

INDIANA COURTS FAIL TO BAN WORKERS PARTY

By ARNE SWABECK

Connivance of the old party politicians, the lackeys of capitalism and the self-styled progressives following the usual "democratic" pattern to rule the Workers (Communist) Party candidates off the ballot failed once more.

On Oct. 14 the Workers Party filed with the governor of the state of Indiana petitions for nomination of presidential electors containing 1,000 signatures obtained from all parts of the state but principally from the steel workers who have never for one moment lost faith in William Z. Foster as a true working class representative and in the Communist Party as the leader in the struggles of the workers. The tools of the steel trust immediately got busy to take measures to prevent the Workers Party going before the working class voters in this election.

A Lame Excuse.

An injunction was obtained restraining the board of election commissioners from placing seven of the so-called minor parties on the ballot giving the excuse that many of the signatures to their petitions had been obtained by fraudulent methods and that a total of twelve parties had filed nominations which would prevent the use of voting machines and thus disfranchise large numbers of Indiana citizens. Just how this would mean a disfranchisement was not stated, nor was any particular proof submitted to substantiate the contention of fraudulent methods. The board bowed to the commands of the injunction and ruled that only five of the so-called major parties, including the LaFollette "progressives" could be placed on the ballot.

The Plot Failed.

The Indiana election law provides for the acceptance of independent candidates when nominated thru petitions by 500 voters of the state. During a period of two weeks 1,000 workers signified their willingness to support the Communist candidates and the Communist program and signed their names to petitions being circulated. But what is law to the lackeys of capitalism? When it serves their purpose they will enforce it to the letter, when that is not the case it will be as utterly disregarded as the scrap of paper it is written on. And in this instance, despite the one thousand signatures, the tried and true method of injunction was made use of to attempt to

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Workers Party Stays on Indiana Ballot

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keep the Workers Party off the ballot

However, this time even the injunction method failed. The party representatives in Indianapolis appeared before the board and demanded a rehearing which was granted. This rehearing could not ignore the one thousand signatures and the board ruled that the Workers Party candidates for presidential electors be placed on the ballot.

There is a striking similarity in this action of the avowed reactionary politicians in the state of Indiana and the self-styled progressive LaFollette politicians in control of the Wisconsin administration. Both fear the entry of the Communist candidates armed with a program of proposed practical measures for the immediate needs of the workers and armed with a program which presents the only solution for the labor problem—the proletarian revolution. No matter how much these two sets of politicians may denounce one another they will readily unite against the force which organizes the working class for the proletarian revolution—the Communist Party. They will just as readily unite to defeat every measure the working class may strive for.