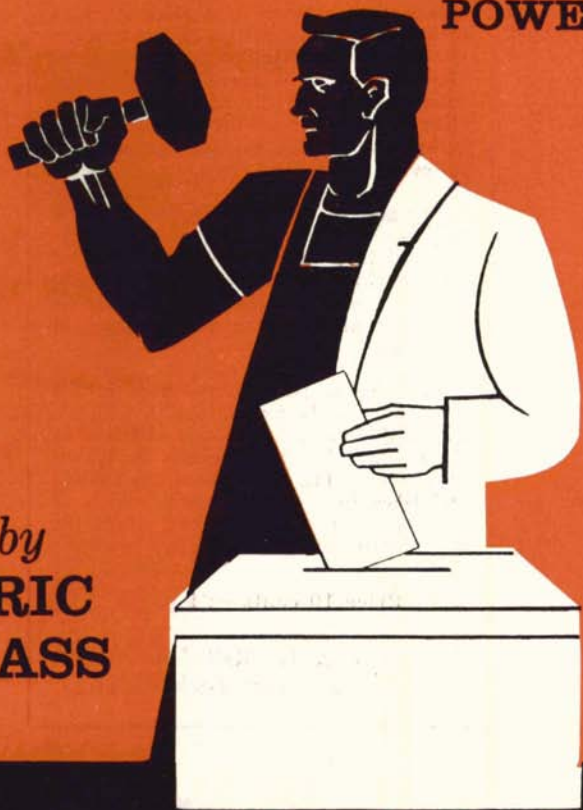


SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY

SOCIALIST INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM

THE
WORKERS'
POWER



by
**ERIC
HASS**

Price 10 cents

Socialist Industrial Unionism The Workers' Power

By Eric Hass

Ballots or bullets? The stock question of would-be revolutionaries is here knocked into a cocked hat. "Socialist Industrial Unionism—The Workers' Power" offers comfort to neither the repudiators of the class struggle nor to the barricade boys, both of whom play into the hands of the forces of reaction.

The goal of Socialism can be achieved only by obeying the logic of the class struggle, and in Socialist Industrial Unionism the American working class has available the *one* logical method of obtaining its emancipation from the wage slavery of capitalism.

The workers' power is explained in this work by the Editor of the WEEKLY PEOPLE in language as easy to follow as the excellent illustrative charts by Walter Steinhilber. The applications are modern and taken from industries with which all workers are familiar. It will orient the minds of those workers who are groping.

Price 10 cents—64 pages

NEW YORK LABOR NEWS CO.
61 Cliff St., New York 38, N.Y.

REVISED EDITION

**Socialist
Industrial
Unionism**

The Workers' Power

By **ERIC HASS**

NEW YORK LABOR NEWS COMPANY

61 Cliff St., New York 38, N.Y.

1960

Only the economic organization is capable of setting on foot a true political party of Labor, and thus raise a bulwark against the power of Capital.

—*Karl Marx.*

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Foreword

Shortly after the Constitutional Convention of 1787 there appeared a series of essays, or pamphlets, in which the newly adopted Constitution of the United States was defended against the attacks which were being directed against it by various elements, notably by those opposing the republican form of government in favor of the monarchical form, or one resembling it; but also by those opposing the Constitution as not being sufficiently democratic, or as giving too much weight to property and not enough consideration to those without property. Ostensibly written by one person, all being signed "Publius," these essays came in fact from the able pens of John Jay, James Madison and Alexander Hamilton. These essays (later known collectively as the Federalist papers, or "The Federalist," for short) were brilliant, learned and extraordinarily persuasive, and represented the clearest and soundest thinking of the political scientists of the day. The oneness of thought expressed by otherwise divergent personalities is striking. They were undoubtedly instrumental in securing the ratification of the Constitution by the majority of the states. It is to be observed, however, that this "debate," this "pamphleteering," followed the organizing of the republican form of government in the United States—it was an *ex post facto* justification for establishing the bourgeois democratic political State in America.

We are now facing another revolution in America,

the revolution which will transform this country from a Political State based on private property into an Industrial Commonwealth. For reasons made clear in the body of this pamphlet, the "defense" of the "Constitution" and the organic composition of the Industrial Commonwealth—this "pamphleteering," or the issuing of "essays" corresponding to the "Federalist papers"—must today *precede*, rather than *follow*, the organizing of the new form of society, to wit, the Industrial Union Republic.

The present pamphlet, written by the Editor of the WEEKLY PEOPLE (official organ of the Socialist Labor Party), is in the nature of a "Federalist paper"—that is, it is one of many such "papers" written by the "founding fathers" of today, in explanation and justification of the Industrial Union Republic which is destined to supersede the present capitalist (political) form of society. It is an able defense and a lucid presentation of the principles and program of action underlying the Industrial Union idea of government, and withal a vigorous attack on the present outworn political society and the institutions (obviously equally useless and outworn) which this political society has projected, with particular reference to the reactionary pro-capitalist unions such as the AFL, CIO, and so forth. This pamphlet, and the many others of similar character published by the Socialist Labor Party, likewise represent the clearest and soundest political and economic thinking of this modern revolutionary period, and though these neo-"federalist papers" proceed from different pens they, too, reflect that same oneness of thought which characterized the original Federalist papers. And like these, they embody the spirit of the age and respond scientifically to the imperative need of the times. Studied with care, this well written pam-

phlet will help to guide and direct the workers into the right channel, and aid them in steering clear of the multitudinous pitfalls with which the road is filled that all revolutionary classes must travel, and particularly the modern revolutionary class, the wage working class.

Accordingly, this pamphlet is far more than a mere dissertation on organizing the workers in unions for self-protection or for advancement within their present class boundaries. It presents the question of reconstituting society on new principles, and upon a completely new basis, as an answer to the problem posed by the unmistakable breakdown of our present political society, or the capitalist system of wage slavery. This proposed reconstitution of society on an occupational or industrial basis was originally projected by the American social scientist, Daniel De Leon, who, as long ago as 1904, outlined the structure and basis of the new society. Early in 1905 Daniel De Leon said: "What the several States are to the present Nation, the several Industries are to the Industrial, the Socialist, or Cooperative Republic—with the difference that, whereas the boundary lines of the States are arbitrarily geographic, the boundary lines of the Industries are dictated by the output [i.e., by the particular product of a given industry]." And he summed up the matter in these terse words: "Industrial Unionism is the Socialist Republic in the making; and the goal once reached, the Industrial Union is the Socialist Republic in operation."

This conception of future society constitutes a flash of genius. It places the conceiver in the "hall of fame" of the immortals of the race.

This brief, yet carefully worked-out presentation of the program and principles of Socialist Revolutionary Unionism should have a wide circulation. Its claims should be as earnestly debated wherever workers

gather as the Federalist papers of 150 years ago were debated by the serious citizens of that day. May its hoped-for mass circulation speed the day of working class emancipation, and of humanity's deliverance from all the evils born of a social system now rendered useless, yes, harmful, and utterly outmoded and outworn.

—*Arnold Petersen.*

December 18, 1940.

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Industrial Unionism is the Socialist Republic in the making; and the goal once reached, the Industrial Union is the Socialist Republic in operation.

Accordingly, the Industrial Union is, at once, the battering ram with which to pound down the fortress of capitalism, and the successor of the capitalist social structure itself.

—*Daniel De Leon.*

Twentieth Century

Democracy

1 "WHEN A MAN does not know what harbor he is making for," said the Roman poet Seneca, "no wind is the right wind."

What harbor are we, the workers of America, making for? What kind of a social system do we want? Until we have a clear conception of where we are going, we cannot know how to get there and "no wind is the right wind."

On these points, however, we can all agree: We want the abolition of poverty, unemployment and war; we do *not* want totalitarianism in any form, be it Stalinist, Nazi, Fascist, Franco or a domestic adaptation of any of these European models.

We want a world freed of the war-breeding struggle for capitalist markets, a world in which goods are produced for the use of the producers and not for sale with a view to profit. We want a world in which machinery will become a blessing to multiply our output and give us, the producers, leisure in which to study, travel and enjoy the product of our labor. We want to live full lives relieved forever of want and fear of want.

He who says such a world is a dream is himself a

dreamer. Throughout the ages man has struggled to learn how to produce an abundance. At last that problem has been solved. All the marvelous *material* requirements to make this world a veritable paradise are here! This fact cannot be denied. But between the hell on earth of today and the paradise of tomorrow stands a predatory social system based on private ownership of the means of production and the exploitation, by a few owners, of the useful producers.

It is self-evident that we cannot produce for use and enjoy the product of our labor until we own the means of production. As we run the industries socially we must *own them socially and run them democratically*.

The present form of political government was suited to the material conditions prevailing in this nation 150 years ago. Then the majority of citizens either owned, or could easily acquire, property.¹ A government established to protect property under such conditions represented the interests of the majority. When a Congressman, for example, voted for a measure which would make property more secure, he expressed the wishes of the majority of his constituents. Yet even at that early date, farsighted men, capable of peering into the future, foresaw the time when the number of owners would diminish and the nonowners increase.

James Madison, the Father of the Constitution,

¹ According to Bulletin 604 of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, craftsmen were given land by many communities in colonial times if they would "afford citizens the use of their trade." Typical of numerous examples cited is the following: "As early as 1635 Lynn voted to admit a landless blacksmith, and later granted him 20 acres of land, thus keeping both the blacksmith and the letter of the law requiring that residents be landholders."

