

BAVARIAN TRADE UNION YOUTH

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this experiment was to study one type of group work in Germany, that being conducted by trade union youth, in order to determine whether some principles and methods of American group work might be fruitfully applied in the German situation. I visited three Bavarian city trade union youth organizations during the month of November, 1949, at Munich, Nuremberg, and Augsburg at the request and with the warmest cooperation of the Youth Secretaries there, and participated in the regular activities of the groups during a full eight-day period in each city.

The point of view from which the experiment was undertaken is that democratic group life built around people's primary interests gives its participants a first hand experience in self-determination and self-government. For the community at large this means that such groups form the healthy cells of a democratic body politic.

NOTE: The views herein expressed are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Office of the U. S. High Commissioner for Germany.