

---

# The “Legal” Communists: Letter to the Editor of the *New York Call*, Sept. 11, 1921.

by Adolph Germer

Published in the *New York Call*, v. 14, no. 254 (Sept. 11, 1921), pg. 7.

Editor of the Forum:

Charles W. Ervin’s statement in *The Call* of Saturday, September 10 [1921], headed “Some Plain Words,” was to the point. Too long has *The Call* been patient with the Communists in various disguises who have been ever actively working within the ranks of the Socialist Party and the labor unions, especially in the more radical organizations like the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the International Ladies’ Garment Workers, with the definite purpose of rule or ruin.

As you point out, they work like sleuths. In one place they are the “Labor Education Committee,” holding street corner meetings in Socialist strongholds, consuming their time and lungs denouncing the Socialist Party; in another place they are the “Friends (?) of Soviet Russia,” questioning the sincerity and honesty of everyone who will not accept their “leadership;” still in another place they appear in the role of the “American Labor Alliance” with a “revolutionary” political program against the “open shop” campaign, relief for the unemployed, and legislation against wage reductions.

It is high time that the unsuspecting public, especially the progressing working class, among whom they carry on their panhandling, understand these self-appointed “saviors of the proletarian revolution.”

It should require no argument to convince any open-minded person that anyone, or any group, that carries on a persistent campaign to divide the ranks of labor, no matter in whose name it is done or to what pretended purpose, is an enemy of the working class — a far greater and more dangerous enemy than the paid hireling of the employers. The latter at least makes a living out of it and provides for those dependent upon him, while those who tear labor apart without pay, scab on the paid hireling and beats him out of a job.

The multicolored group in question would destroy *The Call* tomorrow, if they could, in the interest of saving the “revolutionary” movement. They would destroy everything they cannot control, because they “cannot trust” anyone outside of their group.

There is an old American adage that “he evil does who evil thinks,” and if the Communists, American Labor Allianists, Labor Education Committeeists, and all the other hues of r-r-r-revolutionaryists and itches cannot trust the officials of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, who have handled millions of dollars for their organizations without a blemish on their records, then how can anyone trust these suspicious minded, self-empowered heroes?

*Adolph Germer.*

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

*Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2007. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.*