

# THE FIGHTING WORKER

WORKERS OF THE WORLD  
UNITE!



Organ of the Revolutionary Workers League of the U. S.

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## CAPITALIST DEMOCRACY A FRAUD

We have been taught that any American boy has a chance to become President; that we must vote for the best man in elections and that usually, in the long run, the best man wins; that the crooks in government are sooner or later driven out of office by the good people of the community; that the system of elections and the system of voting in the United States is the most democratic in the world.

When anyone says that all this is a lie, that it is far from the truth, that our whole system is nothing but sham democracy, then the Fourth of July orators, the press, the radio and the pulpit say that such a man is a dangerous radical, a red who should be deported. But if this radical can produce facts instead of fancy, proof that tears aside falsehoods and demonstrates the folly of blind faith, then we should listen to him and learn what he has to say.

The Revolutionary Workers League of the United States, fighting for the interests of the vast majority of the population of the country—the working class and poor farmers—asks you to read its program on the election campaign. If you are biased and have your mind already made up, if you “know it all”, then the best thing to do so is to throw this away. But if you are a worker who wants to better the lot of the working class and your family and yourself, then we ask you to listen to the revolutionary workers’ point of view.

### SHAM DEMOCRACY

The backbone of the voting population in the United States is composed of the middle class, and not, as the exploiters would have us believe, the working class which is the majority of the population. For example:

- 1—Millions of Negro workers under Jim Crow oppression are disfranchised;
- 2—Millions of foreign born workers who do the hardest labor from which the bosses reap big profits are disfranchised;
- 3—Millions of youths between 17 and 21, old enough to work but not old enough to vote are disfranchised;
- 4—Millions of native born unemployed workers, transient workers, poverty-stricken workers who move from precinct to precinct and ward to ward or from town to town, are disfranchised;
- 5—Millions of other workers, disgusted with the crooked politicians, refuse to register or go to the polls and boycott the elections;
- 6—The soldier can fight for the nation but he cannot vote.

If these millions do not vote, then who does vote?

- 1—The small property owning middle class in the cities

and the country constitutes the backbone of the American voters;

- 2—The various layers of the capitalist class;
- 3—The workers employed on city, county, state and government jobs who must vote as their political bosses tell them; the workers employed in company towns and company controlled communities; and the workers who are capitalist from the eyebrows up and slaves from the eyebrows down;
- 4—The big cemetery vote, the big graveyard vote list of the politicians, the paid voters of the ward bosses, and the padded lists.

### GETTING ON THE BALLOT

But the above is only a surface sore of the sham democracy in elections in the United States. What about the difficulties encountered by a workers’ ticket which is to be placed on the ballot? Leaving aside the obvious fact that a workers’ party does not have the millions and millions of dollars in campaign funds and gratuitous services which the capitalists have for utilizing the press, radio, movies, church and jobs, we will only mention the difficulties encountered in obtaining a place on the ballot.

To place a workers’ ticket on the ballot the working class must overcome drastic state election laws.

Each state has different laws.

Election commissions in most cases use a dozen methods to disqualify the workers’ ticket after it has complied with the laws to obtain signatures, etc.

Expensive primaries and an expensive election system make it impossible for a workers’ party with a small campaign fund to comply with these regulations and enter tickets in the 48 states.

If the workers’ ticket hurdles the first series of obstacles which the capitalist government has built and obtains a place on the ballot, a whole new series of obstacles confront it.

The majority of votes are thrown out by the vote-counters who are paid agents of the enemy parties.

It is not possible to obtain watchers for every polling place.

Even where the workers’ revolutionary party obtains poll watchers many votes are challenged and in this way disqualified.

And finally when the revolutionary workers’ ticket gains a place on the ballot and obtains enough votes to elect a member to office, the capitalist politicians who are in control usually count out these votes and steal the election.

If and when this hurdle is also overcome along with the rest (gaining a place on the ballot, gaining enough acknowledged votes to elect a member of the workers’

party, preventing the politicians from stealing the election, etc.) then, when the representative of the exploited is in office, a whole new series of hurdles again confront the workers’ party. Behind the law of the land and its million or more phases of judicial interpretation to back it up stands the armed might of the exploiters.

The whole system of parliamentarism, the system of government in the United States, is organized and built to serve the needs and interests of the capitalist class. As long as the workers play the game of parliamentarism, a game in which the cards are stacked against them, the capitalists speak of the sacredness of “democracy” and bourgeois parliament. But as soon as the workers gain sufficient organized might to seriously consider taking over state power the exploiters drop their democratic mask (Italy, Germany, etc., etc.) and resort to open dictatorship and brutal suppression of the working class. In those cities, sections and states where the organized strength of the workers is great enough to gain more pay and less hours, over and over again the bosses and their government resort to martial law and a reign of terror against organized labor. Without economic freedom there can be no political freedom.

In place of the capitalist dictatorship over the workers the working class must establish its rule. Through its dictatorship over the exploiters it will insure democracy for the working class. The working class cannot obtain power through elections and voting its representatives into office. The working class can establish its rule only by the overthrow of the capitalist system and all the institutions which have been organized to defend it.

### TO EXPOSE CAPITALISM

The Revolutionary Workers League participates in elections in order to expose the capitalist system of exploitation, in order to expose the dictatorship of the capitalists, in order to expose sham democracy, in order to help the workers draw the necessary lessons to enable them to establish a Workers Government based upon Workers Councils.

The party of the working class that will accomplish the above ends can do so only on the basis of using its participation in elections, and its representatives in office as an auxiliary to the mass struggles of the class outside of parliament. To promise the workers reforms through the exploiters’ state is to lead the working class into the trap of the class enemy. The lot of the working class cannot be improved through “parliament”. The working class can improve its conditions, by relying only upon its own force in the day-to-day class struggle which is its training ground for the final struggle to overthrow capitalism and set up a Workers Government.

## LABOR SKATES FIGHT

The most important facts for class conscious workers to keep in mind about the struggle in the A. F. of L. between the Green and Lewis forces are:

1. The victory of the Committee for Industrial Organization over the Executive Council in the question of organizing the steel industry, and the affiliation of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers makes a showdown between the conflicting forces soon inevitable. The division between them has now reached a climax. Organizational results will follow.

### WORKERS WANT ACTION

2. The conflict arises out of the pressure of the workers, especially in the basic industries, for organization and action against their enemies.

3. But the conflict between Green and Lewis is not over questions of policy, of how to make this struggle effective. It is a struggle over structure only. Beneath their difference they have a much more important agreement. Both are for collaboration with the capitalists and against class struggle action and policy.

4. The difference between them

also reflects differences among the capitalists. The Lewis-Hillman Committee is the agent of the capitalists who have the inside track under the New Deal. Green stands closer to the capitalists who don’t see any need of trying to keep the workers down with the fake reforms of the New Deal and who want to rely on the old-fashioned policies of more direct suppression.

### NEITHER LEWIS NOR GREEN

5. The working class as a whole and the progressives in the trade union movement will not advance their interests by backing either Lewis or Green or both. Even if it should come to an open split between Green and Lewis the Lewis set-up would not have a class struggle policy.

6. The workers need industrial union structures, but they also need class struggle policies. Industrial unions with class collaboration policies, such as Lewis’ own union, the United Mine Workers of America, cannot serve the interests of the workers against the bosses. On the contrary, through such leaders as Lewis the bosses convert these unions into instruments which serve their interests against the workers.

### ORGANIZE INDEPENDENTLY

7. Industrial unions with class struggle policies can be built only by fighting both the Green crowd and the Lewis bunch. At the same time the workers must make use of the fight between these agents of the capitalists. How? By organizing their own independent force in the A. F. of L. as a whole (in both the Lewis and Green camps) and in the independent trade unions. This means the organization of progressive groups on a policy of class struggle and their unification in a national center such as the old Trade Union Educational League (not the Trade Union Unity League into which the Stalinists converted the Educational League for the purpose of building “revolutionary” trade unions).

That is the line on which The Revolutionary Workers League of the U. S. is working. Workers can get fuller information about this position by writing to the

### FIGHTING WORKER.

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50 cents for six months for blocs of four subscriptions at one time; write for information about our CLUB PLAN.

## Try to Dissolve Non-Partisan Labor Defense

Following a number of unsuccessful attempts during the past year and a half to wreck the Non-Partisan Labor Defense, the Socialist Party is now engaged in another such maneuver.

The essential facts are as follows: the recent national convention of the Socialist Party voted to convert the Labor and Socialist Defense Committee, the defense arm of the Socialist Party, into the Workers Defense League. All the available evidence indicates this is no more than a change in name. The Convention endorsed the defense policy which had been followed in the past which has been frankly partisan and essentially legalistic. In order to clarify the issue the Executive Board of the Non-Partisan Labor Defense voted to ask the Socialist Party for a statement of its defense policy. Thus far the Socialist Party has submitted an equivocal, unsatisfactory answer.

The Socialist Party defense people are trying to pass off this change in name as a change of policy. The Trotskyists are using

this change as a pretext to dissolve the Non-Partisan Labor Defense into the Socialist Party defense body.

A large majority of the National Executive Board, including such well known people in the defense field as Herbert Solow, Elliot Cohen, Louis Berg, Albert Margolies, Anita Brenner and Adelaide Walker, removed from their posts, Felix Morrow and George Novack, for withholding vital information from the Executive Board, especially in connection with the Socialist Party decisions on labor defense, political factional abuse of their officers as Acting Secretary and Chairman, respectively, and sabotage.

### Trotskyist Coup d’Etat

At a meeting of the New York membership, June 17, which they packed, the Trotskyists voted, 53-29, to open unity negotiations immediately with the Socialist Party; and to throw out the National Executive Board of 15, without presenting any charges against it. On the following day they took possession of the National Office in the name of their temporary executive board of five.

The legal Board has carried its case to the national membership in a referendum, the result of which, at this writing, is unknown.



# WORKERS VOTE ELECTION PROGRAM

For President  
**SAMUEL GARRETT**

of the

For Vice-President  
**LOUIS ROBERTS**

## REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS LEAGUE, U. S.

### Revolution is the Answer to Boss Oppression

For a Workers Government in the United States! The Revolutionary Workers League of the U. S. calls on the workers and oppressed masses to direct their day-to-day struggles against the exploiters with the aim of making the final struggle for power and the establishment of a workers government.

#### NEW DEAL PROSPERITY FOR BOSSES

Under the New Deal prosperity has been restored for the exploiters at the expense of the workers and oppressed masses. The Roosevelt government has bolstered up the declining capitalist system; has restored profits to the financiers and industrialists; and has granted a few hollow reforms to check the advance of the workers.

Under the Roosevelt government war preparations involve the largest peace-time expenditures in the history of the country. Billions in government subsidies in one form or another have been granted to the capitalists while crumbs have been thrown to the working class. The "good neighbor" imperialist policy of the New Deal has further enslaved the Philippine and oppressed peoples of Latin America, protected the exploiters' investments at home and abroad, and is laying the basis for a new imperialist expansion.

Finance capital has further consolidated and extended its power under the New Deal. Government, finance and industry have been greatly centralized and coordinated in preparation for imperialist war abroad and class war against the American workers at home.

The United States is the main driving force on a world scale for war. At the same time its favorable economic position enables it to cover its war moves with the cloak of peace and thereby blame the "cause" on the "nations making for war". The United States under the Old or New Deal cannot maintain or extend its position except by WAR.

#### POVERTY UNDER THE NEW DEAL

The workers, the small farmers and the lower middle class have paid the price for the prosperity enjoyed by the big merchants, manufacturers, industrialists and bankers. Under the New Deal real wages have declined even though money wages have increased here and there; prices have increased; and over sixteen million workers are unemployed, constituting a permanent army of unemployed testifying to the inability of the capitalists to continue at the helm of society.

Under the Roosevelt government and its class collaboration policy the workers' democratic rights to organize, strike and picket, etc. are being denied to an ever increasing extent while the forces of reaction are growing.

In order to extricate themselves from the crisis, wealth has been destroyed, farm products have been destroyed, production has been curtailed by the exploiters while poverty increases. The youth of America are condemned to a future of unemployment and charity because the capitalist sys-

### For A Workers Government in the U.S.

The workers of the United States must organize on a class struggle basis as the first step in the fight:

For the six hour day, five day week, and no reduction in pay.

For unemployment and social insurance to be paid for by the capitalists and their government. For work relief at a thirty dollar a week minimum wage.

For economic, social and political equality for the Negro masses.

For the coordination of free education and practical vocational training for all youth; for equal pay for equal work; for independent relief for all youth, equal to the adult.

For immediate complete independence for the colonies and protectorates of the United States.

For democratic rights; for the right to organize, strike and picket.

#### Civil War to End Imperialist War

The workers must struggle for these demands today in order to better their living conditions, and in order to prepare for bigger struggles tomorrow, for the struggle for power. Partial gains through victories of the working class today cannot solve the problem of the oppressed. Only the establishment of a Workers Government in the United States and workers control of production can remedy the problems confronting the working class and the oppressed masses.

The working class must fight imperialist war

tem has become a brake upon productive forces and social progress. Social security laws are passed that make a mockery of security for the workers while laws favoring the exploiters are put into execution.

#### NEW DEAL AND THE CONSTITUTION

The constitution of the United States in its present form can no longer serve the interests of the American imperialists. The "progressive", far-sighted exploiters once again will fight to amend the constitution as they have in the past to enable them to keep abreast with the march of imperialism. The constitution has never served the interest of the working class and the oppressed masses. It cannot serve the workers interests. And it cannot be amended to serve their interests. The constitution was written to serve the interests of the exploiting minority, and was dressed up with trimmings to make it look democratic to the exploited majority.

The constitution assures the exploiters HUMAN RIGHTS because it UPHOLDS THEIR PROPERTY RIGHTS. The working class needs a government and a constitution that grant the workers human rights through the SOCIAL OWNERSHIP of the means of production.

The conflict between the Supreme Court and the New Deal is a reflection of the struggle between two powerful groups of imperialists and their allies in the struggle for control of the government of the United States in order to use it to increase their profits and protect their interests. The New Deal group of imperialists who are farsighted enough to realize that the protection of their interests demands new methods have a difference with the Old Deal group of imperialists who think the old methods of subjection are still sufficient to save their system and their profits. The New Deal is a new method to restore profits, to subject the working class, and to organize national life to prepare for the war

to redivide the earth according to the needs of American imperialism.

The Old Deal group stands for more direct methods of suppressing the working class; the New Deal group disguise their attacks on the workers and poor farmers' standards of living with fake reforms, such as section 7A of the NIRA, the soil conservation program, etc.

#### MORGAN AND ROCKEFELLER

The two main capitalist groups within the country, around which the other capitalist groups unite or play a secondary role are the Morgan and Rockefeller groups. Between these two groups a gigantic struggle is raging. This battle sets the pace for the internal and international policy of the United States. At times the Morgan and Rockefeller interests have come to agreement, have made concessions, and worked together momentarily against other forces, when their interests ran parallel; but today they are in a bitter struggle for the inside track in the coming presidential election.

In the first period of the Roosevelt government the Morgan group fared badly and the Old Deal capitalists have had to fall back on the Supreme Court more than once. The Morgan and Rockefeller groups do not give undivided support to either the Democratic or Republican parties. They support sections of each party. At the same time where one group controls one party it tries to use the opposition party, too. They have their allies in the sectional capitalist groups, the middle class and the labor agents in the working class.

#### THE CAPITALIST PARTIES

The twin parties of the exploiters, Democratic and Republican, with their "progressive" and conservative wing in each party, are the political arena in which the warring groups of capitalists within the country continue the battle they are fighting in the economic sphere. The difference between the New Dealers and the Old Dealers in both parties, even though the New Dealers contr-

with civil war and must work for the defeat of its "own" imperialist armies and navies in the war.

The workers must establish a Workers Government. The workers can accomplish this only by overthrowing American Imperialism, by smashing the rule of the exploiters, by establishing in its place Workers Councils.

#### For a New Society

The Workers Government will expropriate the expropriators, will socialize industry, will be a dictatorship against the exploiters to insure workers democracy. Under this new government the workers will carry on production for use instead of for profit, will organize production on a higher level to insure abundance for all, will eliminate poverty, unemployment and wars, will establish a workers state, cooperate with the Soviet Union, and will lay the basis for a world communist society by giving material support to the revolutionary movement throughout the rest of the world.

A Workers Government can be obtained only by the independent political action of the working class, through a party of the workers, completely independent of all other parties. This party must be an international party, a party of Marxism, a communist party.

#### REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS LEAGUE OF THE U. S.

FOR THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL!

NOTE: Agrarian Program printed separately.

### THE WORKERS VOTE

The Workers Vote is a vote against capitalism for a Workers Government conducted by the Revolutionary Workers League of the U. S. independently of the capitalist election system.

The Workers Vote is not based on the exploiters election laws. It is governed by the laws of working class interests and needs.

The capitalist laws disfranchise millions. The Workers Vote is governed by the working class law: ALL WHO WORK SHALL VOTE.

#### WHO CAN VOTE

All workers, poor farmers, all the oppressed in the United States, regardless of color, sex, citizenship in the United States or elsewhere, residence qualifications, etc., can vote in the Workers Vote. All who toil who are over seventeen can vote. And only those who toil. Bosses and their direct agents are barred.

The candidates of the Workers Vote stand on the platform of the overthrow of capitalism and for a Workers Government.

The Workers Vote registers the vote of workers whether they are given the vote by capitalism or are disfranchised. It exposes the fake democracy of capitalism.

The Workers Vote runs parallel to the voting system of the exploiters.

#### Write In Names of Workers Vote Candidates

Workers who vote in the Workers Vote should also vote in the capitalist elections, if they can, for the candidates of the Workers Vote by writing in their own names on the capitalist election ballots. Where and when we are strong enough we will enter a Workers Vote ticket in the capitalist elections, too. That will be supplementary to the independent Workers Vote.

To vote for the program and candidates of the Revolutionary Workers League you sign your name to the Workers Vote list, after you have read our program and our literature.

#### VOTE FOR THE WORKERS TICKET THROUGH THE WORKERS VOTE!

GET YOUR FAMILY, YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR SHOP MATES TO SIGN THE WORKERS VOTE LIST!

GET YOUR SHOP, MINE, MILL OR FACTORY TO CAST A WORKERS VOTE!

If you agree with our program then you should get a Workers Vote list and have your friends and fellow workers sign.

In conjunction with the WORKERS VOTE, the Revolutionary League asks all those who agree with our program and who sign the Workers Vote lists to vote at the polls on election day, if you are allowed to vote. Write in the names of our candidates or write to our office for a bundle of stickers for the ballots.

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FOR THE 4th INTERNATIONAL!

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