

Foster Assails 'Suspension' Of C.I.O. as Great Crime Against the Working Class

STATEMENT BY WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

Chairman of Communist Party, U.S.A.

William Z. Foster, national chairman of the Communist Party and leader of the great 1919 steel strike, denounced the "suspension" of the Committee for Industrial Organization unions as "a great crime against the working class," in a statement to the Daily Worker yesterday.

Foster's statement on the "suspension" reads in full:

The action of the A. F. of L. Council against the ten C.I.O. unions is a great crime against the working class. It is a fitting climax to fifty years of incompetent betrayal by the Gompers-Green bureaucracy. Seeing themselves unable to defeat the present surging progressive movement aimed at making the trade unions into organizations capable of defending the interests of the great masses of workers, these hide-bound reactionaries would split the labor movement and thus play into the hands of the worst enemies of the working class, rather than to let the movement move forward.

These A. F. of L. leaders have defeated many progressive movements in the past. They have prevented the organization of a Farmer-

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Labor Party. They have sabotaged the organization of the unorganized. They have used every means in their power to fill the workers' heads with capitalist illusions. They have been loyal labor lieutenants of the capitalist class.

But this time they must not succeed in defeating the will of the workers. The great forces of progress in the labor movement are at work. American labor is at the parting of the ways. It is sweeping forward to a new future, one of industrial unionism, the organization of the unorganized, of independent political action in a Farmer-Labor Party, of a new and militant leadership.

The workers in the trade unions should overwhelmingly condemn and reject the A. F. of L. Executive Council's suspension order and demand that all charges against the C.I.O. unions be dropped. Every union in the country must speak out on this vital question. Tongue in cheek, Green prates hypocritically of democracy. Now let the workers give him and Woll and Hutcheson and the rest of his fellow-autocrats taste of the democratic will of the workers that they have flouted for many years. The trade union workers in craft, as well as industrial unions, are overwhelmingly in favor of the C.I.O. program of organizing the unorganized and against the splitting tactics of the Executive Council, and they are about to show this in an unmistakable manner. Every progressive and revolutionary worker should now fight in every union to preserve the unity of the A. F. of L., which is being unscrupulously attacked by the capitalist tools, Green, Hutcheson and Company.