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Unity of Communist Forces in America

After a split lasting more than nine months, the Communist forces in America have united. The brutal persecutions of the authorities and the shameful slanders of the yellow socialists and the "25,000-a-year labor leaders" threatened to destroy the Communist movement. To the raids in Michigan and Chicago, to the arrests in New York and to the slanders of the Gompers clique, the New York Call and the Daily Forward, the answer of the Communist proletarians in America is:

Workers! Struggle with united forces against capitalism and its lackeys.

To our members and to the working class we send the happy message: **The American Section of the Communist International embraces in its ranks all the Communist elements in the United States.**

Unity was inevitable.

The controversial points that separated Communists from Communists have been settled. That the Communist Party of America must remain an underground party for some time to come has been settled beyond all doubt. The necessity of open political work and organization have also been settled beyond question.

Unity was inevitable.

The International situation is collecting ever more menacing storm clouds over the heads of the capitalist world. The crisis in the question of the German reparations, the victorious advance of the Turkish peasant army, the Greek revolution, the possibility of a new

world war starting in the Near East, the growing might of Soviet Russia, in a word — the approach of a new wave of World Revolution — forces every Communist to devote himself with tenfold energy to the work of the Party.

Unity was inevitable.

The unity between the Social Democrats and the Independent Socialists in Germany, the approaching unity of the Second and the Second-and-a-Half International, the return of the Hillquit Social-Democrats to the International of the murders of the working class, Scheidemann and Noske, — to the International of the royal lackeys, Vandervelde and Branting — make it imperative that we gather all the really revolutionary elements in the American labor movement in one united organization.

Unity was inevitable.

The intervention of the Communist International promoted, hastened and facilitated the work of uniting the Communist forces. **Every Communist was obliged to recognize that any element cut off from the big, living body of the Communist International would perish.**

Unity was inevitable.

Unity had to take place finally and primarily because the tension in the American political life and the ever sharpening class struggle made it absolutely imperative. America is becoming radical. The petty bourgeoisie and the farmers are manifesting more and

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more opposition to the capitalist magnates. The structure of the old capitalist parties is shattered. It is becoming ever more apparent that out of the ruins of the old Republican and Democratic parties there will arise a new alignment: on the one hand, an alignment of the conservatives, and on the other, the radical petty bourgeois and farmer elements. What, however, is of far greater importance is that the tremendous masses of the American workers, who have been politically dormant for such a long time, are awakening. The war, the vast unemployment, the open shop movement, the reduction of wages, have forcibly opened the eyes of the workers. The miners' strike and shopmen's strike have left unforgettable lessons. Ever larger masses of workers are beginning to recognize the present decentralized form of labor unionism does not furnish a sufficiently sharp weapon in the struggle against the exploiters; and again, that they can put up a winning industrial struggle only if they extend the struggle to the political field. The brutal intervention of the capitalist State power in the latest labor struggles has focused the attention of the workers upon the question of State power, political power, and of an independent labor party.

The development of political life in America has reached a new epoch. The labor movement of America stands before a new era. **Only the Communist movement can be the heir to the bankrupt leadership of Gompers and his ilk.**

Our Communist Party stands face to face with big tasks.

These tasks are so gigantic as to challenge even our united forces. Failure to effect unity of the Communist forces in America would have been treason to the mission of the Communist Party in this historic

period. **The work of each and every Communist is required.** Unity has been achieved in a comradely spirit. **Every comrade, without distinction as to the faction he formerly belonged to, will be given opportunity to devote 100 per cent of his energy to the Party work.**

Vast tasks and work await us.

We must organize the defense of all persecuted workers.

We must penetrate the trade unions and transform them into militant, fighting bodies.

We must lead into the class struggle the millions of foreign-born workers in this country and organize them for the fight, for the liberation of the American working class can only be the achievement of the united efforts of the English-speaking and the foreign-born workers of this country.

We must develop and bring to consciousness every tendency in the labor movement of America for independent political action on the part of the workers, for an independent political party of the working class.

Wonderful historical perspectives are opened to us. **The capitalist government will continue to persecute us; but these persecutions will only strengthen us, for they take place in the midst of a labor movement which daily is becoming more militant and radical.**

Comrades! Forward to work, shoulder to shoulder!
Long live Communist Unity!

Long live the Communist International!

J. Davis, for the former Opposition.

J. Miller, Executive Secretary, Communist Party of America, Section of the Communist International.

Wilke, Special Representative of the Communist International.

September 30th, 1922.