

SOCIALIST APPEAL

Published Weekly as the Organ of the Socialist Party of New York, Left Wing Branches.

Vol. 1. - No. 8. 401

Saturday, October 2, 1937

5 Cents per Copy

Left Wing Issues Convention Call

Thomas Quits Mayorality Campaign

N. Y. and Chicago Join Four State Committees In National Appeal

Left Wing To Act On Campaign This Week

On the same day that the Communist Party, in keeping with its People's Front policy, announced that it would throw all its support to the Republican-Fusion-A.L.P. combination and its Mayorality candidate, La Guardia, the right wing of the Socialist Party, at a meeting in Town Hall, finally made public the decision to withdraw its regularly nominated candidate, Norman Thomas, as foretold in these columns last week.

"First Time in History"

By their actions, as the New York Times properly concludes, "for the first time in their history, both the Communist and Socialist parties will refrain from presenting candidates for Mayor in the municipal election".

The meeting in Town Hall at which the Thomas announcement was made public, marked the lowest point reached by the right wing Socialists in years in this city. Called as a public "ratification rally", there were present less than 400 people, that is, a number considerably smaller than the membership of the Socialist Party itself, to say nothing of its normal circle of sympathizers outside its ranks.

Left Wing to Act

The Campaign Committee of the Left wing Branches of the Socialist Party is immediately convening a meeting for the purpose of deciding upon the course to be taken in view of the Thomas withdrawal. It is expected that the Committee will make an important announcement this week-end which will guarantee a campaign in New York for an independent working class candidate, challenging the Democratic Tweedledum and Republican Tweedledee candidates for Mayor, despite the treacherous actions of the Stalinists and the right wing socialists.

To All The Locals and Branches
of the Socialist Party:

COMRADES!

The Socialist Party is passing through a devastating crisis. This crisis can be resolved only by the united, speedy action of the rank and file of the organization throughout the country. No effective solution of the problems facing the movement can be reached without the immediate convocation of a national emergency convention of the Party.

The National Executive Committee of the Party is no longer entitled to the trust and allegiance of the Party membership. It is guilty of a gross usurpation and violation of power.

The N. E. C. Has Betrayed Socialism

At its last meeting in New York, the National Executive Committee betrayed the principles of socialism. It directly violated the specific decisions of the 1937 convention of the Party in Chicago, adopted by the overwhelming majority of the delegates and endorsed by the great bulk of the membership. It decided to endorse the policy of the Right wing of withdrawing the Socialist candidate for Mayor in New York, in favor of La Guardia, the Republican-Fusionist-A.L.P.-Stalinist candidate. In face of the official Party position, solemnly approved in convention, the Party has been committed to cowardly and hypocritical support of a People's Front and of its mayorality candidate.

At the same meeting, the National Executive Committee ordered the bureaucratic expulsion of all the revolutionary members of the Party who oppose and obstruct the execution of this sell-out policy. On the pretext of maintaining "discipline", which every right winger in the Party may and does violate with impunity, a nationwide expulsion drive is being conducted under the direction of the National Executive Committee with the aim of ridding the Party of all critics and opponents of La Guardia-Socialism.

The N. E. C. Is Splitting the Party

The true socialists, who refuse to bow to the autocratic rule of the N.E.C. usurpers, are being kicked out of the Party without even the pretense of a trial or hearing. The charters of state organizations are arbitrarily suspended. Other State organizations are being brutally re-organized with only right wing supporters permitted to affiliate. In every branch and local, a heresy-hunt has been instituted against the revolutionary socialists. In every branch and local of the party, a "Loyalty Oath" has been established, with the aim of weeding out all those refusing to swear fealty to the La Guardia-Socialists who are splitting the Party.

Determined to rule or ruin, and conscious of the fact that the majority of the active party membership supports the Left wing, the National Executive Committee has trampled upon the Party constitution and all the principles of Party democracy by ignoring the demands of numberless Party locals for referendums and a special convention to register the will of the Party membership on these and other burning questions.

The La Guardia-N. E. C. Stands Condemned

By these flagrant violations of the Party constitution and these betrayals of the Party policy and trust, the La Guardia National Executive Committee has forfeited its authority and lost all right to speak in the name of the party membership. By its record, both in the political field and in the field of organization—where it has reduced the national membership to a figure of less than 3,000—the National Executive Committee stands convicted of betrayal of socialist principle, usurpation of power, splitting of the movement.

There is no course left to the membership, to those socialists who hold dear the principles of revolutionary socialism, of Marxian internationalism, to those socialists who are revolted by cynical violations of Party democracy—no course but to call an emergency Party convention for the purpose of throwing out the traitors, determining the will of the Party membership on all the important Party problems; and re-establishing the Party on the foundation of revolutionary socialism.

On to the Chicago Convention!

The undersigned therefore call upon all Party locals, Party branches, State Executive Committees, and left wing groups in all sections of the Party, to send a regular quota of delegates to the Rank and File Emergency Convention of the Socialist Party, to be held on the days of the Thanksgiving week-end, November 25, 26, 27 and 28, 1937, inclusive, in the city of Chicago.

The basis of representation for all locals and groups will be made available immediately by the Convention Arrangements Committee which is now functioning in New York.

In order that the delegates may best represent the will of the membership, we announce the immediate opening of the pre-convention discussion, based on the resolutions to be submitted for consideration and any documents or view presented by the supporters of the convention. This discussion is to begin immediately inside the ranks of the organization, in membership meetings and inner discussion bulletins, and publicly in the columns of the Socialist Appeal.

State Executive Committee of the
Socialist Party of California
State Executive Committee of the
Socialist Party of Ohio
State Executive Committee of the
Socialist Party of Minnesota
State Executive Committee of the
Socialist Party of Indiana
City Executive Committee of the
Socialist Party of Local New
York, Left Wing Branches
Executive Committee of the Social-
ist Party of Cook County (Chi-
cago)
National Executive Committee of
the Young People's Socialist
League.