

THE WORKER IN THE 1940 ELECTIONS

**VOTE AGAINST WAR AND
CAPITALISM**

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REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS LEAGUE

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THE WORKER IN THE 1940 ELECTIONS

When you vote for Presidential candidates in 1940, don't forget 1916! That was the year the American people voted for Peace and Wilson, and got a bellyful of bayonets. A vote in 1940 for a Republican, Democrat, or any other Capitalist Party (even if it's called "Labor" Party) is a vote for WAR, REACTION and HUNGER.

You won't solve your problems at this election. The cards are already stacked against you. Wall Street owns all the major candidates and Parties. Wall Street millions finance the campaign. Wall Street lawyers have developed the election system to the point where it's just a fraud and a hypocritical snare.

Even President Roosevelt admitted last year that more than half the whites in Virginia over 21 can't vote. As far as the Negroes are concerned their plight is even worse. Poll taxes in the South of one, two or more dollars eliminate at least half the population from voting. Millions of transient workers, unemployed and youth under 21 — old enough to work or serve in the army but not old enough to vote, — foreign born workers, soldiers, residents of Washington, D. C., and many others are in one way or another barred from the ballot.

BOSSSES CONTROL ELECTIONS

Assuming, however, that all these people could vote — what sort of choice do they have? In at least 23 states in the union it is next to impossible for anybody outside of the two big capitalist parties to get on the ballot. Even the strong Coughlin-Lemke Union Party of the last election couldn't get on the ballots of many states. Other states require nominating petitions with as high as 250,000 signatures. To really run an effective presidential campaign under modern capitalism it takes millions of dollars. What working class organization can today match the capitalist dollars?

Furthermore, if a working class party could hurdle all these obstacles, could enfranchise the 10 or 15 million workers who are deprived of votes, could get all the necessary signatures to get on the ballot — what assurance would it have of actually being permitted to serve? None, whatsoever. Members of our older generation remember how the capitalists in New York, Washington, and many other places after the last war, threw Socialist legislators out of office simply because they were too "radical".

No, you can't solve your problems at the ballot. If you vote for Mr. Roosevelt, Mr. Dewey, Mr. Hull, Mr. Vandenberg, or their second line agents, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Browder, or Mr. Thomas — you're voting to keep up this "democratic" sham, you're voting to preserve the rotten hulk of capitalism. If you don't want to waste your ballot, write in the names of the Candidates on the Workers Vote ticket, C. B. Cowan for President, Allan Willis for Vice-President.

VOTE FOR WORKERS STRUGGLE

A vote for the Workers Vote ticket is a vote against capitalism, a PROTEST against the profit system, a voice telling the capitalists that you're sick of capitalist hunger, wars and reaction, that you're ready to fight for a WORKERS GOVERNMENT.

A vote for the candidates of the Revolutionary Workers League is a vote:

1) Against the Democratic-Republican War Plans
— Defeat Capitalism.

2) For Workers Democratic Rights.

3) For Workers Control of Production for Use under a Workers Council Government.

Don't fall into the old trap again! You want a change — but don't change back to the Republican. For eleven long depression years you've been hearing both the Hoover and Roosevelt variety of the capitalist politicians as to why they CAN'T provide for the lost generation of youth, why they CAN'T build homes for the homeless, why they CAN'T raise the living standard of the masses.

Professors have brought out all sorts of books to show why the masses must starve while idle factories, idle lands, idle gold and unemployed rot, while the state builds up a war machine running into billions of dollars. But the facts are really very simple — simple enough for anyone to understand.

The United States could easily produce 160 billion dollars income annually. BUT under Hoover, Roosevelt and the rest, they produce 65 billion dollars a year. Capitalism refuses to produce when there are no profits. It condemns 12—14 million to unemployment, 24 million to relief starvation; it has 57 million pounds of turkey in COLD STORAGE while the masses starve, millions of pounds of butter, eggs, wheat, corn etc., while workers children get tuberculosis, pellagra and other diseases of undernourishment.

BOSSSES PREPARE WAR ENTRY

And now in the year 1940, the prospect is even worse. In a real sense economically and politically, America is **ALREADY IN THE IMPERIALIST WAR IN EUROPE.** This will be followed by the military phase. The war budget is being skyrocketed to over 2 billion, while WPA is being cut to less than a billion. The capitalist politicians in Washington, led by New Dealer Roosevelt — are preparing a giant straitjacket of reaction.

We've already seen its beginnings. The government prosecution of building trade unions on phoney "anti-trust" charges; the Roosevelt and LaGuardia edict that you "can't strike against the government"; the smashing of the great WPA strike in Minneapolis and the frame up of dozens of its leaders; the anti-alien bills; **THE FORCED LABOR BEING INTRODUCED IN VARIOUS STATES FOR JOBLESS ON RELIEF**; fingerprinting on many war projects; threatened disfranchisement of workers on relief. The increased activity of the rotten Dies Committee — which is paving the way for the illegalization of Working Class organizations; the growth of all sorts of vigilante outfits; the shift of taxes quietly and slowly onto the backs of the workers and poor home-owners, and many, many other such factors.

To vote for this government and this system, for the program of plowing under while people starve, is to cut your nose off to spite your face, is **REALLY WASTING YOUR VOTES.** To express your interests, push the class struggle in your factory, strike the war industry plants, organize the unorganized, and develop independent working class action, support the Workers Vote Campaigns for a **WORKERS COUNCIL GOVERNMENT** by writing in the names of C. B. Cowan for President and Allan Wilis for Vice-president, **WORKERS VOTE** candidates.

VOTE FOR A WORKING CLASS PROGRAM

1) AGAINST THE ROOSEVELT WAR PLANS —
Expose the role of American Imperialism, Democratic and Republican, as the Main Driving force for War; strike the munition plants; arm the working class and the poor farmers against the bourgeois war machine for the defense of their democratic rights; fight against the Roosevelt War Plans by fighting against the Capitalist System.

2) FULL FREEDOM FOR THE NEGRO PEOPLE
— Against Jim Crow discrimination of Negroes; organize to smash the restrictions forcing Negroes to live in filthy, overcrowded, high-rent Ghettos; free the five Scottsboro boys still held on a vicious frame-up in Alabama; stop the lynching of whites and Negroes by organizing powerful unions and Workers Defense Squads of black and white workers; for economic, political and social equality for the Negro people.

3) SAVE THE "LOST GENERATION" OF YOUTH
— Demand the right of equal pay for equal work; for independent relief for all youth equal to that of adults; for free educational and practical vocational training for all youth.

4) FOR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS OF THE WORKING CLASS — Fight the Roosevelt campaign against civil rights; for the right to strike, INCLUDING THE SIT-DOWN STRIKE; to picket — INCLUDING MASS PICKETING AND WORKERS DEFENSE SQUADS; the right of assembly, and other workers rights.

5) FOR IMMEDIATE AND COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE FOR THE COLONIES AND PROTECTORATES NOW UNDER THE UNITED STATES CONTROL — including Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Cuba, Virgin Islands and many others; free the Puerto Rican nationalist prisoners in U. S. jails.

6) RAISE THE LIVING STANDARDS of THE MASSES — For the five days week, six-hour day; for trade union wages on WPA; for a \$30 weekly minimum for WPA and relief; for workers control of the administration of relief; for social insurance — maternity, old-age, unemployment, and others — **PAID FOR BY THE CAPITALISTS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT. FOR WORKERS CONTROL OF PRODUCTION FOR USE.**

The working class must struggle for these demands today in order to better their living conditions and in order to prepare for the greater struggles that are to come. Only a Workers Council Government can solve the problems of the oppressed in the last analysis.

7) SAVE THE POOR FARMERS AND SHARECROPPERS FROM PAUPERIZATION — Abolish all existing mortgages; divide the land of the Southern bourgeois among the sharecroppers and tenants who now inhabit them; for a complete moratorium on rents paid to the large landowners; organize the workers on the big bonanza farms and smash the power of the landcapitalists.

The working class must fight imperialist war; where the capitalists and their government organize wars to continue **their** system of oppression of the proletariat, the workers must organize and work for the defeat of their "Own" government and the capitalist armed forces.

THE WORKERS MUST ESTABLISH A WORKERS COUNCIL GOVERNMENT, a government that will expropriate the capitalist slave-drivers, will socialize industry; a government against the exploiters, in order to insure democracy for the working class. The new government will carry on production for use instead of for profit, will organize production on a higher level in order to assure abundance for all, instead of starvation amidst plenty, to insure the elimination of poverty, unemployment, and imperialist war. The workers in the United States must establish a Workers State that will cooperate with the workers of the whole world, including especially the revolutionary workers within the Soviet Union, and to lay the basis for a world communist society by giving material support to the revolutionary movement throughout the world.

The Workers Government — the Dictatorship of the Proletariat — can be obtained only by the independent action of the working class, both in the economic and political spheres, only under the guidance of a new party of the working class, completely independent of all other parties, an International Party, the New Communist (4th) International.

**REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS LEAGUE OF THE U. S.
AFFILIATED TO THE INTERNATIONAL
CONTACT COMMISSION.**

1940 -- FORWARD TO SOCIALISM, NOT BACKWARD TO BARBARISM!

BY
C. B. COWAN

WORKERS VOTE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

The 1940 presidential campaign is well under way. Democratic and Republican aspirants to the senate and the president's chair are loudly spouting their usual campaign hokum. Behind the scenes the big bankers and industrialists, the REAL BOSSES of AMERICA, are busy preparing the planks of their respective party platforms and grooming their political machine for the big election drive. In short, a political "blitzkrieg" is being prepared and directed by the capitalists of the U.S.A. against the toiling, exploited and oppressed masses of the nation.

The election campaign of 1940 occurs under extremely significant conditions. The contradictions of the capitalist system of private ownership, private appropriation and profit, have deepened the crisis of capitalism until, on every hand, we see the foul and poisonous fruit in its full ripeness and decay. Some of this fruit is the imperialist war in Europe, the death and destruction created by the drive of the imperialist plunderbund.

ON GUARD AGAINST REACTION

The election campaign this year gets under way in the midst of deep and increasing social reaction. The bought-and-paid-for journalistic prostitutes of press and radio are puking forth their putrid slime against the foreign born and the Negroes; against the militant leaders and organizers of the working class, upon an almost helpless people.

Fascist and semi-fascist organizations are growing rapidly in all parts of the country. Under cover of "trust-

busting", "purification" (?) of the labor movement, enforcement of the Sherman Anti-trust laws, etc., the Federal Government through its reactionary Dies Committee and its Gestapo-like F.B.I., is leading an extensive union-busting drive.

As a result of the defeats and betrayals of the working class in their past struggles against the bosses; struggles betrayed and defeated by the criminal role of the labor fakers like William Green, Matthew Woll, John L. Lewis & Co. and the boss agents in the ranks of labor such as Norman Thomas and the top leaders of the Socialist Party, Earl Browder, Wm. Foster and others in the Stalinist (NON) Communist Party—because of these conditions, the workers as yet, see no way out and have fallen into a temporary condition of pessimism, demoralization and defeat.

Because their past record of misleadership and betrayal has exposed them too far, the Socialist Party, the Stalinist (non)-Communist Party, and the centrist Trotskyites, etc., each in its own way, is forced to adopt new methods of defeating and betraying the masses of oppressed and exploited people. Their role in the present election campaign, though apparently different on the surface and played under different labels and different phrases, leads directly into the formation of a new, third BOSS CLASS party — the guiding light of which is to be John L. Lewis and his gang (although the latter, under pressure of war developments, may make a rotten deal with Roosevelt and the Democrats.)

It has long been evident, both theoretically and by actual developments, to the R.W.L. and to increasing numbers of the exploited and oppressed masses, that the Third (Stalinist) International has played the role of agent of the imperialists, yesterday supporting the "democratic" bosses, today the fascists, but always cutting the throat of the workers struggles. History is black with their

crimes (e. g. support of the imperialist agent and butcher Chiang-Kai-Shek, support of the Peoples Front and capitalism in Spain and elsewhere, now support of Hitler).

And the Second International continues its old and rotten policy of support of its own boss class, in Europe openly supporting the war plans of the French and English government, here concealing its betrayal with pious words of pacifism.

The R.W.L. therefore recognizes the essential need of building the New Communist (4th) International on the principles of Marx, Engels and Lenin.

A step on the road to building the New Communist (4th) International will be support of the Workers Vote candidates in the present election campaign. Our work in the election campaign will be an AUXILIARY part of our basic aim and purpose of building such a revolutionary Marxian Party and International in order to give leadership in the struggle for the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of a Workers Council Government. A vote for the Workers Vote candidates is a vote AGAINST CAPITALISM; it is a vote against the open and hidden agents of the capitalists; it is a vote for the revolutionary leadership and the revolutionary struggle of the working class.

Help the campaign of the R.W.L.! Support the Workers Vote candidates! Such work is against capitalism and all its evils — it is work AGAINST IMPERIALIST WAR AND HUNGER! Support the Workers Vote election campaign and thus support the only road to victory for the workers — THE ROAD OF THE SOCIAL REVOLUTION.

FIGHT THE ROOSEVELT WAR PLANS!

TURN THE BOSSES WAR INTO A WAR AGAINST THE BOSSES!

DEFEND THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS OF THE WORKING CLASS!

DEFEND WORKERS DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS, NEGRO, YOUTH DEMANDS

BY

ALLEN WILLIS

WORKERS VOTE VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

In the midst of all the hot-air and windjamming of the boss class candidates in the campaign, the REAL ISSUES are buried. In 1932 the Democrats charged that the Republicans were responsible for the depression, and that Roosevelt would bring back prosperity. Eight years of the New Deal sees continued millions of idle men, thousands of idle factories, hunger, destitution and want — while the government drives toward war.

Now the Republicans say that the Democrats are responsible and that **they** can bring back prosperity. But their program is a mixture of demagogy and wishful-thinking that will only mean continued and increased misery for the millions of exploited and oppressed.

In our Workers Vote campaign we shall pose the REAL ISSUES:

The continued existence of mass unemployment, starvation and misery, while the profits of the bosses continue to pile up. The drive of the federal and state governments to smash the living standards of the workers and destroy their unions and unemployed organizations. **The drive toward war**, the spending of billions for guns, while relief and WPA is cut — a program on which both capitalist parties are united.

Particularly shall we deal with the problems of the millions of youth who cannot find jobs, and of the doubly oppressed and persecuted Negro people.

STRUGGLE FOR THE YOUTH

As a youth I have experienced the sad plight of our locked-out generation. Five million of us walk the streets without jobs, another half million join us with diplomas in hand every June. If we are lucky enough to work, we must do so for \$12—\$14 a week AVERAGE with no prospect that the job will last, let alone that we shall ever get a living wage. The one prospect that faces us is to be drafted to fight for the profits of the bosses who cannot even get us jobs!

Our Workers Vote campaign will expose to the hilt the rotten and hypocritical treatment by the bosses of the locked-out youth of America, will raise the struggle for jobs, equal pay for equal work and the other demands of our program; and above all, will expose and fight the WAR PLANS of the government which aim to destroy the best blood of the nation for the profits of the owning class.

BATTLE FOR NEGRO RIGHTS

As a Negro I have deeply felt the discrimination, abuse, double oppression which is the unhappy lot of my brethren. We have no separate aims for ourselves other than to be recognized as equal in the truly progressive struggle for the social emancipation of the vast majority of Americans — the toiling workers. But that is precisely why the bosses subject us to the worst treatment: in order to prevent our uniting with our white brothers in the struggle for our own common aims.

That is why we are hounded and persecuted, why the Scotsboro boys are framed, why **condemned** buildings such as the dance hall in Natchez are considered "good enough" for us, so that hundreds of Negroes perished in the fire which the boss press is now trying to hush up; that is why we are the last to get jobs, and then at lower wages, and the first to be fired; that is why we are Jim Crowed and then prosecuted as are the two girls in Pet-

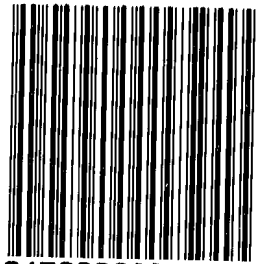
ersburg, Virginia.

These and similar conditions must be ended! Our Workers Vote campaign aims to make the plight of the Negro workers heard, increase the struggle for the release of the remaining Scottsboro boys, the fight against the Jim Crow case of Miss Murray and Miss McBean, and the struggle for **FULL ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL EQUALITY** for the Negro people.

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