
Workers!

You Must Fight for Freedom!

Manifesto of the Workers Party

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The American workers are being aught that democracy does not exist in the United States. Freedom of assemblage, freedom of press, freedom of movement in pursuit of happiness, as expressed in the right of association to protect their own interest are rights which belong now to the Chambers of Commerce, to the Ku Klux Klan, and other reactionary organizations — but not to the working class.

The great mass of men who do the useful labor in the land are deprived of these rights by the official puppets who administer the government in the interest of “Big Business.” Moved by fear of the growing solidarity and power of labor, the railroad capitalists and their Washington servants at one stroke abolish all constitutional guarantees of human rights. Government by injunction is established overnight.

This coup d’etat was too sudden and drastic to suit the courage of a certain section of the capitalist class. It may be modified so as to not so frankly set aside all constitutional rights, and camouflage. But the injunction, even though modified, remains a power in the hands of the capitalist class by which to set aside all limitations of the brutal use of its power and to strike the workers into subjection.

The Development of the Capitalist Dictatorship.

The old-time ideals of freedom have vanished. American political life has become bankrupt.

At the command of the Morgan banking interests the Democratic Party politicians changed the United States into a militarized nation overnight and poured the blood of hundreds of thousands of American Youth into a European War. For this betrayal the Democratic politicians were thrown out of office.

To fill the places of the sugar-phrase Democratic hypocrites the enraged voters turned blindly to another set of political leaders — the Republican Party — and placed them in office by the most overwhelming majority vote ever recorded in American history.

With what result?

A still greater betrayal!

The Harding administration has attacked the labor unions with the most amazing viciousness ever known in American life.

The Labor Movement has been handed over to the mercy of an unscrupulous professional anti-labor detective, the worst in all history of strikebreaking and labor frame-ups in America. For all practical purposes the United States government has put the notorious William J. Burns in police control of the Labor Movement with orders to destroy it.

The attacks that Labor is now suffering are without parallel outside of the darkest monarchist countries.

Injunctions are issued and arrests and raids are made with complete disregard of anything but the need for destroying the organizations of the working people. They are to be reduced to the position of dumb work animals under the autocratic rule of the capitalists.

The Declaration of Independence? The Bill of Rights? The heritages of the American Revolution? All these are swept away with one illiterate sentence of an Attorney General known only for his record of securing pardons for rich criminals.

Idealism in public life has reached the lowest ebb in American history. Public officials are known as the kept men of this or that section of the great capitalist interests.

In ridding itself of the Democratic Party lickspittles, of the Morgan Bank, the American people finds itself ruled by the lickspittles of the Standard Oil Trust and the Morgan Bank together. In the last presidential election the only candidate enjoying the slightest respect as a man was one who lay in a prison cell convicted as a criminal.

The Cause of These Changes.

There is a reason for this change in American life.

The irreconcilable conflict between the capitalists and the workers has become so bitter that the capitalists are compelled to drop the mask of democracy and to reveal the naked dictatorship of the capitalist class.

The economic results of the great war have been a reduction of the amount of wealth produced. The capitalists are fighting to compel the workers to bear the burden of this reduced production by compelling them to accept lower wages and worse working conditions. The capitalists refuse themselves to bear the burden of sacrifice made necessary by the war.

This has brought into existence the embittered class struggle which is tearing apart American life.

In order to whip the workers into submission in this struggle the big capitalists are using the government to deprive the workers of the right to assemble, to organize, to picket, of free speech, and generally of acting together to protect themselves against the vicious attack of the capitalists.

To deprive the workers of these rights, to bludgeon labor into subjection to capital, these are the chief functions of the government: Injunctions, Industrial Courts, the Railroad Labor Board are arms of the government used against the workers. To these are added the police, militia, and regular army when necessary. The whole government at Washington and elsewhere is merely a central committee for managing the collective affairs of the capitalist class and fighting the struggle against the workers.

Down with the Old Parties.

This use of the government to crush the workers cannot be ended by transferring power from one of the old parties to another.

The attack on the workers today is directed by Republican politicians, the attack of yesterday was directed by Democratic politicians.

Who leads the onslaught against the great railroad strike of 1922?

The Republican, Harding!

Who led the brutal onslaught against the railroad strike of 1894?

The Democrat, President Cleveland.

DOWN WITH THE OLD PARTIES! THEY ARE OWNED BODY AND SOUL BY THE BIG CAPITALISTS.

Political parties that serve the capitalists cannot serve the workers.

If you remove Harding and put a Democrat in his place you will get another Grover Cleveland and the same bullets, death, and jail of the Pullman strike of 1894. If you displace Daugherty and his detective, Burns, you will get another Mitchell Palmer and another labor-baiting Flynn.

Organize a Mass Political Party of the Workers.

The bankrupt American political life can be changed only by the entrance of the working class into the political life of the country.

Only the working class is fitted for the job of cleaning these Augean stables of Daughertyism, Burnsism, and Palmerism. Only the working class is interested in preserving the rights of mankind against the tyranny of the great capitalist interests. Only the working class has the heart and vision to take the lead in the struggle. Only the workers, fighting together with the exploited and harassed farmers, have the overwhelming numbers to win the fight.

To win back the lost liberties of the American people, to save the workers from further industrial enslavement, and to win a new industrial civilization, the working people of this country must organize a mass political party of the working class.

GENERAL STRIKE!

In the present crisis the life of the Labor Movement is at stake.

It is generally admitted that the injunction granted at Chicago will destroy the labor unions, if it is permitted to stand unchallenged.

The working people of this country must answer this attack upon them effectively. From all over the country resolutions are pouring into the American Federation of Labor from millions of plain workers demanding a general strike to save the Labor Movement.

The Labor Union leaders are afraid of the General Strike. They are hesitating to mobilize the power of the whole working class against the capitalist offensive. The general strike is the only effective answer which Labor can make to the attack of the Daugherty injunction.

Every local labor union, every central labor body in the country should demand that the power which the workers can bring to bear in their defense through a general strike be used to beat back the attack of big business.

The general strike is the only answer to the general injunction.

The conservative and reactionary labor officials do not want to act. They have always been against the general strike.

**WORKERS! IT IS YOUR DUTY TO MAKE THEM ACT.
BRING THE PRESSURE OF THE RANK AND FILE TO BEAR**

AND COMPEL THEM TO MOBILIZE ALL THE POWER OF THE WORKERS FOR THIS STRUGGLE.

To preserve the liberties of the workers, these liberties must be fought for.

The answer to the general injunction must be the general strike for

FREEDOM TO ORGANIZE!
FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY!
FREEDOM OF THE PRESS!
FREEDOM TO STRIKE!
FREEDOM TO PICKET!
FREEDOM OF SPEECH!

The answer to the strikebreaking government is MORE STRIKE. The answer to union-smashing is UNIONS TOO STRONG TO SMASH.

BUILD A LABOR DEFENSE COUNCIL.

Persecutions and jailings are weapons which the capitalists do not hesitate to use against the worker. They jails are already being choked with workers of the most advanced way of thinking — the workers who have always agitated for unity, solidarity, and militant tactics on the part of the workers.

In order to terrorize the less militant worker and frighten them into submission, the government has leveled its attack against the radicals. Through its spectacular raid on the Communists in Michigan it hoped to break the morale of the workers.

It hoped to destroy the leadership of those workers who are in the forefront of the struggle and who do not hesitate to occupy the positions of danger.

These persecutions directed against Communists are part of the general attack upon Labor. The Communists may be the first to go to prison but inevitably there will follow workers from every part of the Labor Movement unless the attack by the capitalists is halted.

The government says that the open shop will be established and that troops will be used. That means that there are bull pens ahead, jailings, prosecutions, and all the dirty work that is used as a last resort to break a successful strike.

To meet these prosecutions and jailings a general Labor Defense Council must be organized to carry on the work of defense. This Labor Defense Council should include representatives of every part of the working class and of every group ready to enter the struggle to preserve the freedom of the American people.

To Meet the Present Crisis.

The working people of this country are facing the greatest crisis in the history of the last quarter of a century.

If they remain disunited and disorganized they will be beaten down to greater degradation and a poorer standard of living.

The working people have the power to protect themselves, to protect their standard of living, their wives and children, their rights to act as free men and women.

To mobilize their power and beat back the attack of big business they must—

DECLARE A GENERAL STRIKE AGAINST THE DAUGHERTY INJUNCTION!

ORGANIZE A LABOR DEFENSE COUNCIL TO PROTECT THE PERSECUTED WORKERS!

ORGANIZE AN WORKING CLASS POLITICAL PARTY TO WREST THE GOVERNMENT OUT OF THE HANDS OF THE CAPITALISTS AND THEIR POLITICAL LACKEYS!

DOWN WITH THE RULE OF BIG BUSINESS!

HAIL TO THE COMING RULE OF THE WORKERS!

The Workers Party of America,
C.E. Ruthenberg, Secretary.

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