAL DECISION RESTS WITH THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE ISL.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. THE MINIMUM POLITICAL REQUIREMENT FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SYL IS AGREEMENT WITH THE AIM OF BUILDING A DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST SOCIETY.

SECTION 2. EVERY MEMBER MUST BELONG TO THE UNIT IN HIS VICINITY AND WHERE NO SUCH UNIT EXISTS HE SHALL BE GIVEN THE STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP-AT-LARGE UNTIL SUCH A UNIT HAS BEEN

FORMED. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY CAN BE TAKEN ONLY WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL BURO.

SECTION 3. WHERE A UNIT EXISTS, APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP SHALL BE ACCEPTED BY A VOTE OF THE UNIT. WHEN NO UNIT EXISTS, A PERSON MAY JOIN AS A MEMBER-AT-LARGE. APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP-AT-LARGE STATUS SHALL BE VOTED ON BY THE NATIONAL BURO.

SECTION 4. ALL MEMBERS OF THE SYL SHALL ORIENT TOWARD JOINING THE ISL.

ARTICLE V ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1. FIVE OR MORE MEMBERS IN ANY LOCALE, UPON APPLICATION TO THE NATIONAL BURO, MAY BE CHARTERED AND KNOWN AS A "UNIT".

SECTION 2. WHERE MORE THAN ONE UNIT EXISTS IN ANY LOCALE, A DISTRICT ORGANIZATION MAY, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL BURO, BE SET UP WITH A DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTED BY A DISTRICT CONVENTION. WHEN SO ELECTED IT SHALL BE THE HIGHEST GOVERNING BODY FOR THAT AREA.

SECTION 3. IN GEOGRAPHICALLY LARGER AREAS, A REGIONAL COMMITTEE MAY BE SET UP SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE BURO. BETWEEN REGIONAL CONVENTIONS IT SHALL BE THE HIGHEST GOVERNING BODY FOR THAT AREA.

ARTICLE VI NATIONAL CONVENTION

SECTION 1. THE HIGHEST GOVERNING BODY OF THE SYL IS ITS NATIONAL CONVENTION.

SECTION 2. THE NATIONAL CONVENTION SHALL BE HELD AT LEAST ONCE EVERY TWO YEARS, PREFER-

ABLY FOLLOWING THE CONVENTION OF THE ISL.

SECTION 3. A SPECIAL CONVENTION MAY BE CALLED BY A MAJORITY OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OR BY TWO-FIFTHS OF THE UNITS WITH AT LEAST ONE-THIRD OF THE MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 4. THE CONVENTION CALL, INCLUDING AGENDA AND RULES OF THE CONVENTION AND PROPOSALS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE, MUST BE SENT OUT THREE MONTHS BEFORE THE DATE OF THE CONVENTION.

SECTION 5. ALL RULES GOVERNING A CONVENTION NOT DEFINED IN THE CONSTITUTION SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BY THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN ITS CONVENTION CALL.

SECTION 6. ONLY MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE FOR DELEGATES. VOTING SHALL TAKE PLACE ON A UNIT BASIS AND EACH UNIT SHALL ELECT ONE DELEGATE FOR A GIVEN NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING OR MAJOR FRACTION THEREOF. THE NUMBER IS TO BE SPECIFIED BY THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN ITS CONVENTION CALL. UNITS MAY ELECT ALTERNATES TO THE CONVENTION.

SECTION 7. IN A UNIT ENTITLED TO ONE DELEGATE, THE DELEGATE SHALL BE THE PERSON WITH THE HIGHEST VOTE. IN A UNIT ENTITLED TO TWO DELEGATES, A MINORITY CANDIDATE WHO RECEIVES ONE-THIRD OF THE VOTES SHALL BE ELECTED AS A DELEGATE; IN A UNIT ENTITLED TO THREE DELEGATES, A MINORITY WHICH RECEIVES A QUARTER OF THE VOTES SHALL BE ENTITLED TO ELECT A SINGLE DELEGATE; IN A UNIT ENTITLED TO FOUR DELEGATES, A MINORITY WHICH RECEIVES ONE FIFTH OF THE VOTES SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO ELECT ONE DELEGATE, AND TWO-FIFTHS OF THE VOTES SHALL ENTITLE IT TO TWO DELEGATES.

ARTICLE VII NATIONAL COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. BETWEEN NATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND SUBJECT TO THEIR DECISIONS, THERE SHALL BE A NATIONAL COMMITTEE WHICH HAS VESTED IN IT THE AUTHORITY OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION BY WHICH IT WAS ELECTED.

SECTION 2. THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE SHALL MEET AT LEAST TWICE BETWEEN CONVENTIONS.

SECTION 3. THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE SHALL CONSIST OF _____ (NUMBER AND _____ (NUMBER) ALTERNATES TO FILL VACANCIES ON THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN AN ORDER DECIDED UPON BY THE NATIONAL CONVENTION. THE NATIONAL CONVENTION SHALL ELECT ALL MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES TO THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

SECTION 4. ELECTIONS TO THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE SHALL BE BY MODIFIED PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION WITH THE LIMITATION THAT A MINORITY IS TO RECEIVE AS A MAXIMUM TWO-FIFTHS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE, SUBJECT TO UPWARD REVISION BY THE CONVENTION.

SECTION 5. MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE CAN BE SUSPENDED FROM THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE AND/OR SYL MEMBERSHIP BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE, PENDING FINAL DECISION BY THE NATIONAL CONVENTION. A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE CAN BE EXPELLED FROM THE SYL ONLY BY THE NATIONAL CONVENTION.

SECTION 6. ALL MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO ATTEND AND SPEAK AT MEETINGS OF LOWER BODIES OF THE SYL.

SECTION 7. MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE SHALL BE FRATERNAL DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION, WITH VOICE BUT

No vote.

SECTION 8. THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE SHALL ELECT A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ISL NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

ARTICLE VIII NATIONAL BURO

SECTION 1. THE NATIONAL BURO SHALL CONSIST OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE. THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE SHALL SELECT NATIONAL BURO MEMBERS IN TERMS OF PRESERVING THE SAME RATIO THAT EXISTS BETWEEN MAJORITY AND MINORITY ON THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE, AS FAR AS THIS IS POSSIBLE. ANY MINORITY WITH ONE-FIFTH OF THE VOTES OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION SHALL BE ENTITLED TO REPRESENTATION ON THE NATIONAL BURO. A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE SHALL BE RECOGNIZED AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL BURO.

SECTION 2. THE NATIONAL BURO SHALL CONDUCT THE NATIONAL POLITICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIRS OF THE SYL BETWEEN CONVENTIONS, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

SECTION 3. A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL BURO SHALL BE ELECTED BY THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO THE POST OF NATIONAL SECRETARY. THE NATIONAL SECRETARY SHALL BE IN CHARGE OF AFFAIRS RELATED TO THE FUNCTIONING OF THE NATIONAL OFFICE AND SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL BURO.

ARTICLE IX REFERENDUMS

SECTION 1. BETWEEN CONVENTIONS A DECISION OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE CAN BE OVERRULED BY A NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP REFERENDUM. REFERENDUMS SHALL BE DECIDED BY MAJORITY VOTE.

SECTION 2. INITIATIVE FOR A REFERENDUM CAN BE MADE BY ONE-THIRD OF THE MEMBERSHIP OR TWO-FIFTHS OF THE SYL UNITS.

ARTICLE X DEMOCRACY AND DISCIPLINE

SECTION 1. THE SYL SHALL BE BASED UPON THE FULLEST INTERNAL DEMOCRACY COMBINED WITH LOYAL UNITY OF ACTION TO EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT DECISIONS ADOPTED BY AUTHORIZED BODIES OF THE SYL.

SECTION 2. THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IS TO PROVIDE FOR A YEAR-ROUND DISCUSSION BULLETIN IN WHICH DIVERGENT POLITICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL VIEWS OF MEMBERS CAN RECEIVE FULL EXPRESSION.

SECTION 3. A UNIT MUST PROVIDE MEMBERS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THEIR VIEWS ON ORGANIZATIONAL AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS BEFORE THE MEMBERSHIP. THE EXACT FREQUENCY OF SUCH DISCUSSION MEETINGS IS LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE UNITS.

SECTION 4. THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IS TO PROVIDE FOR A SPECIAL THREE MONTH PRE-CONVENTION DISCUSSION PERIOD.

SECTION 5. MEMBERS WHOSE DUES ARE THREE MONTHS IN ARREARS ARE AUTOMATICALLY SUSPENDED FROM THE SYL; THOSE WHO ARE SIX MONTHS IN ARREARS ARE AUTOMATICALLY DROPPED FROM MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 6. CHARGES OF VIOLATION OF DISCIPLINE OR ACTIVITY HARMFUL TO THE SOCIALIST CAUSE, MADE AGAINST AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER, MUST BE MADE IN WRITING. THE INDIVIDUAL SO CHARGED IS ENTITLED TO A TRIAL BEFORE A COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF MEMBERS OF HIS UNIT, AND ELECTED BY IT. THE TRIAL COMMITTEE WILL BRING IN A RECOMMENDATION TO THE UNIT FOR

FINAL ACTION. A TWO-THIRDS VOTE IS NECESSARY FOR EXPULSION; A MAJORITY VOTE IS NECESSARY FOR SUSPENSION OR CENSURE.

SECTION 7. ALL MEMBERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO APPEAL TO HIGHER BODIES OF THE SYL UP TO AND INCLUDING THE NATIONAL CONVENTION. A MAJORITY DECISION OF ANY HIGHER BODY IS NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN OR OVERRULE THE DECISION OF A LOWER BODY. THE DECISION OF THE CONVENTION SHALL BE FINAL.

SECTION 8. A MEMBER OF A COMMITTEE ELECTED BY A NATIONAL, REGIONAL OR DISTRICT CONVENTION CAN BE TRIED BY THE COMMITTEE OF WHICH HE IS A MEMBER OR BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITS IN THE AREA WHICH ELECTED HIM. CHARGES BROUGHT BY ANY AFOREMENTIONED COMMITTEE AGAINST A NON-COMMITTEE MEMBER MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE UNIT TO WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL BELONGS FOR ACTION. A HIGHER BODY OF THE SYL HAS THE RIGHT TO TRY A MEMBER OF ANY LOWER COMMITTEE UNDER ITS JURISDICTION.

SECTION 9. A SUSPENDED MEMBER SHALL NOT HOLD ANY OFFICE OR VOTE IN THE BODY FROM WHICH HE HAS BEEN SUSPENDED BUT HE SHALL HAVE ALL THE OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THAT BODY.

SECTION 10. THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE HAS THE POWER TO EXPEL A UNIT FOR CONDUCT DETRIMENTAL TO THE ORGANIZATION. IN SUCH CASES, ALL UNIT PROPERTY REVERTS TO THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

ARTICLE XI FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

SECTION 1. NEW MEMBERS ARE TO PAY A TWENTY-FIVE CENTS INITIATION FEE TO BE FORWARDED TO THE NATIONAL OFFICE.

SECTION 2. EACH MEMBER IS TO PAY A MINIMUM

OF TEN CENTS A WEEK DUES. MEMBERS CAN BE EX-
EMPTED FROM PAYMENT OF THE MINIMUM DUES WITH
THE APPROVAL OF THE UNIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
IT SHALL BE THE POLICY OF EVERY UNIT TO RE-
VIEW EACH MEMBER'S FINANCIAL STATUS AND TO
ESTABLISH A PLEDGE SYSTEM ABOVE THE MINIMUM
DUES.

SECTION 3. ALL MINIMUM DUES ARE TO BE FOR-
WARDED TO THE NATIONAL OFFICE, AND ALL MONEY
ABOVE THIS SUM SHALL BE RETAINED BY THE LO-
CAL UNIT.

ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENTS MAY BE MADE TO THE CONSTITUTION BY
THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OR IN REFERENDUM VOTE.

ARTICLE XIII PRESS

ALL OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS OF THE SYL ARE SUB-
JECT TO THE DIRECTION OF THE SYL AND THE NA-
TIONAL COMMITTEE.

ARTICLE XIV PARLIAMENTARY RULES

SECTION 1. AT ALL MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS
OF THE SYL ROBERTS' RULES OF ORDER SHALL GO-
VERN PROCEDURE EXCEPT AS SPECIFIED BELOW.

SECTION 2. A SECOND SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED
FOR ANY MOTION AND ALL DECISIONS ARE TO BE BY
MAJORITY VOTE UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED IN
THIS CONSTITUTION.


SECTION 3. THE CHAIRMAN IS TO HAVE THE RIGHT
TO VOICE AND VOTE AT ALL TIMES.

SECTION 4. ON VOTES TO OALL THE QUESTION,
THE NAY VOTE SHALL BE TAKEN FIRST.

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