
Call for a Mass Membership Convention For the Purpose of Organizing Local Cook County of the Communist Labor Party of America

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In this, the most momentous period of the world's history, Capitalism is tottering to its ruin. The working class is straining at the chains that bind it. A revolutionary spirit is spreading throughout the world. The workers are rising to answer the clarion call of the Third International.

Only one Socialism is possible in this crisis: a Socialism based upon understanding; a Socialism that will express in action the needs of the working class. The time has passed for temporizing and hesitating. We must act. The Communist call of the Third International, the echo of the Communist Manifesto of 1848, must be answered.

The official Socialist Party has failed utterly to measure up to its historic task. On almost every issue which concerns the vital interests of the working class it has shown itself weak, vacillating, and reactionary. The despicable acts of the old National Executive Committee and the proceedings of the recent National Emergency Convention of the Socialist Party have laid bare the miserable compromising spirit which animates those in control of the Party's destiny. **IT HAS REPUDIATED THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL!**

Honest and sincere Socialists can no longer remain in the Socialist Party. Thousands of class-conscious comrades have already left the Party in sheer disgust and, recognizing the need of a party of revolutionary Socialism — Communism — have joined the Communist Labor Party which was born in Chicago on August 31st, 1919. The revolutionary comrades of Cook County, Illinois,

who wish to serve the true interests of the working class will do likewise. They will not hesitate to respond to this call.

No other course is possible. Therefore we, the Cook County Organization Committee, call a convention to meet in Workers' Hall, 119 S Throop St., Chicago, Ill., on September 28th, 1919, for the purpose of organizing Local Cook County of the Communist Labor Party of America.

The Communist Labor Party is founded on the following principles:

1. The present is the period of the dissolution and collapse of the whole system of world capitalism. Unless capitalism is replaced by the rule of the working class, world culture will collapse.

2. The working class must organize and train itself for the capture of state power. This capture means the establishment of the new working class government machinery in place of the state machinery of the capitalists.

3. This new working class government — the Dictatorship of the Proletariat — will reorganize society on the basis of communism and accomplish the transition from capitalism to the Communist Commonwealth.

Communist society is not the present fraudulent capitalist democracy which, with all its pretensions to equality, is merely a disguise for the rule of the financial oligarchy, but **proletarian** democracy, based on the control of industry and the state by the workers, who are thereby free to

work out their own salvation. It does not mean capitalist institutions of government, which are controlled by the great financial and industrial interests, but organs of administration created and controlled by the masses themselves; such as, for example, the Soviets of Russia.

4. The Dictatorship of the Proletariat shall transfer private property in the means of production and distribution to the working class government, to be administered by the workers themselves. It shall nationalize the great trusts and financial institutions. It shall abolish capitalist agricultural production.

5. The present world situation demands that the revolutionary working class movement of all countries shall closely unite.

6. The most important means of capturing state power for the workers is the direct action of the masses, proceeding from the place where the workers are gathered together: in the shops and factories. The use of the political machinery of the capitalist state for this purpose is only secondary.

7. In those countries where there is a possibility for the workers to use this machinery in the class struggle, they have, in the past, made effective use of it as a means of propaganda and of defense. In all countries where the conditions for a working class revolution are not ripe the same process must go on.

8. We must rally all groups and proletarian organizations which have manifested and developed tendencies leading in the direction above indicated and support and encourage the working class in every phase of its struggle against capitalism.

Program of the Communist Labor Party of America.

1. We favor international alliance of the Party only with the Communist groups of other coun-

tries, those which have affiliated with the Communist International.

2. We are opposed to association with other groups not committed to the revolutionary class struggle.

3. We maintain that the class struggle is essentially a political struggle: that is, a struggle by the proletariat to conquer the capitalist state, whether its form be monarchical or democratic-republican, and to replace it by a governmental structure adapted to the communist transformation.

4. Communist platforms, being based on the class struggle, and recognizing that this is the historical period of the Social Revolution, can contain only one demand: the establishment of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat.

5. Locals shall organize shop branches to conduct the Communist propaganda and organization in the shops and factories and to encourage them to organize in One Big Union.

6. The Party shall propagandize industrial unionism and industrial union organization, pointing out their revolutionary nature and possibilities.

7. The Party shall make the great industrial battles its major campaigns, to show the value of the strike as a political weapon.

8. The Party organization shall maintain strict control over all members elected to public office — not only the local organizations, but the National Executive body. All Party officials who refuse to accept the decisions of the Party shall be immediately expelled.

9. In order that the Party shall be a centralized organization, capable of united action, no autonomous groups or federations independent of the will of the entire Party shall be permitted.

10. All Party papers and publications endorsed by the Party and all educational and propaganda institutions endorsed by the Party shall be owned and controlled by the Party organizations.

11. Standardization of Party platforms, propaganda, dues, and methods of organization.

We urge all branches of the old Socialist Party and all other working class organizations committed to the revolutionary class struggle to endorse this call.

This will be a Mass Membership Convention and all those endorsing the principles of the Communist Labor Party and signing an Application for Membership will be given credentials and seated in the Convention.

Organizations endorsing this call are requested to at once notify the Temporary County Secretary. Individuals are urged to send in their Applications of Membership at once so as to facilitate the work of the Committee.

Comrades! Do not fail to be present at this historic convention and participate in the building up of a revolutionary party of the working class.

Cook Country Organization Committee:

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Address all communications regarding the Communist Labor Party Convention to Sam Hankin, Temporary County Secretary, The Clarion Book Shop, 204 N Clark St., Chicago, Illinois.

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