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# **Resolution on the 1920 Campaign: Adopted by the First Convention of the United Communist Party, Bridgman, MI — May 31, 1920.**

Published in *The Communist* [UCP: New York], v. 1, no. 2 (July 3, 1920), pg. 5.

The United Communist Party will not attempt to nominate candidates in the 1920 elections. The party, however, will carry on propaganda in connection with these elections, urging the workers not to support any of the other parties, nor their nominees for any office.

During 1919 and 1920 the workers have found themselves repeatedly pitted against the government as the more or less open and direct agent of the capitalist exploiters. Particularly the experiences of the steel strike and the miners' strike have exposed the government as an organ of coercive power in behalf of the capitalists.

It was the Communists who pointed out the true nature of these struggles — who sent forth the challenge that these struggles must develop into the larger and more direct struggle of the working class against the government itself as the great weapon of capitalist mastery.

Following the defeat of the steel and coal strikes by government intervention there came an onslaught by Federal and State prosecutors against the Communists. Several thousand were arrested during the first days of January [1920]. Alien Communists were declared subject to deportation; citizen Communists were jailed on the sole charge of membership in the party. These events have compelled the rebuilding of the party along entirely new lines.

Hundreds of cases are pending in the courts. The outcome of the cases up to this time labels the party as an outlaw organization; to expose one's affiliation with the party is alone sufficient to cause deportation or long imprisonment.

Nominations are impossible under these circumstances. However, there is very little loss on this score, since recent events have made clear to the intelligent and militant workers the absolute sham of capitalist "democracy." The Socialist and Labor candidates will hardly beguile such workers with the lure of the ballot box as the road to emancipation.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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