
The Workers League

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A new political party of labor has recently been launched in New York City which promises a future of far-reaching significance. Under the name of the Workers League a group of militant workers have combined for a new effort to secure forceful and uncompromising expression for the crying needs of labor. The present crisis demands action of a kind that no political party now in the field can provide.

The Workers League seeks to speak solely in the name of the workers, strives solely to promote their interests. That task at a time when capitalism has collapsed and is unable even to guarantee the means of life to the workers is the task for a courageous and uncompromising party. Such a party must be ready to drop intellectual quibbling for militant action. It must strive to rally the masses of the workers for the expression of their sufferings and their immediate needs. It must use the present critical situation to weld together the forces which will be prepared for conflict and responsibility when the right moment arrives. Above all such a party must be animated by a truly international spirit, must be in close and fraternal touch with those workers' movements in Europe which are preparing for the liquidation of capitalist bankruptcy and malfeasance. Such a party the Workers League shows itself to be in its organization and program.

While the Socialist Party is committed to bourgeois parliamentarism and political reform, the Workers League refuses to stimulate illusions in the minds of the workers as to the possibility of improving their long under the present economic order and with parliamentary activity as an instrument. The Workers League enters politics to unmask it. It seeks to enter Congress and other legislative bodies not to urge re-

form but to voice the wrath of the workers at their terrible situation. With the parliamentary tribune as a sounding board it plans to spread forth over the country the message of international solidarity, the challenge of the irreconcilable class conflict.

The Workers League realizes that the labor movement is for the toiling masses not a mere intellectual theory but a passion, and one which springs from their deepest needs, their greatest exaltation. The tactics, therefore, of any group which aspires to march with them and before them is a practical and realistic one. It must express the hunger of the masses, their love and their misery. Wherever they are the party of the masses must be with them, whatever are their urgent and immediate needs of life the party of the masses must strive for. And it is just when the necessities of the masses are unattainable, when the mere expression of them is in itself a challenge to the social order, that they must be given fearless and courageous expression.

The Workers League therefore puts forth a program of immediate demands upon the chief issues before the American workers today. The workers must protest against the open shop and fight with every weapon this attempt at destroying their organizations; they must resist the reduction of wages which threaten to return them to a slavery worse than the worst days of early machine industry. They must have relief from unemployment. These demands the Workers League makes in the name of the American workers knowing full well that an organized attempt to secure these demands will lead the American proletariat directly into the final conflict with capitalism.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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