

# The Party Organization

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## Help Defend your Comrades!

THE ruling class of this country is making a desperate effort to disrupt the Communist Party. It believes that if it can put the officials of the organization in prison the party will disintegrate. To accomplish this end charges are being placed against practically every active party official.

Several weeks ago Comrades Kowalsky, Stankovich, and Friedman, translator-secretaries, were arrested and held for deportation. The bond was fixed at \$10,000 in order to keep them in prison while the cases were pending. Comrade Stoklitsky, another translator-secretary, had previously been arrested upon deportation warrant.

Now these attacks on the Federation representatives have been followed by attempts to imprison the officials of the national organization. Comrades Ferguson, Fraina, Cohen, and Ruthenberg, all members of the Central Executive Committee of the party, have been indicted in New York on account of their activities as members of the National Council of the Left Wing. Comrades Ferguson and Fraina are the editors of the official party paper. Comrades Ballam and Cohen edit local Communist organs, and Comrade Ruthenberg as Executive Secretary has charge of the organization and propaganda work of the party.

It is clear that the indictments against these comrades are intended to remove them from their work of building up the party organization. The charges against them are flimsy, but in the meantime the bond is fixed at the outrageous figure of \$15,000 in order to make sure that they will be kept in prison while the cases are pending.

What is the answer of the party organization? Are we to permit the ruling class to sweep these comrades from our midst and remove them from their work of building up our organization?

The decision lies with the party membership. It can keep

them out of prison while the cases are pending and also help to win their freedom.

Two things must be done. The bonds must be arranged for and a Defense Fund created.

There are fifty thousand members of our organization. Many of our comrades were compelled to purchase Liberty Bonds during the war. They can now make effective use of these bonds by loaning them to the party for use as bail to free our comrades. There is nothing to be lost by this action. The party will issue receipts for the bonds and return them as soon as the cases are disposed of.

Other party members can loan cash to the organization to be used to secure bail.

The party calls upon every member who can loan either bonds or cash to send them to the national office at once.

If we lose these cases it means the end of our open existence as an organization.

They involve the fundamental principles of our organization and we must fight them to a finish. The propaganda importance of these cases cannot be overstated. For this purpose the party must have a Defense Fund. Each branch is urged to at once make a contribution from its treasury and to take up the work of collecting funds.

The ruling class is testing our organization, comrades. Is it weak and easily destroyed? Or shall we prove ourselves powerful and unyielding? We have boasted that ours is a fighting organization—LET US FIGHT!

Send in the bonds and money to be used as bail to keep these comrades out of prison. Send in your contribution to the Defense Fund. We must have quick action.

Let us take up the challenge which the ruling class hurls at us and defend our comrades to the limit!

## Organization Progress

### Bulgarian Branch Joins C. P.

The revolutionary elements in the Socialist Labor Party are gradually beginning to realize that they can no longer remain in that organization, and are severing their connection and joining the Communist Party. The latest organization to take this step is the Bulgarian Branch of Detroit. This branch has issued the following statement to other Bulgarian branches in the S. L. P.:

More than one-third of the members of the Bulgarian Branch of the S. L. P. of Detroit have forever severed their connection with the S. L. P. and joined the Communist Party of America.

These members took this action because they were dissatisfied with the inactivity and anti-revolutionary attitude of the S. L. P. and its conservative and pro-capitalist tactics.

Over forty members answered the call of the Third International and joined the Communist Party.

Being isolated from the Bulgarian workers throughout the country we are appealing to the Bulgarian workers who are connected with the Communist Party to come in contact with the Bulgarian Communist Branch of Detroit. The branch is printing the Manifesto and Program, Constitution and Report to the International in Bulgarian, which will be ready in two weeks.

Those who wish to communicate with the branch may do so through the National Office of the Communist Party.

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A Turkish and an Armenian Branch have applied for charters as branches of the Communist Party.

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A convention of the German Federation of the Communist Party will be held during the month of December, which will be attended by representatives of all the branches which have joined the C. P., which have a membership of over 2,500.

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Charters issued by the Communist Party up to December 1, totaled 631. The membership of the branches to which these charters were issued was 30,314. In addition to these 631 branches there are over 400 branches of Federations affiliated with the party which had not secured their charters. If the average membership of these branches is the same as that of those which have already been chartered the total membership of the party will go well over the 50,000 mark.

### Charter Applications Must Be In By January 1

In order to secure a charter from the Communist Party as an organized branch the application for charters of such branches must be sent to the National Headquarters by Jan. 1.

The provision of the constitution of the party under which charters are being granted to organized bodies reads as follows:

Any branch of the Socialist Party or Socialist Labor Party which endorses the program and constitution of the Communist Party and applies for a charter before Jan. 1, 1920, shall be accepted as a branch.

Organized branches which do not send in their applications before the date mentioned will have to make application as new organizations and each member will be obliged to pay the initiation fee of fifty cents.

Branches which desire to have a continuity of membership and have not yet applied for a charter should do so at once.

### Radeks Pamphlet Now Ready

Many difficulties with printers delayed the publication of pamphlet No. 2, which was announced some weeks ago. This pamphlet contains "The Development of Socialism from Science to Action" by Karl Radek, one of the most valuable recent contributions to the literature of the movement. It is now off the press however, and shipments are being made. Prices are the same as for pamphlet No. 1. Pamphlet No. 3 "The Communist Party and the I. W. W.—a Debate" will be printed at a very early date.

### Buttons

If you can't wear the party button any other way, you'll want one to put on your vest or on your coat lapel. The buttons are now ready for shipment. The button shows the outline of the earth in the center with a red flag covering most of it—a prophesy of the days to come with a red margin on which the words "Communist Party of America—The Communist International" appear. On the red flag covering the earth are the words "All power to the Workers!" Celluloid buttons are 3c in lots of 10 or more. Cost \$3.50 per dozen.

### Leaflet No. 5

Leaflet No. 5, "You must Unite, Workingmen" which appeared on the front page of the 13th issue of "The Communist" is now being printed and will be ready for shipment by the time our next issue reaches us. This leaflet covers a very important question—the unification of the strikes—a question which should have a big circulation. Send in your order at once.

### "The Communist International"

ON ACCOUNT OF VARIOUS INTERRUPTIONS IN THE EDITORIAL WORK, THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE PARTY MAGAZINE HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY POSTPONED. PRACTICALLY ALL OF THE FIRST ISSUE IS NOW COMPLETED AND EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ISSUE THE MAGAZINE REGULARLY BEGINNING WITH JANUARY FIRST NUMBER.

Co-operation is requested toward prompt distribution by sending in orders at once.

Annual subscription .....\$3.

Single issue .....