

# The Party Organization

C. E. Ruthenberg, Executive Secretary, 1219 Blue Island Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

## A Quick, Decisive Response Needed.

**T**HE COMMUNIST PARTY is an organization of Fifty Thousand Workers.

Can these Fifty Thousand Workers raise a fund of Fifty Thousand Dollars during the next few weeks? That is the question that is now before the organization.

Within three months from the time of organization of the party we are subject to the ruthless attack of the ruling class. Many of our comrades are under arrest. Scores are being held for deportation.

The-persecution of the ruling class has been particularly directed against the officials of the National Organization. Practically every one of the comrades in charge of the work of the national office is under some sort of charge. Most of them are waiting for bail to be arranged.

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**THIS ATTACK** is evidently intended to destroy the organization at its very inception. The party propaganda during the last few months has shown the powers that be that they have to deal with a body of men and women who understand the existing industrial situation and who were developing a propaganda against capitalism that was bound to bear fruit in a strong working class movement for the abolition of the existing industrial system.

The party propaganda did not deal with theories and vague generalities. It dealt with concrete situations, with the problems which the workers were facing in their struggle for more life. In place of the vague generalities of former Socialist propaganda the party dealt with the realities of life itself and out of these sought to develop an understanding of Communist fundamentals.

**SHALL THIS WORK GO ON? SHALL IT BE INTENSIFIED AND BECOME MORE AGGRESSIVE?**

The effort to deport and imprison the active party workers is an effort to stop it. By striking at the party officials at the very beginning of their work the ruling class believes it can destroy the effectiveness of our propaganda. It hopes to remove those who are in charge of the propaganda and organization work and those who are in charge of the propaganda and organization work and thus disrupt our forces.

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**C**OMRADES, it is a real danger that threatens us. We have not had time to develop our full strength. In an older organization a dozen workers would be ready and prepared to step in the places of those who become the victims of the ruling class. Even now we will not go down if the attack is successful in removing those in positions of responsibility. Others will take their places; but for a time we will suffer.

It is our duty to put off the removal of those comrades who are responsible for the party work as long as possible. The longer we retain their services the stronger we will be.

That is the importance of responding to the appeal for the Defense Fund—of raising Fifty Thousand Dollars immediately for the fight against the imprisonment and deportation of our party workers. **THE PRESENT SITUATION CALLS FOR A FIGHT FOR DEFENSE TO THE LIMIT OF OUR ABILITY.**

Comrades! We have said a Communist Party is not a party of half-hearted, halting, impotent membership. In the Defense Funds have been raised by long campaigns of appeal and wheedling.

**MUST WE DO THAT? OR WILL YOU RESPOND QUICKLY AND DECISIVELY?**

Every Communist organization, every Communist Party member should become a unit in the organization for the distribution of party literature and increase the knowledge of the party principles by placing books and pamphlets in the hands of the workers. To publish and distribute this literature is one of the great functions of our organization, for as knowledge and understanding increases among our members and the masses, our power grows.

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