

New York and United Labor Ticket

ARTICLE I. Why a United Labor Ticket?

By BERTRAM D. WOLFE.

(Editors Note.—The article by Bertram D. Wolfe on "Why a United Labor Ticket," is the first of a series that will be published in the columns of The DAILY WORKER under the general title, "New York and the United Labor Ticket." Other articles in the series include: "Trustification and the American Working Class," by Robert Macklin; "the Labor Unions and the Tammany Bureaucracy," by Robt. Dunn; "Woman and a Labor Party," by Rose Pastor Stokes; "Smithism and the United Labor Ticket," by Leona Smith; "The Bread Trust," by J. Sorenson; "Injunctions and the Labor Party," by Belle Robins; "Conservative Trade Unions and the Labor Party," by a prominent trade union official; "New York Central Trades and Tammany," by Sylvan Pollack; "The Battle Against Imperialism," by Edward Royce; "Labor Protection and the Labor Party," by Pauline Rogers; "Lenin on the Labor Party," by A. G. Bosse; "The Republican Party and the Negro," by Jose F. Sobers; "The Senator from New York," by Bertram D. Wolfe, and many other important articles.

These articles, altho prepared by the New York Agitprop Department and being written with specific reference to the political problems of New York State, have, all of them, a national interest, and The DAILY WORKER is glad to offer them to its readers.)

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WILL there be a United Labor Ticket in New York this year? This is a big question being asked in the New York labor movement.

Unions Favor Labor Ticket.

The situation in New York is highly favorable to the accomplishment of this aim. Various powerful unions are undoubtedly in favor of such a move. The joint board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and many large locals affiliated with it, the joint board of the Furriers' Union and all of its New York locals, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and many additional unions in New York including locals of the Carpenters, the Shoe Workers, Metal Trades unions, Hotel Workers, Bakers, Barbers and various miscellaneous trades, are also in favor of the uniting of labor's forces politically.

As far as the Needle Trades Unions and the Shoe Workers' unions are concerned, bitter experience has taught them that such unity as a step towards a labor government in New York City and state is a crying necessity. During the furriers' strike, which is still in progress and which is regarded as a "peaceful strike," over 600 separate arrests have been made by the police of New York City. These are the police of the Tammany government, endorsed by various labor fakers of the Central Labor Council of New York City.

Fight Injunctions.

The I. L. G. W. U., altho it has not been on general strike during the past year, has ample experience to justify it in fighting with all its strength for a labor government in the city and state. The interference of the governor of the state of New York, in the so-called governor's commission; the series of injunctions levelled at the Needle Trades unions culminating in such astounding injunctions as that issued to the International Tailoring Co.; terrorization by gangsters employed now by the bosses and now by reactionary bureaucrats and always protected by the New York police—these are only a few of the experiences that have taught the Needle Trades workers the necessity for a labor party and the general strike which is about to begin will bring many more such experiences. The shoe workers, in their recent strikes and in the strike now in progress, have again and again faced police intimidations, clubbings, injunctions and arrests, and a new crop of assaults and arrests is now being harvested in the strike of the American Shoe Workers' Protective Union.

The Building Trades Council has had a long battle for legislative measures, introducing the "prevailing rate of wages," and altho it has spent thousands of dollars in court and altho some of its officials have endorsed Hylan and Walker and Smith as "friends of labor," their fight still remains to be won. They are at last realizing that only a labor government will give them what they want.

The Forty-Hour Week.

Now the labor movement of New York is assuming the leadership in a nation-wide campaign for a 40-hour

week. Strikes will be supplemented by political agitation for legislative action and a combination of a powerful economic movement and a powerful political movement will be the most effective method of winning the struggle for 40 hours for the American workers.

The enormous progress of trustification during the past year, in which "every day was merger day," has fastened the grip of finance capital upon the government of state and nation. The democratic and republican parties have again and again united to put across the measures of big business in the United States senate and house of representatives. Party lines were completely swept aside and capitalism had a United Labor Ticket, or rather a United Capitalist Ticket, on every measure that seriously affected the interests of finance capital. Thus on the question of the debt fundings, of the enormous gift to the Mussolini government, of the shifting of the burden of taxation from the big interests to smaller tax payers, of the entrance into the world court, of the approval of mergers and the appointees of big business, of the killing of farm relief and a dozen similar measures republicans and democrats were united in their support of the demands of the financiers.

Find Your "Friends"

In the state and city of New York, Governor Smith and the republican and Tammany machines have delivered some rude blows to the illusion of "non-partisan politics." It is impossible to "reward your friends and punish your enemies" when the politicians of both parties unite and openly prove themselves enemies of the labor movement. The republican majority of the state legislature defeated all measures for labor protection. The democratic governor and mayor united to kill the bill for an increase in teachers' salaries after this same republican majority had passed it. Republicans and democrats united to put across the big business scheme of government called "The Hughes Reorganization Plan," including the state police feature which will bless New York with a group of Cossacks similar to those that have terrorized the Passaic strikers or those made famous in Pennsylvania under the name of the Pennsylvania state constabulary.

Expose 'Friends' of Labor.

To sum up them—the fight against gangsterism with its police protection, the fight against police brutality and strike breaking by injunction, the fight for the 40-hour week and the passage of labor protection measures—indeed the fight for any of the necessities of the workers of New York requires a United Labor Ticket. The capitalist parties have frankly formed a United Capitalist Ticket on every measure affecting big business for the workers. Nationally and locally, party lines have been wiped aside and the labor faker who tries to offer the formula "reward your friends and punish your enemies" will need a telescope to find a single friendly act of an old party politician. Even a telescope will not help him. The experience of the unions of New York City and the needs of these unions are such that a genuine labor base is provided for a broad United Labor Ticket. Among the rank and file of the socialist party there is a strong demand for such a move and the Workers (Communist) Party stands 100 per cent committed to its realization.

The Workers (Communist) Party stands pledged to devote all its energies to the unifying of the labor movement politically as well as industrially, to the separation of the American workers from the support of the capitalist parties and the formation of a labor party of their own.

A United Labor Ticket would mark a tremendous step forward in the direction of a labor party. Therefore, the Workers (Communist) Party is determined to spare no efforts to bring about a United Labor Ticket in the city, state and national electoral campaigns.



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