

We Can Rally Masses of Workers to Vote for Communism Nov. 4th

Underestimation of Election Campaign Harmful to the Revolutionary Struggle.

By WM. Z. FOSTER.

(Communist Candidate for Governor of New York State)

In the present election campaign our Party has an opportunity not only to poll a vote several times larger than ever before but also to vastly increase its prestige and mass following in every phase of its work. To achieve this success it is necessary that we keenly realize the significance of the situation and thus mobilize all our forces into the most intense activity to take advantage of it.

Repetition of March 6 Coming.

The workers, under the pressure of the economic crisis, are ready, to an unprecedented degree, for organization and struggle. We have said this time and again. But many still underestimate the depth of this radicalization.

One of the great surprises in store for the United States in the near future will be dramatic demonstrations of the deep and far-reaching wave of discontent now sweeping through the American working class. March 6 gave an inkling of this, but events of the coming months will dwarf that great demonstration.

In this election the masses of workers, despite their unorganized conditions, will strive to make a great protest and to give vent to their deep discontent over unemployment, wage cuts, and the general worsening of their conditions. The capitalists, keenly aware of this great leftward trend of the masses, are seeking consciously to emasculate and dissipate it through such false issues as the liquor question, etc. And their fascist and social-fascist A. F. of L. and socialist party lackeys, with the same objective, strain every nerve to demoralize the masses and to liquidate their militant moods with reformist talk.

Mobilize All Forces.

Against this capitalist program our Party must throw itself with all its force. It must with a degree of militancy and mobilization of its forces previously unknown come forward as the fighting leader of the working class.

Although our Party is relatively small and the capitalist enemy very powerful, we must not be dismayed by this. With the workers in their present militant frame of mind, we can rally great masses of them to vote for our Party ticket, notwithstanding all the efforts of the capitalists and their labor lieutenants of the A. F. of L. and "socialist" party. March 6 gave us an indication of how these masses will follow revolutionary leadership.

Do Not Underestimate Campaign Work.

But success in the election campaign requires a great intensification of our work. At present the campaign proceeds too leisurely. This comes from an underestimation of the opportunity confronting us and also of the importance of parliamentary elections for educating and organizing the workers.

The next weeks must see tenfold activity on our part, with every Party member doing his share, and a great increase in our shop gate meetings, street meetings, circulation of Party press and literature work in the unions, among the unemployed, etc. Our efforts must not be confined merely to securing workers to vote for Communist candidates. That would be rank opportunism.

The success of our election campaign is bound up with the intensification of our work in every sphere. We must drive ahead with renewed energy in our fight for the Workers Unemployment Insurance Bill, for the seven-hour day, five-day week, for strikes against wage cuts, etc. The workers are in a fighting mood, and the more militant and aggressive we are in these struggles the more the workers, who above all desire decisive action, will rally under our leadership. We must combat all passivity in our ranks; we must squelch all tendencies to consider the election campaign as a thing apart from our other campaigns.

Keep Apace With the Rising Struggle.

While the present situation offers our Party

Trade Union Unions to Smash

By JACK JOHNSTONE
T. U. U. C. Organizer.

Within the last few years the direct interference and vicious use of the machinery of the government in the smashing of strikes, have developed with the velocity of a cyclone.

Today the injunction plays a major role as a weapon against the workers. Coupled with the injunction which forbids the union to organize—to strike—to picket—to hold meetings—to even talk about the low wages, long hours, and miserable working conditions—has been added Section 600 of the Penal Code of the State of New York, making a violation of the injunction a criminal act for which the workers are sent to prison without a jury trial, by the Court of Special Sessions, and after serving sentence the workers can again be arrested, tried for contempt by the court that issued the injunction, and sent to prison a second time, for the one alleged offense.

It is an erroneous belief held by many workers that capitalist law grants them the right to organize, or to strike, or to picket. Nothing is further from the truth. There is no such law on the statutes. Wherever any organization has been recognized, it has been done through strike struggle. Wherever injunctions have been defeated; wherever the courts have dismissed cases against militant striking workers, it is when the workers en masse have shown their contempt for the order of the court, deliberately and in an organized manner violated the decisions of the courts. This is the only way that injunctions and the application of Section 600 of the Penal Code will be defeated.

A. F. of L. Injunctions.

It is no accident that the A. F. of L. turns from its faint-hearted criticism of "the abuse of injunctions in labor disputes" to being the outspoken champion of injunctions and among the first to demand the use of Section 600 against the workers. Nationally, President Green still carries on a pretense of a fight against injunctions, while locally, with his support, his henchmen take out injunctions against the needle workers, shoe workers, and food workers including cafeteria workers, butchers, bakers, fruit clerks, and grocery clerks of New York City.

Today in New York City the use of Section 600 and the injunction brings out in bold relief the unity of the A. F. of L. and socialist bureaucrats with the employers, the police and the courts, in the most vicious form of struggle against the workers. It works very efficiently for the boss. A good socialist lawyer applies for an injunction on behalf of an A. F. of L. union. For example: the Food Craft Council against the Food Workers Industrial Union, enjoining them from organizing any part of the food industry that has now, or may in the future, enter into an agreement with the A. F. of L. Then, when the Food Workers Industrial

a tremendous opportunity for development it also is pregnant with danger, for if we should fail to give the workers the organization and leadership they clamor for, their movement will stream on past us and leave us in a sectarian isolation.

Let us, therefore, tackle with all our energy and resources the great tasks that the economic crisis and the rising workers' struggles thrust upon us. We must put more steam into the election campaign; we must greatly strengthen our fight for unemployment insurance, and our strike movement against wage cuts. We must utilize all our mass contacts to register a great vote for Communism. We can, if we will but seriously try, turn this election into the greatest mass mobilization of workers that our Party has ever carried through.

(Written at Hart's Island Penitentiary.)

Mobilize the workers of your shop, factory, office, and store for the Madison Square Garden Demonstration to greet Minor, Foster and Amter on the day of their release, October 21st.

REGISTER ON TIME!