
American Labor Alliance is Launched in New York: Independent Labor Organizations Form a United Body to Abolish Capitalism and Establish a Workers' Soviet Republic: Sentiment Against Reaction is Crystallized.

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Progressive and radical organizations of the American labor movement have long felt the need for a common base from which to attack the reactionary control of the American movement. For many years the opposition to the Gompers machine has been growing. It has resulted in the creation from time to time of various sporadic organizations of more or less stability and more or less intelligent understanding of the problems that had to be faced and the tactics that ought to be used in order to bring the great masses of workers into line behind the radical program.

With the present industrial crisis threatening the very existence of the labor movement through its widespread unemployment and the open shop drive, it has become increasingly necessary to give to American labor a militant leadership, a scientific economic program, and a class conscious rank and file. As was confidently expected, the recent AF of L convention in Denver has utterly failed to do anything to stem the tide of defeat after defeat that has been increasingly the lot of American labor ever since the signing of the armistice. The Denver convention was only the culmination of years of futility and weakness of the AF of L. More than anything else in recent years it has shown that the AF of L under its present leadership, with its lack of any semblance of a progressive program, is utterly incapable to cope with the pressing problems facing the workers.

To Oppose Reaction.

The growing discontent with the <line missing> comprised of affiliated organizations representing ev-

ery part of the United States being crystallized. With the launching of the American Labor Alliance, comprised of affiliated organizations representing every part of the United States and varied fields of working class endeavor, the radical elements in the American labor movement have at last come together. With a close purpose, program, and tactics, 12 of the most active and widely known workers' independent organizations have come together in an affiliated organization to present a united front against every enemy of the working class, from the master class government to the weak and reactionary labor leaders.

The plan for forming the American Labor Alliance was conceived at an informal conference of a few representatives of radical organizations. These called a convention of representatives from 15 independent organizations to which 10 responded with official delegates and 2 others with unofficial, fraternal delegates. Organizations officially represented were: Friends of Soviet Russia; the Irish American Labor League; National Defense Committee; Finnish Socialist Federation; Associated Toiler Clubs; American Freedom Foundation; Ukrainian Workers Club; Industrial Socialist League; Marxian Educational Society; and the Hungarian Workers Federation. Unofficially the Arbeiter Bildungs-Vereine and the Pacific Coast Educational Bureau were represented.

The first-named 10 organizations became affiliated with the newly formed American Labor Alliance when the governing rules, submitted by an elected sub-committee, were unanimously adopted. They are as follows:

Governing Rules of the American Labor Alliance.

Art. 1. The name of the organization shall be the American Labor Alliance.

Art. 2. The purpose of the American Labor Alliance shall be to propagate to the workers the idea of the abolition of the capitalist system through the establishment of a Workers' Soviet Republic; to uphold the interests of the workers in the class struggle; to fight against reactionary policies in the labor movement; and to defend class war prisoners.

Art. 3. Any organization which declares itself to be in agreement with the purpose of the ALA and which agrees to abide by its working rules, may be affiliated upon vote of a majority of the Executive Board.

Art. 4. The affairs of the organization shall be administered by an Executive Board of 7 members elected by convention. The decisions of the Executive Board shall be binding on all affiliated organizations.

Art. 5. The ALA shall be financed by voluntary contributions from the affiliated organizations and from sympathizers.

Art. 6. A convention of the ALA may be called at any time by the Executive Board or upon demand of a two-thirds majority vote of the affiliated organizations.

Elected Officials.

J.P. Cannon, Associated toiler Clubs; William Woodworth, Marxian Educational Society; L.E. Katterfeld and Edgar Owens, National Defense Committee; Michael Dardella, Ukrainian Workers Club; Dr. Walenka, Friends of Soviet Russia; and Caleb Harrison, Industrial Socialist League, were elected to the Executive Board by unanimous vote of the convention. Upon adjournment of the convention the Executive Board immediately went into session. It elected Caleb Harrison as National Secretary and decided to establish the National Headquarters in New York City.

The Executive Board proposes to embark im-

mediately upon 3 main lines of endeavor: Lyceum, Literature, and Defense. Speakers are to be routed throughout the country to speak for the ALA and for the various organizations affiliated, on propaganda, educational, and defense matters. Literature in the shape of pamphlets and leaflets on subjects of immediate interest to the working class will be published and given the widest circulation. The scope and character of the different organizations will be enlarged and the various activities carried out on a national scale. Local branches of the affiliated organizations will be established in the industrial centers. All true progressive organizations will be encouraged to affiliate and the entire mass of progressive and radical workers will be united to present a common front against its enemies.

Fills a Great Need.

It is not only that 10 organizations, totalling a joint membership of many thousands of workers, have become united to work out more thoroughly and efficiently their common problems, that constitutes the chief reason for the encouragement of the militant working class. It is true that these organizations and those which will soon join represent the best elements of the American labor movement. That they have been organized into one centralized organization is encouraging indeed; it is a great beginning. But what offers the greatest cause for encouragement is the fact that this new organization will fill a long felt and vital need. It is the organization that the working class of America has been looking for. The expressed opinion of all the delegates present was: "The American Labor Alliance is the organization that our membership has been seeking. Now that it has been formed we shall not only have an increase in the number and activity of our membership, but we shall attract to our standards all the truly class-conscious workers of America."

Headquarters of the American Labor Alliance have been established at 201 W 13th St. New York City. All communications should be sent to Caleb Harrison, Secretary, at that address.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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