
Launch Workers Party of US: CLA and AWP in Fusion Convention of US Revolutionaries

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The Workers Party of the United States has been formed!

Amidst scenes of wildest enthusiasm, the unity convention of the American Workers Party and the Communist League of America completed its historic task Sunday afternoon [Dec. 2, 1934] in Stuyvesant Casino, New York City. Out of its labors and deliberations has arisen the only revolutionary party in the country.

On the ratification of the unanimous vote of the fusion agreement, Comrades James P. Cannon of the CLA and A.J. Muste of the AWP announced for the two organizations that henceforth they owed allegiance to the Workers Party of the US and to no other organization. The entire audience was on its feet and the strains of "The International" shook the rafters. The historic work was completed!

Minneapolis and Toledo, exemplifying the new militancy of the American working class, were the stars that presided over its birth. Under the most favorable auspices, the new party launches into its tremendous undertaking: the overthrow of capitalist rule in America and the creation of a workers' state.

A.J. Muste will be the National Secretary of the new party. J.P. Cannon will be editor of the official weekly, *The New Militant*, with Harry Howe as associate editor. The theoretical organ, The New International, will be under the editorship of Max Shachtman and an ex-AWP member. Eleven comrades of the AWP and eleven from the CLA will comprise the national executive, from which will be chosen the Political Bureau of 10 members. Louis Budenz and Arne Swabeck will be the National Organizers.

These, and other important organizational agreements were reached in the opening session, which moved with Bolshevik efficiency and dispatch. Sleepless delegates, without rest from the all-night sessions of their respective organizations, shook off their weariness to speed the foundations for the new party.

The speeches were short and to the point.

"We are not repudiating our pasts, rather we are looking towards the future," A.J. Muste said in opening the session.

An ovation greeted Vincent Dunne, one of the leaders of the strike of the Minneapolis truck drivers, and chairman of the opening session.

"In view of the immediate work that lies before us, and the heavy responsibility we have assumed; namely, the organizing of the working class on a militant basis for the overthrow of capitalist rule," Dunne said, "we may dispense with speechmaking."

Fusion Endorsed.

With this as the keynote, the session moved swiftly. In a short space of time, and despite the utmost liberty allowed in discussion of all matters not previously settled by the separate conventions, the convention heard and approved the appointments of committees, elected the important Organization, Trade Union, and Unemployment committees, and passed upon the organizational agreement reached between the Executive Committees of the AWP and the Communist League.

At the second session, Sam Pollack, active in the unemployed movement in Ohio and Illinois, and one of the leaders in the Toledo Auto-Lite strike, presided. He, too, was warmly received by the delegates.

The second session passed upon the constitution of the new party as proposed by the joint negotiating committee, with a few amendments from the floor. It also sanctioned the party-building report brought in by Max Shachtman, the trade union report read by Arne Swabeck, and the report on work in the field of the unemployed, presented by Anthony Ramuglia, national president of the National Unemployed Leagues.

Resolutions were passed in support of Tom Mooney, and on behalf of Happy Holstein, whom the hangmen of the Citizens Alliance in Minneapolis are trying to frame on a murder charge. A resolution also endorsed the proposal of the Provisional Committee for Non-Partisan Labor Defense, for the creation of a permanent labor defense organization. The text of the reports will be found elsewhere in this issue.

Here ended the main business of the convention. Fraternal greetings were extended to the convention by Maurice Spector and Jack MacDonald, representing the Workers Party of Canada.

The meeting closed with the singing of “The International.”

Edited by Tim Davenport

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