
To the Striking Longshoremens: Proclamation Issued by the Communist Party of America, Local Greater New York. [circa October 20, 1919]

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LONGSHOREMEN! —

60,000 of you are out on strike. You struck against the Bosses and the Government Wage Adjustment Board. You also struck in defiance of the union officials. You are striking against the “scab unionism” of the AF of L. The Wage Adjustment Board refused to grant your demands. Your leaders urged you to remain at work. Strike means victory; arbitration means defeat. Your leaders wanted arbitration. Angered beyond endurance at the Board’s award and the treachery of your leaders, you walked out. — Your officials are breaking your strike. The prostitute press is trying to break your strike. The Bosses with the able assistance of your leaders and the Government are preparing to break your strike. You are determined to stay out.

WORKERS! — You have repudiated your leaders. You have repudiated your scab form of AF of L unionism. You must form a Transport Workers Industrial Union. Unite with the striking expressmen, stevedores, ferry workers, deck-hands; platform men, truck drivers, chauffeurs, freight-handlers, etc. — unite with all those who are employed in the transportation industry for One Big Industrial Transport Workers Union. Already the Shipping is advertising that it will protect scabs at 75 cents an hour. The government will send soldiers to take our places. Some are doing this dirty work already. 18,000 more soldiers are on the way. Before the war, the Bosses hired their strike-breakers from the strikebreaking agencies.

NOW THEY USE THE ARMY ITSELF AS A STRIKEBREAKING AGENCY.

Do you see whose Government this is? The Bosses own the State — its army — its police — its press. The Government Wage Adjustment Board represents the State. Did it decide in your favor? The Army is being sent to the piers. To protect you or to scab on you? The Police! Whose heads are they going to crack when you go on the picket line, yours or the scabs? The Press! Whose side are the newspapers taking, yours or the Bosses? Don’t you see that the Bosses own and control the whole governmental machinery? Did you ever receive a square deal from the Bosses?

How then can you expect to receive a square deal from the Bosses’ Government?! The Government will place squads of soldiers on the piers, with rifles and machine guns to shoot you down. If you hold your ground they will establish martial law; they will break up your meetings; raid your homes, arrest you — just as they are doing to the steel strikers in Gary now. In other words, they will try to crush your spirit, break your solidarity with your fellow-workers, and send you back to work like a lot of beaten dogs.

Will you submit tamely to all this? Forming an industrial union will of itself not solve your problems. It is only a step. Going to the polls on election day will not bring you victory. Don’t expect politicians to free you from capitalism and misery. Depend upon yourselves. The only way is to get rid of the present Bosses’ Government and establish a Workers’ Government in its place. A Workers’ Government like the Soviet Republic of Russia. The present Government is a government of the capitalists, by the capitalists, for the capitalists. You must aim for the establishment of a

Workers' Republic of workers, by the workers, for the workers.

Look over the whole country today. What do you see? Strikes! Strikes! Nothing but strikes! You are on strike. The steel workers are on strike. The expressmen are on strike. The machinists are on strike. The shipbuilders are on strike. The lumbermen are on strike. The bricklayers are on strike. The carpenters are on strike. The tailors are on strike. Every industry is tied up with strikes. The coal miners will have a general strike on November 1st [1919]. The railroad workers may break out any day against the Government anti-strike law. These workers are all striking for the same reason.

They can't get along on the wages they get. They must get more, but the Bosses who make huge fortunes out of the war and the miseries of the poor refuse to give it to them. The Cost of Living is rising higher and higher. A dollar today is worth less than 50 cents before the war. The whole rotten system is going to pieces. The struggle between the workers and the capitalists is going on all over the world.

There is only one way out for the workers of America. The workers must capture the powers of the state. They must conquer the means by which the capitalist class maintains itself in power. The answer to the Dictatorship of the Capitalists is the Dictatorship of the Workers.

ALL POWER TO THE WORKERS.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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