
Open Letter to the Members and the CEC of the Proletarian Party of America from O.W. Kuusinen, Secretary-General of ECCI, April 7, 1923.

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To the Members and the Central Executive
Committee of the Proletarian Party.

Dear Comrades:—

The Executive Committee of the Communist International approaches you in the name of the Unity of all the revolutionary class-conscious forces in the United States. The labor movement in America is very weak, and it is an urgent task for the few militant forces to unite.

We call on the members of the Proletarian Party to join the Workers Party, to accept the program, constitution, and decisions adopted by the last convention of the party [2nd: Dec. 24-26, 1922], and help to develop it into the revolutionary mass party of the American working class.

The Workers Party has endeavored to reach and organize the militant workers. It has participated in the big struggles of 1922, notably in the coal and railroad strikes, and already has gained a great influence in the Trade Unions. The members of the Workers Party are taking a lead in the formation of the Left Wing of the Trade Unions and already have secured control of large bodies of workers. The yellow bureaucracy of the American Federation of Labor fears the Workers Party and the Left Wing and takes every means of eliminating and isolating them from the labor movement — which never will succeed — if only all militant workers rally around the Workers Party.

The expulsions of communists from unions and the refusal to seat the Workers Party and the Young Workers League delegates at the Cleveland Conference for Progressive Political Action [Dec. 11-12, 1922], the arrest of 20 members of the Workers Party at Bridgman [Aug. 22, 1922], the persecution of the membership by the authorities, the militant campaigns that the party has conducted, show it to be a true party of the revolutionary class struggle.

The Workers Party fraternal delegates were seated at the 4th World Congress of the Communist International [Nov. 5-Dec. 5, 1922], and we were pleased to note the desire of the Workers Party for close relations with the other revolutionary parties.

The membership of the Proletarian Party is communistic in thought, and you have conducted a valuable educational work in Marxism. We know that you have devoted considerable energy to the organization of study classes, lecture platforms, and forums. We know that your members have stood at street corners night after night expounding socialist economics and endeavoring to interest the workers in the revolutionary movement.

But this educational work, in order to be effective, must be *applied* to organizing large masses of workers under the banner of the revolutionary party. Mere revolutionary sentiment will not give any victories in the class struggle. While your membership is communistic in thought, yet we feel

that you have overestimated the value of purely educational activity. The party organizing the workers must have as its tactic the getting of larger and larger masses into action until ultimately the big mass of workers will be prepared for the final struggle for power.

We are glad that your members are trade union men and actively participate in union work. That you are leaders in the central bodies of [labor in] various large towns shows that you have recognized the necessity and supreme importance of trade union work. This is one of the features that makes your isolation from the organized revolutionary movement an even more serious mistake. The number of militants in the American trade unions is still small. The attitude of members of your party, attacking some of the leaders of the Trade Union Educational League, is not a correct one. Even if some of the elements are not communistic, yet this league is conducting one of the most valuable propaganda campaigns in the history of the American trade union movement. The League is assailed by the reactionary trade union bureaucracy and the government authorities. Therefore it is the duty of all Proletarian Party members to cooperate with the endeavors of the left Wing so that they will be successful in their

work of overthrowing the yellow officialdom of the American Federation of labor and putting militants into leadership.

It is tragic that members of your party — who are only small in numbers and are scattered all over the United States, so that their influence is not as vast as it might be — remain isolated from the bigger movement. This can but lead to misunderstanding, friction, and conflict. The revolutionary movement demands unity.

The whole Proletarian Party must join the Workers Party of America. All who accept the leadership of the communist International must be inside the ranks. The Proletarian Party as the last detached organized remnant today asserting communist principles and adhering to the ideas of the Communist International must no longer delay in becoming part of the unified revolutionary working class movement of America.

Long live the Unity of Revolutionary Labor in America!

The Executive Committee of the
Communist International.

O.W. Kuusinen,
Secretary-General.

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