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### 1948 Election Platform of the Communist Party

Communist Party of California

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1948  
ELECTION  
PLATFORM  
of

the COMMUNIST party

Issued by: Communist Party of  
California  
Room 701  
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San Francisco  
California  
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1948 ELECTION PLATFORM

of

THE COMMUNIST PARTY, U. S. A.

(As amended and adopted in principle by the National Convention of the Communist Party, August 6th, 1948. Riverside Plaza Hotel, New York City, N.Y.)

In this crucial 1948 election the American people have a fateful decision to make: Shall America follow the path of peace or war, democracy or fascism!

Our boys returned from World War II with the hope that their war-time sacrifices had not been in vain.

Remember the promises:

- .....Fascism would be wiped out.
- .....The great-power unity that brought war victory would bring enduring peace.
- .....An economic bill of rights would provide every American with security.

These promises have been broken.

Instead of peace, there is war -- in Greece, in China, in Israel.

Instead of peace, American boys are once again being regimented in the first peace-time draft in our nation's history.

Instead of security and abundance, we have sky-rocketing prices, lowered living standards and the shadow of an impending economic crash with mass unemployment. Farmers fear the inevitable collapse of farm prices. After three years our veterans are still denied housing. Our youth face a future of insecurity and new wars.

Instead of greater democracy, we witness lynch law, mounting Jim-crowism and anti-Semitism, and a conspiracy to undermine our sacred democratic heritage. Anti-Communist witch-hunts, phony spy scares, the arrest and conviction of anti-fascist leaders, the hounding of government employees and former Roosevelt associates, the

persecution of foreign-born workers, the adoption of anti-labor legislation -- these are the methods by which the American people are step by step being driven down the road to a police state and fascism.

These are the chief issues of the 1948 elections.

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America is a great and beautiful land, endowed with immense natural resources and a people skilled in producing abundance. Why then the fear of insecurity?

We are today threatened by no outside force. We are in no danger of attack from any nation. Why then the war hysteria?

The answer lies in this simple fact -- 250 giant corporations, operating through eight banks, control the economic life of the United States. These in turn are largely owned by a few plutocratic families -- Morgan, Rockefeller, Mellon, duPont and Ford.

The nation's industries are operated not for the public welfare, but for the private gain and power of the multi-millionaire ruling class. Prices continue to rise because of vast military expenditures and because the monopolies, through price-fixing agreements and other devious devices, extract exorbitant profits.

They also make huge profits from war and from armaments. They extract super-profits abroad by forcing other nations into economic dependence upon Wall Street. This drive for foreign markets, for Wall Street domination of the world, is at the bottom of the war hysteria and war preparations. Big Business, fearful of the growth and advance of democracy and socialism, hopes to crush the democratic and socialist movements of the world, in order to protect and swell its profits.

Big Business seeks to re-establish the old Nazi cartels and use Germany as a military base for new aggression. But the failure of the bi-partisan policy to achieve its main aim of world conquest has increased the frenzy with which Wall Street seeks to plunge the nation into fascism and World War III.

WAR and PEACE

Responsibility for the sharpening tension in world relations rests neither on the American people nor on the Soviet Union. The responsibility rests squarely on Wall Street and the bi-partisan, Truman-Vandenberg-Dulles atomic diplomacy. The Soviet Union, which has no I.G. Farben or duPont cartels, but has instead a Socialist economy, is the strongest bulwark for peace. Only the trusts and war profiteers want war.

The Communist Party calls for enforcement of the agreements arrived at by Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Soviet Union, based upon a policy of cooperation with our great wartime Soviet ally.

End the "cold war", the draft, and the huge military budget!

For American-Soviet friendship, the key to making the United Nations an instrument for world peace!

Conclude a peace settlement for a united, democratic Germany and Japan based on the Yalta and Potsdam agreements. Guarantee the complete democratization and demilitarization of these countries.

Withdraw American troops from China, Korea and Greece.

Break diplomatic and economic ties with Franco Spain.

Scrap the Marshall Plan and the Truman Doctrine. Furnish large-scale economic assistance to the war-ravaged victims of fascist attack. Give this aid through the United Nations without political strings.

Life the embargo on and extend full recognition to Israel.

Immediate, unconditional independence of Puerto Rico.

Aid the economic development of the colonial and semi-colonial countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America without infringement on their national independence.

Abandon economic, political and military pressures on the countries of Latin America.

THE ATTACK ON LABOR AND OUR LIVING STANDARDS

The trusts have inflated prices and battered down the real wages of American workers to 16 percent below 1944.

Huge war expenditures amount to 15 billion dollars this year -- one-third of the entire national budget. The American people are already paying dearly for this "cold war economy", through a heavy tax burden, speed-up and reduction in real wages. We will pay still more heavily as the inflationary boom speeds the day of the oncoming economic bust.

Big Business has decreed that labor's hands be tied and its rights destroyed. The Taft-Hartley Law and strike-breaking injunctions are weapons against the people's resistance to the monopoly drive towards war and fascism.

Defend the labor movement and unite the ranks of the workers and all progressives against this attack which threatens labor's very existence.

Repeal the Taft-Hartley Law and end strike-breaking injunctions. Adopt a code of Federal labor legislation including the best features of the Wagner Act and the Norris-LaGuardia Anti-Injunction Law.

Restore price control and roll-back prices, without any wage freeze.

We join with all labor and progressive forces in the common demand for an adequate program for federally-financed low-rent housing, minimum wages, old-age pensions, adequate health insurance, and increased aid to education.

We call for increased security for the working farmers through up-to-date parity price and income guarantees, based on unlimited farm production. Such income guarantees require farm subsidies, effective crop insurance and sharp curbs on the giant food trusts and their marketing agencies. We further demand extension of federal minimum wage and social security laws to agricultural workers, including seasonal and migratory labor.

We call for heavier taxation on high incomes and excess profits, with increased exemption for the low brackets. We demand a capital levy on big fortunes and corporations to finance essential social legislation.

We support all steps to curb the power of the trusts, the fountain head of reaction, fascism and war. The American people can make gains, even under capitalism, by mass resistance to the monopolies. We support measures to nationalize basic industries, banks and insurance companies, but point out that these can only be useful as part of the fight to realize a people's democratic government in the United States. Democratic nationalization of trustified industries requires guarantees of democratic controls, the right of labor to organize, bargain collectively and strike. This can only be accomplished by a people's government dedicated to curbing the power of the trusts.

We point out that capitalism cannot become "progressive" even by curbing the excesses of the monopolies. The basic causes of unemployment, economic crisis, fascism and war can only be removed by the establishment of Socialism through the democratic will of a majority of the American people.

#### C I V I L R I G H T S

The destruction of the rights of the Communists is the classical first step down the road to fascism. The tragedy of Germany and Italy prove this. Therefore, it is incumbent upon all Americans who hate fascism to defend the rights of the Communists, and to help explode the myth that Communists are foreign agents or advocate force and violence.

We are no more foreign agents than was Jefferson who was also accused of being a foreign agent by the Tories of his day. We follow in the best traditions of the spokesmen of labor, science and culture whose contributions to human progress knew no national boundaries. We follow in the tradition of Abraham Lincoln, who said: "The strongest bond of human sympathy, outside of the family relation, should be one uniting all working people of all nations and tongues and kindred."

It is not the Communists who advocate or practice force and violence, but the monopolists, the KKK, the lynch mobs and the fascist hoodlum gangs. Reaction has historically resorted to force and violence to thwart the democratic aspirations of

the peoples. In 1776, force and violence were the weapons of King George against the American colonists seeking national independence. In 1861, force and violence were used by the Southern slave owners in an attempt to overthrow the democratic republic headed by Lincoln.

We are Marxists, not adventurers nor conspirators. We condemn and reject the policy and practice of terror and assassination and repudiate the advocates of force and violence. We Communists seek only the opportunity to compete fairly in the marketplace of ideas, asking only that our program and proposals be considered on their merit.

End the witch hunts, loyalty orders and phony spy scares.

Abolish the Un-American Committee. Withdraw the indictments against the twelve Communist leaders and the contempt citations against the anti-fascist victims of Congressional inquisitions.

End persecution and deportation of the foreign-born and lift the undemocratic bars to citizenship.

Outlaw all forms of anti-Semitism, anti-Catholicism, and every other expression of racial and religious bigotry.

End all discrimination against the Mexican-American people in the Southwest.

The Communist Party calls for an end to any and all political, social and economic inequalities practiced against women and demands the maintenance and extension of existing protective legislation.

Extend the suffrage! Remove the bars directed against minority parties!

Lower the voting age to 18 years in every state.

#### NEGRO RIGHTS

The hypocrisy of the democratic pretensions of Wall Street and the Administration are shattered on the reality of the Jim Crow system in America. The most shameful aspect of American life is the Jim Crowism, the terror and violence imposed upon the Negro people, especially in the South. Discrimination in employment, only

slightly relaxed during the war, is once again widespread.

The Communist Party, which has pioneered in fighting for full political, economic and social equality for the Negro people, calls for an end to the policies of the federal and state governments which give official sanction to the Jim-Crow system in the United States.

We call upon all progressives, especially white progressives, to carry on an unceasing day-to-day struggle to outlaw the poll tax, lynchings, segregation, job discrimination and all other forms of Jim Crowism, official and unofficial.

We demand a national F.E.P.C. law, to be vigorously and fully enforced.

We demand that the Ingram family be freed and adequately compensated for the ordeals to which they have been subjected.

We demand that the Ku Klux Klan be outlawed.

We condemn President Truman's cynical evasion of the issue of segregation in the armed forces. We demand that he immediately issue an executive order ending every form of segregation and discrimination in the armed forces and the government services.

We defend the right of the Negro people to full representation in government, and demand Federal enforcement of the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments, so that the Negro people, north and south, can participate freely and fully in the 1948 elections, and thereafter.

We call for an agricultural program which will give land and other forms of assistance to millions of Negro and white tenants and sharecroppers in the South.

Such reforms will help provide the material basis for the Negro people's advance towards full liberation from their national oppression, toward their full political, economic and social equality.

#### THE TWO PARTY SYSTEM

Millions of American working people have come to realize the futility of any further support for the bankrupt two-party system of Big Business. Both major parties are committed to the bi-partisan war program, reflected in both the Truman

Doctrine and its New Look version, the Marshall Plan. Both major parties are united in this program of fattening the billionaires and bleeding the taxpayers.

Both major parties are responsible for runaway inflation. Both the Democrat and the Republican Congress have done nothing to curb the powers of the trusts and to hoard food, rig markets, boost prices and gouge consumers.

Both major parties are responsible for the atrocities committed against the Bill of Rights. Both helped pass the Taft-Hartley Law. Both the Democratic Congressional leaders and the cynical Dewey-Warren-Taft Republican leadership are responsible for the failure to enact civil rights legislation. Neither the Democratic platform nor President Truman's demagogy will fool any enlightened American. The President's deeds belie his words. He has refused to end segregation in the armed forces and the government and fire from his cabinet those who maintain it.

Both major parties are responsible for the Hitler-like hysteria expressed in spy scares, loyalty probes, government witch hunts and the arrest and indictment of Americans whose "crime" it is to oppose the Wall Street war plans. Both the Democratic-controlled Department of Justice and the Republican controlled un-American Committee have equally been guilty of subverting the Bill of Rights.

Chief allies of the twin parties of Big Business in the ranks of labor and the progressive organizations of the people are those who pretend to criticise the corruption and decay of the two old parties while, in fact, keeping the people tied hand and foot to the two-party system. These include the top officialdom of the AFL, CIO and RR Brotherhoods and groups like the Americans for Democratic Action and the Social Democrats such as Norman Thomas and David Dubinsky.

### THE NEW PARTY

Millions of Americans, disillusioned with the two-party system, have given birth to a new people's party.

The new Progressive Party is an inescapable historic necessity for millions who want a real choice between peace and war, democracy or fascism, security or poverty.

The Communists, who support every popular progressive movement, naturally welcome this new people's party. We supported the progressive features of Roosevelt's New Deal. We helped organize the CIO in the 1930's. We have supported every democratic movement since the Communists of Lincoln's generation fought in the Union cause during the Civil War.

On most immediate questions before the people of the country the Progressive Party has offered detailed platform plans around which all forward-looking people can unite. Our support of the Progressive policies and campaign does not alter the fact that we have fundamental as well as some tactical differences with Henry Wallace and related third party forces.

The Communist Party is not nominating a Presidential ticket in the 1948 elections. In 1944 we Communists supported Roosevelt to help win the anti-Axis war. Similarly, in 1948 we Communists join with millions of other Americans to support the Progressive ticket to help win the peace. The Communist Party will enter its own candidates only in those districts where the people are offered no progressive alternatives to the twin parties of Wall Street.

The Progressive Party is by its very nature a great coalition of labor, farmers, the Negro people, youth, professional and small business people. It is anti-monopoly, anti-fascist, anti-war. By its very nature it is not an anti-capitalist party. It is not a socialist nor a Communist Party and we are not seeking to make it one. It is and should develop as a united front, broad mass people's party.

There is only one Marxist Party in America, one party dedicated to replacing the capitalist system with Socialism -- and that is the Communist Party.

Our firm conviction that only a Socialist reorganization of society will bring permanent peace, security and prosperity is no barrier to cooperation with all other progressive Americans, in helping create a great new coalition in order to save our people from the twin horrors of war and fascism.

We seek no special position in this movement and will, of course, oppose any special disabilities because of our Socialist views.

We Communists are dedicated to the proposition that the great American dream of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness, will be realized only under Socialism, a system of society in which the major means of production will be collectively owned and operated under a government led by the working class. Only such a society can forever banish war, poverty and race hatred. Only in such a society can there be the full realization of the dignity of man and the full development of the individual. Only such a society can permanently protect the integrity of the home and family. Only a Socialist society can realize in life the vision of the brotherhood of man.

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Fellow Americans: We live in grave times. The dangers of war and fascism are exceedingly great. Only the common people of America, and in the first place the working class can change our nation's course and save it from disaster. The 1948 elections can help determine which way America shall go. Your vigilance, your united action in this election and in defense of your rights can strike a blow for peace and freedom. The future of our country lies in your hands.

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