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# To Work with Young People.

by James M. Reilly †

Published in *The Young Socialists' Magazine* [New York], v. 6, no. 6 (June 1913), pg. 2.

The most important action taken by the National Committee of the Socialist Party at its recent meeting in Chicago [May 1913] was the decision to establish a department in the National Office for the propaganda of Socialism among young people. This department will commence work October 1 [1913].

Heretofore, this work — more important in some respects than any other — has been almost entirely neglected. The result has been that the propaganda among young people has been done in a haphazard manner, and the movement has not obtained results commensurate with the energies expended. The fact that the Party has awakened to the importance of the young people as a factor in our movement is a healthful sign.

It is not the intention of the Party to interfere with any of the young people's Socialist organizations now in existence. The aim is rather to lend assistance and cooperation. No doubt this will result in bringing the various organizations in closer touch with one another, and this will be an advantage.

The department will also be a sort of clearing house for Socialist literature especially suitable for the young.

It will be placed in charge of a comrade who has had experience in such work and who understands the young mind.

For a number of years our German comrades have made efforts to interest the young people in Socialism. It cannot be said that they have been very successful, although some good has been accomplished.

Our Finnish comrades have met with more success. It seems to me that this is because the Germans have left this work to a few individuals, while the Finns have made it a duty of the organization. (The reader will understand that I am referring to the movement in this country.)

We Socialists do not believe in forcing our faith — so to speak — on anyone. We do not wish our children to be Socialists because we are. The true Socialist wants his children to do their own thinking, and of course form their own conclusions.

But we have been so busy with other matters that we have failed to inform our children about our movement as they should be informed if they are to form intelligent opinions regarding it.

This condition, I believe, will be remedied by the establishment of the new department. Our children will know what Socialism means, will understand the significance of the movement, and will be better party members and more effective workers because they have this information. Papers like the *Young Socialists' Magazine*, which have been doing this work unaided, will approve the step which has been taken. It will make their work easier and enable them to increase their usefulness.

I would suggest to those connected with the young people's organizations that they keep in touch constantly with the new department so that both the party and the young people may derive the greatest benefits from it.

†- James M. Reilly was a member of the Socialist Party's National Committee, hailing from Jersey City, New Jersey.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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