
We Go Forward to Victory!

Second National Convention of Workers Party Makes History in American Class Struggle.

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“Go to the Masses!”

That was the slogan given to the world Communist movement by the Third Congress of the Communist International, held in July 1921 at Moscow.

It has taken the Communist movement in America a little time to respond to that slogan of “The International.”

It first had to organize an instrument for that effort. That was achieved at the First National Convention of the Workers Party, in December 1921.

The Second National Convention of the Workers Party, just held in New York City, shows that the American Communist movement has developed that contact with the millions of America’s workers demanded by the slogan of “The International,” that it has gone to the masses, and that the masses are beginning to listen to its message.

For the first time in the history of the American revolutionary movement, a labor vanguard is really in action, ready to fight the everyday battles of the workers as well as lead the way to the ultimate emancipation of oppressed toiling humanity.

This was accomplished in great part by definite action taken by the Second National Convention of the Workers Party on two propositions:

First: When the convention endorsed the campaign of the Workers Party Central Executive Committee for the Labor Party, and approved the sending of delegates to the Cleveland Conference for Progressive Political Action, the party was placed squarely on record for the building in this country of a class political expression of the American workers.

Second: When the convention endorsed the program of working within the old unions, urging the militant workers to take their stand with the amalgamation program of the Trade Union Educational League, it showed its faith in the policy approved by the First Convention of the party, one year ago, a policy that is gradually placing the party in contact with the great multitudes of economically organized workers.

These two programs will be developed by the rapidly growing membership of the Workers Party during the coming year. The party membership will support them with their energy, enthusiasm, and self-sacrifice. With the increased knowledge born of the struggles and experiences of the past few years, the party membership will win greater masses of workers to the party position, making the Workers Party the biggest and most vital factor in the life of American labor.

While practically all the rest of the work of the convention was essentially subsidiary to, nev-

ertheless, it was in support of these two main propositions: political work and industrial work. The program adopted firmly embedded the party position in Communist fundamentals. It was at once a threat to the American ruling class and a challenge to those misleaders and traitors in the ranks of the workers, who would lead labor off on rainbow hunts in pursuit of “democracy” and other futile shortcuts to the abolition of the capitalist social system of profit and plunder.

The Workers Party takes its stand as the defender of the rights of the foreign-born workers, it espouses the cause of the oppressed Negro workers, and takes its stand in support of all the class war prisoners.

The party takes its stand against mass emigration to Soviet Russia, feeling that “revolutionary determination can be expressed only by American workers remaining in America and fighting for their emancipation here.”

While recognizing the necessity of foreign-language sections, the party demands that their activities be centralized to make the party an effective organization.

Similar centralization and discipline is demanded for the party press, developing that strength that will make it possible to launch in the near future a [English language] Communist daily, the forerunner of a powerful daily press fighting for Communism in the United States.

The necessity for work among the youth and among women workers was recognized and steps taken to promote these activities.

A program for educational work was adopted in recognition of the need for “primary and advanced education in economics and communist tactics in political and labor union work among our party membership.”

Resolutions were adopted: calling upon the workers to join in a great movement to compel the government of the United States to recognize Soviet Russia and to grant a long-time loan for the economic reconstruction of Russia; approv-

ing the aims of the Russian-American Industrial Corporation; denouncing the American Legion and Ku Klux Klan and urging workers to join the World War Veterans; urging all members to become readers of *The Labor Herald*; and endorsing the action of the Central Executive Committee in meeting the crisis in the Jewish Section of the Party.

It was with a tremendous feeling of satisfaction that the convention elected the party’s Central Executive Committee for the coming year, adopted a cablegram to be sent to the Communist International, and then adjourned with the singing of “The International” to attend a banquet arranged by Local New York of the party.

We Arrive Through Struggles.

Frequently there crept into the discussions of the convention an indication of some of the struggles through which the communist movement in this country has passed before arriving at its present stage of effectiveness.

The delegates were enthused over the fact that on the eve of the assembling of the convention the last of the comrades taken in the Michigan raid [Bridgman, MI: Aug. 22, 1922] had been released. Many of them sat as delegates in the convention, including [Bill] Dunne, [C.E.] Ruthenberg, [Alex] Bail, [Caleb] Harrison, [Cyril] Lambkin, [Earl] Browder, [Charles] Krumbein, [Thomas] Sullivan, [Norman] Tallentire, and [Max] Lerner.

Some of the delegates were but recently released from the Illinois State Prison at Joliet, where they had been sent as former members of the Communist Labor Party. These included Ludwig Lore and Niels Kjar.

Delegate James Dolsen had been one of five recently on trial as former Communist Laborites at Oakland, Calif. The jury had disagreed and the indictment has since been dismissed.

Many other delegates have spent more or less

time in prisons in this country for their loyalty to labor, including [Harry] Wicks, [Edward] Lindgren, and Merrick, who spent 31 months in the Western Pennsylvania Penitentiary for strike activities. Others have been faced with deportation proceedings, while the remainder, if they have not been subject to extreme capitalist persecution in this country, have faced it unflinchingly in the European countries from which they have come.

It may truthfully be said that the great majority of the delegates have gone to prison, at one time or another, to help build up the Communist movement in this country that is now the medium through which greater and more effective Communist work will be carried on during the months ahead.

When the capitalist government of the United States struck at the American Communist movement in January 1920, sending thousands to prison, it was declared that Communism had been wiped out in America.

Through the Second National Convention of the Workers Party, Communism rises more powerful, mightier than ever, more firmly entrenched in the hearts and in the minds of the exploited working men and women of America.

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