

# The Workers' Party

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There is no question but what at this time the supreme necessity of the labor movement is greater solidarity, a clearer understanding of the class struggle, and closer contact with the masses.

The breakdown of the political and economic organizations of the workers in America has been so complete, that it is forcing otherwise irreconcilable class-conscious groups into amalgamation, who for the first time in American labor history are formulating programs with immediate aims and objects, close enough to the masses to be understood by them, and therefore practical.

The cause of the breakdown of the political and economic organizations of the workers in America can be summed up in the history of the Socialist Party, the Socialist-Labor Party, and the all too numerous dualist labor movements that have sprung up in America in the past thirty years. The proof of this is the great cry for unity that has sprung up throughout the entire country amongst the otherwise warring class-conscious groups.

The complete failure of the political socialists to function in this country, as a mass-party of the workers, caused the launching of numerous local Labor Party groups which eventually became what is known as the Farmer-Labor Party. While this party is more progressive and practical than the political socialists, yet it cannot serve as the rallying ground for the revolutionary, class-conscious workers of America because it accepts the Capitalist system, and its program is essentially reformist. However, many of its members are class-conscious and have accepted this field to work in because there has not been up until the calling of the coming Convention a rallying ground for them on the political field:

The American labor union movement has been cursed with dualism. It has been accepted by the radical elements without challenge, that the proper thing to do was to destroy the present existing unions (A. F. of L., etc.), the contention being that it was utterly impossible to overthrow the present reactionary officialdom. The sequence has been that the red blood has been withdrawn from the present trade unions and isolated into little groups with big programs, and their influence has been utterly lost to the labor movement.

During the past year the warring radical groups have seen the necessity of combining their forces in all fields. The necessity for unity does not mean unity at all costs. In some instances this desire is used unconsciously for the furthering of dualism; as, for instance, when the United Labor Council calls a convention for the purpose of stabilizing and making permanent the existing dualist fragments, in opposition to strong existing unions. This move, honest in its purpose, shows the necessity of a comprehensive, well-thought-out program on a national scale, in the place of a blind faith in the value of unity on any grounds.

These things demonstrate the supreme need for a mass political party of workers to rally the discontented and exploited workers into aggressive action against capitalism and the reactionary labor leaders. The Convention which is to be held will be forced to recognize the glaring mistakes and failures of the past; in the light of present understanding it cannot repeat the old mistake of creating a "rest-home for tired rebels," a "place to go" when hard pressed by the reactionaries. This convention must not prepare to launch another dual union movement, or to allow the germ of such an idea to creep into its program. Many arguments will be

brought forward to force the creation of an "independent" union movement, where local unions and members may go to when expelled. But we must not expect to enter this fight without casualties; if we are effective at all, many individuals and even local unions run the danger of expulsion; but instead of providing them a "place to go," they must be directed back into the center of the fight, the fight to stay in the labor movement and preserve and create solidarity against the exploiters and their lieutenants. In some instances individuals must suffer for the good of the movement. The most practical and effective radical is the one who is intelligent enough to carry on his propaganda in such a way as to make it nearly impossible for the reactionary leaders to find grounds for his expulsion. This convention and the party which it will create will establish, for the first time in America, such a practical program as will reach the masses and at the same time ever keep in mind the revolutionary goal, the establishment of the Workers' Republic.

There never was a better outlook for such a party as there is in America today. Capitalism never was so arrogant. The machinery of the Government was never so openly used against the workers. The cry of the class-conscious workers of the country for an organization which will give leadership and centralization for carrying out their historic mission, was never so great.

The eyes of the radicals throughout the country are on this Convention. If it meets the problems of the day fairly and squarely, and gives them a realistic and practical program, the response will be immediate and enthusiastic.

## OUR PLAIN DUTY

By EARL L. BROWDER, the Labor Herald.

The present crisis in the American labor movement is without precedent. Politically the working class is impotent. Economically it is bending beneath tremendous assaults, and its leadership has been demonstrated as pitifully weak and even traitorous. Demoralization is threatened, and only the rallying of all class-conscious workers upon a program of instant, energetic and well-planned action can meet the situation.

This crisis is a reflex of the general breakdown of the prevailing economic system—capitalism. The absurdly inadequate reply of labor to the assaults of the capitalists arises directly from the fact that the officialdom of its organizations, political as well as economic, accepts the capitalist system as the starting point of all their efforts. Even the socialists, rejecting capitalism in theory, accept it and all its institutions in program and practice. How can they, then, move in any militant, energetic way toward any solution of the crisis which arises out of the very foundation of the capitalist system which they accept? They cannot; they can only writhe in their impotency, and babble absurd shibboleths learned in childhood.

The class-conscious workers are realizing this situation, and they are demanding the formation of an organization which can give aggressive and militant leadership in this crisis. Such an organization must take the form of a mass political party, voicing the needs and aspirations of the exploited masses and pointing the way by which, through struggle and sacrifice, these needs can be met and these aspirations realized.

The call for the Convention to organize the Workers' Party of America comes at a time when it will arouse the hopes of every class-conscious worker. Never was the need so great for a real working-class political party. Never were the conditions so ripe for the launching of such a movement. Everywhere the conscious workers will be looking to this convention for the rallying-cry and the practical program, which point toward immediate steps for revolutionary activity. Such a rallying-cry and such a program are indicated in the call for the formation of the Workers' Party.

Our duty is plain; our path lies clear. This convention will have many knotty problems to consider; it will have vexed questions to thresh out; it will have terrible burdens to assume; it will have little honors to distribute but much work; it will have a supreme duty to bring about unity among all those fighting for the Workers' Republic. Let us go into it with the determination that no question will be slighted, no problem left unfaced, and nothing left undone to achieve success in this effort. With such a spirit the outlook is favorable for real revolutionary achievement.

### UNITING THE WORKERS

By JACK CARNEY, Editor Voice of Labor.

The need for an aggressive political party to rally the discontented masses of the United States is self-evident. In view of the widespread distress occasioned by the breakdown of world economy, the contempt which the employers have for all labor unions and the many betrayals of the labor movement by its leaders, the time is ripe for an organization that will rally the masses for militant action against the daily onslaughts of the employers and at the same time bring about a cleaning out and reorganization of the labor movement as a whole.

The outlook for the Workers' Party is exceptionally promising. All over the country there are local groups of discontented militants, who are eagerly awaiting the call of a working class party that will unite them into a national organization. In Kansas there are thousands of miners who are conducting a lone fight, due to the lack of national organization that could connect them with workers of similar courage and tenacity of purpose. In San Francisco we have a similar group of workers, so in Seattle, Chicago, Minneapolis and elsewhere throughout the country. These local groups pursue their own local fights and as a consequence the road is harder to travel, much harder than it has need to be. The unification of these groups into a real, live, militant national organization will be the creation of a power that will inspire the working class of America to push forward its fight with a confidence and spirit that will ensure success.

The convention call of the Workers' Party offers great hopes. It shows a clear understanding of the necessities and requirements of the situation. Its militant policy on the political field; the absence of a reformistic policy, and its militant policy within the labor movement are sufficient guarantees for success.

### THE WORKERS' PARTY

By MORITZ J. LOEB, American Freedom Foundation.

"The political expression of the militant workers of America." Such is the aim and destiny of the Workers' Party. Since the Communist parties were driven under ground in 1920, there has been no such public expression. Since the first split in the Socialist Party in 1919 there has been no such unified expression as now will be created. Never since the beginning of the American revolutionary movement has there been so clear a determination, so realistic an understanding nor so resolute an undertaking breathing of fulfillment and creation.

The principles under which the call for the convention has been sent out contain the elements that go to make the kind of a political party such as the Workers' Party proposes to be. They contain the essential features which go to make up a militant workers' political organization. They face the facts of the class war. They lead the way into the struggle as it actually exists. They point to the waging of the battle which must end in the victory of the working class and pointing the way lead the workers into that battle with a clear vision of the end in view and the methods working toward that end.

Here we have no sentimental shouting. There is in the call no romantic dream. Those workers who hail the birth of the Workers' Party acclaim the coming of the realist of the American revolution.

WHERE is Senator Lusk, the petted child of the Bum Squad, who has so often startled the staid citizens of New York with weird tales of evil deeds plotted in the subterranean hiding places of this great city? Men with long whiskers and furtive glance like the New York Times' conception of a Bolshevik, and others with, clean shaven visages who grace the parlors of the liberal intelligentsia have been known to Senator Lusk as enemies of law and order. Lately he has been silent and without his counsel even pillars of the state are apt to commit blunders. But who would expect the Hon. John L. Lyons, Secretary of State for New York, to be guilty of giving aid and comfort to two such well known enemies of capitalism as Harry Winitsky and C. E. Ruthenberg? It happened that while a number of prisoners were on their way to Sing Sing from other detention pens of capitalism, Mr. Lyons happened to be on the railway platform at Albany, where the prisoners with a guard were waiting to catch a train. They looked hungry. So he offered to buy a few sandwiches for the "boys." with their permission. The prisoners accepted the proffered generosity. While they were munching the sandwiches Mr. Lyons asked the guard "Who is that tall thin fellow over there?" "That is Ruthenberg, the Bolshevik agitator." "And who is that big stout fellow?" "That is Winitsky, another Bolshevik."

TWO thousand women, wives, daughters and relatives of the striking miners in the Pittsburg, Kansas district stormed the mine of the Jackson-Walker Company and drove away strikebreakers about to go to work. The miners in the Kansas district are fighting the Kansas Industrial Court under the leadership of Alexander Howatt and the officials of the International Union who have suspended Howatt and his district officers for defying the anti-labor gang in Kansas. According to a despatch to the New York Times the women went on the war-path following a secret meeting in Franklin, the notorious "red" center. It appears that there are still "red" spots in the country in spite of the American Legion and the Ku Klux Klan. While the women were referred to as a leaderless mob, the Sheriff and his deputies were powerless before their onslaught. The women held up motor cars on the highway and took the scab occupants as prisoners. They entered the engine house at the mine and drove out the engineers and firemen. Having accomplished their mission they walked back to Franklin. The master class may well take warning from this incident. When the storm of revolution breaks over their heads the women who have suffered in silence and sorrow through ages of slavery will hurl their pent up wrath against the cursed system that consigns themselves, their husbands and children to a life of misery. The day of reckoning will come.