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# Boycott the Elections!

## Proclamation Communist Party Local Greater New York

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### Workers of New York:

The fight of the Left Wing Section of the Socialist Party to revolutionize that Party has ended in the founding of the Communist Party of America.

In August [1919], the Left Wing, still being a section of the Socialist Party, prepared to contest the primaries with the Right Wing candidates. When primary day came, the Left Wing had become the Communist Party. In a number of districts the Left Wing nominees defeated the old Socialist Party nominees.

The Left Wing Section having now become the Communist Party, these nominees tendered their resignations from the Socialist Party ticket. But, according to the election laws, such resignations could not be accepted after primary day. Therefore, some Communist Party members will appear on the Socialist Party ticket, BUT THEY DO NOT WANT YOUR VOTES! They are making a campaign, but not for election. They will urge the workers to abstain from voting for any candidates whatsoever. Their slogan is the slogan of the Communist Party of America in this campaign: BOYCOTT THE ELECTIONS!

There are two fundamental reasons for the Communist Party's boycott of the elections this year. The one is found in the Communist Party's attitude toward parliamentarism and participation in elections. The other is found in the industrial crisis prevailing in America today.

What is the Communist Party's attitude toward parliamentarism? Let the party program speak for itself:

### **The Communist Party and Parliamentarism.**

The Communist Party maintains that the class struggle is essentially a political struggle, that is, a struggle to conquer the power of the state.

The Communist Party shall keep in the foreground its consistent appeal for proletarian revolution, the overthrow of capitalism, and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Participation in parliamentary campaigns, which in the general struggle of the proletariat is of secondary importance, is FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVOLUTIONARY PROPAGANDA ONLY.

### **The Crisis in the United States.**

Workers! There are moments during the process of the class struggle when not to participate in the political campaign, but to boycott the elections, will most clearly emphasize our class character and promote our revolutionary purposes. Then the slogan becomes, "Boycott the elections."

This year presents such a historical situation in the United States. The most vital revolutionary tendency is the mass strike. The steel workers are on strike. The longshoremen are on strike. The

building trades are on strike. The milliners are on strike. The printers are on strike. The expressmen are on strike. The coal miners are going out. **The capitalist system is reeling under the impact of mass strikes!**

Capitalism, panic stricken, is mobilizing all its forces to crush these strikes. The capitalist state is using its police, its state constabulary, its militia, its army, to crush these strikes. Martial law has been declared in Gary. 18,000 soldiers are to be sent to New York to break the longshoremen's strike. The Iron Heel of the Capitalist State is seeking to crush the spirit of rebellion that has awakened in the workers.

Workers, this is all you can expect of the capitalist state. **A party that bids you expect more is deceiving you.** Your only hope is to use your mass power, the mighty strength of your numbers, to broaden and deepen your strikes until they become general political strikes, to impose mass proletarian pressure upon the state.

Workers, are you going to divert your revolutionary energy at such a time into the blind alley of capitalist elections? For whom can you vote? There are no Communists participating. Can you vote the tickets of the capitalist parties? Can you vote the ticket of the Right Wing Socialist Party, betrayer of the revolutionary class struggle?

Are you deceived by the Socialist Party fairy

tales that by voting you are going to save \$5.00 on your rent? Or 3 cents on your milk?

Can you vote for the party of Meyer London, pro-war patriot? Of Zabel, Milwaukee "Socialist" district attorney, who railroaded Socialists into jail? Or the Socialist pro-war Aldermen who voted Liberty Loans and Murmansk Victory Arches? These Aldermen have all been renominated by their party. Boycott those who have betrayed the class struggle. **BOYCOTT THE ELECTIONS!**

Workers, do not be deceived by the miserable slogans of the deceivers of the proletariat: Votes, votes, votes — jobs and votes! Do you expect anything of Socialist Party jobholders and their miserable vote-catching campaigns? Cheap rent, cheap milk, cheap fare — cheap fairy tales! Promises are cheap. Can the job-seekers fulfill them?

Workers, the United States seems to be on the verge of a revolutionary crisis. The workers, through their mass strikes, are challenging the state. The Communist Party task is to unify these strikes, to develop them into political strikes, aiming at the very power of the capitalist state itself. Out of these mass industrial struggles must issue the means and the inspiration for the conquest of power by the workers. **BOYCOTT THE ELECTIONS!**

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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