
Down With the Betrayers of the Workers

Proclamation to the Striking Railwaymen by the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of America.

Agitational leaflet published by the Communist Party of America [New York: 1920].

You are on strike. You have been compelled to leave your jobs and refuse to work to enforce your demand for wages which will enable you to support your families. You are fighting to protect your members from the bosses.

You did not go on strike independently until you were convinced that those who were chosen to protect your interests had betrayed you and were unworthy of your trust. Your strike is the result of the discontent of the masses of the workers with their appointed "leaders." It is action by the rank and file to secure wages that will enable them to live, because they are convinced that their reactionary officials cannot be trusted.

Your strike is a part of the great class struggle of the workers against the capitalists. In this struggle there are only two sides — the workers' side and that of the capitalists. Any man, any official, who is loyal to the workers would have supported you in your strike once it was begun.

But in place of supporting you, in place of bringing to your support all the resources of their organizations and thus helping you to win the fight against the bosses, the officials of the great unions of those employed on the railroad are calling your strike "ILLEGAL" and calling you "OUTLAWS."

In their eyes it is illegal for you to demand more comforts for your families unless they approve of your demand. It is illegal for you to want

to take action against the bosses without their consent. Having betrayed you by not taking up your struggle in the beginning, now that you have taken matters in your own hands, **THEY BETRAY YOU FURTHER BY HELPING THE BOSSES TO BREAK YOUR STRIKE.**

Striking Railwaymen, your officials are teaching you the lesson which the workers of this country must learn before they can hope for better things for themselves.

The reactionary heads of the Railroad Brotherhoods, as well as of the American Federation of Labor,, are the enemies of the masses of the workers. They betrayed the steel workers in their strike, they betrayed the coal miners in their strike, **AND THEY ARE NOW BETRAYING YOU.**

The workers will never get anything for themselves so long as they follow these reactionary officials who help to uphold the bosses. These reactionary officials are the chief supporters of the whole rotten system of capitalism. The president of the Trainmen's Union, W.G. Lee, has even gone so far as to endorse General Leonard Wood for the Presidency — General Wood whom the capitalists are grooming for the Presidency so that they can put down the strikes of the workers with bullets!

Sweep aside the traitors to the working class in your organization. Throw them out of your organization, making your organization the militant

expressing of the workers. Keep it out of the reactionary American Federation of Labor. Make it a real fighting organization against low wages, bad working conditions, **MORE IMPORTANT, AGAINST THE CAPITALISTS AND THE WHOLE CAPITALIST SYSTEM.**

Stand firm in your present strike. Do not let the cry of “illegal” and “outlaw” frighten you. These cries are merely the means through which the reactionary betrayers of the workers maintain their power.

The masses of the workers in other industries do not care a hand whether your strike is “illegal” and you are “outlaws” in the eyes of these betrayers. They know you are right in your demands. They know you are right in your demands. They know you are fighting against the bosses who rob and oppress you and that wherever workers fight the bosses they are right.

Other workers are joining you. The miners of Kansas are striking in spite of state laws and the “illegality” of their strike. The Communist Party is in full sympathy with you and its members will give you their support.

Stand firm. Fight it out. Make the bosses grant your demands. You have the power to win if you stick to the finish.

THEN REBUILD YOUR ORGANIZATION. HAVE IT A FIGHTING MACHINE FOR THE WORKERS. THROW OUT THE REACTIONARY BETRAYERS OF THE WORKERS WHO HOLD FAT JOBS AND LIVE IN COMFORT AND CALL YOUR DEMANDS FOR BETTER THINGS “ILLEGAL.” MAKE IT ONE BIG UNION OF RAILWAYMEN FIGHTING FOR THE WORKERS. YOU HAVE THE POWER AND CAN DO IT IF YOU STICK.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2006. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.