

# The Ohio Socialist whole no. 91

CLEVELAND, OHIO, OCTOBER 29th, 1919.

## COMMUNISTS, UNITE!

An Appeal to the rank and file of the Communist Party and Communist Labor Party.

Every true Communist finds in the present unfortunate division of our ranks much cause for anxiety and views it as a condition not to be tolerated. Whatever may have been the causes for the catastrophe which occurred at the Chicago conventions which created this deplorable condition within the Communist ranks, the rank and file of the membership are demanding that every obstruction to a unity of the two Left Wing parties shall be immediately removed to make way for one great party of Communism in this country.

Weeks have passed since the Chicago conventions. The membership is coming to a realization of what occurred there and the fact that lies at the bottom of all its conclusions is that whatever differences there are in the organization and tactics of the two parties they are infinitesimal as compared to the greater question of UNITY. The rank and file of both sections see no fundamental differences between the two parties. And there are none. None are claimed by either side. The programs of both parties are based upon the program of the Third International formed at Moscow. Words, sentences and paragraphs are lifted almost bodily from that program and placed in the programs of both Communist parties. What differences exist in tactics and inner party construction are not of such a nature as should create a permanent division of the two sections. They can be thrashed out in a unity convention to the entire satisfaction of the rank and file if not of a few leaders and so-called philosophers who take it upon themselves to believe that the mantle of Lenine has fallen upon their shoulders.

"All power to the workers" is the slogan of both parties. "All power to the rank and file within the party" is a slogan which we must adopt in our party work. It is especially necessary that it be adopted at this critical period and the precept lived up to the fullest extent. Let the rank and file assert its rights and we will have one strong party of Communism in this country at once.

The conditions existing at the present time within the party ranks are most deplorable. The situation in Cleveland is a replica of the vast majority of locals throughout the country where the membership has made a decision for one or the other parties. For which ever party the majority of the membership has decided to affiliate, it has meant little. The other party has immediately organized. Affiliations by locals has meant little except the advantage which control of the organization machinery gives. The membership has immediately split up into the two camps. Tried and true comrades who have worked together shoulder to shoulder now find themselves divided.

This conditions must be brought to an end. It is intolerable, without sense or reason. Thousands of members, true revolutionists as any who remain in either parties are dropping out discouraged and disheartened because of the schism between the two Left Wing elements. Strong locals are split wide open and thus weakened. Our press is weakened on account of this division. Funds which should be used in propaganda and organization among the unlightened workers are diverted toward building up dual organizations, duplication of effort and in establishing headquarters etc.

The rank and file are demanding UNITY. They are going to have unity. They are going to have it in spite of any and all obstructions that have been or will be placed in their path. To the rank and file this appeal is made. To those who by their sacrifice of time, money and effort have made this working class revolutionary movement possible, who have been the Jimmy Higginses in the party, whose nickles and dimes have paid for the propaganda and organization work; who have served faithfully and oft times, tho sorry we are to have to say it, without honor or recognition; these thousands and tens of thousands we urge: **DEMAND UNITY. DEMAND OF YOUR OFFICIALS THE REMOVAL OF EVERY OBSTRUCTION TOWARD UNITY.** Demand that the officials of the Communist Party take favorable action upon the invitation of the Communist Labor Party for a Unity Conference.

If any stand between unity of the two Left Wing elements throw them out, brand them for what they are, **ENEMIES OF THE WORKERS.**

Strengthen the demand of the Communist Labor Party for Unity.

In unity there is strength. In unity we can strike from the throat of labor the blood-stained hands of capitalism and establish a world of Communist comradeship.

Yours for a united Communism  
ELMER T. ALLISON.