Why Every Worker Should Be A COMMUNIST

And

JOIN THE WORKERS PARTY

By C. E. Ruthenberg

Executive Secretary, Workers Party

"Will he throw him off his back or go over the brink with him?"

1 Cent
IS THIS THE BEST WE CAN DO?

In the United States today we have the land and raw materials, the machinery of production and distribution, and willing labor of tens of millions of industrial workers and farmers, through which every need of the people can be supplied.

We can supply not only good food, good clothing and good homes to live in but we can produce wealth enough to give every man, woman and child the opportunity for a good education, for healthy recreation, for enjoyment of all that is part of a high standard of life.

In place of this we have:

1,200,000 farmers driven from the land and into bankruptcy in the single year 1922 through bitter exploitation by the capitalists.

12,361,643 industrial workers forced to engage in 14,451 strikes for better wages and decent working conditions during the six years from 1916 to 1922.

We have 5,000,000 workers without jobs and denied the opportunity to earn a living in the year 1921.

We have hundreds of thousands of children in our factories and millions of workers living in poverty and squalor with just enough food to keep them alive.

We take from the tens of millions of industrial workers and farmers more than half of the wealth they produce and heap it into the laps of a few hundred thousand capitalists who live in luxury and splendor.

In the years from 1914 to 1918 we created 30,000 new millionaires in the United States.

We have built fortunes of tens of millions, scores of fortunes of hundreds of million and one or two of a BILLION DOLLARS for the favored few.

Is this the best we can do?
The capitalists and their supporters say "Yes"!
The Communists say "No"!
The Workers Party of America says "No"!

The Workers Party is organizing those workers who are ready the struggle for a revolutionary change in our system of production distribution which will give the industrial workers and farmers the opportunity to enjoy what they produce and the chance to live happy, heal lives.
WHAT IS HAPPENING TO CAPITALISM!

The destruction of 10,000,000 lives and $300,000,000,000 of wealth is the proud product of the capitalist system.

The World War which brought this awful calamity upon mankind was the outcome of the capitalist system of production.

The capitalist system robs the industrial workers and farmers of the product of their labor. The capitalists take the goods which the workers produce and the workers can buy back only part of these goods. They do not receive enough in wages to purchase all the goods they produce. The capitalists and the parasites of the capitalist system cannot consume the goods the workers cannot buy. Hence the capitalists are obliged to seek foreign markets.

Through their exploitation of the industrial workers and farmers the capitalists are continually acquiring new capital. They must find profitable investment for it. When it is no longer able to find such opportunities for investment at home the capitalists seek investment opportunities in undeveloped foreign countries. By investing capital in undeveloped countries they create markets for the products of home industry.

All highly developed capitalist countries seek foreign markets and investment opportunities in undeveloped countries. The result is a struggle between capitalist countries over colonies, protectorates, spheres of influence, etc. It was such an imperialist struggle between England, Germany, France, Russia, Austria and Italy which resulted in the World War, the killing of ten million people and destruction of three hundred billion in wealth.

The Capitalist System in Decay

The World War brought into existence the forces which are destroying the whole capitalist system.

Although nearly five years have past since the end of the war Europe has not recovered from the blow dealt the capitalist system there. The financial system of Europe has been undermined and the productive system is in decay. Germany is tottering on the brink of financial collapse and France is not far behind. The collapse of capitalism in Europe will carry with it capitalism in the United States. The United States felt the results of the decay of capitalism when in 1921 five million workers were thrown out of work through cutting off of European markets by Europe's inability to buy our goods.

The capitalist system destroys itself. Its inner forces break down its own structure; the misery and suffering it brings upon the workers and farmers arrays this exploited class against it.

Shall the industrial workers and farmers wait until the capitalist system brings utter destruction upon them? Shall they wait until the whole system of production breaks down and brings misery and suffering and threatens the destruction of our civilization?

Or shall they organize now and exert their power to build a new system of production?

The first step toward a new and better social order is a Workers and Farmers Government. The industrial workers and farmers must organize their political power and establish a Workers and Farmers Government in place of the present capitalist Government.

The Workers Party of America is carrying on the struggle for the establishment of a Workers and Farmers Government in the United States.

S. C. & BUS.

Nov. 12, 1939
EMPLOYER AND WORKER

Every man or woman who works for wages knows that there are two classes in the United States and that there is a constant conflict between these two classes.

The capitalist employers try to pay as little as possible for the labor power of the workers. Low wages and long hours mean greater profits for the capitalist employers. The capitalist employers are in business for profit and they use every means to increase their profits.

The workers, on the other hand, are compelled by their necessities to struggle for higher wages and shorter hours. They are compelled to fight for wages which will buy food, clothing and homes to live in for themselves and their families.

The capitalist employers fight for profits; the workers for wages which will buy the necessities for a decent livelihood. The result is the class struggle which is being waged in every industrial centre in this country.

This struggle expresses itself in great strikes which are constantly breaking forth in the industries. The workers are driven by their necessity to earn a living to resort to their organized power to force the capitalists to pay better wages. They are compelled to risk the greater suffering which a strike means to the workers and their families in order to win from the employers wages that will buy the things they need in order to live.

The strike of the hard coal miners during September, the strike of the miners and shopmen in 1922, the repeated strikes of the garment workers, the strike in the Chicago stock yards and thousands of other industrial struggles which manifest themselves ye...y, are the proof that under the present industrial system the workers and the capitalist employers are engaged in constant warfare over wages and working conditions. This warfare means bitter suffering and privation to hundreds of thousands of workers.

The Government and the Class Struggle

In the struggle between the workers and the capitalist employers the government is always on the side of the capitalist employers.

The government broke the steel strike of 1919; it helped beat the miners the same year. A government board precipitated the shopmen's strike by a wage cut and the government tried to force the shopmen back to work through the infamous Daugherty injunction; it tried to break the miners strike through the use of troops and through pressure by government officials upon the miners' union.

The government today is the strike-breaker for the capitalist employers. The existing government of the United States is a dictatorship in the interest of the capitalist employers. The capitalist employers use the power this dictatorship gives them to beat the workers into submission.

The workers cannot hope to win even better wages and working conditions from the capitalist employers, to say nothing about abolishing the system of exploitation under which they suffer, until they have substituted the rule of the workers and farmers for the rule of the capitalists of the United States.

The Workers Party of America is organizing the workers and farmers to wrest from the hands of the capitalists the power of the government and to establish a Workers and Farmers Government which will use the governmental power in the interest of labor.

Who Gets the Rest?

According to the figures gathered by the Peoples Legislative Service the "farmer gets 37c. of every dollar, city workers pay for farm products and city workers get only 30c. out of every dollar that the farmer pays for factory goods.

That is the fundamental fact of the present industrial system—the exploitation of industrial worker and farmer to amass great fortunes for the few capitalists.
The capitalist employers and the workers!

INDUSTRIAL WORKER AND FARMER

The farmers are exploited by the capitalists who exploit the industrial workers.

Through their ownership of the railroads and storage and marketing facilities the capitalists are able to take from the farmers the greater part of the value of their product. Through their control of the banks which hold the mortgages on the farmers land the capitalists take more of the product of the producers on the land. Through ownership of land which is rented to tenant farmers the capitalists have still another means of making profits out of the work of the farmers.

The industrial worker of the city and the working farmers, farm laborers and tenant farmers all suffer from the same capitalist system of exploitation. They must unite their strength politically to end the rule of the capitalists at Washington. In place of the rule of the capitalists they must establish the rule of the industrial workers and exploited farmers.
The Trade Unions and the Workers Party

The Workers Party program for the trade unions offers the only constructive proposals for making the unions more effective fighting organizations.

Capitalism in the United States has developed in such a way that the industries are owned and controlled through great corporations. Through interlocking directorates these corporations are bound together. The result is that a relatively small group of capitalists with headquarters in Wall Street today are the masters of the industries of the United States.

When a strike takes place in any industry the workers find themselves fighting this gigantic industrial combination. The workers fight through craft unions representing one trade, one small section of an industry, while the capitalists throw into the struggle the whole weight of their great industrial machine.

The workers cannot win better wages and working conditions and establish greater control in industry through craft unions. They are outgrown weapons. To carry on a struggle against the masters of modern industry requires an organization as great as that of the capitalists.

The amalgamation of the trade unions into industrial unions will give the workers a powerful organization with which to meet the capitalists. They will no longer fight in small sections but will throw their whole army into the field against the mighty power of the capitalist employers.

The Workers Party of America is the only organization which is making a consistent educational campaign to bring about the amalgamation of the trade unions. It supports the Trade Union Educational League in its fight for more militant and effective unions.

The Workers Party is opposed to all dual unionism. It urges the workers to remain in the existing unions and to transform these into militant industrial unions.

Every trade unionist who is for a better organized, more powerful union movement in the United States—a union movement that cannot only win the every day struggles of the workers but which will carry on a struggle against the whole capitalist system—should join the Workers Party.

For a Labor Party

The Workers Party of America is the leader in the struggle to build a farmer-labor party which will include the trade unions, the farmers organizations, and all existing labor political organizations.

The Federated Farmer-Labor Party, organized in Chicago on July 5th, is the beginning of such a great farmer-labor party which will unite the industrial workers and farmers for the political struggle against the exploiters.

The Workers Party is affiliated with the Federated Farmer-Labor Party. While maintaining its autonomy as an organization and its right to carry on a campaign of education and organization for Communism, it supports the Federated Farmer-Labor Party in its political struggles and the campaign for a farmer-labor party which will include all the industrial workers and farmers in the United States.

"JOIN THE WORKERS PARTY" is the invitation to those workers who are ready to become part of a Communist political party.

"AFFILIATE WITH THE FEDERATED FARMER-LABOR PARTY" is the appeal to all industrial workers and farmers organizations which are ready to unite in a great farmer-labor party and fight the capitalists for control of the governmental power.
THE ROLE OF A COMMunist PARTY

The Workers Party of America declares boldly that it is a communist party and that it accepts the leadership of the Communist International in the world-wide class struggle.

The Workers Party invites into its ranks those workers who accept the principles of Communism. It requires of its members active support of the party program. It is a disciplined organization and its members are bound by all decisions of the party.

It is only such a disciplined organization made up of those workers who are ready to carry on an active struggle against capitalism that can lead the working class to victory.

The Workers Party believes that there are thousands of workers in the United States who have learned through the bitter experience of oppression and exploitation by the capitalists that it is only through such a party as the Workers’ Party that the struggle against capitalism can be won.

These workers the Workers Party invites to join its ranks. It urges them to unite their strength with the twenty thousand men and women who are now members of the Workers Party and thus to build up a more powerful communist organization in the United States.

The Workers Party has already achieved victories for the communist cause in the United States. It is going forward to greater victories until the final victory against capitalism is won. Their is no greater cause than that which it is fighting—the emancipation of the industrial workers and farmers from the exploitation and oppression of the capitalist class.

To all militant workers—Communists—the Workers Party calls: Join the Workers Party and give your strength to the fight against the capitalist system.

The Goal of the Struggle

The Workers’ Party of America is organized to:

1. Enter into the immediate struggles of the workers for better wages and working conditions and to give its aid to the winning of these struggles.

2. To carry on a campaign for more effective organization of the worker through industrial unions and a farmer-labor party.

3. To build up the mass power of the workers to wrest from the capitalists control of the governmental power and to establish a Workers and Farmers Republic based upon the Soviet Form of Government.

4. To use the power of the Soviet Government to take from the capitalists the ownership and control of industry establishing in its place social ownership and democratic management of all the means of production and distribution.

5. Thus to transform the existing capitalist system into a Communist Society in which all forms of exploitation and oppression will be abolished.
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

The undersigned declares his adherence to the principles and tactics of the Workers Party of America as expressed in its program and constitution, and agrees to submit to the discipline of the party and engage actively in its work.

Signature of applicant

Street address

City __________________________ State __________________________

Proposed by (1) __________________________

(2) __________________________

Note: Initiation fee of 50c. and one month's dues, 50c., must accompany application for membership.

Take this application to the meeting place of the local organization of the Workers Party or mail to the National Office, Room 214 1009 N. State St., Chicago, Ill.

Read These Periodicals for the Facts About the Militant Workers Movement in the United States

Workers Party of America
Room 214—1009 N. State St.
Chicago, Ill.

Enclosed find remittance of $ __________ for which please enter my subscription for the periodical checked below:

Check here

"The Worker" (weekly). Official organ of the Workers' Party of America; $2.00 per year, $1.00 for six months.

"The Voice of Labor" (twice a month). A fighting little agitation paper; one year 50c., six months 25c.

"The Liberator" (monthly). A magazine of informative articles and the best of revolutionary literature; $2.00 per year, six months $1.00.

"The Labor Herald" (monthly). Official organ of the Trade Union Educational League; one year $1.50, six months 75c.

Total $ __________

Name __________________________

Address __________________________

City __________________________