

The Communist Program: Only Way Out for Labor NOW

The following statement on the position of the Communist Party in the West Coast strike, written by Earl Browder, General Secretary of the Communist Party, U.S.A., and Sam Darcy, district organizer and Communist candidate for Governor of California, at the height of the terror, is reprinted from the special August 1 issue of the "Western Worker."

"THE efforts of the Industrial Association, the shipowners, and Chamber of Commerce, to whip up a frenzy against the Communists, is a part of this drive to destroy the trade unions, to keep down wages, to build up their monopoly profits. Such shameless lies and slanders as fill the columns of the San Francisco daily press have rarely been seen before. This campaign is from the school of Hitler.

"These gentlemen know full well that they are lying, and that their slanders cannot stand a moment's investigation. That is why they carry on a terror campaign which has converted San Francisco into a kind of 'Little Germany.'"

"While the vigilantes, organized by the police and paid by the shipowners, are raiding private homes, burning libraries and printing plants, chopping up pianos and smashing typewriters in workers' halls, it is such a moment they choose to charge the Communists with advocating violence.

"But they have been unable to bring one single definite case of a single act or word to support their charge. All concrete cases of violence are those where violence is used against the workers.

"Why this frenzy of hate against the Communists? Are the Communists proposing to make a revolution now, beginning in San Francisco? No, that is absurd nonsense. The Communists do not propose to make a revolution until, by comradely discussion and conviction of the toiling masses, they have majority support securely behind the Party. We have not yet got this support. But we will get it, and the more the bosses rage, the earlier. And the terror, suppression of the shipowners, the police, the vigilantes, the gunmen, will only help us to convince the toiling masses quicker that this system of misery, starvation, suppression of the poor, has to be changed as quickly as possible in the interest of the overwhelming majority of the population of this country, against the handful of bankers, against Wall Street and their lackeys, Rossis, Vandeleurs, etc.

WHAT WE FIGHT FOR

"Now, the Communists are fighting to help the poor farmers who are being crushed beneath the burdens of mortgage charges, taxes, marketing monopolies and drought.

"Now, the Communists are fighting to protect the small home-owners whose taxes are being doubled to pay the strikebreaking bills of the rich shipowners.

"Now, the Communists are fighting to recover the savings of the small depositors, which have been confiscated by the big Wall Street banks who closed down the little banks.

"Now, the Communists are helping the veterans to fight for their back-wages [the bonus].

"The Communist Party alone fights with all its energy for these things.

"The monopoly capitalists fight against these things. That's why they hate the Communists. That's why they lie about us. That's why they raised a fund of five million dollars to 'drive the Reds out of California.' But gentlemen, you won't succeed in making California yellow.

"That is why the Luckenbacks and Fleischackers give such high praise to Vandeleur, Ryan, Lewis, Casey and their kind. These fakers, who pretend to be trade union leaders, use their position to break strikes, to defeat the demands of the workers. It is true these strikebreakers are not reds. They are also yellow.

"LABOR LEADERS" SELL OUT

"For the same reason that the capitalists praise the 'labor leaders,' the Communists fight against them and expose them. They are yellow. They are paid stool-pigeons of the capitalists. So long as the workers follow them, defeat is inevitable. When they stand at the head of a strike, it is not to win it, but to smash it—just as they did in the San Francisco General Strike. Just as the British labor fakers did in the British general strike.

"But every time these gentlemen hit the workers, and every time they hit the Communist Party, they are only furnishing new proof to the workers that what the Communist Party told them is correct.

"The Communist Party has pointed out to the longshoremen and sailors how arbitration was used to smash and defeat the auto workers, the Minneapolis drivers, and the steel workers. By soldiers, police, clubs, gas, bullets, terror, the employers have forced the workers to accept arbitration. Now, they will have to prove to the workers that the Communists were right when they warned them against arbitration.

"The workers are learning by bitter experience that if they do not want yellow leadership, then they must choose Red leaders, and the fully militant workers.

"The shipowners boast that they will drive out all Communists. It can't be done. Hitler tried it in Germany and failed. So also the little Hitler imitations in California will fail. The Communist Party is of the bone, blood and flesh of the working class. The capitalists must always have the workers to feed them—that's why they can never get rid of the Reds.

"It is to be regretted that free speech and civil rights in California are so crushed at the moment that it was impossible to obtain a hall for a meeting so Comrade Browder could publicly discuss these questions. But this will not always be so. California workers will not be content until they regain freedom of speech and sweep aside the fascist assemblage.

"We are certain that many tens of thousands of California workers will register their indignation at the Hitlerism of the powers that now are in California by voting for the Communist ticket in the coming elections—and that this will be the first step for thousands of them to join the Communist Party.

"Long live the brave Longshoremen and Seamen of California!"

"Long live the heroic battle of the California workers!"

"California workers! Forward to victory against the capitalists and their yellow helpers!"

San Francisco, Calif.

July 24, 1934.

(Signed) EARL BROWDER,

SAM DARCY.