

An Appeal

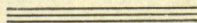
March, 1936

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For a United Labor Ticket

WITH

Tom Mooney for President



The approach of the 1936 presidential elections brings forward with special urgency the compelling necessity for labor to establish its independence and unity on the political field. Disappointment with the futile promises of the "New Deal" and resentment with the arbitrary and despotic conduct of the Supreme Court are widespread among large sections of the workers and the middle classes. What is there to prevent this growing wave of dissatisfaction from being shunted off, according to the old traditions of the two-party system, into renewed support of Republican reaction or from being converted into a source of strength for some aspiring fascist movement in this country? Only militant, united action of organized labor as an independent class force can save the rising mass discontent from such hopelessly dangerous blind-alleys and guide it into constructive, progressive channels. (Only a united and aggressive stand on the part of labor can give clarity and leadership to the millions of toilers thruout the land who are fast losing confidence in the good faith of the two old parties and who are becoming increasingly ready for independent political action on behalf of their own interests against the consolidated hosts of capital!)

Under existing conditions in the United States, it is clear that neither the Socialist nor the Communist Party alone can serve as such a unifying and directing force. Certainly the cause of united political action of labor will not be advanced by mutual contention between socialist and communists when both together reach only a relatively insignificant portion of the working people. [The great masses of those who are losing faith in the gaudy but unsubstantial blandishments of the "New Deal" or are rising in revolt against the reactionary despotism of the Supreme Court, are not prepared as yet to vote either socialist or communist but they would be much more ready to support an independent political movement of labor in alliance with large sections of the farmers and the middle classes.] A broad and all-inclusive Labor Party, based on the trade unions and other organizations of workers and working farmers, is the great demand of the hour!

But unfortunately it is already too late to speak of genuine labor party as a practical measure for the coming elections. That should not mean, however, that all possibility of effective united action is gone. It is not, by any means! (It is still possible and supremely necessary for the two workers parties, the socialists and communists, to take the initiative in putting forward a United Labor Ticket for the presidential election this year.) Such a move would bring about unity of action among the advanced elements of the working class; it would above all, make possible a really effective bid for support to the organized labor movement. With a properly conceived and realistic program, a United Labor Ticket could win the allegiance not only of the so-called "socialist" unions, but also of a large number of unions hitherto dormant politically and of scores of thousands of workers in organizations still officially committed to the old parties. All this and more could be accomplished by a United Labor Ticket—provided that at its head stood a man universally known and universally respected, a man whose name symbolizes not any particular creed or tendency in the labor movement but labor itself, the united class power of workers!

And such a man, a man who has those qualities to a

surpassing degree, we have in the person of—TOM MOONEY! For nearly twenty years now Tom Mooney has suffered cruel martyrdom simply and solely because of his devotion to the cause of labor and, thruout this period, his loyalty to his class has grown ever stronger and more fervent. For nearly twenty years now the name of Tom Mooney has been a household word in every corner of the globe, bringing with it the story of bitter class struggle and savage class "justice". In the cause of Tom Mooney, thousands of organizations and millions of workers have united, from the most conservative to the most radical; in the same cause, the best representatives of the middle class, of the intellectuals and of humanitarian and liberty-loving people generally, have spoken up in indignant protest. In a sense in which no other man can possibly do so, Tom Mooney symbolizes the cause of American labor, exploited, oppressed, persecuted but rising triumphant in the end in the burning consciousness of the justice of its cause and the promise of its ultimate victory!

A United Labor Ticket with Tom Mooney at the head would reach deep into every corner of the American labor movement. It would unite the class conscious sections of the working class in a common cause and a common task. It would win ready access and friendly consideration in even the most conservative unions. It would fire the imagination and inspire the devotion of countless workers who could not otherwise be reached with the message of independent political action. It would rally the support of all elements of the people who are at all ready to break with the discredited system of capitalist politics and for whom Tom Mooney stands forth as the dauntless champion against class oppression and class injustice. It would serve in the most effective manner to clarify class relations and to strengthen class loyalty in a political situation that makes for so much confusion and demagogy. It would provide the firmest and most promising base for the rapid development of a national Labor party in the near future.

We are deeply convinced that the Socialist and Communist parties now face a supreme obligation. It is for you

jointly to take action upon this momentous occasion. It is for you jointly to take the initiative in launching a powerful "Tom Mooney for President" movement on the basis of a United Labor Ticket. Confident that you will consider the matter solely in the light of the needs and interests of the working class and will brush aside all petty concerns of a partisan or factional character, we appeal to you, with all the solemnity which the occasion demands, to give heed to our proposal, to take prompt and energetic measures so as to make possible the most effective united action of labor in the 1936 election campaign.

Long live the unity of labor!

Forward to a United Labor Ticket, with Tom Mooney for President!

National Buro,
Communist Party, U.S.A. (Opposition)

JAY LOVESTONE, Sec'y

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