
The March 6 Demonstrations

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The economic situation in the United States is such that the opportunities for creating a mass movement against unemployment are tremendous. Millions are affected by the present depression. Nothing is gained however, and the party is only discredited, by bombast and exaggeration.

According to the *Daily Worker*, the *Philadelphia* demonstration had 50,000 participants. What are the real facts? Responding to lurid headlines in the capitalist press, "*Reds March on City Hall*," a huge crowd assembled between 12 and 1 pm. As it drew near to 1 o'clock the crowd began to melt rapidly. The leaders saw it and quickly finished their speeches and formed lines to march back to headquarters. This was the real test of the number actually and actively participating in the demonstration. The number who marched was less than 300 by careful count.

Chicago was also awarded 50,000 workers by the *Daily Worker*. Five thousand is an optimistic estimate. The preparation and organization of the demonstration were very poor. This figure is a good figure for *Chicago*, but exaggeration does not make it better.

The unemployment problem in *New Bedford* has been most serious for months, yet in this important city only 150 workers were at the lot where we used to have thousands. At the end of the meeting about 50 went to City Hall.

In *New York*, the largest demonstration was held. Of the 50,000 who watched the demonstration the greatest number were bystanders, not participants. There was no preparation or organization for the much advertised march to City Hall. Absolutely no organization remains as a result of the demonstration, for mobilizing the unemployed and building up the struggle for relief. The Socialist Party has seized the advantage and has called for a "united front conference," and will reap the benefit of what the party should have done long ago.

In *Wilkes-Barre*, there were 29 present at the March 6 meeting, including 3 Pioneers. The meeting was broken up by a tear gas bomb and six were arrested! Very few Party members were present, although members of the CP-Majority Group were there.

Noise and exaggeration will not hide the fact that the Party failed to organize and capitalize the tremendous possibilities which exist for the establishment of a real movement of the unemployed in the United States.

On March 6 about 100,000 workers of *Detroit* turned out as a protest against unemployment. The capitalist press gave quite extensive write-ups, and radio broadcasters advised their listeners against going downtown on that day. In spite of this the turnout was excellent. *As a Party demonstration it was a fiasco.* The meeting was called in a place suitable for only a thousand workers. Several blocks from this place there are two large parks that could have held a very successful demonstration. The Party speakers were unable to address the mass of workers because the police kept everybody moving.

Stachel, the District Organizer, was not present during the demonstration. It is reported that he was in hiding because detectives were supposed to be looking for him.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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