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# AN ADDRESS TO ORGANIZED LABOR

The following is the address to organized labor workers, adopted by the National Convention of the Socialist Party of America, at St. Paul, Minnesota, August 1, 1908.  
"The movement of organized labor is a natural result of the antagonism between the interests of employers and wage-earners under the capitalist system. Its activity in the daily struggle over wages, hours, and other conditions of labor is absolutely necessary to maintain the existence of competition among the working people and to save them from being reduced to material and moral degradation. It is equally valuable as a means by which the working people may acquire the political education of the workman."  
**IT DOES NOT DICTATE.**  
"The Socialist party does not seek to dictate to organized labor in matters of internal organization and strategy. It recognizes the necessary autonomy of the union movement on the economic field. It is anxious to maintain its own autonomy on the political field. It is confident that the school of experience organized labor will as rapidly as possible develop the most effective forms of organization and methods of action."  
"In the history of the recent Socialist movement, participated in by unions of all sorts and by the Socialist Party, the working people have for closer solidarity on the economic field and for more effective cooperation between organized labor and the Socialist Party, the two wings of the movement for working-class emancipation."

The Socialist party stands with organized labor in its struggle to resist capitalist aggression or to wrest from the capitalists any improvement in the conditions of labor. It declares that it is the duty of every worker to support the Socialist Party, the two wings of the movement for working-class emancipation."

**COURTS ALWAYS HOSTILE.**  
"The courts, always hostile to labor, have of late outlined all previous rights to the capitalist class. They have issued injunctions forbidding the calling of strikes, the announcement of boycotts, the appointment of union beneficiaries or even any attempt to organize unorganized workmen in certain trades and places. They have passed arbitrary decrees regarding unions under a pretense of their being labor trusts."  
"They have sustained the capitalists in bringing damage suits against unions for the purpose of tying up or sequestering their funds. They have wiped out the statute books many labor laws—laws protecting little children from exploitation in the factory, laws making employers liable for damages in case of employees killed or injured at their work, laws guaranteeing the right of workmen to belong to unions."  
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**DANBURY MATTERS CASE.**  
"In the Danbury matters' case the United States Supreme Court has rendered a decision worthy to stand with the famous 'Dred Scott decision' fifty years ago. It has stretched and twisted the Anti-Trust law to include other labor organizations, and has held that the peaceful method of the boycott is unlawful, that boycotted employers may recover damages to the amount of three times their class, and that the property of individual members, as well as the union treasury, may be levied upon to collect such damages."  
"In this decision the Supreme Court has clearly shown itself to be an organ of class injustice, not of social justice. If this and other like decisions are not specially reversed, organized labor will find itself completely paralyzed in its efforts to win a peaceful solution of the labor problem. The success of the capitalists and their courts in this assault upon the labor movement would be a disaster to civilization and humanity. It can and must be defeated."  
**BALLOT IS A WEAPON.**  
"At this critical moment the Socialist Party calls upon all organized workmen to remember that they still have the ballot in their hands, and to realize that the intelligent use of political power is absolutely necessary to save their organizations from destruction. The unjust decisions of the Supreme Court can be reversed, the arbitrary use of the military can be stopped, the wronged labor laws can be prevented by the united action of the workmen on election day."  
"Workmen of the United States, use your political arm in harmony with your economic arm for defense and attack. Rally to the support of the party of your class. Vote as you stand, against the capitalists. Down with the military and judicial usurpation! Forward, in one solid phalanx, under the banners of Organized Labor and the Socialist Party, to defeat capitalist aggressions, to win immediate relief for yourselves, your wives and children, and to hasten the day of complete emancipation from capitalism and materialism."

# STATE THE PLATFORM

The Socialist Party of the State of Washington endorses the Principles of International Socialism and of the Socialist Party of the United States. For the campaign of 1908 we present to the voters of this state the following declarations of our principles and program:  
1. We recognize the party of the proletariat.  
2. We recognize the Class Struggle between the Proletarian Class and the Capitalist Class as the supreme fact of modern civilization.  
3. We recognize this struggle as a struggle for the possession of the world's wealth and for all the benefits of human progress.  
4. We recognize the historic mission of the Proletariat to be its own economic emancipation through its political victory over the Capitalist Class.  
The growing solidarity of the Proletariat industrially in Labor Unions and politically in the Socialist Party is a sign of this ultimate victory.  
5. We recognize the increasing incapacity of the Capitalist Class to control Society.  
The industrial crisis which this country is now experiencing, and of which a financial panic is the least significant feature, has in this state as well as in others reduced the dependent Proletariat to such desperate straits that it is inconceivable that they should tolerate their condition any more lightly committed to the underlying causes. The exploiting of the Proletariat as a part of their labor product results in their inability to absorb the wealth they have created. This is known as the failure of markets and a so-called period of over-production is followed by a reaction of which the present industrial stagnation is an example. The improved methods of production which should logically result in shorter work-hours and better living wages for the workers actually results in a smaller number being employed. Thus there is a permanent unemployed problem which is intensified by the recurring periods of industrial reaction. As these forces press to force the Proletariat to accept the worse results of the capitalist mismanagement of industry, the enforced idleness of the workers must be relieved by immediate employment of jobless men on works of public utility.  
The Capitalist Class in their conduct of the affairs of society, is a sign of approaching social dissolution.  
6. We assert the victory of the Proletariat Class over the Capitalist Class will not only emancipate the victorious class but abolish all other classes.  
Society will then be organized as one class, all enjoying together the splendid fruits of human invention.  
7. We propose that the Proletariat shall conquer political power and that it shall take possession of all such wealth as is now used by the Capitalist Class to force the Proletariat to surrender the wealth it creates.  
The ownership of the instruments of wealth production, such as factories, mines, railroads, machinery and land gives the Capitalist class its power to amass all wealth in its own hands. We propose to transfer that ownership from the Capitalist Class to the Proletariat Class and to use political power to that end.  
This is the Proletariat Revolution.  
It is the purpose of the Proletariat that a Revolution cannot be accomplished in any one state. We must win full political power in the entire nation. Executives, legislatures, courts and armies must all be captured by the Proletariat in order to effect its appropriation of all property used as capital.  
Wherever Socialist Party Candidates are elected to office, the Party guarantees they shall advocate every measure which will alleviate the poverty of the Proletariat and improve its conditions.  
10. As such measures calculated to improve Proletariat conditions under Capitalist rule and to assist the Proletariat in achieving its complete triumph, we advocate and demand:  
(a) Immediate prohibition of the unemployed at the State's expense at full union wages on such works as irrigation, reforestation and road building.  
(b) Preservation from capitalist destruction, of natural resources such as forests in order that abundance may be preserved for social use after the Revolution.  
(c) Abolition of Court Injunctions in Labor disputes.  
(d) Abolition of all Oriental immigration which is subsidized or stimulated by the capitalist class and all contract labor immigration.  
(e) An eight hour day and a five and a half day week for all classes of labor and further reduction when that concession has been secured.  
(f) Abolition of employment of children of school age.  
(g) Reduction of residence qualifications necessary for the franchise in a state to two months.  
(h) Absolute freedom of press and speech.  
(i) Equal suffrage for men and women.  
(j) Initiative and referendum in order to protect against continued capitalist corruption of representative government.  
11. We recognize that the class of small farmers is also a working and producing class, exploited, as well as the Proletariat, of all its product except a bare living.  
We point out to the small farmer that his exploitation is due directly to the great capitalist combinations known as the Trusts.  
We also point out to the small farmer that the Trusts derive their greatest income from exploitation of the Proletariat and will, therefore, continue to exist in full power so long as the Proletariat remains a subject and exploited class.  
In a word, the small farmer can only secure his own emancipation by joining the Socialist Party and thus assisting in hastening the Proletariat Revolution.  
12. The small capitalist is doomed. The Trusts by the laws of competition are destroying and proletarianizing the old-fashioned "Business Man." The wise among this class will recognize the facts, accept the inevitable and join forces with the Proletariat army in its march towards the World's Emancipation.  
"Proletarians of all lands, unite. You have nothing to lose but your chains. You have a world to gain."

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