

Foster Exposes All Three Boss Parties in Speech

Speaking before 20,000 workers at Madison Square Garden yesterday afternoon, William Z. Foster, Communist candidate for president, said in part:

This demonstration is the climax of the greatest election campaign that the left wing movement in this country has ever conducted. The campaign emphasized the coming forward of the Workers (Communist) Party as the organizer and leader of the working-class, and the Party will undoubtedly draw the biggest vote in its history.

The day will surely come when some Communist will stand at the head of the government in America. But we are under no delusions as to the nature of that government. When a Communist is elected president of the United States he will be the head of a Soviet government of the workers and poor farmers.

The socialist party has been for ten years in a process of decline and degeneration and the present campaign marks its lowest point. It has adopted completely the program of the bureaucrats and has become the party of the petty-bourgeoisie. And its organizational degeneration proceeds as fast as its political degeneration. The socialist party will go down to oblivion unhonored and unsung.

The two big parties have come forward with a program more brazenly capitalistic than ever before. The democratic party platform is identical in essentials with the republican platform. Workers and farmers can look to it for no relief of their present unbearable conditions. Instead of the Ku Klux Klan of Hoover, the democratic party offers us the catholic church of Al Smith.

Smith's labor speech in Newark the other night was, if possible, even more reactionary than Hoover's. It was a brazenly open-shop speech. He tried to give the impression that the democratic party is against injunctions. Yet it was during the Wilson administration that under the instigation of the infamous A. Mitchell Palmer, there was issued the most drastic injunction in the history of the country—the one against the United Mine Workers. And it was with Al Smith as governor of New York that during the cloak-makers' strike two years ago one almost as bad was issued.

Smith and the democratic party have nothing to offer the workers. Workers who vote for the two big parties are voting against their own interests. And labor leaders who endorse the capitalist parties are betrayers of the workers.

"The bureaucrats of the American Federation of Labor, who are supporting Hoover and Smith, have entirely abandoned the struggle against the bosses. The workers of this country must free themselves from this parasitic misleadership and carry on a militant struggle against their exploiters.

The Workers (Communist) Party is the only revolutionary party. We tell the workers frankly: not by reforming capitalism, but by overthrowing capitalism will your emancipation be achieved. And in this campaign we have laid the greatest emphasis on the Negro question. The Party has taken up the cudgels in behalf of the Negro and has declared war against every form of Negro persecution.

And we tell the white workers that the semi-enslavement of the Negro workers is a blow against all the workers. We demand complete social and political equality for the Negroes. And, moreover, for the first time in this country, we have raised the slogan of the right of self-determination for the Negroes.

And what of the socialist party and the Negroes? Well, Norman Thomas made a speaking tour in the south and throughout that tour he never said a word for the Negroes.

War Danger.

There is the problem of the war danger facing the workers of this country. It is my opinion that never since the signing of the Versailles treaty has the danger of war been so imminent. The conflicts among the imperialist powers are leading inevitably to a new and more terrible world war. And they are counting on the socialist parties of the world to remove the opposition of the workers to this war and to lead the workers to the slaughter.

But in this they will, I think, be doomed to defeat. For since the last world war the Communist International has been organized and the Communist Parties of the world will not only oppose the next imperialist war, but will put into effect the policy of Lenin and of the Communist International and convert the imperialist war into a civil war against the capitalist class.

Must Organize for Fight.

Out of the last war there emerged a Soviet government in one country. Before the next war is over there will be a whole string of Soviet governments in the world. Today we celebrate the 11th anniversary of the revolution that created the Soviet Union. Despite the imperialists, despite their efforts to crush the only workers' and peasants' government—efforts which still continue—the Soviet Union lives, the Soviet Union is marching from victory to victory.

Just as the small Communist Party of Russia overthrew Russian czarism and capitalism, the Communist Parties will overthrow capitalism in every country. Here in the United States we are now asking the workers to pave the way for that overthrow by voting the Communist ticket in the elections. And, what is more, we ask you to join the Workers (Communist) Party and organize for the fight that will strike the death blow to American imperialism.