

# Foster Appeals for Defense of Foreign-Born

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

A drive is in full progress against foreign-born workers. Dozens have been deported since the San Francisco General Strike. Hundreds are threatened with deportation. The bosses have learned to respect and fear the unity of the working-class, particularly since the great strike wave of 1934 when, as in the West Coast general strike, native and foreign born, white and Negro workers fought shoulder to shoulder against the bosses. The ruling class has decided it must smash this unity. It has begun its drive. It is out to split the working class four ways: native from foreign born, white from Negro.

The great drive against the working class has started with the foreign born. A. W. Mills, district organizer of the Communist Party in Philadelphia, heads the list of deportees; they include Ujich, Carlson, Mannisto and many other leaders of the working class.

This is an admitted policy of Secretary of Labor Perkins on behalf of the Roosevelt administration—a means of getting rid of “foreign agitators.” It is part of the capitalist drive upon the masses of this country. Upon examination of labor’s casualty list — wherever workers are shot down for defending their right to live — we find names of the foreign born together with native Americans heading the list. The lynch squads against the Negro workers move practically simultaneously with the deportation squads. The anti-Red propaganda filling the pages of the capitalist press these days with the purpose of outlawing the militant labor organizations headed by the Communist Party, never fails to prominently mention “the foreign agitators.”

Workers must be on guard. The capitalist offensive is heaviest against the foreign born at the moment. If they succeed on that

front, the drive will proceed more furiously against the native workers — Negro and white. The attack is not only against the Hungarian, Russian, Polish, Slovakian, Jewish or other workers who emigrated to the U. S. A. It is against all workers—all who built the economic system here into the most powerful of the world.

Let no worker fool himself by believing that the attack on the foreigner is no concern of his. These “foreigners” are as much the flesh and blood of the American working class as the native born. The terror against them aims at weakening the labor front as a whole. Roosevelt does the bidding of the big bosses who are out to slash wages even more than they have been slashed to date—to speed workers up at even a more inhuman pace. He hopes to succeed by cowing the foreign born with threats of deportation to the dungeons of Hitler,

Mussolini, Pilsudski or the bloody Balkan dictators. With the front of labor broken, its forces divided, with the foreign born workers lashed into submission, the bosses know it will be easier to force the native born to accept the same wage cuts and the same exploitation.

The strength of the working class is in its unity. The deportation drive aims to smash that unity. This must never succeed. The workers must strengthen their united front—native, foreign born, black, white.

A unified struggle must be initiated against the criminal treatment of innocent foreign born workers by the government. The cause of the foreign born workers must become the cause of the entire working class. More than that: every honest, freedom-loving person, whether

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worker or farmer, whether small business man or professional, must realize that this anti-foreign campaign is directed against the fundamental liberties of the American population. It is directed against himself. Enslave the foreign born and soon the native will be in chains.

Congress opens soon. Measures will be introduced, either by the McCormack-Dickstein Committee or by other agencies, to suppress working class organizations, to outlaw militant unions, to outlaw the Communist Party, which is the leader of all the exploited and oppressed. If they succeed against the Communist Party, then they will succeed against all organizations of workers, farmers, professionals. Congress must be confronted with a determined resistance on the part of the masses.

## Conference Sunday

A conference has been called for next Sunday, 2 p.m., at Irving Plaza, New York, to organize such resistance. A delegation will be elected to bring to Congress and the Labor Department demands of the workers that persecution of foreign-born workers be halted and that measures against working class organizations be withdrawn. In order that the delegation have weight in the eyes of the ruling powers, a mighty movement must develop behind it. The conference must be the first step in this direction.

It is the duty of every working class organization, whether native or foreign born, Negro or white, men or women, to send delegates to that Conference. We must make it an event in the history of the labor movement.

Deportations must be stopped! The workers can force the bosses to do so! In the meantime funds are necessary to wage the legal battle on behalf of the deportees. Workers and workers' organizations should send their contributions to Committee for the Protection of Foreign Born, 80 East Eleventh Street, Room 611, New York City.

Quick action is needed! Let this action be as powerful as the emergency demands.