

The Proposed Changes In the Communist Organization

By Robert Minor

Introduction

The National Committee of the Communist Party in its plenary meeting a month ago decided to recommend to the coming National Convention of the Party some far-reaching adjustments in respect to our policies, to be expressed concretely in certain changes in the form of organization and in the name to be used by American Communists. The proposals are made in the light



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of the new situation that is created in our country and the vastly new perspective that is given for an assured victory and a long period of world peace, orderly post-war reconstruction and social reforms, as a result of the successful course of the military struggle and the consolidation of the coalition of our country with its allies at Tehran.

This is not a matter that concerns the Communists alone. We invited the whole of the American public to participate in discussing the merits of the proposals we make.

Many questions are coming to us from all over the country, from non-Party trade unionists and members of other parties as well as of the Communist Party. There is no lack of eagerness to understand this plan of the leadership of the Communist Party.

Nearly all of the questions are interesting and useful, and many are very important. Nearly all are both intelligent and sincere. But they are far too many for us to be able to answer each one individually. Therefore we select what seem to be the most outstanding and typical questions, and will reply to them from day to day in the *Daily Worker*. I am sure that in responding to these key questions we are in effect giving the answers to hundreds of others which are worded in various ways but are the same

in substance. Answers to additional questions will bring out any points that may not at first be clear.

At the outset it is necessary to call attention to a rather general assumption that underlies most of the questions. It is a false assumption, but we can quite easily understand it, because many of us tend to suffer from the same thing. It is an assumption that in order to prove that a certain position is correct we must be able to show some precedent for it in a similar situation of the past. I am obliged to warn against this.

If anyone expects us to show that the situation we face now is essentially like some situation of the past, and that ready-made solutions can be found and copied from some one of the old classics of the past experience and literature of our movement—such persons will be disappointed.

Marxists do not work that way. Marxism is not a dogma. Marxism is a scientific method, and the very first lesson of that scientific method is that you must study the new and unprecedented, concrete and exact reality of the present day before you can decide any question of what to do about anything.

So to all of those good friends of ours who ask where they can find in any of the old and splendid books of our movement a duplication of the situation that we are now facing, and therefore a model of what we are to do about it now—we are obliged to reply that we cannot give it to you. As the great Lenin once explained—in a quite new, unprecedented situation in Russia—"you will not find what we are discussing in those old books."

Every member of our Party, every friend of our Party, every trade unionist, every deeply serious American who wants to know how to handle these grave questions, must face the fact that the present world situation is different from any that ever went before. Answers to all problems have to be found by striking out boldly into untrodden fields and making decisions without precedent.

In doing this, we need more than ever before the scientific way of thinking. And the only scientific method of finding our way through social and political virgin forests, is the science that lies at the basis of our Communist Party, the science of Marxism. Marxism is not an "invention" of some queer sect, not the result of somebody's preference of some "system" or way of life. Marxism came into existence as the introduction of the methods of modern science into the field of the social life and political struggles of mankind. It is in this sense that we must see the science that was founded by Marx and Engels, nourished by the world labor movement for nearly a century and brought to a much higher development by the great Lenin and Stalin. This is the science that lies behind the building of Russia within a quarter of a century from the weakest and most backward of all large countries into the most politically advanced and the most powerful state of the old world, which now, by its strength and valor and its clear, democratic objectives, turns the balance to enable all democracies to be stronger than their enemies.

To understand the motivations of the Communist Party, you must understand what is new, first in the world situation, and secondly in the situation in our country.

We are firmly convinced that not only the members of the Communist Party, but also many thousands of trade unionists and others who have never before understood the meaning nor felt the need of the Marxist workers' political movement, will promptly see the significance of the great change we propose, its advantage to our country, to our labor movement, and to the cause of human advancement.

The first question will be answered in tomorrow's Daily Worker. It will be:

"How can such a coalition exist? How can there be unity between capitalism and socialism? They operate in such opposite ways."