

For a Labor Party Policy

Introduction:

The motion to establish a Labor Commission (P11) creates an opportunity for the Red Party to develop its agitation and propaganda work in the trade unions in a more coherent, purposeful way than before. One of its proposed functions would be to “write union and labor party propaganda.” The labor party question is a longstanding issue in the U.S., among the only imperialist countries that does not have a mass political party of the working class in any form.

Placing the RP on record as agitating for a labor party in its trade union work is not a call to reorient ourselves away from the goal of principled unity in a party with a Marxist program. We do not propose to make the labor party question a shibboleth or prerequisite to the Communist Party. It does, however, give the RP a firmer political basis for increased work in the trade unions - an agitational policy that concretely raises the need for labor’s independence from the parties of capital and poses the possibility of giving our class a mass political vehicle (as opposed to the unions themselves, which can only be mass economic vehicles.)

Motion:

- The Red Party calls for a mass, union-based Labor Party as part of its trade union policy. The Labor Party we envision is a *permanent united front of the working class*, in which the labor movement, cooperatives and other workers’ organizations (such as they exist and may exist in the future), and socialist organizations participate. Such a party would draw broad layers of the working class into active politics and represent a step toward our class’s political independence from the major capitalist parties.
 - Agitational effort for the Labor Party is not counterposed to the key strategic necessity of a Communist Party, nor is it a “stage” through which the working class must pass before a Communist Party comes into being. Rather, the Labor Party policy is a tool which can be used to advance our work in the labor movement. The Labor Party itself (were it to materialize in the future) would establish a crucial arena of struggle for the communist program.
- Gabriel Pierre, Miah Simone, Alec Desbordes