
Workers! What is Coming?

Proclamation by the United Communist Party

[circa Nov. 6, 1920]

Copy in Bureau of Investigation Investigative Files, NARA M-1085, reel 928, file 202600-391.
Leaflet is mentioned in a report on reel 924 as having made its appearance in New York circa Nov. 6, 1920 and mentioned in other reports from mid-December 1920.

Workers of the United States!

Do you realize what is upon you? Are you following the events in the struggle between the capitalists and the workers? Do you see what is coming? Are you prepared to act for your own protection?

You know from your experience that there is a constant fight between the workers who work for wages and the capitalists who are in business to make big profits and to build up great fortunes for themselves. You know that the capitalists have always tried to keep your wages as low as they could and your hours of working as long as they could. You know that the struggle between the workers and the bosses over wages and working conditions has resulted in thousands of strikes.

During the war you were able to get better wages and win improvements in your working conditions, because the capitalists needed every worker to win the war. The increase in wages didn't really improve your position, **because the capitalists took back from you in high prices more than you got in increased wages.**

Now things are changing.

Business is slowing up. The boom period of the war is at an end. **We are facing hard times.** Hundreds of thousands of workers are already out of jobs.

The cost of living hasn't come down any. You are paying the same high prices. **But the capitalists are cutting your wages.** They want to increase your hours. They are planning to smash your unions. They are going to put their feet on your necks and show you your place. They are using all their power to make you

submit to industrial slavery.

The proof of this is the fight that is going on at the present time. During the last couple of weeks regular army soldiers, state troopers, and policemen have been clubbing and shooting strikers in four sections of the country.

In West Virginia, actual civil war is under way between the mine owners and the mine workers. The miners have been obliged to take guns in their hands in their fight for wages and working conditions that would make it possible for them to live decently. **Regular army troops have been sent against them!**

In Pennsylvania, the state troopers are clubbing and shooting the hard coal miners who went on strike because the government commission refused to increase their wages sufficiently so that they could make ends meet.

In Denver, the regular army soldiers helped the street car company put down the strike of the street car workers.

In New York City, the strikers on the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company lines were clubbed, jailed, and shot by police and company guards. The United States judge, who controls the company under a receivership, told the workers that he intended to smash their union, and the police were hard at work trying to carry out these instructions.

These strikes and scores of others in which the same thing is happening shows you what is coming.

The capitalists are already crowing because they believe that they have got you down and can do as they please with you. These sentences, from an editorial in

the *New York Times*, which speaks for the capitalists, tells you what is coming:

Since 1914, there has been an abundance of employment.... but we are passing now into a new era.... These strikebreakers on the Brooklyn Rapid Transit are recruited from factory towns in the Middle West...where unemployment has resulted from the shutting down of mills.... An abundance of strikebreakers is seldom a solitary phenomenon. As a rule it is speedily followed by a time when there are no strikes.... But the bread line can be avoided only by listening to the voice that speaks first and foremost in the general interest.

The bosses expect to break you through hard times, which will give them plenty of strikebreakers, and by using the iron heel of the government to put you down.

What are you going to do?

Are you going to submit to bread lines and soup kitchens? Let the bosses do as they please with you? Is that what you are going to do?

Or will you fight back? Will you unite with your fellow-workers and smash the capitalists and their government?

The way to fight back is for all the workers in a shop to organize a shop organization and elect a shop committee in every factory, unite these shop committees for each industry and in every city, and then meet the attack of the bosses and their government in a solid body. When there is a strike all the workers must strike together, and not let themselves be beaten piecemeal.

If you organize that way, you can beat the bosses. But you must be ready to fight to the finish.

The bosses will call upon their government to beat you into submission. They will use the courts, the police, the militia, and the regular soldiers against you. They are doing that in every strike now.

You must direct your strikes against the government and must overthrow the capitalist government. When the final struggle to overthrow the government comes you must have guns in your hands, and be prepared for an armed insurrection to wipe out the government of the capitalists and establish your government — the government of the workers' councils.

Once you have established the government of the Workers' Councils — the Soviet Government — you can throw out the capitalists and take control of the factories and wages and working conditions yourselves.

The Russian workers have already done that. The Italian workers aimed at the same thing.

Workers of the United States! You cannot travel any other road. Either the capitalists will crush you, as they are now doing, or you must crush them.

The fight is yours, workers! You must organize your power. You must unite your strength. Either you must fight for freedom or submit to worse conditions than you have experienced before.

That is the struggle that is under way. That is the struggle that is upon you.

ALL POWER TO THE WORKERS!

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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