
Foster Reports Tour Thru East is Big Success: Members Enthusiastic About New Policies

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William Z. Foster returned yesterday [July 27, 1924] from his trip through all the principle centers of the Workers Party with C.E. Ruthenberg, and reported that the membership meetings had greeted the new election policy and the program of action with great enthusiasm.

“If the spirit of the meetings we addressed can be taken as an indication,” said Foster, “the membership of the Workers Party is going to set a new high standard of achievement in this campaign. In spite of the hottest kind of weather, enough to discourage anyone from sweltering in a hall for several hours, the members turned out in great numbers and enthusiasm.

“Especially did the new election campaign policy receive a great response. In every case it was greeted by rounds of applause. When it was adopted some comrades questioned as to whether it would meet the approval of the membership. After these meetings there can be no question. The members are for it almost 100 percent.

“The outstanding facts of this trip,” said Foster, “are these: The meetings were the biggest membership gatherings the party has ever held. In point of number the New York meeting led, with about a thousand in attendance. New Haven turned out the greatest percentage of the total membership. In Chicago we

received the most impressive financial contributions to carry out the new campaign. All meetings responded well in every way.

“The entire program of action aroused the greatest interest. Many questions were asked by the membership, which, however, showed quite a complete conception of the problems that the party faces. the item which brought the most questions was the election campaign. Almost everywhere some member asked: ‘Does the new election campaign mean that we have abandoned the united front policy?’ although Comrade Ruthenberg had answered it briefly in his report. The members insisted that we explain in detail to every meeting that the united front policy is not abandoned; that it remains the fundamental policy of the party. The other item of the program that aroused the most interest was that of reorganization of the party along the lines of shop nuclei.”

No votes were taken on the policies presented to the party meetings, as they were obviously unnecessary. A record vote would have shown at least 95 percent of the membership solidly with the program of action and election policy.

“A feature of the trip, perhaps the most important,” said Foster, “was the complete liquidation of factionalism in the policy that was disclosed. The new program was presented as the unanimous decision of the Central Executive Committee, and it was received in the same spirit by the membership. There is no question in my mind that the present enthusiasm within the party will continue and grow with the development of the campaign. We are now entering a period of growing strength and consolidation of the Workers Party.”

Edited by Tim Davenport

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