

To the Conference Delegates

An Appeal by W. GALLACHER

COMRADES—Delegates to the Labour Party Conference.

I wish to make an earnest appeal to you—an appeal for the consolidation of the whole of the working class movement.

Face to face with the accomplished fact of a well-organised and thoroughly united employing class—you, the delegates of a broken and defeated working-class—defeated according to a well-developed plan—surely you will not, because of antipathy that may have been aroused towards individual Communists, give your support to the proposal to exclude the Communists and thereby damn the working-class movement to a further period of disorganisation and internecine strife?

Why should there be all this trouble about the Communist Party's application? The Labour Party stands for the emancipation of the workers. So does the Communist Party. No one will dispute our earnestness so far as *this* task is concerned.

The Labour Party leaders, however, make the claim that the change can be brought about constitutionally and without the use, or exhibition of, any kind of organised force. But suppose the Labour Party leaders are wrong? Suppose the employing class refuses to quit—and decides to make a fight for it? Are we to understand that the Labour Party will then give up its attempt to end the system that has been productive of so much misery to the toiling masses? Surely not! Surely the fight will go on and all the means necessary to ensure success be unhesitatingly made use of.

The Communist Party recognises the Labour Party as the political party accepted by the masses and if affiliated will earnestly and faithfully assist it in its struggles against the forces of capitalism wherever those forces express themselves.

At the same time the Communist Party will claim the right to express the opinions

that sooner or later the capitalist class will endeavour to break up the working class organisation by the use of force, and that the working class organisations will have to make preparations to withstand them.

Is it because we hold this view that we are to be treated as the Ishmaels of the British Labour movement?

I would appeal to you—to each individual delegate—to consider well what is at stake. By rejecting the Communists you will not seriously affect us as a party. We won't shed any tears about it—although we recognise quite clearly that it will postpone indefinitely any possibility of a real concentration of working-class forces. But you will undoubtedly give cause for very great rejoicing in the ranks of the enemy.

You know this. You know that if you reject and attack the Communist Party, the capitalist class and its servile press will applaud you. And you know that there's never applause from that direction when you serve the true interests of the class you represent.

At a time like this when the working class is being battered down ruthlessly into the pit of hopelessness, apathy, and despair, we must all of us beware, lest any action, prompted by personal prejudice, has the effect, not of helping our class to rise, but of forcing them further down.

Again, it is said we are not orthodox in our belief in Parliament

Comrades, I ask you?—In all seriousness I ask you: Was the Labour Party built up solely to foster a belief in Parliament? Those thousands of earnest workers, sacrificed their all too hard-earned shillings—have they given their time and energy without any thought of personal reward, to build up a working-class political organisation that would raise such a question on an application for affiliation?

We believe that Parliament can be used in the fight against capitalism; but that

the change from capitalism to socialism will bring about a change from our so-called political democracy to the only real democracy—Industrial Democracy.

It is absurd to burn incense at the shrine of our present-day democracy, when the mass of the workers have to live their lives under the black shadow of "Managerial Functions."

The task of the Labour Party is not to popularise Parliament; its task is to play its part in the fight for working-class emancipation.

I cannot warn the Conference delegates too earnestly that a tendency exists—(it appears to have captured the minds of many members of the Labour Party) to think that instead of Parliament being used to aid the workers, the workers should be used to bolster up Parliament.

If this notion is allowed to grow it will be fatal for the Labour Party and for the working class. Such an attitude can only play into the hands of the enemy.

Comrades! The Communist Party is organised to fight capitalism until its power is broken, and the age-long oppression of the workers ended with the coming of the new social order.

We who are members of the Communist Party have toiled with you in the workshops, have struggled with you in the streets, have been faithful always to the cause that you as well as we hold dearer than life itself.

Now we ask you to allow us to associate with you in the political fight, not for any ulterior motive, not for personal gain or Party ends, but because the one urgent need of the moment is working-class unity.

With this thought in mind I ask you to consider our application for affiliation, feeling assured that, if you place the well-being of the workers as your first consideration, it will not be hastily rejected.