
The Crisis Within the Party

by Jack Carney

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Attributed to editor Jack Carney.

The National Executive Committee, with the exception of Comrades Katterfeld and Wagenknecht, has expelled over 45,000 members from the party. The whole state of Michigan and 7 language federations have been expelled. All because they have endorsed the policy of the Left Wing.

Seymour Stedman, John M. Work, Victor L. Berger, and a few more of the NEC seem to think that it is their special duty to lead the rank and file. Now that the rank and file are alive to their policy of opportunism, they are in danger of being ousted at the coming election of a new NEC. Therefore in order to ensure their re-election, they expel all those that are in any way opposed to their opportunistic tactics. It is a desperate policy that plainly shows how desperate is the position of the majority of the NEC.

The expulsion of 45,000 members is no light matter. It is one that must command the attention of every earnest member of the party. Therefore, the Duluth English Local has passed the following motion:

That we, the members of the Duluth English Local, demand that the action of the National Executive Committee be sent out to the rank and file of the party, for their endorsement or rejection.

If this motion is supported by 5 locals, the NEC are duty bound to send it out to a referendum of the party. If the action of the NEC is an expression of the rank and file, then we of the Left Wing will abide by it and bend to, with all the energy at our disposal.

The working class today stands upon the threshold of the new society. It stands temptingly before us.

It can be created, if we are organized and intelligent enough to utilize the advantages that are presented to us. Read the speech of Vanderlip, the famous American banker and then think for one moment and say to yourself: "*What am I doing to make the revolution a success?*"

The majority of the NEC are eager for office. They forget the principles of Socialism, all for the sake of getting into office. *In Minneapolis they conduct a Van Lear campaign, in Chicago a Cunnea campaign, in New York a Hillquit campaign, and in Wisconsin a Berger campaign.* We defy any comrade to show us in any of the platforms, upon which these men ran, any trace of revolutionary Socialism. "Socialists" elected to office win by stultifying Socialism. Immediately they taste of the sweets of office, their opposition to scientific socialism becomes more pronounced. They oppose any measure that seeks to bring them in direct conflict with the office they hold. It naturally follows that if we compromise at every turn, we will lose out, because we will have lost the confidence of the workers who will have become disgusted with our leaders.

The Social Revolution will never be achieved by simply electing a mayor in Dubbtown.† The revolution will be a success when we have the workers organized and conscious of their strength to run industry. Therefore it naturally follows that the workers must work to set themselves free. That means that there is no room in our movement for lawyers, intellectuals (?), and other unnecessary beings that capitalism has created. The words of Marx still ring in our ears, "*that the emancipation of the workers must be brought about by the workers themselves.*" The rank and file of the party

†- Reference to cartoonist Ryan Walker's ongoing strip "Henry Dubb," the namesake being an unseeing and unthinking working class dupe of the ruling class.

are beginning to realize the truth of what Marx said, that is why they are voting for candidates who are from the working class and possessed of a revolutionary working class viewpoint. If the Left Wing wins out, then there is no room for Stedman, Hillquit, Berger, and their hangers-on. To many of these comrades the movement is their bread and butter. They defend comrades who are arrested. The movement becomes to them a thing that exists to give them a living. Let us not be sentimental about this matter, but act like men and women and for the sake of the revolution let us act straight. The surgeon who shoves in the knife and digs down deep, soon heals the wounds. Therefore let us dig down deep. Let us clear the movement of its lawyers, etc. Let us make it a real working class organization. True it is that the Left Wing is not free from that element, but the working class element within the Left Wing dominates the petty bourgeoisie by about 100 to 1. So let us remove the present NEC and in their place elect a new executive and prepare for the future.

The evolution of capitalism into its final stage, Imperialism, brings the common workers, the unskilled proletariat, into a position lately occupied by the skilled workers, that of the dominant section within the working class. The day has gone by when the skilled workers can successfully discriminate against the unskilled worker. The demand for industrial unionism by the several craft unions, within the American Federation of Labor, is but the effect of imperialism. In all our

agitations we must remember this fact. When the workers in the basic industries of society are industrially organized and are made conscious of their power, then the foundation is laid for a successful social revolution. When the workers, here in Duluth, within the steel industry, are strong enough to shake the very foundations of that industry then, and not until then, will there be any chance of success. Our economic power must be organized and for that reason, those that wield that power must dominate the Socialist Party. There can be no room for the man AWAY FROM THE JOB. The movement must be a movement of revolutionary workers.

So let us stand firm and make our propaganda worthy of the big things that stand before us. Let us clear the decks and set out for action. Let us quit wasting our time on petty reforms and get down to the real work. It is action that we require. Therefore let us engage in action within the party. Let us remove the barnacles that impede our progress. Let us hoist our sails and sail straight for the cooperative commonwealth. The fight is going to be hard. We shall need men and women with a mind to think and a heart to do and to dare. Come comrades and join hands. With a cleansed movement, our work will be much easier. Do not become pessimistic. Because the split had to come. It is a sign of the growing interest being displayed by members of the party.

“THE FUTURE IS WITH THE COMMON PEOPLE.”

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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