

WORKERS PARTY

OF THE UNITED STATES

MAX SHACHTMAN, National Secretary

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August 22, 1945

TO BE GIVEN TO EVERY PARTY MEMBER AND TO BE READ IN EVERY PARTY BRANCH

To All Party Branches:

To All Party Members:

A week after the adjournment of our Active Workers Conference, great events have taken place which make it necessary and possible for us to speed up enormously the carrying out of the decisions, ideas and suggestions made at the Conference.

Now that the war is at an end, we can and must take big steps forward or we will be lost in the swirl of events. ALL the decisions of the Conference, and more that are now indicated, must be put into effect now, IMMEDIATELY!

At its meeting last night, the Political Committee decided that the following steps to expand the work and possibilities of the Party shall be taken right away:

I.—To add five full-time functionaries to our National Staff. We are recalling to full-time work several comrades who had to leave the Staff four years ago, but who are now available. There is no longer an excuse for the weakness in our party machinery. Taking effect immediately, are the following additions:

1. Comrade Paul Temple — as full-time Party organizer of the Southern California region.
2. Comrade Robert Ferguson — as full-time Party organizer of the Chicago region.
3. Comrade Ernest Erber — as full-time Educational Director, as well as Managing Editor of the New International and editorial contributor to Labor Action.
4. Comrade Robert Nevins — as full-time Administrative Secretary in charge of all administrative work in the National Office, including the Financial Department, Business Management of the New International and Labor Action, and all other publishing activity of the Party.
5. Comrade Shirley Waller — as full-time officer in charge of the political, administrative and editorial work of the newly-established Youth organization.

II. Four pamphlets to come off the press in rapid succession:

1. "The Principles of Socialism; the Program of the Workers Party," by Max Shachtman. The text is already at the printer's. This book, which is a popular presentation of the basic Party program, has been a long-felt need. It will run to close to 200 pages.

2. A popular pamphlet on the party's program for "Reconversion," by Max Shachtman. This pamphlet will be at the printer's next week and will be about 32 pages in size.
3. "Plenty for All", by Ernest Lund. Having completely sold out the first edition of 5,000 copies, a second edition is in preparation. It will be revised in many respects and brought up to date wherever necessary.
4. "The Truth about Gerald L.K. Smith", by Harold Draper. This excellent pamphlet, printed by our West Coast comrades, was an instantaneous success and the entire first edition sold out over night, ---2000 copies. Another edition of 4,000 additional copies will be available before this circular reaches the branches.

These pamphlets should be in the hands of all the branches in a very short time. Besides these, the New York Party has published an election campaign pamphlet, "Jobs for All," by Walter Weiss, which is available for national circulation. Furthermore, the New York Party is planning an equally popular pamphlet for its campaign, a pamphlet on Socialism, which will also be available, and useful, for national circulation.

III---The rental of a new, large, presentable National Headquarters! Up to now, we have lived in pretty miserable and unattractive quarters. They have been unsatisfactory from every point of view. With the increase in membership and in activity which we are sure to record immediately, we must acquire a National Headquarters which is not only presentable to party members and sympathizers, but in which the work of the various departments of the National Office can be conducted efficiently, and in which, additionally, we can have class rooms, lecture rooms and place for other small meetings. Every comrade who has seen our present quarters, and who appreciates the importance of a decent National Headquarters for a serious working-class Party, will understand the need for the proposed change.

This is the beginning, the immediate beginning!

We must also plan an intensive Labor Action subscription Drive and a membership recruitment drive. We must begin to re-orient our industrial work in accordance with the new conditions of the post-war period. Directives on these and other projects will follow.

To carry out this ambitious program, which we are full confident can be realized, we must have the wherewithal. The whole question is, HOW?

HERE IS HOW!

In one word:

WE MUST HAVE IMMEDIATELY, NOT LATER THAN TWO WEEKS FROM THE RECEIPT OF THIS LETTER BY THE BRANCHES, A \$5000 PARTY BUILDING FUND!

Without this sum of money, all our plans, all the hopes built upon them, are doomed in advance. Properly financed, we can move forward with complete confidence in the results.

A \$5000 PARTY BUILDING FUND!

Up to this date, we have rigidly kept to our system of the single tax. We have not a single additional appeal for funds, with the possible exception

of the Italian Fund.

Now, we feel that we are not only right in making this appeal for an exceptional sacrifice, but that the comrades all over the country will welcome the opportunity to establish a Fund which will make certain the long-delayed big spurt forward of the Party.

The sacrifice will have to be big! It will have to be made swiftly! It cannot be made at the expense of the regular income of the Party, but as an exceptional contribution!

AGAIN, HERE IS HOW:

1. Every comrade with savings and War Bonds should turn in to the Party Building Fund a contribution of 50% or not less than \$50.
2. No member, unless unemployed for a long time or an income-less housewife, should contribute less than \$20.
3. Every good sympathizer should be approached immediately -not some time later- for a contribution of not less than \$10 on the basis of our Party Building Program.
4. Every correspondent should immediately advise his or her friend in the sports clubs of the campaign and, with the necessary intelligence, ask for contributions from these friends, too.

We are fully aware of the difficulties. We know perfectly well that some comrades are now out of work for a while or are threatened with temporary unemployment.

But what is being asked, and for the first time, is a SPECIAL SACRIFICE, a SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION, for a SPECIAL FUND which we have every reason to believe will put the Party several long steps forward in a very short time.

Our recruiting possibilities are now excellent-- and a larger full-time staff, plus added agitational facilities, will guarantee that we utilize these possibilities to the maximum.

Our prospects with the new Youth organization are equally excellent. We dare not allow the new Youth movement to falter for a moment for lack of sustained financial assistance which the Party, at the beginning, must give it.

There are other prospects about which adequate information was given at the Active Workers Conference. These will not be neglected, and everything within our power must be done to see to it that they are not neglected.

To our Party, this PARTY BUILDING FUND is a matter of life or death, because it means the difference between leaping forward--or stagnating.

WE NOW HAVE THE BIGGEST OPPORTUNITY IN OUR FIVE YEARS OF EXISTENCE! WE MUST ACT TO SLIZE THEM WHILE THEY ARE THERE!

Everybody must give. Everybody must help. And everything must be done quickly. We must leap--not crawl along painful inch by painful inch. It call all be done now -- with your speedy help.