

Foster from Prison, Calls for Class War

Accepting Nomination, Urges Election Fight Be for Work or Wages and for Workers' Rule

New York County Penitentiary,
Harts Island, New York, May 23,
1930.

To the New York State Ratification Convention:

Dear Comrades:—I have been informed that my name will be presented to you as a prospective candidate for governor in the coming convention, hence I am sending you this letter to be read to the convention in the event that I am nominated.

Let me say at the outset, that if nominated, I shall do whatever I

can in spite of my present position, to be worthy of the confidence reposed in me by the Party in nominating me to head its New York State ticket in the fall elections.

The worsening economic situation in the U. S. is rapidly radicalizing vast millions of workers in spite of the growing terror of the bosses. The capitalist class can't succeed in crushing the militant fighting spirit of the American workers. The jailing of militant workers can't halt the determination of the masses to

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resist wage cuts, increasing speed-up and exploitation.

On the contrary, the coming elections offer a splendid opportunity to organize the masses of discontented workers, to awaken their class consciousness, to unite them under the leadership of the Communist Party for struggle against capitalism. For the first time our Party was accepted by great masses of workers (over a million) as their leader. The Party must enter the present election campaign with the utmost vigor.

American and world capitalism is today, in a deep economic crisis which capitalism can't solve. Over 7,000,000 workers are now unemployed and the number is increasing. Millions of men, women and children are forced to starve. New York state has its full share of these, over 1,000,000. The lies of Hoover and his agents can't conceal this crisis. With the approach of fall and the shutting down of outside work, undoubtedly industry will drop into a far deeper sag than that of last winter.

The bosses are putting the burden of the crisis on the workers. The unemployed are forced to starve. The speed-up is increasing. Wages are slashed. The tax burden is more and more shifted by direct and indirect means on to the backs of the workers and poor farmers. To break the resistance and militancy of the workers, to destroy their spirit of struggle for better conditions, the bosses are resorting more and more to fascist means of terror and suppression. A wide campaign of terror and lynching is initiated by the bosses against the Negro workers.

To the demands of the millions of unemployed fighting under the leadership of the Communist Party and the revolutionary trade unions for work or wages and social insurance, the bosses have answered with an investigation of Communist activity in the United States. This is only a part of the general campaign of the bosses to defeat the workers by crushing the revolutionary leadership of the working class, the Trade Union Unity League and particularly the Communist Party.

Free speech and free assembly have become only memories. The right to organize and to strike are being rapidly liquidated. When the workers strike, they confront injunctions, police, and armed private thugs. Their leaders are jailed by hundreds and given ferocious sentences. Powers and Carr in Georgia actually facing the electric chair for organizing white and colored workers, while the Dohenys, Falls, etc., robbers of hundreds of millions, go free. The courts brazenly show their capitalist class character.

When the unemployed demand relief they are ridden down by mounted police or insulted by Governor Roosevelt's pauperising old age pension bill or by Wagner's hypocritical bill to take a census of unemployed. Night sticks bread lines, jails, fake statistics, are the capitalist answer to the unemployed. In New York the Tammany Hall administration, the expression of the reaction and terror of the bosses is clubbing and killing workers because they dare to demonstrate against unemployment. Whalen, the Chamber of Commerce, and all other agencies of the bosses have forged documents in order to discredit the Communist Party and to create war sentiment against the Soviet Union.

In the present bosses attacks against the workers they have included the support of the American Federation of Labor and the Socialist Party. The American Federation of Labor, the vice-president of the American Federation of Labor has united with the most bitter open shop and fascist enemies of the working class. The American Federation of Labor and its history of countless betrayals of the struggles of workers, has today proven very clearly and definitely to the entire American working class that in its policy and reactionary leadership it is an openly fascist and bureaucrat organization working hand and glove with the bosses against the working class.

While the United States is the scene of paralyzed industry, mass unemployment, and growing fascist terrorism, world capitalism shows a similar picture of crisis. The various capitalist countries driven on by internal crisis and an insatiable thirst for markets and world control, come into violent conflict with each other. They fight by building tariff walls against each other, by building up larger armies and navies and ruthlessly suppressing the colonial people. They are now particularly preparing a war against the Soviet Union. The London Naval Conference has definitely proven that the bosses are preparing for war and that disarmament is impossible to achieve under capitalism.

Meanwhile, as world capitalism goes deeper into crisis, the workers of the Soviet Union almost daily startle the world with their great successes in the building of Socialism. The standard of living of the Russian workers is continuously rising. The superiority of Socialism

Labor Faker



The mug above belongs to Margaret Bondfield, whom British "Labor" Party put in charge of unemployment. She has had the same "success" as when she took a joy ride to America in 1926 to "collect funds" from John L. Lewis for the striking British miners. Margaret is just too sweet for words, and "helped" the unemployed by proposing that that their dole be reduced. She felt deeply grieved, don't you know, that the poor, dear capitalists had to pay so much taxes.

over capitalism is definitely established before the workers of the world. Such achievements can only be possible under the rule of the workers and farmers led by the Communist Party.

While the masses of American workers are preparing for bitter struggle to resist the attack of the bosses the millions of the colonial people in India, China, the Philippines, Haiti and other American colonial possessions are rising in revolt against American and world imperialism. The Indian workers and peasants are now engaged in a revolutionary struggle for emancipation and independence against British Imperialism and its tool the labor government.

On the Eve of the First Chinese Soviet Congress, millions of Chinese workers and peasants are now fighting with the Chinese Red Army against world imperialism and its native militarist henchmen. In the American colonies, like Cuba, Haiti, Philippines, etc., the masses are rising in struggle for complete emancipation from the yoke of American Imperialism. World capitalism is in decay. Millions of toiling masses are now engaged in a bitter struggle against capitalism.

In the coming elections the working class must organize under the banner of the Communist Party and the revolutionary trade unions and fight for their interests. The democratic, republican and the so-called "socialist" parties are the parties of the bosses. To vote for these parties means to vote against the very interests of the working class. The American Federation of Labor, an organic part of the American capitalism, in calling upon the workers to vote for the candidates of these parties, shows again that this fascist strike-breaking organization is the tool of the capitalist class.

The Socialist Party and its so-called Muste group in the American Federation of Labor is also a part of capitalism, but it disguises its essential capitalist character under the pretenses of radicalism. However, where the Socialist Party goes into action it openly exposes its anti-working class program and policy. The Socialist Party has nothing to offer to the working class. It openly acts as the third political party of the bosses.

In Reading, Pa., and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where the socialists control the city administration, the police clubbed the unemployed workers as brutally as Whalen's cossacks did in New York. In the New York cloak and dress strike the Socialists, at whose head stands the pious Reverend Norman Thomas, made a solid united front with the employers, Tammany Hall, the underworld, and the capitalist newspapers, against

the workers. In England, the Labor Party now shows the classical role of the socialists and is trying to drown the Indian revolution in blood. In Berlin, on the first of May a year ago, the Socialist chief of police, Zoergiebel, completely outdid Whalen by having his police murder thirty demonstrating workers. The Socialist Party in every capitalist country is the bridge to the establishment of the fascist dictatorship of capitalism.

The Communist Party is the sole Party which defends the interests of the working class. It alone has a program both to defend the interests of the workers now under capitalism and to ultimately smash the capitalist system and emancipate the workers. The Communist Party is the American Section of the Communist International. The election program of our Party represents the basic interests and demands of the workers. It is a program which every class conscious worker should support.

While fighting for the immediate interests of the workers, the Communist Party warns the American workers not to have any illusions that capitalism can be reformed or that the misery of the workers can be completely abolished under the rule of the bosses. Only the proletarian revolution can completely emancipate the working class.

The coming elections must therefore serve as a mobilization and preparation of the American workers to prepare themselves for a struggle against capitalism. In this election campaign we must fight for unemployment, insurance, for social insurance against old age, sickness, accidents, protection of women, etc. For the seven-hour day 5-day week. The six-hour day for young workers. We must fight against the injunction, the criminal syndicalist law, for the right to strike, picket and defend themselves from the attack of the bosses and their thugs. We must demand the release of all political prisoners. The abolishment of all criminal syndicalist laws and all other class legislation prepared by the bosses against the workers.

One of the great tasks that now faces the American workers in this election campaign is to fight against race discrimination, segregation and all discriminatory laws of capitalism used against the Negro workers. We must fight for the vigorous suppression of lynchings. The defense of the Negro workers against the terror of the white ruling class must be the task of the entire American working class. Against the feverish war preparations of the bosses we must mobilize the toiling masses to fight imperialist war, and to defend the Soviet Union.

Tho the bosses succeeded in putting me and other members of the New York delegation of the March 6th Demonstration of the Unemployed, together with hundreds of other working class fighters, in jail, they will not succeed in breaking our revolutionary determination and loyalty to the working class.

While we are kept in jail we see the working class, under the leadership of the Communist Party and the revolutionary trade unions continuing the struggle against capitalism and for the program of the Communist Party. No matter what brutality and terrorism the bosses might use they will not succeed in breaking our confidence in the heroic revolutionary struggles of the masses.

The workers must answer the bosses by joining the Communist Party, by making this Party a mass Communist Party of revolutionary action, and by building up the Trade Union Unity League.

All the bosses' terror and reaction will be wiped aside by the revolutionary struggle and sacrifices of the workers, and in the place of the blood-thirsty oppressive capitalist system, living upon the sweat and toil of the millions of workers and farmers, there will be established a Workers and Farmers Government.

With Revolutionary Greetings,
(signed) WILLIAM Z. FOSTER.

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