
All Power to the Workers!

Declaration Issued by the Communist Party, Local Greater New York †

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The Communist Party protests emphatically against the reactionary forces, mobilized by the Lusk Committee, in making raids and arrests at the branches of our Party.

This protest, we realize, will not stop the tyranny of the forces of “law and order,” since their purpose is to break the Communist Party, which represents the movement of conscious workers for the overthrow of Capitalism. But the Communist Party cannot be broken by terrorism and violence, since it represents the revolutionary class struggle of the American workers, which will conquer and break the power of Capitalism.

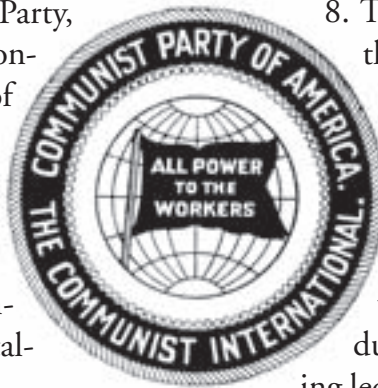
The Communist Party is accused of using force; but it is the forces of reaction that are using force against the Communist Party.

The Communist Party is accused of fomenting terrorism; but we find that it is the reactionary forces that are using terrorism against the Com-

munist Party.

These acts of violence and terrorism come as a climax to the preparations made by the forces of “law and order” — the police and newspapers — for a massacre of the Communist Party meeting on Rutgers Square, scheduled for November 8. The newspapers lyingly reported that the Communist Party was prepared to throw bombs, to use violence; lying reports circulated for the express purpose of creating a pretext for using force and violence against Communists and making a massacre. The whole attitude of the police officials during the preparations for the meeting led to the conclusion that they were the ones preparing for a massacre, although they knew and the newspapers knew that the proposed meeting was to have been but a peaceful demonstration.

And these are the people accusing the Communist Party of preparing to launch a campaign



†- Testimony as to the nature of the underground CPA of Local Greater New York is provided by the official report of the Lusk Committee, citing testimony given to it by Harry Winitsky as a source: “By November 8, 1919, approximately 65 branches of the Communist Party had been established in Greater New York. These included English-speaking branches, as well as Russian, Ukrainian, Lithuanian, Lettish [Latvian], Hungarian, and Jewish [Yiddish-language] branches. These branches were turned into local district clubs, libraries were collected, reading rooms established, musical clubs organized, courses of instruction in English for foreigners established, and in so far as their financial means allowed, these were made centers of attraction and amusement for the neighborhoods in which they were located. By these means large numbers of persons who were not familiar with the object and purpose of the organization were enticed to frequent the rooms of the branches. In some of the larger branches refreshments could be had at reasonable prices, and weekly dances were held. All persons who had previously been members of the Left Wing Section of the Socialist Party were admitted to membership in the Communist Party without making the usual application for membership provided for in the constitution.” [Archibald Stevenson (ed.), *Revolutionary Radicalism: Its History, Purpose and Tactics....: Report of the Joint Legislative Committee Investigating Seditious Activities, Filed April 24, 1920, in the Senate of the State of New York: Part I: Revolutionary and Subversive Movements Abroad and at Home, Volume 1.* (New York: J.B. Lyon Co., 1920), pg. 761.]

of violence and terrorism!

The arrest of many of our comrades, for no overt illegal act whatever, is proof positive that the forces of “law and order” are the first to violate this law and order in the process of the struggle of class against class.

The real purpose of these acts of terrorism and despotism, worthy of the most brutal traditions of Tsarism, is not only to break the Communist Party, but to terrorize the workers, to crush their strikes, and to prevent the workers adopting more radical purposes in their struggles against the master class.

The raids upon the Communist Party and other organizations and the wholesale arrests following the breaking of the miners’ strike by the government, and their ruthless use of the courts, clearly proves that the government is adopting a policy aimed to crush the movement of the working class.

A challenge has been issued not alone to the Communist Party, but to the whole working class. The working class will yet answer that challenge.

The Communist Party is not a secret organization, it clearly proclaims its purpose: The overthrow of Capitalism by means of the proletarian conquest of political power, the introduction of a workers’ government by means of which the evil

power of Capitalism will be completely broken and industrial oppression will be no more — no poverty, no war, and no universal massacres.

Is that criminal? If so, progress is criminal. Then criminal is every man or woman working for a finer civilization.

Revolutions come, they are not made. They are produced by the conditions of life and not by the wishes of men. And when revolutions come, despotism and terrorism will not stop their course, but hasten their progress. Tsars employed centuries of despotism, only to prepare its own destruction.

Instead of preventing the American workers from awakening to conscious action for the conquest of political power, brutality and violence on the part of “law and order” can only hasten the process.

Workers, men and women! Comrades! The forces of Capitalism are prepared to impose more brutal despotism and misery upon you, to crush your movement for liberty and a larger life.

You must rally to the Communist Party! You must hasten to the defense of our political prisoners. You must carry on the class struggle against Capitalism, until you are in control as workers of all political and industrial power.

All power to the Workers!

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.

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