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### High-School Students Struggle for a School-reform

High-school students have initiated, some time ago, an important struggle for the reform of schooling-system. The demands are: general assemblies at schools, the right to discuss in public the problems of high-schools. The aim is to contest and change society. The most important notion has been, from the start of the scholastical year the notion of a "general assembly". The high-schools in question - colleges, lyceums, technical institutes - are the previous step before entering the University. That means, five years of schooling, in a system that have remained the same for almost half a century.

The efficacy of the first such movement of students has been admirable; an easy fact to understand, if one considers that at such an age, one doesn't need much stimuli for combativity from the outside.

Even before the schooling activities have initiated, protests, manifestations, strikes and occupations of high-schools have been organized. The school-authorities - sponsors, directors, etc; - respond with expulsions, suspensions and menaces. They even often ask the intervention of the police. In such a difficult atmosphere, the high-school students organize their programme. The mobilization is general: from Palermo to Milano, and from Rome to Cagliari, start actions that touch even the minor centers. While the governmental crisis continues in Italy, the responsible Minister has tried to give a response to the student-leaders. "General assemblies, yes, but with scarce and limited representation, such as not to interfere with the normal procedures of the scholastical-work, and which put, most of the time, the assembly under the direct censorship of presidents and professors. It has been also prohibited to speak on politics. These declarations of the Minister appear almost a challenge, and furthermore, while an other representative of the government has declared the student's-actions as "dirty-and silly-tricks".

Also, the young persons did not accept this minister's response.

The strikes are more frequent and of an admirable solidarity.

During numerous manifestations before the high-schools, the students demonstrate their force. This happens almost everywhere: in Torino, Milano, Genova, Naples and Florence.

In Rome there have been more than 50,000 of them at the streets. They have challenged the police, which one day only before, have shot dead two workers in Sicily. The students manifest also for this reason. They join their struggle to the great aims of social and political struggle. They say: a free school in a free society.

One day later, they participated to the general strike of the Lazio-department.

But the authorities continue to consider the schools and students as an isolated problem. The political parties, that have been trying to form a new government, have made a plan on school-reform that ignores totally the student's movement.

The struggle of students goes, however, on.

In order to express their solidarity with high-school students, university-students have occupied the Rome University.

The Italian students, form all together more than two millions of young people.

The fact that they seek a continuous contact with the great masses of workers, intellectuals and employees, rend them strong and important.

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## I n t e r v i e w s

First Interviewd : We have already observed that the awakening of the students-movement, is not merely an isolated act. On the contrary, I would say, it is a general action. Now, that the students have understood that their duty -as members of this society of ours- is to discuss with their similar.

And that's why they demand a general assembly, not only to discuss the small and insignificant high-school's problems. They want to discuss the real problems that they have. Problems that are really very near to them, not just about Latin and Mathematics, but also about life in general and of things that occupy their minds at this moment.

That's why, we students feel the absolute need this present day to speak with our comrades. We want to express our thoughts and our judgement, and we are -at the same time- interested to listen to the judgements of others, in order to create an own conscience, a conscience that has to be above all, human and socially-engaged. And this is not in order to make an abstract kind of politics, but to try to be a constructive part of our society, just at this right moment and not only after graduation.

Second interviewd : In those days of struggle, students have understood that they form a considerable force; a weight in this country. 50,000 young people at the streets have demonstrated that students are finally x united, in order to obtain a general assembly which functions against the selective- and classist-school-system. During those days, another important fact has been ~~xxxx~~ observed, ~~xxxxxx~~ namely, the contact between students and workers. Together, they can have a political weight and form a considerable force in this country.

Third Interviewd : Those problems join also some more particular problems of the students of technical schools. In fact, those students do not receive but an ex-personalized culture which follows closely the Italian industrial development. And once they have been specialized they face the greatest difficulties in order to find an employment. In fact the unemployment in Italy, grows from year to year, and those poor specialized technicians, are forced to emigrate abroad, in order to obtain a working-post and be, thus, able to maintain their families.

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