

Workers' Bill Central Issue Before Workers, Says Foster

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 7.—A tremendous ovation from the delegates at the National Congress for Unemployment and Social Insurance greeted the reading of a letter from William Z. Foster, chairman of the Communist Party, U. S. A. The letter which was read from the speakers' platform yesterday was as follows:

Comrades:

The central issue before the whole working class, employed and unemployed, native and foreign-born, is that of unemployment and social insurance. After more than five years of the crisis, after the efforts made by the administrations of the two major political parties to solve the crisis and their promises to put millions back to work, we find unemployment remaining at the terrifically high figure of 16 million. The perspective is not that millions will return to work, but on the contrary that the number of unemployed will grow. Instead of the buying power of the masses increasing, the rise in the cost of living has more than wiped out every wage increase brought about by the codes of the N.R.A. The reaction to these attacks upon the living conditions of the workers has been tremendous: mass strikes of the workers in the shops; mighty struggles of the unemployed; militant battles of the poor farmers.

While the conditions of the working population have grown worse, the banks and big corporations have generally increased their profits and dividends and in some cases as high as 600 per cent. The expose of the munitions industry through the senate investigations has shown war profits that rise even above that amount coined out of the blood of the toiling masses.

Only Genuine Bill

Based upon this situation, which involves not only the industrial but the white collar and professional workers, hundreds of thousands of ruined farmers, etc., the holding of the National Congress for Unemployment and Social Insurance is of the greatest significance. The Congress will decide upon the demands to be presented to the seventh-fourth Congress of the United States. We are sure that in spite of the attacks that have been made upon the Workers Unemployment and Social Insurance Bill by the bureaucrats of the A. F. of L. and other reformist leaders, the Congress will unite behind this Bill, which is the only bill for genuine federal unemployment and social insurance.

At the same time, the Congress will have to consider particularly the situation of the Negro and young workers. The Negro workers are most concerned with the question of some protection under the present system. They are hounded, jailed and lynched in the struggle for a piece of bread. Millions of young people are unemployed and face a future of no work. The government attitude towards the rising generation is shown in the establishment of the semi-military C. C. C. camps in preparation for war.

The New Deal has not solved and cannot solve the problems of the crisis. On the contrary, the crisis is growing deeper, involving all sections of the toiling population. What is it that we demand in this situation? What is it that all workers want in order to protect themselves and their families? They demand when they are denied the right to work and earn a living, that they shall be provided with unemployment insurance sufficient to help themselves and their starving families. The most fundamental function of the United States government should be to provide for the welfare of the people.

There is no more important func-

tion at the present time in order to provide that welfare than through the enactment of a genuine system of unemployment and social insurance. The plan of the federal government through the Advisory Council of the National Committee for Economic Security and the proposal of Wm. Green completely ignore the sixteen million unemployed. Nor do they provide any protection for the at present employed workers over a long period of time. On the contrary, after stipulating a number of weeks of benefits, they again throw the workers into the arms of charity organizations. This point of view the National Congress should reject and declare as basic that every worker is entitled to full compensation for loss of work. The Congress must declare for protection by the government against part time, accident, sickness as well as for old age and maternity. President Roosevelt is no friend of the hungry masses of unemployed workers, and his much-advertised social security program is just one more of his many frauds upon the workers. The question of social relief and security is dealt with in proper form only in the Workers Unemployment and Social Insurance Bill.

I trust, therefore, that the Congress will not fail to line up wholeheartedly behind the Bill and launch a movement that will impress ever larger numbers of industrial, white collar and professional workers, Negroes, farmers, veterans, youth, etc., into the struggle on the most burning issue before the whole American people today.

The toiling masses are discontented with this terrible situation. We must leave this Congress determined to unite them in millions behind the Workers Unemployment and Social Insurance Bill.

Fraternally yours,

WM. Z. FOSTER.

Greet the Daily Worker in the name of your family. It has spent its eleven years fighting for you. Send your greeting before Jan. 12.

Insurance

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 7.—The National Congress for Unemployment and Social Insurance today sent the following statement to President Roosevelt, the Senate and the House of Representatives:

"Gentlemen:—

"The prolonged and acute economic crisis, now in its sixth year, has served to aggravate and extend the menace to the security of the vast majority of the American population.

"The welfare, homes and very existence of fully eighty per cent of the population are immediately and directly affected and under severe attack. More than one-sixth of the population of the United States—over 20,000,000 men, women and children have been reduced to a mere animal basis of existence—such as is provided by the relief agencies upon which they are dependent; many more millions of unemployed and disemployed are without even such relief as is provided those who manage to find a place on the relief rolls. Even those who hold a full time job are stead-