
Organizational Preamble of the Communist Propaganda League of Chicago. (Adopted December 6, 1918.)

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“The immediate aim of the Communists is the same as that of all the other proletarian parties: formation of the proletariat into a class, overthrow of the bourgeois supremacy, conquest of political power by the proletariat.

“The theoretical conclusions of the Communists are in no way based on ideas or principles that have been invented or discovered, by this or that would-be universal reformer.

“They merely express, in general terms, actual relations springing from an existing class struggle, from an historical movement going on under our very eyes.”

— From *The Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels

Realizing that the socialist movement in the United States cannot hope to attain its ends by carrying on a propaganda within the narrow limits of political action determined by our ruling class under existing property relations;

That a social revolution must proceed by every expression of mass sentiment, and of the mass industrial power of the working class, which challenges the fundamentals of capitalism;

That the Socialist Party is functioning within the limits of customary political methods, when it is seen that even the few personal rights guaranteed by our constitution mean absolutely nothing to the working class, is simply bound to convert itself into an agency of imperialism, as did the German, French, and English socialist organizations under the leadership of social-patriots; and as every party must do which accepts parliamentarism under so called representative democracy as its basis of action;

Realizing that the propaganda and tactics of the Socialist Party must swing away from opportunistic labor liberalism to clear adherence to the revolutionary class struggle.

That the present form of organization of the Socialist Party makes impossible quick and certain response to current events;

That the personnel of our party officialdom and of our candidates for public office, and of our corps of speakers and educators must be brought into harmony with the revolutionary character of our movement;

And that the class struggle must be brought into unity in all its aspects — political, industrial, and economic — leading to a universal proletarian dictatorship;

We organize ourselves into a unit of propaganda with the purpose of serving the Socialist Party by affecting its policies, platforms, form of organization, and personnel of management and representation along the lines of clear revolutionary proletarian action.

The foregoing preamble was adopted December 6th, 1918, by a committee on organization of the Chicago branch of the Communist Propaganda League, consisting of Comrades Barney Berlyn, N. Juel Christensen, Adolph Dreifuss, J. Louis Engdahl, Isaac Edward Ferguson (Secretary), Christopher Feiman, Robert H. Howe, S.A. Koppnagel, Andrew Lafin, William Bross Lloyd, Otto Purin, Joseph Stilson, Alexander Stoklitsky, Charles Walters.

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