

Text of Foster Statement

(Revised to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, Nov. 10.—William Z. Foster, National Chairman of the Communist Party U.S.A., in a press conference here today issued the following statement:

"The 'riot' last night after the close of the Communist Party meeting in Finnish Hall was a brutal and unprovoked assault upon American workers who were peacefully exercising their right of assembly.

"The attack was deliberately organized and carried out by fascist-like thugs of the automobile corporations, the same gang squads that often attacked the union headquarters and meetings of the U.A.W.-CIO to try to force the workers into the Honor Machine outfit.

"These thugs who presume to speak in the name of Americanism, showed their true principles by savagely beating defenseless women and aged workers. There were uniformed members of the American Legion present, but there are no reports that they took part in the slayings.

"The police department could have prevented the attack if it had been so disposed.

"The shameful affair was a reflection of the spirit created by the notorious fascist agitators, Father Coughlin, Reverend Gerald L. K. Smith and Rev. Frank Meyer, who have made this city their stamping ground and are giving Detroit an unenviable reputation throughout the country through

their un-American activities and activities.

"It is also a fruit of the pro-war hysteria now being generated throughout the country by Martin Dies and his Congressional Committee.

"It all goes to show that the citizens of Detroit must be on the alert to protect their civil liberties. The attack upon the Communist Party is the forerunner of an assault generally upon the trade unions and other progressive organizations in this city.

"The history of the growth of fascism in Germany and Italy shows this all too clearly. The Communist Party is being attacked because it is the loyal defender of the workers' interests and organizations, especially because it is exposing the present war as an imperialist war and is using all its influence to keep the United States out of it.

"We intend to defend legally our right to hold meetings in Detroit and we will move for the prosecution of those responsible for last night's disgraceful assault upon peaceful citizens."