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# A Call for United Action:

## To All Labor Unions, Farmers' Organizations, and Other Economic, Political, Cooperative, and Fraternal Organizations of the Producing Class.

An appeal by the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party of America, published in *The Socialist World* [Chicago], v. 2, no. 8 (Sept. 1921), pp. 7-8.

The last National Convention of the Socialist Party adopted the following resolution:

### Cooperation with Radical and Liberal Organizations.

The reconquering and maintaining of our civil rights and liberties and the securing of substantial measures of economic relief, can only be attained through the united and concerted action of all progressive militant and class-conscious workers, industrial and agricultural, in the United States.

**Be It Therefore Resolved**, That the incoming National Executive Committee be instructed to make a careful survey of all radical and labor organizations in the country, with a view to ascertaining their strength, disposition, and readiness to cooperate with the Socialist movement upon a plat form not inconsistent with that of the party, and on a plan which will preserve the integrity and autonomy of the Socialist Party.

**Resolved**, That the National Executive Committee report its findings to the next annual convention of the Socialist Party.

In pursuance of the instructions of the convention, we are submitting this resolution and the possibilities which it suggests for your consideration.

The present situation is so grave that all honest and progressive labor men must realize the necessity of some common understanding upon which we can unite to stem the tide of reaction that is sweeping over the country and threatening every right and interest of the common people.

We are in the midst of the worst industrial depression we have ever experienced.

Six million idle workers vainly seek for employment.

As the result of the low price of farm products, the excessive freight rates, and the capitalist control of markets and storage facilities, the agricultural popula-

tion faces a condition that is little better.

In the midst of the world chaos and the unparalleled panic in this country, the government, either from choice or inability, does nothing to relieve the acute distress of the working class, and all its acts tend to strengthen and support the forces of reactionary capitalism.

The organized employers are waging a bitter open-shop campaign that threatens the very existence of our labor organizations.

The state and national governments, through such acts as the Industrial Courts Act in Kansas, anti-syndicalist laws directed against the freedom of speech, press, and organization, the use of the power of injunction in an ever widening scope, are supporting the employers' associations and practically destroying the right to organize.

While assisting the anti-social forces by such direct legislative and judicial partisanship, the government tolerates the existence of private armies of gunmen in the guise of detective agencies, and the organized lawlessness of the American Legion and the Ku Klux Klan in attacking labor organizers and terrorizing the public.

No organization, calculated to strengthen the working class or improve its conditions, is so conservative as to escape these assaults, or so peaceful and law abiding as to receive the protection of the government.

American Federation of Labor organizers in Alabama and Georgia, in West Virginia and Pennsylvania, receive the same treatment as IWW workers in Washington and Idaho, the Non-Partisan League speakers in Kansas and Nebraska, or the Socialist Party representatives in Iowa and Texas.

North and South, East and West, the organized forces of a brutal, unscrupulous ruling class are attacking and destroying every organization that dares speak in behalf of the toiling masses.

In this crisis the one imperative need is Unity. The forces of every progressive, liberal, and radical organization of the workers must be mobilized to repel these assaults and to advance the industrial and political power of the working class.

This conference has special reference to united political action similar to that of the federated organizations of the British Labour Party. It would determine whether united political action could be obtained in behalf of a common objective, the masses of the nation face the task of recovering the elemental rights of organization, free press, free discussion, etc., that were won generations ago and are now jeopardized by the black reaction following the World War. Thinking men and women concede that this grave situation is largely due to our failure to use our voting power independently of the political parties of the masters of finance and industry.

The political power of the producers must be organized and consolidated. Heretofore they have generally supported parties and policies hostile to their interests. Those progressive organizations which have realized the need of independent political action have dissipated their energies in needless bickering and competition.

Prejudice, partisanship, jealousy, and misunderstandings must be swept aside and a united front be presented by the labor forces to the enemy that is attempting to destroy us.

It is in this spirit that the resolution was adopted by our convention. It is in this spirit that the resolution is now submitted for your consideration.

We desire to make clear that the Socialist Party asks nothing for itself that it is not willing to grant to every organization that may respond to this appeal. The invitation we are extending implies the following:

(1) Participation in the proposed conference does not bind or obligate any organization to the acts or decisions of the conference.

(2) In case an organization, federation, or working agreement is reached, it is understood that the participating organizations will retain the integrity of their organizations and complete independence in all matters affecting their membership and organization affairs.

Will you please bring this communication to the attention of your Executive Board or other proper officials at the earliest possible date and if possible favor us with a reply not later than December 15th?

In submitting this matter we urge its consideration in the same spirit in which it is presented — i.e., with full recognition and respect for the different views and policies of the different organizations, but with the conviction that there is a common ground upon which all progressive industrial and agricultural workers may unite in matters which are of mutual interest. In this crisis it is our duty to subordinate every other consideration to the necessity of mobilizing and uniting our forces for our mutual interests and our common progress and advancement.

**National Executive Committee, Socialist Party.**

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