
Organization Proclamation of the Proletarian Party of America

[circa March 15, 1920]

Mimeographed typescript, photocopy in Tim Davenport collection.

About ten months have elapsed since the [March 26, 1919] expulsion of the State of Michigan from the Socialist Party of America, during which period the state organization has remained intact and functioned as heretofore. After successive and consistent efforts on the part of this state movement to bring into being an organization national in scope with which we could work in harmony, we now find ourselves, as a state organization, in a position independent of all national organizations. Insofar as no political party has made its appearance in the United States of America, founded upon the principles and program adhered to for several years by the Socialist Party of Michigan, it becomes necessary for this state movement to take the initiative in amalgamating those locals and groups throughout the United States that now adhere to and propagate similar principles.

Therefore we call upon all locals and groups throughout the United States, who endorse the principles of revolutionary socialism which have been propagated in the state of Michigan for the past number of years, to join with this independent State Movement in founding a new political party of the working class. All locals and groups joining with us in this work are required to endorse the following principles as a basis of organization—

That the struggle of the proletariat for emancipation must be fought along political lines, using in the immediate struggle the parliamentary phase of political action by electing where possible our representative to political office; that our first aim must be the winning to our cause the masses of the American proletariat by propagating revolutionary principles which are in harmony with the development of the capitalist system in this country and the economic and historic conditions out of which the system has developed here; that our objective is the capturing of the powers of the state and the setting up of a political form of organization suitable to the transitory period between capitalism and communism — the Proletarian Dictatorship; that the uniting of these locals and groups be upon the principles of Marxism comprising a complete recognition of the Class Struggle, the Materialistic Conception of History, and the Labor Theory of Value and Surplus Value; that all propaganda be in harmony with these principles and

conducted uncompromisingly towards Capitalism and all of its institutions that prop up, apologize for, and buttress in any manner the present system; that the uniting of those locals and groups, already referred to, into a revolutionary political party, embraces the unceasing open struggle against exploitation in all of its forms whether they are frankly capitalistic enterprises or cloaked as municipal or government ownership; that our attitude toward organization of the Proletariat other than political will be to endeavor to direct them into the channels of revolutionary political action; that where possible we shall start in their midst, through our party members who may belong to such organizations, educational work such as lectures, study classes, and distribution of literature with the aim that they may become conscious of their class position.

Locals endorsing the above principles are invited to align themselves with this State Organization on the following plan of organization until such time as the national convention has formed the structure of the new party.

The plan of organization shall be as follows:

The Constitution of the Socialist Party of Michigan at the time of its expulsion from the Socialist Party of America shall function in a general way as the constitution of the temporary organization.

Locals outside of the state of Michigan shall function in the same manner as locals in the state.

Stamps are to be purchased from the central office at 20¢ per stamp and sold to the individual members at 50¢ per stamp.

Stamps in use in the state of Michigan shall be used as national stamps until such time as a name has been chosen for the new organization.

Each local or group at the time of endorsement of this plan shall choose one member to act in conjunction with the Executive Committee of the Socialist Party of Michigan as a National Committee, which will conduct its business by correspondence.

The National Committee shall name a date and place to hold a national convention as soon as possible.

Each organization at the time of endorsement of this plan shall make known to the secretary their choice of name for the new organization, the same to be submitted to referendum as soon as possible.

Acting State Secretary, Dennis E. Batt, shall function in the capacity of National Secretary until otherwise determined by the national convention.

Headquarters shall be at 174 Michigan Ave., Detroit, Mich.

The official organ shall be *The Proletarian*.

Until such time as the referendum has decided, the organization shall be known as the PROLETARIAN PARTY OF AMERICA.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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