

TURN DEFEAT INTO SUCCESS IN ALABAMA ELECTION CAMPAIGN

By Tom Johnson

The Communist Party will not be on the ballot in the elections this fall in Alabama. This is a major defeat for our Party. The new attack on wages now in progress in Alabama the mass discharge of thousands of workers in the past few weeks, the tremendous increase in part time work particularly among the miners, the complete and open sell out of the American Federation of Labor to the bosses, and the endorsement by this fascist organization of the candidates of the Power Trust in Alabama, Miller and Bankhead, the ruin of tens of thousands of share croppers and small farmers, have all created an extremely favorable situation for the Party to rally thousands of white and colored workers around its standard in the election campaign. At the same time the presence of the Communist Party on the ballot would have been a weapon of tremendous value to us in the struggle for a legal existence for revolutionary organizations in this state.

The worst feature of this situation is that the Party will not be on the ballot, not because of legal barriers erected against us by our class enemies, but solely thru our own negligence. The Party is barred from official recognition on the ballot because thru a misinterpretation of the law by the comrade in charge of carrying out the technical requirements, we did not file the party emblem with the Secretary of State of Alabama during the period required by law. The responsibility for this grave error lies not only with the comrade formally in charge of this work, but with

the entire district leadership of the Party, and in particular with the District Bureau and the District Organizer.

This failure shows not only an organizational laxness which must be instantly combatted and corrected, but also a very serious underestimation of the importance of the election campaign. It is against this major political error that our main fire must be directed. The whole activity of our Party in the election campaign in District 17 must be carefully checked up and stimulated. Any tendency to look on the election campaign as an ordinary campaign of the Party, to be carried thru in a perfunctory manner, must be smashed.

In Alabama this failure must not be allowed to prevent us from carrying on the most aggressive and far-reaching campaign possible. The campaign must be carried on on the basis of the workers writing in on the ballot the names of the Communist candidates for Governor and United States Senator. Such ballots are legal in Alabama and must be utilized by the Party.

This defeat must serve as a warning to the entire Party in District 17. All of our activities must be intensified many fold. All campaigns of the Party must be linked up and become a part of this central political campaign. The defeat must be turned into a victory, and thru redoubling the Parties' activity and work, new thousands of workers must be rallied behind our Party for the struggle against capitalism, must be won for the Party of the working class in the election campaign this fall.