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# Labor's 14 Points

by The Labor Party of Cook County [IL]

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## **1. Right to Organize.**

The unqualified right of workers to organize and to deal collectively with employers through such representatives of their unions as they choose.

## **2. Democratic Control of Industry.**

Democratic control of industry and commerce for the general good by those who work with hand and brain, and the elimination of autocratic domination of the forces of production and distribution either by selfish private interests or bureaucratic agents of government.

## **3. 8-Hour Day and Minimum Wage.**

An 8-hour day and a 44-hour week in all branches of industry, with minimum rates of pay which, without the labor of mothers and children, will maintain the worker and his family in health and comfort, and provide a competence for old age, with ample provision for recreation and good citizenship.

## **4. Abolition of Unemployment.**

Abolition of unemployment by the creation of opportunity for steady work at standard wages through the stabilization of industry and the establishment, during periods of depression, of government work on housing, road building, reforestation, reclamation of desert and swamp, and the development of ports and waterways.

## **5. Equal Rights for Men and Women.**

Complete equality of men and women in government and industry, with the fullest enfranchisement of women, and equal pay for men and women doing similar work.

## **6. Stop Profiteering.**

Reduction of the cost of living to a just level, immediately and as a permanent policy, by the development of cooperation and the elimination of wasteful methods, parasitical middlemen, and all profiteering in the creation and distribution of the products of industry and agriculture, in order that the actual producers may enjoy the fruits of their toil.

## **7. Abolish Kaiserism in Education.**

Democratization of education in public schools and universities through the participation of labor and the organized teachers in the determination of methods, policies, and programs in this fundamental field.

## **8. Soldiers' and Sailors' Insurance for All Workers.**

Continuance after the war of soldiers' and sailors' insurance; extension of such life insurance, by the government without profit, to all men and women; and the establishment of governmental insurance against accident and illness, and upon all insurable forms of property.

**9. War Debt and Government Expense.**

Liquidation of the national debt by the application of all inheritances above \$100,000, supplemented as may be necessary by a direct capital tax upon all persons and corporations where riches have been gained by war or other profiteering, and payment of the current expenses of government by graduated income taxes, public profits from nationally owned utilities and resources, and from a system of taxation of land values which will stimulate rather than retard production.

**10. Public Ownership and Nationalization of Natural Resources.**

Public ownership and operation of railways, steamships, stockyards, grain elevators, terminal markets, telegraphs, telephones, and all other public utilities; and the nationalization and development of basic natural resources, water power, and unused land, with the repatriation of large holdings, to the end that returning soldiers and sailors and dislocated war workers may find an opportunity for an independent livelihood.

**11. Free Speech, Free Press, Free Assemblage.**

Complete restoration, at the earliest possible moment, of all fundamental political rights — free speech, free press, and free assemblage; the removal of all wartime restraints upon the interchange of ideas and the movements of people among communities and nations; and the liberation of all persons held in prison or indicted under charges due to their championship of the rights of labor or their patriotic insistence upon the rights guaranteed to them by the constitution.

**12. Labor Representation in Government.**

Representation of labor, in proportion to its voting strength, in all departments of government and upon all governmental commissions and agencies of demobilization and reconstruction; and recognition of the principles of trade unionism in the relocation of soldiers, sailors, and war workers in peace pursuits, with adequate provision for the support and extension of the Department of Labor as the principle agency therefor.

**13. Labor in the Peace Conference.**

Representation of the workers, in proportion to their numbers in the armies, navies, and workshops of the world, at the peace conference and upon whatever international tribunals may result therefrom, with the labor of this nation represented by the President of the American Federation of Labor and such other delegates as the workers may democratically designate.

**14. An End to Kings and Wars.**

Supplementing the League of Nations, and to make that instrument of international democracy vitally effective for humanity, a league of the workers of all nations pledged and organized to enforce the destruction of autocracy, militarism, and economic imperialism throughout the world, and to bring about worldwide disarmament and open diplomacy, to the end that there shall be no more kings and no more wars.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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