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# **SDF Warns ALP of Dangerous Groups: Resolution Passed at the New York City Convention, Jan. 29, 1938**

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*The following statement was adopted by the New York City convention of the Social Democratic Federation two weeks ago [Jan. 29, 1938] as an addition to the declaration defining the duties of its members in supporting the American Labor Party and to be known as Section 2. This additional section was set in type and by mistake the type was destroyed. Hence its late appearance. The document follows:*

We call the attention of the officers and executive committees of the American Labor Party to the dangers which confront it from the infiltration of elements whose aim is not to build up the party, but to capture it for the purpose which, if they should succeed, would destroy its usefulness to the cause of Labor.

It is to be expected that both the Democratic and Republican Party machines will try to have large numbers of their trusted followers enroll under the emblem of the American Labor Party and also join its district branches, in order to gain control of its political organization and make it a tool for the old parties and the reactionary interests they represent. Past experience under similar circumstances in this and other states has shown that only by constant vigilance can such machinations be frustrated.

There is danger, on the other hand, from the infiltration of Communists into the American Labor Party. The aim of the

Communists has been and is to undermine democracy, to breed dissension in the labor movement, and to destroy every organization that strives for the betterment of the condition of the workers through democratic and peaceful means. Their leaders have brazenly avowed that deceit is one of their accepted tactics, and no confidence can be placed in their recent pretense of friendship to democracy and free trade unionism. In all countries they have tried to destroy the labor unions and labor parties that they could not control. In some instances they have succeeded, and have thus given the victory to Nazism and Fascism. In the one country where they have control, democracy and free trade unionism have been ruthlessly suppressed. It is by their whole record, not by their present phrases, that they should be judged.

The American Labor Party has nothing to gain and everything to use by permitting the infiltration of Communists. Not only would they be a disruptive force within the party, but their presence would tend to discredit it in the eyes of the great mass of the working people of this country and especially in the eyes of Organized Labor.

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

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