

Plan Future Program for Central 'Y'



Meeting in the Wyomissing Club last night, members of the Central Y. M. C. A. board of managers, Centennial Planning Commission, and Program Planning Commission heard an address by Leslie J. Tompkins (lower left), national personnel director of the "Y." Consulting Tompkins concerning the future program and policies of the local institution are President Robert S. Birch (lower right) and (left to right, upper) Gordon M. Jones, chairman of the Program Planning Commission, and Frederick K. Thun Jr., chairman of the Centennial Planning Commission.—Times Staff Photo.

Leader Urges 'Y' To Look Ahead, Not Backward

Outlines Future Plans
For Workers, Veterans,
In Address at Dinner

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"This year, the 100th anniversary of the Y. M. C. A., is not a time to consider the achievements of the past century, but rather a time to consider the challenge of the future and the opportunities for service to the community," Leslie J. Tompkins, national personnel director of the "Y," said here last night.

Speaking at a dinner meeting in the Wyomissing Club, attended by members of the board of managers of the Central Y. M. C. A., and members of the Centennial and Program Planning Commissions of that institution, Tompkins pointed out that the future plans of any organization that deals with the youth of the community must take the young people into their confidence—let them feel that they are an active part of the institution, serving on committees to aid in program planning, and emphasizing the fact that it is their organization.

Commending the local managers and staff for the progress made in the past few years, the speaker advised branching out into neighborhoods to amplify the work done in the central institution. Stating that it is no longer sufficient to build and equip a large centrally located building and expect the youth of the city to gather there, he told of the work being done in other communities in organizing neighborhood groups, under the control of the "Y" and with trained adult leaders.

Three Groups Reached

Commenting on the future program of the local Y. M. C. A., he said it must embrace the problems of three distinct groups — boys, young men between the ages of 18 and 28 years, and the industrial workers.

Problems of boys are made more acute under the present war time conditions by the acceleration in industry, leaving less time for parental guidance and a consequent increase in juvenile delinquency, the speaker said. Service to boys, especially during the time they are out of school must be speeded and enlarged, he declared.

While the general opinion is that most young men between the ages of 18 and 28 years are in the armed forces, there are still a great many in most communities who constitute a major problem, Tompkins said, adding that in addition to the many deferred either for physical or other reasons, many are being discharged and many others will be.

Veteran Problem Pressing

Thought must be given immediately to the problems of the thousands who will be coming home when the war is over, the speaker asserted. Aiding them to adjust themselves to peacetime conditions after their war experiences and teachings will be one of the outstanding duties of the "Y," he said.

The institution's part in aiding industrial workers is taken care of by the dormitories, providing healthy and wholesome living conditions and healthful recreation for the hundreds of men and boys coming from other communities to work in the war industries here, the speaker said.

Preceding Tompkins' address, Ferdinand K. Thun Jr., chairman of the Centennial Planning Commission, and Gordon M. Jones, chairman of the Program Planning Commission, outlined the activities and future plans of their committees.

Through the activities of the group which he heads, Thun announced that the "Y" debt has been reduced \$100,000 during the past year and that an additional \$75,000 will be raised in the near future for the purpose of improving and modernizing the building, a necessity, suggested by Tompkins.

Robert S. Birch, "Y" president, in his welcoming address, spoke of the tremendous strides made here in the last three years under the leadership of the general secretary, Robert H. Miller. Stating that more and greater plans are in the making, he said that this year, the 75th anniversary of the local institution, will be a crucial one in its history.