

Interviewing Haywood on the Communist

We have heretofore had occasion to remark that the hack writers on the capitalist press never hesitate when ordered to commit a degenerate act at the behest of their masters.

A reporter for the Chicago Tribune who interviewed "Bill" Haywood last week clearly justified that charge. The excuse for the interview was the attempted strike of the waiters' union, affiliated with the I. W. W. After a few questions relative to the strike the following conversation ensued (according to the reporter):

Reporter—"Is the I. W. W. connected in any way with the Communists who are going to try to hold a convention in Chicago the first of September?"

Haywood—"Well, you see, them Communists are part of the old Socialist party. But what we're trying to do is to raise money to get our starving—"

Reporter—"But are your people connected with this bunch that wants a revolution right away, with a soviet government and all that?"

Haywood—"Well, d'ya know, I don't know much about this Communist proposition. I'll have to look it up."

Note carefully the atrocious grammar attributed to Haywood: "Well, you see, them Communists," etc. Although no one has ever accused Haywood of being an intellectual, still he is not an ignoramus, and is quite capable of handling the English language as well as the reporters for the Tribune. Such tactics on the part of the pen valets of capitalism seem to be in vogue recently. When the capitalist press accuses the labor leaders of ignorance and illiteracy no one pays any attention to it, so they now resort to the contemptible tactics of alleged quotations wherein language is butchered. This is done in order to convey the idea that the spokesmen of the workers are a bunch of driveling fanatics, not to be taken seriously by "intelligent people,"

but who should nevertheless be suppressed because of their effect upon the ignorant working class. This is merely another method of fighting the working class.

While taking a rap at Haywood and the I. W. W., the reporter, or the desk man who prepared the article for publication, also took occasion to refer to the Communist Party as a "bunch that wants a revolution right away." The intent here is to convey to the public the idea that the Communists are a gang of terrorists who are going "to lead a revolution." A perusal of our literature makes clear our position, which is to get the MAJORITY of the workers to accept our position as correct, then to take control of the powers of government in the interest of the workers.

We do not comment upon the tactics of this miserable scribbler and the institution he represents in order to induce the capitalist press to change its course. This comment is merely for the benefit of the working class organizations, so they will refuse to give information to any reporter. When the Communist Convention is called in Chicago on September 1st we will have our own newspaper representatives and the emissaries of capitalist journalism will find the doors barred to them. We will not permit them to inflame the minds of the public in order to cloak official brutality on the part of the ruling class. It is plain that such is the motive behind the newspaper talk about the Communist Convention.

This convention is called only for the purpose of organizing the political expression of the class conscious proletariat of the United States and we do not propose to be misrepresented by degenerates, hence our refusal to extend them the hospitality of our convention.

DANGER! LOOK OUT!

Senator Thomas of Colorado has asked the Congress of the United States to go on strike and stop legislating. You workers of America, do you realize how great a danger you face should congress go out on strike? Just imagine! There would be no one to pass the new espionage law, do you proletarians realize what that means? The master class, without an espionage law, may find some difficulty in railroading class conscious workers into prison. It will mean that there will be no money appropriated for the upkeep of the secret service and the army. Well may the wage slaves tremble for the master class may be without means of suppressing your strikes and deporting your leaders. How will "we" declare war on Mexico? Who will send the boys into Mexico to preserve "law and order"?

There is yet another danger. If the Congress goes on strike what guarantee have we that the Judiciary will not follow suit? Awake, ye slaves! If the judges go on strike, who then will issue injunctions against you? Who will sentence a Mooney or Debs or Billings to the penitentiary? Who will deal out "justice" to the I. W. W.?

But there is no such danger; we need not worry about it. The bosses, who are always for "law and order," are looking out. And the master class, unlike the proletarians, is united and will see that their hirelings in Congress and among the judiciary do not play any tricks which might endanger property rights. Maybe Senator Thomas was only joking.

The Plumb plan for joint control of the railroads is startling in its simplicity. The idea is to have the unions and the government combine against the capitalists.

Prepare Now for the Next War

There is no need to argue about it. Your personal observation of the trend of events must have convinced you that it is only a matter of months or perhaps weeks before this country will be at war with Mexico. Likewise, you are aware that the world situation is such that greater wars are a certainty within a very short time.

What are you going to do about it?

Are you building air castles, dreaming about what you will do when the next crisis arrives, or are you laying the foundation now for effective work later?

Right now there is unlimited opportunity for lining up the prospective cannon fodder. The Plunderbund is busy preparing the minds of the workers, quietly and insidiously the militarists are laying their plans.

We cannot stand idly by and allow this to go on. Our opportunity for presenting the proletarian viewpoint to the man on the street and the worker in the shop will not last long. We must take advantage of the present situation. To do otherwise would be to play into the hands of the enemy.

In THE COMMUNIST you have a mighty weapon with which to counteract the insidious poison now being injected into the minds of the workers. There is nothing more effective than a straightforward presentation of our program, and this you will find in no other paper. Nor is it enough that you subscribe yourself; you must do more than that; you must see to it that others read it every week.

Prepare for the next war now! Tomorrow never comes. BEGIN TODAY!

Appoint yourself a committee of one with full power to act. Don't wait for your local or branch—YOU ACT!

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Application for Membership

COMMUNIST PARTY OF AMERICA

I, the undersigned, recognizing the necessity for the organization of a Communist Party in conformity with the call issued for a convention to be held in the city of Chicago, Monday, September 1st, 1919, hereby make application for membership in said party.

Name _____

Address _____

Age _____ Occupation _____

Previous affiliation _____
(Give name of organization and period of membership)

Admitted _____ 1919, Local or Branch _____

Secretary _____