

ONE MAY DAY!



TO THE UNITED FRONT MAY DAY CONFERENCE,
Carl Brodsky, Secretary

TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE U.S.A.
Earl Browder, Secretary

Dear Comrades:-

May Day should be a symbol of the strength of the working class. But there can be no show of strength as long as the workers are divided and their forces split into two rival demonstrations. On every hand we hear phrases about unity, yet factional, sectarian considerations have prevented the organizations responsible for the division from taking the real, practical steps necessary to insure one, single, united demonstration of strength on May Day. We address this communication to your conference and its affiliated organizations to inform you of what we have been doing in an effort to repair the disastrous division, and to make practical proposals to your conference for that purpose.

Those trade unions of this city which are sufficiently class-conscious to observe May Day were responsible for the calling of a conference on March 28. We sent delegates to that conference and they were seated. In the course of the preparations for a May Day celebration, both at the conference and in committee meetings, we stood for the following objectives: 1) For a demonstration and parade. Despite the opposition of some right wing Socialist leaders, this was carried. 2) For an invitation to the Communist Party to participate as well as its affiliated organizations except its dual unions. This received much support but has been so far defeated. 3) For the inclusion of the Young People's Socialist League. This was carried. 4) For a broad, inclusive, non-partisan labor demonstration in which the unions should predominate and which should not be subordinate to any political party. Many measures were adopted to prevent the demonstration from being so subordinated. An executive committee representative of all tendencies was set up. The manifesto and publicity committees chosen will emphasize the truly labor character of the conference. The name May Day Labor Conference was decided upon.

We were hampered in our fight for the invitation of the Communist Party by three factors: 1) The Local N. Y. Socialist Party leaders oppose for partisan factional reasons a united front including Communists, official or opposition. 2) The Communist Party, tho it has issued general declarations in the press calling for one united demonstration, and mailed such declarations to the Socialist Party, has obviously been preparing its own demonstration separate from the trade unions and the call for its conference was a narrow, factional document, calling for the unity of all forces in one line and attacking the Communist Opposition, the Workers Party, Socialist Party, and trade union leaders in the next. We do not question the right of the Communist Party to criticize those with whom it enters into united fronts. We do not believe in "non-aggression pacts." But surely you will understand that the manifesto which is to be the basis and common program of a united front cannot contain such criticisms. If it does, it can repeat the word unity a thousand times and still it will be an invitation not to unite, a blow against the possibility of a united front.

3. The Communist Party did not even send a delegation to the May Day Conference called by the trade unions. Instead of being able to fight for the admission of the Communist Party's delegates, we had to move TO INVITE an organization which had stayed away and was preparing its own rival, partisan conference separate from the organized labor movement.

OUR PROPOSALS TO YOU

It is not even now too late to remove the obstacles which make difficult a real united front on May Day and to make one huge united May Day demonstration.

What must be done?

First, your conference should elect a committee to negotiate for unity with the Labor Conference called by the trade unions. If your offer is sincere you will find plenty of support, including our own, inside that conference.

Second, you must remove the chief obstacle to that unity—the problem of the dual unions. Surely May Day is an appropriate time to make a real, honest step for working class unity. Surely, no factional and petty face-saving considerations should stand in the way of an open declaration that those union-splitting organizations have been a disastrous blunder and that the party which formed them has learned its lesson and gives pledges to the working class that it will not further maintain them or ever again threaten the unity of the mass organizations of the workers. The formation of those dual unions has been the chief cause of the isolation of the Communist Party from the trade unions and their continued maintenance on one subterfuge or another is the chief obstacle to the possibility of the Party's participation in one united May Day demonstration with the organized labor movement of this city.

We urge you with all the seriousness that the present situation demands, not to evade these proposals, not to make empty talk about unity without taking the necessary steps to make it possible. It is the duty of the Communist Party to observe May Day in proper fashion. It is the duty of the Communist Party to correct its sectarian blunders. It is the duty of the Communist Party to heal the rift that separates it from the organized labor movement. It is the duty of the Communist Party to march on May Day with the organized labor movement. It is the duty of the Communist Party to remove the obstacles which it puts in the way of one united May Day movement and to make it harder for some socialist and conservative trade union leaders to prevent that unity.

We earnestly urge the most serious consideration of our proposals.

For one united May Day demonstration!

For such a demonstration as will give pause to reaction, and fresh courage and strength to the working class!

Fraternally yours,

THE COMMUNIST PARTY U.S.A. (OPPOSITION)
Jay Lovestone, Secretary