
Call for the National Convention of All Farmer Labor Forces in the United States: To be Held in St. Paul, Minnesota — June 17, 1924

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The Declaration of Independence, a document underlying the institutions of this country, states that every human being is endowed with certain inalienable rights and that among these are “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” These rights are today denied the great mass of people of this country by a privileged class which through its economical and political power dominates the life of the country.

The privileged class has, through the organization of “trusts,” through interlocking directorates, through the great banking institutions of Wall Street concentrated the control of the economic life of the country in the hands of a financial oligarchy with its headquarters in Wall Street. It uses its power to amass great wealth for itself at the expense of the happiness and well-being of the farmers and industrial workers who are the producers of wealth of this country.

In order to maintain its privileges and to aid in its exploitation of the farmers and industrial workers this privileged class has fastened its grip upon the government. It uses the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the government alike as instruments in its service to secure greater and greater profits and to amass greater and greater wealth. The recent exposures of corruption in connection with the Teapot Dome oil scandal is but one outstanding incident showing how the government power is used to loot the natural resources of the nation.

During the past few years, millions of farmers have been driven from the farms because unable to secure even the means for a livelihood through their labor as a result of the exploitation by the privileged class. The Esch-Cummins law passed in the interest of the railroad owners has been one factor in producing this situation.

The industrial workers, struggling to maintain their organizations and a decent standard of living, have found that this privileged class has at its command the powers of the government whenever the struggle over the right to organize, wages, and working conditions have resulted in a strike. The use of injunctions against the workers on strike is an everyday occurrence. The infamous Daugherty injunction against the railroad shopmen still stands — an injunction which at one stroke robbed the workers of every right supposedly guaranteed by the constitution.

The Republican and Democratic Party have proven themselves equally the instruments of the privileged class in using the governmental power against the farmers and industrial workers.

These conditions have developed a widespread movement by the farmers and industrial workers to organize a political party which will fight their battles and challenge the continued rule of the privileged class in this country.

The political organizations of farmers and industrial workers, scattered over the country, must be united for the 1924 Presidential campaign, so that they might present a united front against the parties of the privileged class and join in a common struggle against that class.

To achieve this end this call for a National Convention in the Twin Cities, June 17th, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for President and Vice President and adopting a national platform is issued.

We extend an invitation to send delegates to this convention to all farmer organizations, local trade unions, central labor bodies, state federations of labor, international unions, cooperative organizations, labor fraternal organizations, and all farmer and labor po-

litical organizations, the Non-Partisan League and the Committee of 48, provided that they endorse the following tentative program:

- A.— Public ownership.
- B.— Governmental Banking.
- C.— Public control of all natural resources.
- D.— Restoration of civil liberties guaranteed by the constitution.
- E.— The abolition of the use of the injunction in labor disputes.

The basis of representation in the convention shall be as follows:

1. Each state shall be allowed votes equal to its electoral vote, plus one vote for each 5,000 votes, or major fraction thereof, cast for the progressive candidate receiving the highest number of votes in the 1922 general election. Any state delegation failing to agree the total vote of each state shall be apportioned equally among the delegates from that state.

2. Each national political organization shall be entitled to 5 votes; each national economic organization shall be entitled to 5 votes, provided such organization shall have subscribed to the fundamental principles upon which the call for the convention is based.

Apportionment of Delegates.

1. Each state federation, central body, and local organization of labor, farmers, business, or professional men shall be entitled to one delegate. Also any group of 25 or more farmers, not representative through another organization from the same territory, affixing their signatures and addresses to a credential indicating their agreement with the political demands enumerated in the convention call, shall be entitled to one delegate.

2. Each state political organization having legal standing shall be entitled to 5 delegates; where no le-

gal standing exists a state political organization shall have but one delegate.

This CALL for a CONVENTION is issued by the Committee of Arrangements in the name of the following organizations:

Signed:

Tom Ayers,

Alice Lorraine Daly,
South Dakota F-L Party,

R.D. Cramer,

William Mahoney,
Minnesota F-L Federation,

J.L. Beebe,

W.H. Green,
Nebraska F-L Party,

William Bouck,
Western Progressive Farmers of Washington,

J.C. Kennedy
F-L Party of Washington,

H.R. Mortinson,

Dad Walker
No. Dakota F-L Party,

Joseph Manley,
Federated F-L Party,

James Campbell,
Buffalo F-L Party.

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