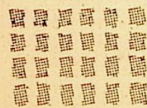


INVITATION

TO JOIN
The
COMMUNIST
PARTY

By
ROBERT MINOR

ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY C.P.



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Invitation

To Join the Communist Party

IF YOU are an American worker, whether native-born or naturalized, of whatever race or religious faith—if you are a patriot devoted to the best ideals of this country as founded by Washington and Jefferson and preserved under the leadership of Lincoln—you are invited to become a member of the Communist Party.

This invitation is especially important for you if you are a *worker* of the factories or farms of our country. For the Communist Party is, first and above all things, the political party of the workers. If you are a farmer you are cordially invited. Also invited are intellectuals, office workers, and professional men and women, loyal to the progressive movement which takes its position in line with the labor movement.

On February 12 the Communist Party is beginning a great nation-wide drive to add to its membership some 15,000 of the most devoted and clear-headed men and women of the factories, workshops and farms in order to increase the strength and effectiveness of the Party for the performance of its duty to our country in this war. The date of February 12 is selected for the beginning of the campaign because that is the birthday of the Great Emanci-

pator, Abraham Lincoln, who led this nation in its fight to preserve its life against the slave-owners' rebellion in 1861. Washington's birthday comes on the 22nd of the same month; and these two patriotic events make February an appropriate period to begin this drive to strengthen the political party of the American workers, which is the most consistent supporter of the great revolutionary ideals that Washington and Lincoln represented.

This war is a War of Survival for the United States.

Just as the great War of Independence of 1775, led by General George Washington, was a just war of liberty-loving patriots to secure the right of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," so this present war is a just war to preserve the same rights.

As the Civil War of 1861, under the leadership of Abraham Lincoln, fought to defeat the slave-holders who tried to overthrow this Republic and to destroy its democracy, was also a just and honorable war, fought by courageous American patriots, so the present war is a just war to prevent the enslavement of the American people, and of all peoples, of all races, by the brutal Axis aggressors headed by Hitler.

The Advance of American Trade Unions

The American labor movement has a particular duty to support this war for our country's survival.

Our country and all of the modern world have gone through an enormous development since the time of Abe Lincoln. The great American labor movement has become the strongest and most necessary foundation-stone of the

democracy of our country. It is noteworthy that all of the great countries that form the backbone of the United Nations—the United States, Soviet Russia, and Great Britain—are the *countries of the biggest and strongest labor movements*. The labor movement as a whole, including the trade unions, and all of the economic as well as political organizations of the workers, is absolutely indispensable to any modern country if it is to survive, to beat off the Axis enslavers, and to preserve its independent life as a nation.

It is typical that the very first necessity for Hitlerism, in order to undermine and conquer any nation, is to attack and destroy or cripple the labor movement of the country that is to be the victim. When Hitler marches into any country, as he marched into France, he wants always to have that country weakened and demoralized by the smashing of its labor movement. Hitler's undermining and conquest of any country have always begun with an attempt to suppress the Communist Party, then continue with the arrest and jailing or execution of all trade union leaders and all anti-fascist and patriotic, democratic political organizations, and the persecution of religious congregations, Catholic, Jewish and Protestant—all.

It is significant that since the rise of the Hitler menace ten years ago, the American trade unions have grown to be three times as strong as they were before. Instead of three and a half million members, the American trade unions now have eleven to twelve million members. Instead of being confined mainly to the skilled crafts, the trade unions have extended into all of the great mass production

industries and have become the representatives of the main section of the American workers in their relationships to the employers in production.

Fortunate for the American people that the trade unions have at last made this great advance! For this is the soundest guarantee that America will survive this desperate crisis, "that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth." The American trade unions have taken on the sacred obligation to raise production to a higher point than was ever known before, to win this war.

President Roosevelt said the other day:

"Our forward progress in this war has depended upon our progress on the production front. . . . I can report to you with genuine pride on what has been accomplished during 1942. . . . The arsenal of democracy is making good. . . . We have given the lie to certain misconceptions—especially the one which holds that the various blocs or groups within a free country cannot forego their political and economic differences in time of crisis and work together toward a common goal."

And every worker knows that the magnificent achievements of American industry are possible *only because the trade unions understand and eagerly perform* their tremendous job of increased production to win the war. The Communist Party is in the very forefront in stimulating and encouraging the national unity and the initiative of labor, necessary to the magnificent war job. The Communist Party is the only political party which, as the

workers' party, exercises such an influence among the workers in industry.

The trade unions have, by united action throughout the United States, put a virtually complete end to all strikes and interruptions of production. This is not an unnatural but the most natural thing for the labor movement to do—for there is no class of Americans that has a greater interest in the defense of our beloved country than the workers.

The defense of the country in a truly just and democratic war is in accord with the traditions of the trade union movement from its beginning.

The war of 1861 was the first war in which the American labor movement took part, as it was the first American war that occurred after the beginning of the labor movement. The Communist Party began its existence in the United States in about 1848, at about the same time that similar Communist Parties arose among the workers of European countries. When the great American Civil War began in 1861 the Communists all over the world immediately recognized that "the Star Spangled Banner carried the destiny of their class." Why? Because, as the greatest of all the founders of the Communist movement, Karl Marx, declared, it was a war of freedom and progress against slavery and reaction, because it was a war to preserve the American Republic which was at that time "the only popular government in the world."

The Axis war of today is a war to destroy *all* popular governments of the world, and the independence of all nations.

Hitler's declared purpose is to exterminate democracy from the world, to destroy the results of the great American Revolution which established the first democracy of modern times, to destroy all of the labor movements throughout the world and to enslave many hundreds of millions of people, including Americans, Europeans, Asians and Africans.

The Communist Party—A Defender of Democracy

Everybody knows, or should know, that the Communist Party is the party of the American workers, which aims to bring about the ownership of the machinery of production and exchange of our country by the whole American nation. We believe that this is the way—the only way—to get rid of unemployment, poverty, ignorance and imperialistic adventures in war. We are the political party that believes and tries to convince the majority of the people—that is, the workers, the farmers, and all other Americans who can take a progressive outlook—that our democracy that has made us the strongest, the wealthiest, technically the most educated nation in the world, must be extended still further. We believe that the benefits of our democracy, our nation's strength and wealth, and our opportunities for education and culture, must reach all of our people and not only a small class of wealthy people. We believe that the democratic rights, such as the right to vote, to hold public office, the right to work and to enjoy a decent, comfortable and healthy life, must be extended to all persons. We believe that the free and sacred right of Americans to vote can no longer be allowed to be over-

thrown by trickery and un-American laws such as "poll tax laws" and "grandfather clauses." We believe that the system of "superior and inferior" classes of citizens cannot be allowed to continue without destroying American democracy. We demand that the Constitution of the United States, including the Fourteenth Amendment, be enforced in order to secure the political rights of all of the people, regardless of race or class, to participate in the American system of elections. We urge the people to see that the right to vote and hold office shall be extended to all Americans. The young men of eighteen who are now proven to be mature enough to be entrusted as soldiers to defend the life of our country, are mature enough to be entrusted to cast their votes as citizens. Young women of eighteen who are old enough to take their places in the factories and to marry and become mothers of families, are old enough to be entrusted with the rights of citizens, including the right to vote and hold office.

The Communist Party is the political party that tries to convince the majority of the people that the democratic rights which the American Republic brought into the world should be exercised by all of the people in order to bring about a complete reorganization of our country's economic and political life, so as to abolish all poverty, unemployment, insecurity, all lack of opportunity for the youth, and all neglect and poverty of old age. We believe that our country, the richest that the world has ever seen, should use all of its great, inexhaustible resources to secure the happiness and development of all Americans. We are the political party that strives to bring about the socializa-

tion of our country's means of production and distribution so that in America there shall never again be poor people, idle rich, neglected children, "lost generations" of youth, and bitter old age.

The Communist Party is, in the best sense, a democratic party. It is the most consistent and stubborn fighter for democracy. The fact that we wish to improve and extend our democracy so that its benefits can be enjoyed by all of the people, does not mean that we are opposed to democracy. We defend this democracy, though we regard it as incomplete, as not yet having become as great as it can become. Under the supreme test of war, whenever that war concerned the preservation of our democracy, the Communists have always been among the first to take up arms under the Star Spangled Banner.

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The Communist Party enters into friendly relations with every other political party or group, or class of people that is ready to defend this democracy. In a time of war crisis like this, the Communist Party does not take advantage of the war situation to propose any program that is not acceptable to the country as a whole. The Communist Party condemns all efforts to lay down conditions, to try to compel the majority to accept the particular program of any minority section of the people as a condition for support of the war. During the prosecution of the war such Communist Party proposals as are not yet acceptable to the majority of the nation, and which might now divide the nation, are not pressed by the Communist Party. We recognize that the American people have not yet been

convinced of the right and justice of our proposals for socialism. Therefore we do not offer this proposal at this time, and certainly do not believe that the people should be divided on this issue. But this powerful nation can and does agree upon the necessity to defend the democracy that we have. Upon this the whole American people of every class, race and creed can and does agree.

The Need for the Communist Party

But the Communist Party is more necessary now than ever before for the workers, for the farmers, and for all progressive people who see that the labor movement is the spearhead of our country's social, economic and political advancement.

In the Communist Party the workers come together for free discussion and study of all of the problems that face the workers and the people generally. Collectively they are able to make use of the scientific knowledge of a great political movement which is founded upon a scientific understanding of the laws of motion of history.

By uniting the minds of its members, utilizing all of the knowledge accumulated by the labor movement, and the scientific principles of Marxism-Leninism, a new and greater clarity and unity of understanding are reached in the Communist Party. This unity of understanding is accompanied by a unity of organization. The Communist Party follows the motto: *Study, teach, organize!*

Earl Browder, the General Secretary of the Communist Party, recently spoke to a gathering of Communist Party members as follows:

“What is it that makes our small group in the population stand out and command the respect of all, even our enemies? It is the special character of our Party. We are a party which has two distinguishing characteristics that mark us off from all others. One is that we are a very closely integrated party. We think together and we give a unified answer to the problems that face the people. What other party does that?”

The Communist Party has no interests separate and apart from the labor movement as a whole, but is an organic part of it. In this war of our country's survival we have no interests separate and apart from the nation as a whole. For the unity of the workers, for the unity of the nation, the Communist Party, is necessary.

The wealthy classes do not need a political party like the Communist Party. They have their own organizations for getting together, their big business organizations, their private institutions, clubs, etc., and political networks, which enable them to exercise a decisive influence upon the course of politics.

But for the workers, farmers, the small professional people—it is a different story; they must have a political party that represents for them their outlook upon the future, their guiding light for improving the conditions of life; their useful organization for the systematizing of their thoughts and their efforts to safeguard their conditions of living, and to strengthen their war work.

The issue of this war is not communism or socialism, but the survival of the nation. The Communist Party, therefore, does not propose, at the present time, any

measures for the realization of its program of socialism, but proposes only measures *for winning the war.*

The Political Party of the Working Class

The Communist Party is in the truest sense the Party of the American workers. It was the Communist Party that took the lead, before all others, in the nation-wide movement at the time of the economic crisis of 1930 to compel the adoption of a system of unemployment relief and social insurance. Everyone who is old enough to remember those stirring times will recall that the Communist Party was the only political organization that dared to lead the fight. The big newspapers all denounced the movement as a "communist" or "red" movement. All of the efforts that were made to suppress the demand for unemployment insurance were directed first of all against the Communists. You will recall that at the time of the economic crisis, there had never before been any such thing as unemployment relief in the United States. In fact it was said to be "un-American." It was called "the dole." The big newspapers declared that no social insurance, no unemployment relief, no public works to take up unemployment, would ever be tolerated in our country. Several of the foremost leaders of the Communist Party spent months in prison, until finally the millions of workers responded to the Communist Party's campaign, and the movement became so strong that a system of unemployment relief was adopted throughout our country, and the Communist leaders were released from prison and honored for the fight they made. From this fol-

lowed the system of public works and Federal responsibility as well as State responsibility for unemployment.

This throws a light on the character of the Communist Party. The Communist Party leads where the interests of the workers demand leadership, regardless of what the consequences may be. The Communist Party exists for that reason—to enable the workers of our country to get together on a single plan for their own protection and for the benefit of the people's cause.

The Communist Party does not always follow what is considered to be the "popular" course. The Communist Party refuses to make any concessions to race prejudice, the narrow superstitions on which the hideous movement of Hitler is based—the theory of race "superiority" and "inferiority." All who are old enough to remember twelve years ago will recall that the Communist Party led the movement for the freedom of the nine Negro boys who were arrested and framed up for death at Scottsboro, Alabama, in 1931. All honest men now recognize that the Scottsboro boys were innocent of the crime that was charged against them. By fearlessly leading the fight for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys the Communist Party did a great service, not only to the Negro people, who have been persecuted and held in inequality and unlawful persecution since the abolition of slavery, but a service to the whole of the people of the Southern states, and particularly to the workers and trade unions of the South. By helping to break down race prejudice, we helped to make

possible the great advance of the trade unions, which cannot be truly powerful except when they organize all workers equally, regardless of race.

The Communist Party does not accept as a member any person who discriminates against anyone on account of race. Every person who joins the Communist Party must pledge himself or herself to the best American principle, to combat and eliminate all hatred and contempt of, or denial of equal rights or jobs, skilled or unskilled, or equal privileges in the trade unions to any person on account of race or color. Everyone who joins the Communist Party must do all in his or her power to remove the whole "Jim Crow" system of discrimination from American life, and to remove all barriers to the employment of Negroes in industry on an equal basis with all others—which discrimination is not only wrong and undemocratic, but is interfering with full use of our manpower in war industry.

Everyone joining the Communist Party must be a courageous fighter against anti-Semitism, the persecution of Jews, which is a hideous and brutal un-American practice promoted in our country by agents of Hitler to divide, confuse and weaken our national unity.

The Communist Party especially invites women to become party members. *Half of the people are women.* In this war the women of the working class are absolutely necessary to the victory. The Communist Party is the only party that is consistent in fighting for equal rights of women, equal pay for equal work, their right to jobs in industry, protection for their children, union membership and participation in trade union leadership—while we

combat all proposals to weaken their social protection.

The Communist Party represents not only the immediate day-to-day interests of the American workers, but also their long-time and ultimate interests. It steadfastly represents the spirit of international solidarity of the workers, and of democratic peoples, which is the heart and soul of the labor movement. The Communist Party points with pride to the fact that it has consistently called for the solidarity of the American workers and American people with Soviet Russia—the first Socialist state in the world. At all times we pointed out that America's path of strength and security lay in a policy of friendship with the Soviet Union. All Americans—and especially the members of the American labor movement—should now see clearly that our American Communist Party performed the greatest service to our country in standing firmly for cooperation between our country and Soviet Russia. Who can look upon the present world situation without being thankful for a voice courageous enough to point out in the darkest hour that the Soviet Union was the strongest friend our country could have?

The Communist Party fearlessly took the correct position on foreign policy for our country's protection and welfare, because it represents, not only the immediate day-to-day interests of the people, but the long-time interests of our beloved United States of America.

If you can conscientiously agree to the following statement of obligations of American citizenship and of Party membership, you are invited to become a member of the Communist Party:

In accepting the honor and duties of membership in the Communist Party, I declare my support of its program and my intention to fulfill the duties of a Party member and an American citizen as follows:

1. Recognizing that my country is engaged in a just war, it is my duty faithfully to serve and to encourage all others to serve in the armed forces, or in the industries or on the farms in all-out production for victory.

2. I will be a loyal and active member of the trade union of my industry, craft or profession, and will promote the unity of organized labor as the backbone of the democracy of our country, indispensable to its victory in this war of survival. I will promote the national unity of our country, to win the war.

3. I will promote the strongest unity of action of our country with its allies, the coalition of the United Nations headed by the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain and China; and I will promote the unity of the trade unions of these and all countries as a necessary guarantee of the destruction of Nazism and fascism throughout the world and the preservation of our democracies.

4. I will oppose all discrimination, hatred and prejudice within my union, within our country or among the nations, based upon differences of race, color, sex, national origin or religious creed.

5. I will study the program, the history and the theory of the Communist Party, and I will help the members of my trade union, my neighbors and the members of my church or fraternal society to understand the program and to join the Communist Party. I will read and support the press which supports my party, I will pay dues, I will belong to a Party branch, I will regularly and actively perform my patriotic duties as an American citizen in all the activities necessary to win this people's war of national liberation.