

# Communists Call for Building Of Farmer-Labor Party Now

## Answer Arguments of Those Who Support Roosevelt Now

Warning the country that reaction is strengthening its forces rapidly, the Central Committee of the Communist Party yesterday issued a ringing call to all Socialists, trade unionists, liberals and progressive people generally to build a Farmer-Labor Party now.

The call, signed by William Z. Foster, chairman of the Central Committee, and Earl Browder, general secretary of the Party, appeals to "all progressive forces in America" to "cease drifting." Answering those who urge waiting until 1940, the Central Committee statement points out that local labor parties, formed now on city, county or state-wide scales, can determine whom they wish to support in 1936 in the national Presidential elections. New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and a number of the Western and Northwestern States are ready for such a move, the Central Committee appeal declared.

The full text of the statement follows:

### Build the Farmer-Labor Party NOW!

"A serious danger is taking form in American political life. The Republican Party, Liberty League-Hearst combination is gathering



William Z. Foster

strength week by week. The prospect is becoming so menacing that in the 1936 elections it will represent a most serious challenge for domination of the United States government.

## Urge Common Efforts to Build Local and State Parties

"This reactionary growth draws its strength from two distinct sources. On the one hand it is sweeping in an overwhelming majority of the business world and all circles directly connected with it, including those who in 1932 supported Roosevelt. On the other hand, it is drawing into its channels masses of farmers and city middle classes, and even workers, formerly enthusiastic supporters of Roosevelt, but now utterly disgusted and desperate from the results of Roosevelt's policies and therefore ready blindly to go into any other channels that promise a change. The uninterrupted series of concessions and outright surrenders to the reactionaries being made by the Roosevelt administration only serves to intensify both these tendencies, which under present circumstances throw the immediate political currents into the reactionary channels.

### For Labor Political Action

"More than ever it is becoming clear that the only effective way to fight reaction is the independent organization of the workers, farmers and impoverished city middle classes for political action in the form of a broad coalition Farmer-

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Labor Party on a local scale by states and nationally for the 1936 Presidential election. More than ever it is clear that the economic organization of labor alone is insufficient to stem the tide or to operate effectively on the political field. More and more it is clear that labor must enter independently into the political arena and rally around itself the farmers and all suffering sections of the population. The cowardly policies of the A. F. of L. Executive Council merely encourage Roosevelt's drift to the right, and cancel all effective working class influence in politics, making easier the whole Republican-Liberty League-Hearst drive, opening the way for fascism in the United States. The sectarian and passive attitude of the Socialist Party on this question contributes to the same end.

"The forces of reaction hold an advantage in this situation because they are on the offensive and give a clear, strong centralized lead. The progressive forces are at a disadvantage because they are split up into a dozen groupings working at cross purposes, because there is as yet no clear lead given for a broad united front to rally all the potential forces into a Farmer-Labor Party. This is the key question of the day.

## "Cease Drifting!"

"The Communist Party calls upon all progressive forces in America that want to unite to oppose political reaction to prevent fascism, to begin seriously to unite their forces and to give a clear, strong lead to the masses. The Communist Party is not trying to assume for itself alone the central leading role. It is proposing that Socialists, trade unionists, liberals and all progressive elements, shall cease

drifting in this dangerous situation and give a joint initiative in which the Communists are ready to join whole-heartedly, for a serious effort to build a bulwark against reaction. Now, if ever, is the time to build a broad people's movement of all suffering masses against the economic and political reaction that is threatening to sweep the country.

"There are those, particularly among the A. F. of L. leaders, who claim that while they are not opposed to a Labor Party, they are opposed to a Labor Party or even a national independent ticket in the 1936 elections because it might lead to the election of a reactionary Republican-Liberty League President. They say that the building of a Labor Party should be postponed till 1940.

## Events Will Not Wait

"This argument is today one of the greatest dangers that the masses must avoid. In the first place, the masses are faced with burning issues today, and cannot wait till 1940. These same people will come forward with similar arguments in 1940. What must be done now is to build the Labor Party everywhere on a local and state scale. If these people are sincerely for a Labor Party at any time, what objection can they have to this course? The local Labor Parties can then decide whom they will support in the national Presidential elections. Th's is the best way to mobilize the maximum independent action of the masses now and beat back the threat of growing reaction.

"The policy of waiting and postponing under the slogan of supporting 'the lesser evil' is paralyzing the American working class. It was precisely such a policy in Germany that led to the victory of fascism.

"The Farmer-Labor Party on a

state scale can be organized within the next few months in several New England States, in New York State, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and a number of the Northwestern and Western States. The degree to which these opportunities are realized will give the decisive answer as to whether a national Farmer-Labor Party will be in the field in the 1936 Presidential elections to halt the dangerous drift of masses into the clutches of Liberty League-Hearst reaction. Only a national gathering of all the independent forces of labor, of the farmers, of the suffering middle classes, can provide such a united decision on national political questions and candidates, which will enable the progressive forces of the country to meet and overcome the united front of reaction.

"Every worker, farmer, middle-class man or woman, every organization of the workers and farmers should start to build the Farmer-Labor Party right NOW in their localities. They must now organize the party that will help bring them decent wages, union conditions; a party that will open the factories for the millions of hungry unemployed and provide for a system of social insurance against want and starvation; a party that will make the rich pay the taxes instead of the common people; a party that will bring to the farmers higher prices at the expense of the big banks and grain speculators; a party that will preserve and fight for civil liberties. Build this broadest United Front that fights hunger, war and fascism.

"Central Committee, Communist Party of U. S. A.,

"WILLIAM Z. FOSTER,

"Chairman,

"EARL BROWDER,

"General Secretary."