

THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE ELECTIONS

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., *June 18, 1930.*

1. *What are the communists fighting for?*—The communists are fighting for the overthrow of the capitalist system and the capitalist government and the establishment of a working-class government and workers central of the shops, mines, land, etc., of the country as the first step toward socialism.

2. *How can we do this?*—The bosses will never give up their big profits, their factories and mines, etc., which the workers have produced and which in fact should be the common possession of all the workers, without a bitter struggle. We can not expect to overthrow this system without a violent and bloody revolution.

3. *Will the workers win this struggle?*—The working class will defeat the capitalist class in this final struggle because the workers are many and the bosses are few. But the workers can only win under the leadership of the Communist Party and only when the majority of the working class accept the program and follow the leadership of the Communist Party.

At the present time the majority of the workers do not follow the Communist Party. Therefore our big job to-day is to win the majority of the working class for the party—not all to become members of it but to follow its leadership. How can this be done? We can win the workers for our program only by showing them that not only in the future revolutionary struggles but right here to-day in the struggle for better conditions in the shops, for equality for the negro workers, for the political aims of the workers, for unemployment insurance, in the fight against war, the Communist Party is the best fighter and gives them the best leadership. Therefore the Communist Party must enter into all the struggles of the workers and give them leadership.

4. *Can the workers overthrow capitalism and set up a working class government by voting workers into office in the elections?*—No. The capitalist class controls the Government and the courts and they will not allow over a majority of communists to be elected. To prevent this they will change the law to further restrict the right to vote or will abolish voting altogether and set up an open dictatorship as they have done to-day in Italy. The workers will win power only through direct revolutionary struggle.

5. *Then why does the Communist Party put up candidates in the elections?*—The Communist Party puts up candidates in the elections because in the first place many workers still believe that they can better conditions by voting “good” candidates into office and the Communist Party in its election campaign must show the workers that this is impossible. Secondly, the election campaign gives the party a fine chance to reach wide sections of the working class with its propaganda. Thirdly, if our candidates are elected they can help the revolutionary struggle by exposing the nature of the capitalist government to the workers and by helping to break up the capitalist government from the inside. Lastly, the election campaign is one of the methods of mobilizing the workers under our leadership for a direct struggle against the government of the bosses.

The next outline will deal with our election program in the South and how the party will carry on the campaign here. It will be discussed at your next meeting.

With communist greetings,

TOM JOHNSON, *District Organizer.*
