

# THE PARTY BUILDER

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## OHIO STATE CONVENTION ISSUE

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CALL FOR THE FIRST OHIO STATE CONVENTION  
OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

January 27, 1947

TO ALL LOCALS AND BRANCHES IN THE STATE OF OHIO

Dear Comrades:

The National Committee of the Party, as provided in the party constitution, hereby calls the first convention of the Ohio Socialist Workers Party to convene in Cleveland, Ohio on Sunday, March 9, 1947 at 10:00 AM.

The 12th annual national convention of the party gave inspiring evidence of the growth and firm establishment of the party in the mass movement. It is now time to prepare for the next stage of our expansion and influence by establishing state organizations to coordinate party activities on a district basis. The National Committee feels that the Ohio organization is best situated at present to lead the way in the development of state organizations.

AGENDA

The National Committee proposes the following agenda for the convention:

1. Report of the Political Committee
2. Tasks and Perspectives in Ohio
3. Trade Union Report
4. Reports of Branches
5. Election of State Executive Committee

Pre-Convention Discussion

This convention call officially opens a 30-day pre-convention discussion period. Accompanying this call is a document called "Tasks and Perspectives of an Ohio State Organization". This will serve as the basis for the discussion. Any comrades who wish to contribute documents on subjects germane to the State Organization should send them directly to the national office where they will be mimeographed and sent to the Ohio branches. Branch and membership meetings shall be arranged for a full and thorough discussion of the subjects on the convention agenda.

Basis of Representation

1. Representation from branches shall be as follows: One delegate for the first 5 members, and one additional delegate for each additional 5 members or major fraction thereof. (3 or more constituting a major fraction.)
2. Every duly constituted branch so recognized by the National Office shall be entitled to representation.
3. Delegates are to be elected by branches in accordance with the actual number of members in good standing who have been admitted to the party prior to January 27, 1947, as certified by the branch executive committee on the day of voting.
4. Branches organized after January 27, 1947 are entitled to send fraternal delegates in the same manner as provided by the party constitution for national conventions.
5. Organized Youth Groups shall send fraternal delegates.
6. In all other matters governing representation the provisions for national conventions shall prevail.

Convention Attendance

The National Committee proposes that all party members and members of Party Youth groups in good standing who present proof of membership may attend the convention as visitors.

National Committee  
Socialist Workers Party

*M. Stein*

M. Stein  
Organization Secretary

TASKS AND PERSPECTIVES OF THE  
OHIO SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

I.

The Significance of the Ohio State Convention

For the first time in the history of the American Trotskyist movement our party is strong enough in a key industrial state to move forward to the establishment of a state organization. In Ohio we have four branches in the most important industrial cities, embedded in the mass movement and sufficiently developed to require state coordination and leadership. The fact that the National Committee has called for a state convention in Ohio places a serious responsibility upon the Ohio comrades. It is our task in Ohio to break new ground and to set the best possible example as a guide to those sections of the party which will also soon find it necessary to forge state organizations.

The four Ohio branches, Cleveland, Youngstown, Toledo and Akron are all well established and stable party organizations, each with a long history extending back to the early thirties. The fact that these branches are geographically close knit makes state collaboration very practical; each branch contains experienced leaders, firm cadres, and an overwhelmingly proletarian composition. Thus, the conditions for the best type of state organization exist in Ohio; and the Ohio branches work in very rich soil.

II.

The Ohio Workingclass and the Coming Crisis

Ohio is at the center of the industrial heart of America. Ohio labor has a rich and stormy history both in economic struggles and in the socialist movement.

There are approximately one million two hundred and fifty thousand industrial workers in the state. Altogether there are about one million seven hundred fifty thousand wage workers. The preponderance of wage workers in basic industry is of profound significance for our work.

Steel is the largest industry in Ohio. Next in close succession come machine and tool manufacturing, rubber, and the auto industries. Almost every important American industry has a big base in this state; electrical manufacturing, glass, mines, oil refining and many others have huge concentrations in this area. Because of the strategic geographical location and industrial importance of Ohio the state is crossed by eight trunk lines and scores of connecting short line railroads, centering here a significant segment of the vital railroad industry and tens of thousands of railroad workers.

The state in which we found our first state organization is not only rich in proletarian composition; it is also rich in the traditions of great class battles. The old Debs socialist movement made great headway here at the turn of the century. It was at the state convention of the Ohio Socialist Party held in Canton, June 16, 1918, that Eugene Victor Debs made his famous anti-imperialist speech which resulted in his indictment and imprisonment by the federal government. Debs was tried for this speech in Cleveland in September of the same year. His courageous and unflinching stand aroused a great demonstration of proletarian solidarity in every workingclass center in the state. Throughout the state there are literally thousands of old socialist families reared in the Debs heritage. THIS HERITAGE BELONGS TO US.

During the depression of the thirties the strong radical tradition in Ohio expressed itself in the militant Ohio Unemployed League which organized over 100,000 workers and led many great fights for labor. This organization was led by young revolutionaries, the best of whom are now with us and are a part of our connection with the militant past of Ohio labor.

The rise of industrial unionism came early in Ohio, beginning with the Toledo Auto-Lite strike in 1934. This was only a preview of things to come. Only about a year afterwards the Akron workers pioneered the sit-down strikes which were soon to spread throughout mass production industries. Only a matter of months after these sit-downs in Akron, the Little Steel workers in a dozen or more Ohio Steel centers, launched their great strike during which virtual civil war raged across the state. In many of these battles the Trotskyists played an important role. These conflicts, and the part our comrades played in them, constitute invaluable capital for our party's future in Ohio.

The Ohio workingclass is now equipped with powerful unions in the steel, auto, rubber, railroad, mining, glass and every other big industry. It is a foregone conclusion that the coming political and social upheavals which will be precipitated by the impending economic crisis will find the Ohio proletariat in the forefront of the national struggles, together with their militant brothers in Michigan.

In these coming struggles, the inevitability of which is proved in the American Theses adopted at our last party convention, we are situated now to make ourselves felt as a force. Our fractions in the steel, rubber, auto and railroad industries are well based and growing.

To take full advantage of the coming crisis it is necessary to strengthen our outposts in the key industries of the state, to round out the political activity of the party as a whole, to push the party publicly into the political life of the state through energetic campaigns on key issues; to do all this we must coordinate our state forces and plan our work as a cohesive unit.

### III.

#### The Need for a State Leadership

We have thoroughly discussed the Leninist principle of democratic centralism in our party. During the process of clarification of our program in struggle with anit-Marxists of all stripes, great stress was placed upon freedom of expression, internal debate and closely guarded democracy which is now part of our tradition. In the past our work centered around propaganda and the gathering together of a party nucleus. We are now in transition toward a workers' party of action. To realize this goal, and to mobilize the full striking power of the party in struggle for the leadership of the workingclass it is necessary to strengthen the centralist side of the organization. In Ohio we must select a state leadership which genuinely represents the branches in order to provide systematic collaboration and state-wide planning based upon intimate knowledge of the party in this area. We must plan and carry out campaigns not from the narrow viewpoint of one branch, but with a state-wide perspective.

The State Committee and what officers it may select will be a clearing house of information and a centralizer of actions. By pooling the best leaders of all branches into such a committee each branch will be able to avail itself of the experience of all, and move more efficiently to a solution of its internal as well as its external problems.

Moreover, a state Committee will provide the National Office with the means of mobilizing the entire Ohio Party in every national campaign.

Ohio branches now function as independent units, loosely connected and with diffused activities. The major prerequisite for a party of action in Ohio, given an understanding of the program, is the establishment of a state organization and a centralized leadership that can turn the party as a whole outward toward the masses.

### IV.

#### Putting the Party on the Political Map of Ohio

The Twelfth National Convention of the SWP called upon the party to become the best champion of the oppressed on all the key class issues. The Ohio organization can carry out this aim with great effectiveness both in national and in state campaigns.

It is necessary that the state organization speak out boldly and make the name of the party a by-word in every union, in every factory and in every worker's home.

The developing social crisis in America must inevitably give rise to independent political consciousness of the workingclass. With its high concentration of industrial workers, Ohio will see this development in typically stormy and rapid style. The Democratic

Party is on the wane in Ohio; the Republican Party rules the roost only by default. There is no mass workingclass party. The Communist Party, which was once a movement of considerable proportions throughout the state, has maintained an important base only in Cleveland and Dayton. In Toledo, Youngstown and Akron the CP has been reduced to less influence than the SWP. Aside from the Communist Party we have no serious competitors in the labor movement.

By distinguishing the party as the organizer of mass actions we will be able to attract to us the best of the militant workers in this area. To do this we must plan our campaigns with great precision and care.

### Election Campaigns

Our state Gubernatorial campaign proved that the political field is ripe for our active intervention. Although the campaign was very modest our candidate met with warm response. In sections where we had no party branches, dozens and hundreds of workers were contacted effectively. The party in Ohio proved itself capable of conducting a state-wide campaign, announced to the world that it is a force in the state and made it clear to our membership that we have the necessary means for publicizing the party program on a state basis.

The success of the Gubernatorial campaign must serve notice on every branch to gather all information on election laws and prepare to participate in local elections in the party name as was done in Toledo. This will serve as a foundation for a state-wide campaign with a full ticket in the 1948 Presidential race. By that time we should have acquired the know-how to participate in the parliamentary field with the utmost effectiveness.

### The Labor Party

Our propaganda and agitation for a Labor Party must be put on a campaign basis in Ohio. For the first time in recent labor history an important section of the union movement has moved toward the actual organization of a Labor Party. The action of the Chevrolet Local 659 in Flint, Michigan, supported by the Flint CIO, gives us an excellent example to point to and makes it possible for us to discuss the Labor Party in the unions in more than the abstract sense.

Pegging our agitation on the Flint action we must work out an aggressive approach to this question. We must publicize the Flint action up and down the CIO movement in Ohio. We have nothing to fear from being known as stubborn proponents of similar action here. In this respect there is need for the genuine coordination of our efforts. Where we can we must utilize the PAC and attempt to use it as a foundation of a Labor Party. Those who function within the PAC must constantly expose the false line of its leaders.

To do this job properly the State Executive Committee must survey the situation in each of the cities where we have branches

and work out a guiding line of action based upon the concrete relationship of forces, assigning each trade union fraction its special place in the campaign.

In state pronouncements of the party as such the Labor Party slogan must take a prominent place. It should always be made clear that the SWP is the most persistent fighter for independent political action of labor.

The movement toward a Labor Party is gaining momentum in Ohio. The crisis provoked by Truman's strike-breaking in the railroad strike brought a quick response from the Ohio labor movement. Significant developments toward labor unity resulted. In Toledo, Akron and Youngstown, as well as in other Ohio cities, the Railroad Brotherhoods, the CIO and AFL held joint meetings and formed joint bodies to combat the government anti-labor drive. This was followed up at the time of the mine strike.

In Toledo the Progressive Citizens League, representing the CIO, AFL, Railroad Brotherhoods and MESA can be an important base for the coming Labor Party.

In Cleveland the Collinwood Shops Committee, which includes representation from the AFL, CIO and Railroad Brotherhoods, ran an independent candidate for Congress in the elections last fall. The DeMore campaign provides an excellent precedent and foundation for future Labor Party work in Cleveland.

In Akron the Firestone and Goodrich locals are both on record for the formation of a Labor Party and the sentiment is growing. In Youngstown local 1330, USA, is a proponent of a Labor Party and is gathering support.

The forces are at work which will push the workingclass towards independent politics. We must redouble our efforts to speed up this process.

### The Housing Question

None of the deep-going social questions which confront the workingclass is more dramatic and immediate than the housing crisis. Rent ceilings will soon be lifted. This coupled with the already acute shortage of low-cost housing will precipitate a tremendous resentment among the low income families, especially the veterans. There is dynamite in this situation. While a man can subsist without a car or a refrigerator and can cut down his food budget under the pressure of high prices, he cannot live without a roof over his head. A survey of housing conditions in Ohio would reveal the most sordid facts; hundreds of families living in chicken coops, coal bins, fire-trap shacks, over-crowded multi-family homes without adequate sanitary facilities -- all these things plague the workers of Ohio as well as the workers throughout the nation.

When rents are increased the cup will run over. It will then be practically possible to organize widespread political action around this issue.



Utilizing our bases in the labor movement and our neighborhood contacts, we should organize rent strikes of as broad a character as possible. This requires careful preparation. As ground work for this campaign comrades should be assigned to gather all available facts on the housing situation in Ohio. Articles on this subject should be prepared for The Militant. The issue should be raised in the unions, then union committees set up. Tenant unions should be organized in housing projects and in the neighborhoods such as was done in Toledo in a large housing project.

We should begin now by having party representatives appear before the City Councils demanding adequate housing programs and exposing the wretched housing record of the Truman administration. Local real estate interests should be exposed as enemies of low cost housing. We must prepare now for energetic action on this question.

### Legislative Campaigns

Preparatory to participating in legislative state-wide campaigns we must familiarize ourselves with the operation of the State Legislature and gather pertinent information governing the initiation, discussion and passage of legislation by the State House and Senate.

Having mastered the operational technique, we must work out a broad legislative program. This program should be used as the basis for an election campaign and be pushed in the unions, PAC and be publicized in the name of the party through the appearance of party representatives before state legislative committees. Such questions as the enactment of a strong FEPC bill, an adequate unemployment compensation law, a veterans bonus, a tax-the-rich law and the like require careful study and preparation and the mapping of a well drawn program designed for Ohio. In campaigns around these questions we must avoid a diffusion of our efforts by undertaking too many things simultaneously. Through a centralized leadership we will be able to judge when and where best to initiate such campaigns.

## V.

### Coordination and Expansion of Trade Union Work

Every important national trade union fraction of the party with the exception of Maritime has an outstanding base in Ohio. We have organized fractions in steel, rubber, auto and railroads. These fractions, together with Maritime, make up the basic trade union foundation of the party nationally. Thus, we can see what great importance our Ohio trade union work is for the whole Party.

The first step toward expansion of our fractions throughout the state is the establishment of coordination on a state basis.

The last state CIO convention showed that we are a state force in the CIO without having realized it. We had 12 delegates to that convention. However, we had made no preparations in advance to organize our forces. Resolutions went in from each fraction independently and without consultation with other fractions. We had no previous

discussions on what our program should be. Only during the convention itself did we hold a caucus of our delegates, and work out the mechanics of pushing for a program. Even with this poor organizational set-up, we made a deep impression on the convention, and led the opposition to the Kroll administration on all key issues. We became known to every important militant, and the party distinguished itself.

To hit with our full strength in the state CIO, and for all our trade union work a state organization will prove invaluable.

We already have bases in the four most important segments of the Ohio economy; -- steel, auto, rubber and railroads, listed in the order of their size and importance in the state. This listing might be qualified by stating, that the railroad, because of its great strategic importance, may very well take at least an equal footing with other industries as an area of concentration for us.

The steel industry is the single biggest and most basic industry in Ohio. Special attention must be paid to the expansion of our steel fraction. Above all we must bend our efforts toward the building of a steel fraction in Cleveland. Next to Youngstown, Cleveland is the biggest Ohio steel center. Steel is the biggest industry in Cleveland. A steel fraction would quickly transform the Cleveland branch, and provide strong aid to the foundations already laid in the automobile industry. We must also carve out a base in the steel centers of Canton, Lorain, Steubenville and in every steel producing city of the state.

The broadening of our steel fraction will prove of immeasurable aid to our Youngstown comrades, who have already established a formidable party fortress in this industry.

The extension of our railroad fraction beyond the confines of Toledo must also be given careful consideration and planning by the state organization. In Ohio we can give tremendous aid to the expansion of our growing national railroad fraction. It should suffice to point out that almost 90% of all Eastbound and Westbound rail traffic passes through Ohio. This is a key railroad center.

We must work out plans to make railroad contacts in Akron, Youngstown and Cleveland and pave the way for the national railroad fraction to build the consolidation committee in each of these cities. This work will be of great importance to each branch as well as to the railroad fraction. This work must be carried out in collaboration with the railroad fraction, under whose direction it should be planned and executed.

The auto fraction should be given every aid, especially in Toledo and Cleveland, to broaden its base and improve its connections with the national auto fraction.

The rubber fraction in Ohio does not have much room for expansion outside of Akron. Other important rubber bases exist in New Jersey and California. However, the work of the rubber fraction

will have great importance in the state CIO work generally, and will profit by state collaboration with other fractions.

A field of party trade union work is opening up in the CIO Retail and Warehousemen's Union. The state leadership of this union is progressive. In Akron we have made a good beginning in this field. The state committee should survey the possibilities of entering this field in Toledo, Youngstown and Cleveland. Possibilities are especially good in Toledo. There are more workers in this field in Ohio than in any other. Naturally, it is not as significant as the mass production industries. But the social upheavals will bring out these low paid workers, and since we can work now in collaboration with a fairly progressive union leadership, it will bear important fruit for us.

We are woefully weak in the AFL. It should be kept in mind that in Ohio as well as nationally, the AFL represents a great and important section of the organized workingclass. We now have only scattered comrades in the AFL. We must be on the alert to strengthen our AFL work. This is most especially true in Cleveland and Toledo, where the AFL is a powerful force.

We are now in a position in Ohio to make ourselves felt in the coming trade union upheavals. We are strongly based. The movement for unity of labor is strong in Ohio, as witness the reaction to the railroad and mine strikes, in which all sections of organized labor in Ohio tended to unite against the government strike breaking. We must constantly push this movement, and quickly establish the most efficient state collaboration and centralized planning toward that end.

## VI.

### Veterans Work

We have not worked in the veterans field with any uniform plan. We have felt our way in each branch as best we could. In Youngstown, the veteran work has proved most effective through the active use of our trade union base and utilizing the CIO as the champion of veterans rights. The Party there has done a stand-out job in this respect. In Toledo we have experimented with the various veterans organizations. In Cleveland and Akron very little has been done in this respect.

What is necessary now is for the experiences of all the Ohio branches to be pooled, and a realistic veterans plan of action be worked out to suit the particular situation of each branch. The veterans situation can provide of course, much material for state-wide actions, in the electoral and legislative fields.

## VII.

### Women

Few comrades realize that in Ohio one-third of all the

workers in the state are women. This is true today despite the layoff of about 100,000 women after the war.

We will never represent the Ohio workingclass unless we attract women to the party and develop women leaders.

The women of our Toledo branch already have demonstrated the importance of women proletarian leadership in their action on the meat crisis. In every important social issue, such as the impending rent crisis, the women will play an important role.

Doubly exploited, in the factory and in the home, the women will provide a great reservoir of revolutionary fighters for the party. The party should combat male-chauvinism among its members and among the workingclass generally, and should make every effort to provide the best possible atmosphere in the party for the participation of women in every capacity.

### VIII.

#### Negro Work

Every branch in Ohio has attracted several Negro militants to its ranks. We have found in Ohio as we have nationally, that the Negro people are especially receptive to our program.

But our Negro work, like much of our other work, lives a life of its own in each separate branch. This the state organization must correct.

The most accessible and important avenue of approach to political work among the Negro people is in the NAACP. Youngstown has set the pace in this field. Other Ohio branches must orient toward active work in this field; and we must coordinate the efforts of all Ohio comrades working in the NAACP fraction, and plan a workable program and aim for this fraction.

It is our opinion that we can realistically aim to become the state leaders of the NAACP.

Our Negro work must also become an important concern for all trade union fractions, and every possible effort made toward the development of Negro leaders in the unions.

The state organization must also pay close attention to opportunities to speak out in the Party name as champion of the Negro people and of all minority groups, and to organize actions on this issue.

### IX.

#### Youth Work

We have had a preview of the developing radicalization of the restless American youth in the recent outbreak of student strikes

throughout the country. In Akron the party seized upon such a strike as an opportunity to speak out as champion of the youth. As a result the Akron branch built a Socialist Youth Club, made up of about 15 members of an average age of 16 years.

On the basis of the Akron experience, the Ohio organization can make serious contributions toward the development of youth work nationally.

An analysis of the Akron experience shows that the American youth of today is far different than that of pre-CIO days. The sons and daughters of the 15 million organized workers are of a different temper and psychology than those of the previous generation. They have been imbued with unionism and a great degree of class-consciousness.

This is shown in the student strikes, which demonstrate that the disillusionment and rebellious spirit of the youth today tends to find organized expression. The strikes which the students have participated in are quickly labelled with that name by the youth.

Our influence in the labor movement will make it possible to bind our youth work closely with our mass work in general. Youth sections of local unions, and of local PAC organizations, will provide the youth with firm ground, and give the party a fertile field of work. This type of youth work should be closely explored by the state-organization.

Above all, a party of action which we are rapidly becoming, can provide the best possible atmosphere in which to develop a healthy youth group. The youth should be trained to be the young guards and shock troops of the party. In every campaign, in every door to door campaign, demonstration and the like, the party will attract a fighting youth.

The Ohio branches should be encouraged to experiment in this field, and to utilize every opportunity to build youth groups as auxiliary arms to the party branches.

## X.

### The Expansion of the Party in Ohio

A survey of our most important fields of work shows that we have made great strides in all fields; but we have had a most uneven development. The Ohio branches in total have conducted all-sided activities, but while one branch may have done good Negro work, another is woefully weak in the field; while one branch has done youth work, others haven't tapped this potential gold mine; while this uneven development is to a degree inevitable due to local conditions, a state organization can do a great deal toward developing a more rounded life in each branch by pooling all the branch experiences, and pushing for certain lines of activity in respective branches which need it most.

We must aim to have a fully rounded political life in each branch, and to strengthen our hand in every field in each branch.

The balance sheet of our work in all these fields of work will be read in the lists of new members recruited to our ranks.

It must be kept in mind that in setting up a state organization we are preparing the machinery for an OHIO SWP of mass proportions.

In addition to expanding and strengthening the branches, we must move as soon as possible toward the development of new branches in other key cities. Already trail blazers from Younstown and Toledo have made contacts in Canton, Lorain, in the Meigs County coal fields, in Port Clinton and other centers. For a mass party in Ohio we need branches in these cities, and in Dayton, Columbus, Cincinnati, Springfield, Marietta, Ironton, Sandusky, etc.

It is the conviction of the committee selected to draw this document that the State Convention can realistically adopt the slogan, "DOUBLE THE OHIO MEMBERSHIP IN '47!"

To facilitate the recruitment campaign, and insure the activation of new members, special attention must be paid to the inner life of the party. The planning of educational programs, exchange of speakers, active workers' conferences, and other state-wide inner party functions should become an important part of the state executive committee plans.

We are confident that the State Convention of the Socialist Workers Party will become a great landmark on the party's road toward the leadership of the millions of American workers. If we do our job well, we will have taken a great step toward strengthening the party which is destined to lead the American Socialist Revolution.

January 11, 1947

Joseph Andrews  
Robert Kingsley  
T. G. Selander  
Malcolm Walker  
T. Wilson

PROPOSALS FOR

By-Laws of Socialist Workers Party Ohio State Organization

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the organization shall be Socialist Workers Party Ohio State Organization. (Hereinafter referred to as the "State Organization")

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the State Organization shall be to bind together the branches in the state of Ohio into a working body which will pool the combined experience and resources of the party branches in Ohio for the betterment and expansion of the party work within the state.

ARTICLE III. ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. The highest governing body of the State Organization is the State Convention. Its decisions shall be binding on the entire state membership. The State Convention shall be subordinate to and responsible to the National Convention and the National Committee.

Section 2. Between State Conventions the authority of the State Convention, subject to the decisions of the convention itself, is vested in the State Executive Committee elected by the convention.

Section 3. The State Executive Committee shall be comprised as follows:

Par. 1. There shall be 12 members, elected by the State Convention.

Par. 2. The Convention shall also elect 4 alternates to fill vacancies in the S.E.C. in the order decided by the Convention.

Section 4. The State Executive Committee directs all the work of the State Organization, decides all questions of policy in accord with the decisions of the State Convention, the National Convention and the National Committee. The State Executive Committee appoints all subordinate officers and sub-committees.

ARTICLE IV. INITIATION FEES AND DUES

Section 1. Of the monthly sixty cents dues paid by employed members, thirty five cents shall go to the National Office, fifteen cents to the State Committee, and ten cents to the branch as provided in the Party Constitution, ART. VII., Section 4.

Section 2. Initiation fees and dues of unemployed members will be paid directly to the National Office in their entirety as provided in the Party Constitution, ART. VII. Sections 1 and 4.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

All members residing within the state of Ohio, whether members of a branch or members-at-large, shall be members of the State Organization and shall be politically and financially responsible to the State Organization and its governing bodies.

ARTICLE VI. STATE CONVENTION

Section 1. State Conventions shall be held annually. Special Conventions shall be called by the State Executive Committee or on the demand of branches representing one third of the state membership.

Section 2. Representation to State Conventions shall be proportionately based on the dues paying membership in good standing at the time of the call for the State Convention.

Section 3. The right to vote for delegates shall be confined to members in good standing who have been admitted to the party prior to call for Convention.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these by-laws shall be made by majority vote of the State Convention and shall become effective upon ratification of the Political Committee.

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It will be noted that in Article III, Section 3, we have arbitrarily chosen the figures of 12 and 4 for the numbers of members and alternates on the State Committee. This figure seemed realistic to us on the basis of the forces which we have to work with. It is further suggested by the committee which met to draft the call, etc., that we should adopt the following method in selecting the first S.E.C.

It should be clearly understood that we have no intention of setting precedents by so doing. We are merely trying for this first convention to get over the hurdle of attempting to accomplish everything in a one-day convention where only a few leading comrades are known to all of the members in the state.

What we propose to do is that each branch should select 3 members and one alternate to the first S.E.C.

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It will also be noted that Article V is in formal contradiction to the party constitution in regard to members-at-large. However, we feel that this is the important point which should be ceded to the State Organization. Members-at-large should most expeditiously grow into branches if they are part of and responsible to the State Organization.

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