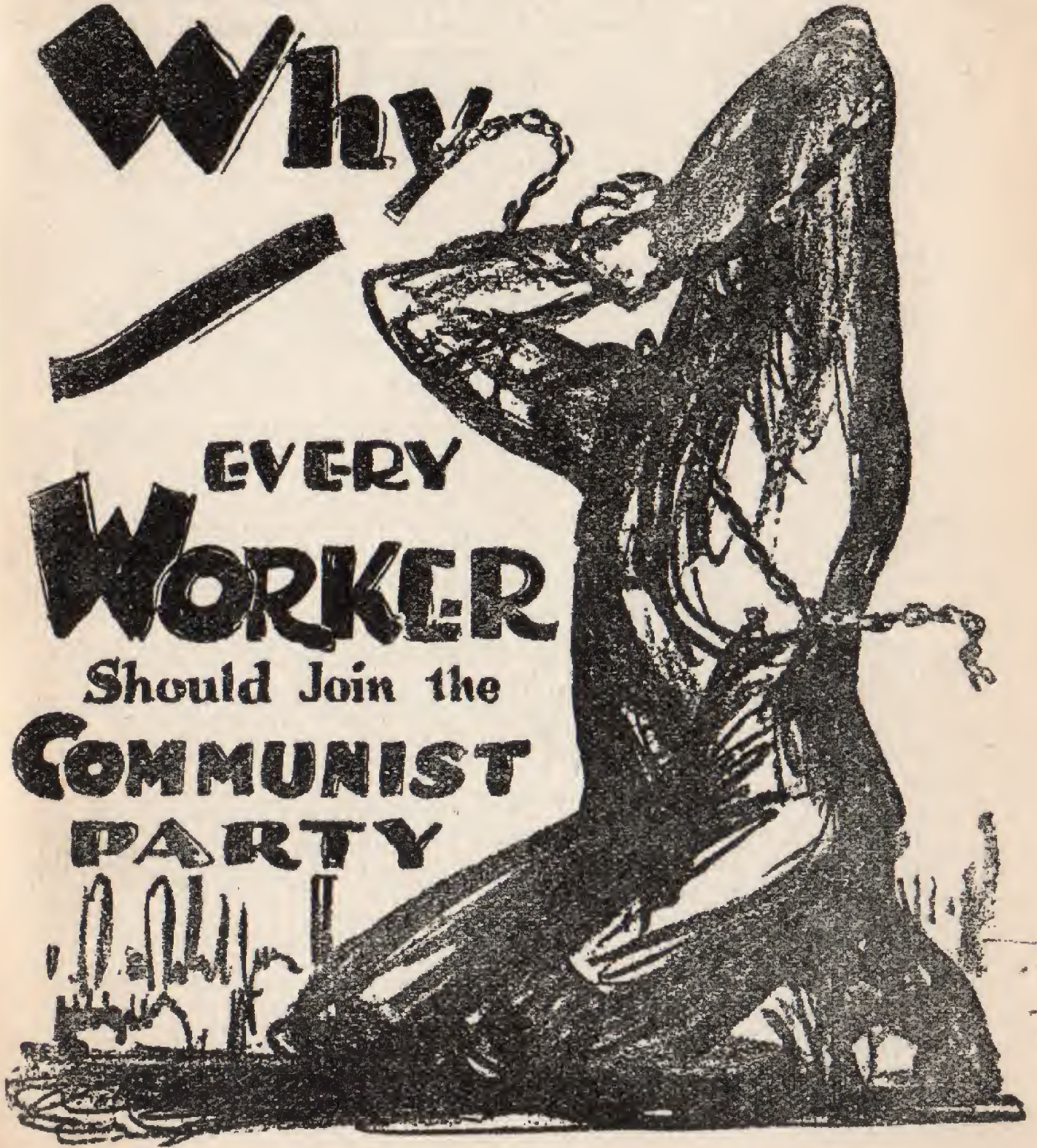


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**Why**



**EVERY  
WORKER  
Should Join the  
COMMUNIST  
PARTY**





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**Why Every Worker Should Join the  
 Communist Party**

FELLOW WORKINGMEN AND WOMEN:

The Stock Market Crash marks the beginning of a severe economic crisis—a crisis which is already resulting in wage cuts, mass unemployment and great speed-up. We are in a period of sharpening class struggles, of the working class against the capitalist class. In Gastonia the mill-bosses develop quickly from the speed-up and stretch-out system, which double the labor and reduce the earnings of the workers, to discharge and blacklist of workers who organize a union. Then they rapidly proceed to use thugs and private detectives to smash the strike—then to use the state militia and local police—then to mob violence to destroy the tent-homes and union headquarters of the strike—then to use the state militia and local of the workers who defend themselves. The working class is fighting back, organizing its own trade unions, striking.

Gastonia is but the outstanding symbol of the developing class struggle throughout the United States and the world.



*Capitalist "democracy, freedom of speech and justice for all;"*

The cold-blooded murder of Ella May Wiggins in Gaston County; the murder of six strikers in Marion by the police; the strike-break-

ing activity of the New York police and courts against the food workers, teamsters, chauffeurs, etc.; the savage prison sentences to the textile strike leaders in Gastonia; the sending of workers to prison for five and ten years in California, for "seditious" teachings; the imprisonment of workers in Pennsylvania for "sedition," and the 26 "sedition" indictments in Illinois—all testify that the capitalist class is sharpening its exploitation and oppression of the working class. The capitalist class is determined to crush the working-class resistance to the speed-up, determined to solve its difficulties by means of greater profits squeezed out of the workers, determined to keep a docile, unorganized working class which it can throw into the oncoming world war as helpless pawns of American imperialism.

### **The Working Class Must Organize to Fight the Speed-Up and Wage Cuts**

The results of the speed-up drive of the bosses, upon the living conditions of the workers, is acknowledged even by the capitalist



press. The following statement is by no means an exaggeration:

“As a result of labor’s growing productivity (speed-up), American manufacturers were able to get along with more than 400,000 fewer men in 1927 than in 1923, and to reduce their wage bill by nearly 160 million dollars. In the meantime, the value of factory output increased by over two billion dollars.”

The workers are helpless before the bosses, so long as they stand as individuals, unorganized. Only the massed power of the working class, organized to act together in hundreds of thousands and millions, can call a halt to the capitalist speed-up and brutal repressions. Only the organized might of the working class can win better conditions, and lay the foundation for a world controlled by the working class in the interests of the masses.

### The A. F. of L. Is a Bosses' Organization

But it is not enough for the workers to be members of organizations. The bosses have worked out many schemes whereby they control the workers *by means of controlling the trade unions*. The outstanding example of this in the United States is the American Federation of Labor (A. F. of L.) and its affiliated organizations. These organizations are composed of workers, but at their head, controlling them, are officials (Green, Woll, Lewis, McMahon, etc.) who are in closest cooperation with the bosses, who belong to the same political parties and clubs, who have the same policies, who work hand in hand to prevent strikes, or crush them when they take place.

The well known activities of the A. F. of L. as a bosses' strike-breaking organization have been demonstrated many times this year, in the South (Gastonia, Elizabethton, Marion, New Orleans); in the coal mining industry (Lewis-Fishwick-Farrington in Illinois); in the needle trades of New York, Philadelphia, etc. (the open alliance of the Schlesinger-Socialist Party combination with Tammany Hall and

the employers); and in hundreds of smaller instances. The A. F. of L. is a bosses' organization inside the working class. Its influence must be smashed before the working class can effectively fight against the capitalist exploitation.

### **Workers Must Build Their Own Trade Unions**

The workers must build their own organizations, from which are excluded all bosses' agents. Such fighting *class* trade unions are those which came together in the great Trade Union Unity Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, August 31 to September 3, 1929.

In the Trade Union Unity League, and those unions affiliated to it, like the National Miners Union, the National Textile Workers Union, the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union, the Marine Workers League, etc., the working class is beginning to mobilize its fighting forces for the struggle against capitalist rationalization and the speed-up, against imperialist war, for better conditions and for development of working-class power.

### **Must Fight Against Bourgeois Parties**

The capitalist class, the bourgeoisie, has its center of power in control of the government institutions. This control, the organization of bourgeois class power and the disorganization of the masses, is accomplished by means of its political parties.

Openly representing the capitalist class are the Republican and Democratic Parties. The capitalists finance these parties, and capitalists occupy all important positions in them; the party programs deal entirely with the preservation and advancement of the rule of capitalism, and with the suppression of the working class. The two-party system, alternating between Republican and Democratic administrations, is intended to give capitalism the appearance of "democracy," to create the illusion among the masses that they are "choosing" their rulers when voting for one or another capitalist candidate. But in every case it is an agent of the employers, of the capitalist class, who wields governmental power.



### Third Party of the Capitalists

The Socialist Party has abandoned the struggle for socialism and become the third party of the bourgeoisie. Trading upon its reputation as an anti-capitalist party, it secures the support of some sections of the working class who are turning away from the capitalist parties, and who do not yet know the socialist party has betrayed the workers, has come to terms with capitalism, and now serves as the most faithful servant of the bourgeoisie.

This is true of the socialist party of each country. In England it is the Labor Party which, with MacDonald at its head, is carrying on the capitalist government upon the same line as Baldwin the Conservative; breaking strikes, helping the bosses cut wages and speed up the machines; suppressing the colonial peoples; massacring Arabs and Indians; sending labor organizers in India to prison; helping suppress the Chinese Revolution; and preparing further for imperialist war against the Soviet Union and among the imperialist powers. In Germany the Social-Democratic government of Mueller is completing its evolution



*The Old Shell game—all three are his obedient servants*  
Fred Ellis



to social-fascism, amalgamation with the capitalist government and the employers to forcefully suppress the workers, and this party of the Second International proclaims its readiness to carry on a dictatorship for the bourgeoisie. In Austria the Social Democracy is concluding its pact with the fascist forces, disarming the workers and surrendering them to the reaction.

Everywhere, the socialist parties fill the same role. In the United States it is openly praised and supported by the capitalist press. It is the most faithful ally of the A. F. of L. officialdom, which betrays the trade union movement. It works in close alliance with the employers (e. g. in New York needle trades). The socialist party is an accepted and organized part of capitalist society. It is the third party of the bourgeoisie.

### The Only Working-Class Party— The Communist Party

In all countries there is only one Party which stands first, last, and all the time, for the interests of the working class. That is the Communist Party.

The Communist Party of the United States is a section of the World Party of the Working Class,—the Communist International.

The program of the Communist Party includes the organization of the working class in every phase of life. It leads the struggles of the workers, from the most simple everyday demand, clear up to the final struggle for the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of the workers' government—the proletarian dictatorship.

It leads the building up of real fighting trade unions, which will actually force better conditions of life from the bosses.

It leads the struggle against the brutal suppression of working-class organizations by the bosses and the bosses' government.

It exposes the treacheries of the A. F. of L.



and the socialist party, and points out the true path of working-class policies.

It fights for full equality, social, economic, and political, for the Negro masses.

It fights for the protection of women and youth labor, and for the abolition of child labor.

It organizes the unemployed to fight together with the employed workers for full insurance at the cost of the bosses.

It prepares the working class to become the ruling class in society, and for the reconstruction of society upon a socialist basis, as the foundation of the future communist society.

### Why the Communist Party Is Necessary For the Workers

The working class is composed of vast numbers of individual workers. So long as each worker acts for himself, without consideration for the millions of other workers, just so long will the capitalist class be powerful and able to rob, exploit and suppress the working class. The capitalist class unites all its forces through the State Power. Only the massed



The Communist Party fights for full equality, social, economic and political, for the Negro masses, and for all colonial peoples.



power of the millions of workers can meet and overcome the class enemy—the capitalist class.

This requires organization. Organization is the road to power of the working class—economic and political organization.

The basic organization of the working class is the trade union. But this is not enough. Simple trade unions, alone, will always be—as they have been in the past—penetrated by capitalist agents and turned to capitalist purposes, unless there is a *party of the working class*, which crystallizes the most active, the most devoted, and the most farseeing sections of the working class—organizes its forces—clarifies its program upon the basis of *the interests of entire working class*—and fights against every influence within the working class which works against the larger interests of the whole class.

The class struggle is a political struggle. The working class must take State power from the hands of the capitalist class. The political struggle, which must culminate in a Workers' Government, can only be led by a political party—the Communist Party.

Without a Communist Party the working

class can never fight effectively against the capitalists. Only under the leadership of such a party, can the working class realize its full powers and accomplish its historic destiny. *The Communist Party is the highest form of organization of the working class, leading and developing all other forms of special organizations for special purposes.*

### Why the Communist Party Is Part of A World Party

The Communist Party of the U.S.A. is part of the World Party—the Communist International. No organization which cuts itself off from the workers of other countries can truly represent working-class interests; and that organization which most truly represents the working class is the one which is the most thoroughly international.

The motto of the First International, founded by Karl Marx, was, "*You have nothing to lose but your chains; you have a world to gain; Workers of the World, Unite!*" The Communist International is the inheritor of the First



International, and carries its policies into life in the present period of history.

The Second International—that organ of the “socialist” servants of the various national capitalist classes—which betrayed the workers into the last world war in 1914-1918, and is actively preparing for another world blood-bath, is not a truly international organization at all. It has no common policy for all its sections, the socialist and labor parties—except the common policy of submission to and service for the capitalist class of each country.

The Communist International is a truly international organization, with sections in 47 different countries of Europe, North and South America, Africa, and Asia, comprising all races and nationalities into one world party with a world policy, the policy of the toiling masses of the entire world.

At the same moment that the Communist Party of the U.S.A. fights the everyday battles of all the exploited of this country, it unites these struggles with the world struggles of the exploited everywhere, through the Communist International.

Through our World Party we realize the full measure of the power of the working class. Through our World Party we bring into life the slogan “*Workers of the World, Unite!*” Through this union we prepare to gain the whole world for the working class.

#### How the Communist Party Works

The Communist Party is different from any other political party in the world, not only by its program, but also by its form of organization and methods of work. It is not a party for the purpose of merely registering votes on election day. It is a party of organization and struggle every day in the year, in every field of life.

Every worker who joins the Communist Party undertakes the obligation to actively work to carry all the party policies into effect wherever he may be. The whole party membership acts unitedly upon every question touching the interests of the working class.

Workers are organized in the Party, first of all upon the basis of their workshops, in the



Shop Nucleus or Factory Group. This is the basic unit of the Party.

The different nuclei or groups of a section, are united into a section. The sections are united into districts covering a large industrial area. All the districts in the country are united in the Communist Party of the U. S. A., which in turn is a section of the Communist International.

The system of organization is based upon the principle of democratic centralism. That is, the higher committees of the Party are elected by and base themselves upon the lower units, and are responsible to conventions and congresses elected by these lower units; at the same time, the leading committees are given wide powers and responsibilities, thus ensuring the maximum unity of action of the entire party, and the highest degree of party discipline.

In their activities within all other organizations, the members of the Communist Party always follow a united policy, which they work out through Party fractions, composed of all Party members in a given organization. Thus the members of the Party never cancel one

another's work by conflicting policies, but rather develop the fullest possible power behind the single policy.

Thus are the interests of the whole working class fought for and advanced by the program, forms of organization, and methods of work of the Communist Party.

### **Why You Should Join the Communist Party**

If you are a conscious worker, who knows the necessity of the struggle against capitalism and the capitalist state, then you should become a member of the Communist Party. To become a member means to be an active member, because inactive members are not allowed to stay in the Party.

Outside of the Communist Party your activity is only that of a single isolated individual; or if you are a member of a militant trade union, then your activity is only that of a limited section of the working class. But when you join the Communist Party, you have joined your activities into the great network of working-class activity which spreads over the whole



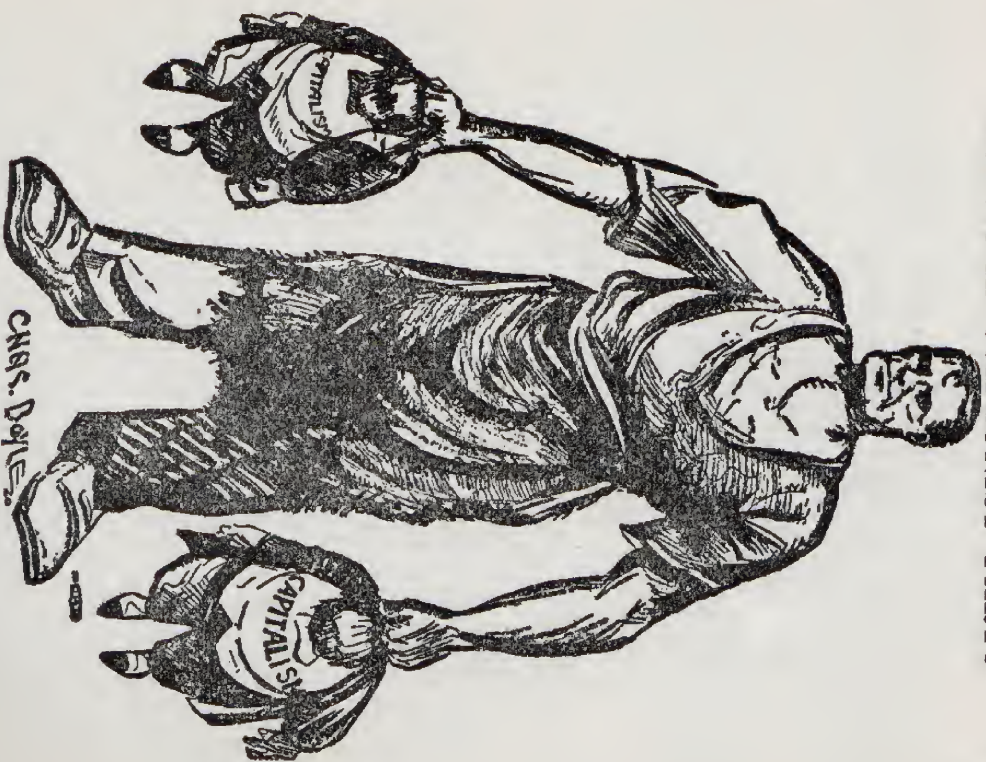
earth, and takes up every problem in any way affecting the working class.

Only by becoming a member of the Communist Party can you give your greatest services to the cause of the working class. Only as a Party member can you really fight effectively against the enemies of the working class.

### How the Party Cleanses Itself

The Communist Party constantly examines itself, its membership, its leadership, its program and activities, to make sure that all these are in line with the interests of the working class. It constantly cleanses itself from all elements which depart from the interests of the working class.

It is no weakness, but one of its strongest points, that the Communist Party throws off all those leaders who fail to follow the correct working-class line, the Communist line of policy. The Communist Party does not hide such facts from the working class as a whole, but on the contrary, it makes all its changes in leadership before the whole working class, and



*Getting rid of the elements reflecting the ideas of the petty-bourgeoisie is necessary in order to get rid of capitalism itself.*



explains all these things to the workers as important parts of the whole development of the working class towards power.

Our Party has just gone through such a cleansing. It was forced to fight against and throw off a small group of former leaders, who came under the influence of Trotskyism, which is a departure from the correct proletarian line of policy. Thus our Party rid itself of Cannon, Abern, Schachtman, the opportunists of 'leftist' phrases.

Our Party also had to fight against and throw off the group of right-wing opportunists, headed by Lovestone, Pepper, Gitlow and Wolfe. These elements, reflecting the ideas of the petty-bourgeoisie, fought against the development of the class struggle in the United States, against the new militant trade unions, and against the program of socialist construction in the Soviet Union. They aligned themselves with the international opportunist elements.

It is the test of a truly revolutionary Party to be able to protect its political line against all such opportunist elements. Our Party has shown that with the help of the Communist

International, with the policies and methods developed by Lenin, it is able to defeat all influences of the bourgeoisie within the Party and keep the Party to the revolutionary line.

And this constitutes another reason why every conscious worker should join the Communist Party.

### **The Coming of Great Class Battles**

In the United States we are now entering a period of maturing of great battles between the working class and the bourgeoisie.

The capitalist class is involved in the most serious contradictions, creating problems which they try to solve by increasing the exploitation of the workers, by speeding-up the machines, by squeezing the life-blood of the working class—and by preparations for wars to conquer new markets.

The capitalists' speed-up drive (rationalization) which is making life unbearable for the workers, and which creates millions of unemployed, can only be defeated by sharpest struggles. And such struggles can only be or-



ganized and led by a strong Communist Party.

It is your duty to join hands with all other revolutionary workers, to strengthen the Communist Party for these tasks.

### Help Build Socialism in the Soviet Union

In the territory of the former Tsarist Empire, is now the first Workers' Government, the *Union of Socialist Soviet Republics*. Here is the living realization of the program of the Communist International, of the Communist Party, where the working class is in power. Through the proletarian dictatorship, through the Soviet Power under the leadership of the Communist Party, the working class of the Soviet Union is successfully building up a socialist system.

The truly marvellous results being achieved in the economic reconstruction of the Soviet Union, upon a socialist basis, is a proof that only the communist program, only the coming to power of the working class, can release the full productive powers of the human race, and bring about a world of organization and plenty.



Fred Ellis The National Textile Workers Union, a section of the Trade Union Unity League, leads the southern textile workers in the fight for better conditions and for development of working-class power.



The Soviet Union has taken one-sixth of the whole world out of the hands of capitalism, and is building there a socialist society.

That is why the Soviet Union is the stronghold of the working class of the whole world. It is the only country that belongs to the workers and not to the capitalists. It is the fatherland of the working class of the world. It is the achievement of the working class under the leadership of the Communist Party.

By joining the Communist Party you not only strengthen the American working class but also help the workers of the Soviet Union in their tremendous tasks of the construction of socialism. At the same time you are building up the power which alone can defend the Soviet Union against imperialist war—the power of the international organized working class.



*A copy in each knap-sack.*

Fred Ellis

### The Danger of Imperialist War

The war danger is the greatest menace to the working class of all countries. First of all, there is the danger of imperialist war against the Soviet Union. If the capitalists can destroy the Soviet Union, the stronghold of the world's working class, then they feel they can easily defeat each separate national working class



which has no governmental power in its hands. Workers of all countries must fight with all possible measures and weapons to defeat the imperialists and defend the Soviet Union. This struggle against Imperialist War is the first task of the Communist Party.

At the same time, war between the Imperialist Powers themselves is coming closer and closer. This is recognized by the Imperialists themselves who hide this danger from the workers by a huge propaganda about "peace." But all the time they feverishly prepare for war.

War between the two principal Imperialist rivals, between the United States and Great Britain, is more and more occupying the thoughts and attention of the whole world. The more often the capitalist press assures the world that such a war is "unthinkable," the more we can know that this is exactly what they are thinking about the most.

Hoover's speech on November 11th, under cover of pacifist and humanitarian phrases, was a mobilization speech for just such a war. Its real meaning was just this, that the capitalist class has definitely set itself upon the path

of WAR as the only road they see open for them to try to solve their difficulties.

The Communist Party calls upon every worker to join its ranks, first of all for the fight against the coming Imperialist War. The workers must unitedly declare that they support none of the Imperialists; they must prepare to struggle against the initiation of such a war; they must organize mass resistance to the outbreak of the war; and when war comes in spite of workingclass opposition, the workers must prepare to turn such a war into a war to destroy imperialism itself, to overthrow the power of the capitalist class, and to establish a Workers' Government in the United States.

*Workers! Join in the struggle against the speed-up, against wage cuts, against capitalist rationalization and oppression!*

*Build up the fighting organizations of the working class, the militant Trade Unions!*

*Fight against Imperialist War and for the defense of the Soviet Union!*

*Join the Communist Party, Section of the Communist International!*





# COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 1929-30



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(Statutes of C.P.U.S.A.)

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(Signature of Applicant)

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