

# The Test of Progressivism

By JAY LOVESTONE.

HE who is for a labor party in 1928 and fights for it is a progressive. He who is against a labor party in 1928 is a reactionary. He who does not work energetically for a labor party in 1928 is rendering objective support to the reactionaries.

This rule applies also to all organizations which claim to be of a working class character. That labor organization which fights for a labor party is a progressive organization. That labor organization which stands in the way of or hinders the formation of a labor party is consciously or unconsciously serving in the role of a handmaiden of the most dangerous reaction in the country.

## S. P. Reactionary—Is Against Labor Party.

This applies particularly to the socialist party, whose leadership pretends that the socialist party is the labor party. The socialist party is much too narrow in its composition.

The socialist party does not correspond to the stage of political development of the American working class.

The socialist party bureaucracy of the type of Hillquit, Berger and Company are part and parcel of the union-wrecking official leadership of the trade union movement.

## "Third Party" and Labor Party.

Of course, we must not confuse a third party with a labor party.

Berger, who is now national chairman of the socialist party, and other extreme right wing leaders of this organization, have declared their endorsement of a third petty-bourgeois party.

A third party need not necessarily be a labor party. It may be a part of disgruntled, disappointed, middle and petty-bourgeoisie. While we welcome the dissolution of the two-party system, while we welcome the confusion in the ranks of the bourgeoisie, we do not base our policy on these divisions within the ranks of the bourgeoisie. We only utilize these divisions and rifts in the interest of the working class.

## "Third" Party Is Not Labor Party.

A third party consisting of these petty-bourgeois elements and based on them is not a party of the workers. Such a party is not worthy of the support of the workers. Such a third party is an enemy of the labor party.

Such a third "progressive" party must be fought by the workers. It cannot speak for the basic class interests of the proletariat.

## Possibilities and Limitations of the Labor Party.

The next step, a very basic step, in the development of the political consciousness of our workers, is towards the formation of a labor party or a national united labor ticket. The break-down of the two-party system must be pushed by all militant workers, since this two-party system has been one of the worst obstacles in the path of independent working-class political action on a mass basis. Trade Unions Must Be Base of Labor Party.

A labor party must be based on the economic organizations of the workers, primarily the trade unions, otherwise it cannot live. A labor party will be the next step to serve as a unifier of the working class on a national basis in the United States.

Of course, a labor party is not a party of the most advanced and conscious militants. It is a federative organization of working class organizations and groups, political as well as economic.

We should not and cannot permit the development of illusions in our ranks that a labor party is the agency which will seize political power for the proletariat. The labor party is merely the next step in the development of our working class politically. The labor party can and must be made to serve for advancing in some measure the interests of the working class and as much as possible impede the political aggressions of the bourgeoisie.

## Capitalist Parties Cannot Serve Workers.

Such tasks the democratic and republican parties can never fulfill. They are outright enemies of the working class. Their best men and most progressive forces are likewise enemies of the working class.

The "good man" theory of bourgeois politics has only served to raise havoc in the labor unions and to make the labor organizations bind themselves to the capitalist parties. Look at the paralyzing grip that Tammany Hall has on the New York labor movement!

## The Job Ahead.

We must all bend our maximum energies towards a labor party.

We must utilize the improving conditions for a labor party as shown in the present economic situation.

It is true that the reactionary trade union bureaucratic clique will resist the progressive efforts for a labor party. All the more reason for all progressives closing their ranks and fighting the harder for a labor party. Mass Movement Needed.

Regardless of the political divisions that may still exist in the ranks of the workers today, we must get the working masses to stand together under the banner of a labor party in 1928.

The Communists pledge themselves to work harder than ever to give the greatest basis to the labor party movement and to work untiringly to make the labor party a going, living institution once it is established.

## Capitalists United—Workers Must Unite.

The capitalists are united. Look at the constant increase in mergers. Look at the solidarity of the bankers' convention. Watch the increasing unity between the leading bankers

and the leading government officials. Notice the Mellons, the Hoovers, the Daweses, who are at the same time leading the government and conducting the biggest banks and industries of the country. The government is in this way serving in every instance to centralize and direct the whole attack of the employing class against the working class.

## Next Step Is Labor Party.

Let us take the next step. Let us move on towards the unifying of the working class politically. The next step is a labor party. Every militant, every left winger, every progressive, every Communist, must double his or her efforts for a labor party. This is now the most important task of the working class.

Let us all throw our hats into the ring as candidates for the army that will arouse the workers to greater class solidarity, to meet the enemies in the struggle, to help pave the way towards smashing the citadels of capitalist reaction.

## Do Not Fail to Read This! To the readers of the Daily Worker

We have arranged with one of the best clothing manufacturers in the city to give a special reduction on Suits and Overcoats to the readers of the Daily Worker.

You are all invited to go up and look around and convince yourself of the great values you can get in Suits and Overcoats from \$24.50 to \$31.00, values over \$55.00.

You are not compelled to buy if our statement is not 100 per cent true.

Patronize this place as it is for your own benefit.

There is a large selection of overcoats of the best WAROMBOS, CHINCHILLAS AND MONTAGNACS. Also high grade Tuxedos and Suits to order.

## MAISEL & STRAUSS, Inc.

Makers of Impressively Good Clothes

377 FOURTH AVE. Near 27th St. FIRST FLOOR

TELEPHONE—MADISON SQ. 8764.

OPEN SUNDAY UNTIL 3 P. M.



## Masterwork Series

Of All  
The Great  
Players



### DON COSSACKS' CHOIR

5066M Song of the Volga Boatmen  
Monotonously Rings the Little Bell

### THE KEDROFF QUARTET

5048M Song of the Volga Boatmen (Ei Ouchnem) (Arr. N. Kedroff)  
March of the Dwarfs (Moszkowski) Court Symphony Orch.

### BAKLANOFF, GEORGES, Baritone

7028M Hamlet: Brindisi (Drinking Song) (Thomas)  
Pagliacci: Vesti la giubba (On With the Motley) (Leoncavallo)  
2013M Gioconda: Pescator affonda l'esca (Fisherman, Thy Bait Now Lower) (Ponchielli) With Male Chorus  
Trovatore: Di quella pira (Tremble, Ye Tyrants) Hipolito Lazaro

### RUSSIAN NATIONAL ORCHESTRA

104M Norwegian Dance No. 2 (Grieg)  
Por Fin Toros (Paso Doble)  
107M Rondo a la Turc (Mozart)  
113M Moment Musical (Schubert)  
Mazurka (Wieniawski)  
20033F V'dol po Pitserskoy (Dubinushka)  
20071F Marseillaise (& Tchornyj Voron)  
20074F Hymn of Free Russia (& Molow)  
20089F Ech ty Dolia, Moya Dolia (National)  
3531E Umer bedniaga (& Korobushka)  
9088E Karie Glaski (& Lapti)  
64000F Ey Uchnem & Moskwa (Hymns National)  
20110F Russian Potpourri & Songs  
20068F Polianushka & I was there  
20069F On the Volga & She Stood in the Field  
12053F Black Eyes; scene of the Volga Boatmen  
20070F "Bolshevik" Galop & Novaya zizn—Waltz  
59039F Liubov i Vesna—Vesna Prekasnaya—Waltz  
59036 Poet & Peasant—Overture  
59035 Light Cavalry—Overture  
59045 Dream & Autumn—Charming Waltz  
59038 Gold & Silver—Vienna Life

### KURENKO, MARIA, Soprano

7110M Il Bacio (The Kiss) Waltz Song  
Manon: Voyons, Manon, plus de chimeres! (An End to Dreams, Manon!) (Massenet)  
2042M 'Tis the Last Rose of Summer  
The Lass With the Delicate Air  
2048M Mireille: O legere hirondelle (Gounod)  
Serenade Francaise (Mon gentil Pierrot) (Leoncavallo)  
2046M Wiegenlied (Lullaby) (Mozart)  
Maria Wiegenlied (The Virgin's Slumber Song) (Reger)

### LASHANSKA, HULDA, Soprano