
American Labor Alliance.

by Jack Carney

Unsigned news in *Voice of Labor* [Chicago], v. 10, no. 516 [actual no. 13] (Sept. 30, 1921), pg. 3.
Attributed to editor Jack Carney.

At the last meeting of the Provisional Executive Committee of the American Labor Alliance the following decisions were arrived at:

1. To charter directly city locals and thus provide for a direct dues-paying membership. This step is taken in response to requests from all parts of the country.

2. The Provisional Executive Committee is of the opinion that the time is ripe for the organization of the class-conscious workers of America into a revolutionary political party and it announces that in the near future it will call a national convention to launch such a party. All working class organizations which declare themselves in sympathy with the aims and principles of the American Labor Alliance will be invited to send delegates.

3. In the interest of the organization of the ALA as a political party the Provisional Committee decides to appeal for an organization fund of \$25,000 to be raised by popular subscription. Ella Reeve Bloor, just returned from Russia, is to be routed at once on a coast to coast speaking tour in behalf of the organization fund. Other speakers will soon be announced to follow.

4. All organizations and individuals interested in the organization of the American Labor Alliance as a political party of the class-conscious workers of America are requested to write to the National Office addressing: "Provisional Executive Committee, American Labor Alliance, 201 W 13th Street, New York City."

With all manner of political quacks appealing to the masses the American Labor Alliance enters the political field at an opportune moment. There are millions out of work, with the prospect of their numbers being considerably augmented during the coming winter. The President has called a conference to discuss the unemployment question, at the same time he has stated that the government cannot be expected to enter into any schemes that call for the spending of huge sums in order to provide jobs for the unemployed.

The Farmer-Labor Party appeals for support and urges the election of its candidates, who it is alleged

will provide jobs for the masses. A cursory view of the present industrial depression and its causes will convince any reasonable minded person of the inability of the Farmer-Labor Party to make good its promises. The ALA will not, and cannot, promise the unemployed an immediate solution to its problems. But it can rally them and organize them so that they can present a unified demand for action. The Socialist Party is dead already, but the officials refuse to believe it. The only function that its National Secretary [Otto Branstetter] seems to serve is that of stool-pigeon for the Department of Justice, as witness the editorial in the last issue of the party's official organ [*The Socialist World*]. If Eugene Debs is released from prison, then all that we can say to the members of the Socialist Party, other than the one member we know of, is "say it with flowers."

There is another political party in the field. Its membership is mall, and its scope rather limited.† Constant reiteration of Marxian phraseology does not make much progress. Knowledge without the ability to translate it into action is not much use. A political party that is going to function must be able to organize the masses at every turn of the road. To say to the average worker that the cause of his being out of work is due to capitalism does not make much difference if you stop at that. If you go out amongst the masses and organize them and inspire them to resort to intelligent action so that the employing class is compelled to satisfy their demands, then you are doing something. *Not until then!*

The American Labor Alliance enters the political field with the largest membership and greatest number of adherents of any working class party in the country. It will not offer any false promises to the masses,

† - Apparently a reference to the Proletarian Party rather than the Socialist Labor Party, both of which organizations fit the description.

neither will it attempt to raise false hopes. It will go before the masses and frankly inform them that if they require anything to be done they must do it themselves. The ALA will utilize the various political campaigns for the purpose of exposing the claims and pretensions of capitalist politicians, also for the purpose of rallying the masses together. If we can obtain unity of purpose and means we will be able to develop the class consciousness of the masses. We cannot organize the unemployed upon the job because there is no job to organize them on. But we can take advantage of elections and organize them so that they can present a united front to the state and national governments and demand that attention be given to their case.

We can also utilize political campaigns for the purpose of centering workers' attention upon the necessity for obtaining trade with Soviet Russia. We can make a demand for recognition of Soviet Russia as a preliminary to trading with her. We can further utilize elections for the purpose of exposing judges, politicians, etc., who have allowed themselves to be used as tools of the employers during the fight for an "open

shop." In a word we mean to organize the masses and develop a spirit of class consciousness through the means of elections.

The American Labor Alliance if it comes before the masses with an understanding of how much can be gained through elections, and with a knowledge of the futility of engaging in reform activities, will succeed. If it states the truth about the present situation, in a frank and intelligent manner, it is bound to obtain tremendous support. On the other hand, if it attempts to delude the masses by making promises that it can never redeem, it is going to make it harder for those who realize that there is only one cure for the present state of affairs and that is a change in the fundamental basis of society.

We offer our hearty support and cooperation to the new organization — the American Labor Alliance. We think we speak in the name of our readers when we say that they too will rally to its side. The situation as existing today offers the new organization wonderful opportunities. We trust the ALA will not be slow to take advantage of them.

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2006. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.