

*A New
Workers' Stronghold*

WHAT IS THE
INTERNATIONAL
WORKERS' ORDER,
AND WHY EVERY
WORKER SHOULD
JOIN IT



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What Is The International Workers' Order, and Why Every Worker Should Join It

1. Sick and Death Benefits

Workers:

We wish to call your attention to a new organization known as the International Workers' Order. This organization is not old. It was formed a few months ago. Still, it has proven to be of importance for the working class, and it is necessary that you should become interested in it.

The International Workers' Order is a fraternal organization. Its primary purpose is to insure its membership against sickness and death. In other words: the Order is an organization of mutual aid. You are paying in a small sum and in case of death your relatives receive from \$150 to \$2,000, according to your payments; in case of sickness you receive from \$3.50 to \$15.00 per week—also according to your payments.

This matter of insurance is unusually important for the working class in the United States. This country is reputed to be the richest in the world. We are told that the standards of living of the American workers are higher than in any other country. As a matter of fact, however, the American workers are entirely unprotected against fatalities and sickness. If a man becomes sick, his family receives no aid of any kind. If he dies, his family has nothing to bury him with, not to speak of tiding over the first difficult period. The capitalists of

America do nothing in this respect. In other countries, like Germany and England, the workers have forced the employers to grant them a minimum of social insurance, although those countries are also ruled by capitalist governments. In America nothing of the kind exists. If the worker won't look for himself, nobody will help him in case of need. Some labor unions are supposed to have created funds for the unemployed, but these funds are of little value even where they exist.

It is the duty of the workers of America to fight for all kinds of social insurance. It is their duty to demand that the government and the bosses form various insurance funds to aid the workers in case of death or sickness, old age, motherhood, unemployment. The country is rich enough. The workers have created enough billions for the bosses. Let the bosses give up part of those billions for the purpose of insuring the working class. In the meantime, however, the working class must help themselves. An organization of such self-help is the International Workers' Order.

Take the case of a worker who is thirty years old. Suppose he takes out \$1,000 insurance. That means that when he dies his family will receive \$1,000 in cash. How much does he have to pay to our Order? He pays no more than 47 cents per month or \$1.41 a quarter year. It doesn't matter whether he has paid for a long while or has just joined. By the very act of joining, he obtains a right to \$1,000. Members below thirty years of age pay only 44 cents a month. Workers above thirty and up to forty-five years pay 55 and 60 cents per month. Thus, by paying a very small sum the member insures himself for a considerable amount of money. Insurance can be taken out also for sums smaller than \$1,000. One can take out \$500, \$250 and \$150 insurances. For \$250 you pay only 12 cents monthly.

Outside of death benefits the worker receives also aid in case of sickness, whether he suffers from consumption

or from any other disease. The consumption benefits amount to \$15.00 weekly for fifteen weeks during the first year and \$7.50 weekly for fifteen weeks during the second year and fifteen weeks during the third year. Sick benefits for sicknesses other than consumption amount to from \$3.50 to \$15.00 per week according to the members' payments which range from 88 cents to \$1.58 a month. Every new member is entitled to sick benefits three months after joining the Order, and the time is fifteen weeks every year for three consecutive years.

It goes without saying that such self-help is necessary for the worker. The worker cannot remain unprotected. He can rely on nobody but his own organization.

Somebody may ask why shouldn't the worker save privately and thus make himself secure against a rainy day. The answer is that it is not so easy for a worker to save. When he is a member of an organization, the organization demands and insists on payments, and it is thus easier for him to put away a few cents a month. Furthermore, even if he were to save up as much as he is paying to our Order, he would never be able to accumulate a sum which would yield \$15.00 per week during fifteen weeks in the first year of sickness and \$7.50 weekly for thirty weeks during the second and third year. He certainly would not be able to save up a sum of \$1,000 or \$2,000. Quite different is the case with an organization embracing several thousand members. Every member pays, but only a small number get sick and a smaller number die. This is why it is possible to pay to those who suffer. This is the principle under which an insurance organization is built.

If anybody were to ask, Why not go to the general insurance companies to take out insurance? we would reply that the rate of payments to the International Workers' Order are about 4 to 5 times smaller than the rates of the private insurance companies. Thus, \$1,000 insurance costs in the International Workers' Order 47 cents

per month, in the general insurance companies, \$2.15. There are in existence other fraternal organizations whose names are probably known to you. We shall deal with those organizations later. For the time being, however, we wish to say that while a worker thirty years old pays to the International Workers' Order on a policy of \$1,000 only 47 cents per month, he pays in the Workmen's Circle \$1.30 and in the Jewish National Workmen's Alliance as much as \$1.46. Which means that in other fraternal organizations the insurance payments are about 3 times larger than those in the International Workers' Order.

This alone should induce the workers to join the International Workers' Order.

2. The International Workers' Order Is a Working Class Organization

But this is not the whole story. The International Workers' Order is more than an insurance organization. It is at the same time a workers' organization. It is part of the fighting front of the working class. It helps the workers not only to insure themselves for the emergency of sickness or death, but it helps them to improve their lives. It helps them to fight for a better living.

Many of you have probably heard about the Workmen's Circle and the Independent Workmen's Circle. The word "Workmen" is included in the names of those organizations. There was a time when they actually were workers' organizations. There was a time when they appealed to the workers to fight against the bosses and against capitalism. There was a time when they admitted only such workers as would assume the point of view of the class-struggle, i. e., workers who realized that society is divided into classes and that the class of the workers must overthrow the rule of the capitalist class and establish Socialism.

Those times have long passed. Many members of the

organizations quit the ranks of the workers and became business men. Many capitalist elements joined the organizations. The result is that although both organizations still embrace a considerable number of workers, the bosses play there a leading role. They are no more workers' organizations. They defend the interests of the capitalists.

Both the Workmen's Circle and the Independent Workmen's Circle have made peace with capitalism. They maintain that capitalism has come to stay and that there is no power which would destroy it. They maintain that the workers must not go out on mass strikes against the bosses, but they must rely on the union bureaucrats who would secure for them better conditions. They maintain that the workers must not protest against the bureaucrats of the American Federation of Labor who are just as patriotic and imperialistic as the rich capitalists and who prevent the workers from organizing and fighting against the bosses. Both the Workmen's Circle and the Independent Workmen's Circle go hand in hand with the union bureaucrats of the Sigmund-Schlesinger-Hillman variety who have destroyed the needle unions, who have formed a united front with the bosses against the workers and who are sending out guerillas and scabs against the workers whenever they go on strike to improve their lives. Both the Workmen's Circle and the Independent Workmen's Circle have contributed to those strike-breaking organizations who dare call themselves unions while in reality they are nothing but agencies of the bosses. Both the Workmen's Circle and the Independent Workmen's Circle call the unions to renounce demonstrations and other protests against capitalism. When the workers march into the streets to demand "work or wages," as they did on March 6th, 1930, a million and a quarter strong, they are being denounced by those so-called "workers'" organizations. When the workers organize in real industrial unions for the purpose of struggling against the bosses, they are being shamelessly attacked

both by the Workmen's Circle and the Independent Workmen's Circle. The workers of the Soviet Union who, having overthrown capitalism, are building Socialism under the leadership of the Communist Party, are being continuously attacked by the leaders and functionaries of both the Workmen's Circle and the Independent Workmen's Circle. Those boss-ridden organizations have invited every counter-revolutionary and every traitor of the working class to their platforms. Both organizations have made common cause with the darkest elements of the clergy whose aim it is to dull the brains of the workers by all sorts of religious superstitions.

What is true about the Workmen's Circle and the Independent Workmen's Circle which consist of Jewish members, is true also about many other sick-benefit organizations operating among workers of other languages and pretending to be interested in the welfare of labor, such as the Deutsche Arbeiter-Kranken Kasse, the Lithuanian Sick and Death Benefit Society, a number of Hungarian organizations, etc. All these so-called "workers'" organizations in reality cater to the interests of capitalism; they denounce the struggle of the workers; they interfere with the militant actions of the workers; they cooperate with the social fascists of every nationality both here and abroad.

The overwhelming majority of these organizations goes hand in hand with the socialist party which is in no way better than the republican or democratic party. The socialist party now admits openly that it believes no more in Socialism. It does not wish the abolition of capitalism. It demands only slight improvements in the present system of capitalism. It would like to see less corruption and more efficiency in the administration of the capitalist state. It would like to see a state which is better capable of suppressing and persecuting the toiling masses. It has made common cause with the union bureaucrats who are destroying the labor movement.

The socialist party, the company unions led by the labor bureaucrats, the sick and death benefit societies parading under the name of workers' organizations—all appeal to the working class, all solicit the confidence of the workers. The truth of the matter is that when a worker joins these organizations he renounces the struggle against capitalism and enslaves both himself and his class.

This is why a time has come when all workers and all toilers who are still members of these boss-ruled fraternal organizations should realize that they are in the enemies' camp and should shake off their feet the dust of those traitorous organizations. This is why no new member should join those fraternal organizations if he is a worker intent on defending the interests of the workers.

3. The Order Calls for Struggle Against Capitalism

The International Workers' Order assumes the point of view of the class struggle. It realizes that present day society is divided into classes. The two major classes of our times are the capitalists and the workers. The capitalists exploit the working-class. The workers create everything while receiving a miserable wage. The capitalists do nothing while enjoying the fat of the land. The capitalists are not even capable of organizing a world in which the bread of everyone would be secure. On the contrary, the capitalists are pushing the world into an abyss. Right now there are no less than 8 million unemployed in the United States. Together with their dependents it means a total of some 20 millions. Capitalist society is unable to feed fully one-sixth of its population. Besides the unemployed who have been thrown out into the streets, there are large millions of workers who work part time and who are being tortured by intolerable conditions. All this means that capitalist society has created untold sufferings and misery for large masses of the population. And there is no prospect of better times.

Even if capitalism will with great difficulty extricate itself partly from the present crisis, it will soon sink into a still deeper crisis with still more millions deprived of the possibility of making a living. And this not only in America but also in all the other capitalist countries.

The International Workers' Order maintains that capitalism is bankrupt. The Order realizes that in order to save itself in the present precarious situation, each capitalist state is attempting to exploit the workers ever more and to oppress them with greater brutality. Thus in America as well as in other countries wages are being reduced, the working-day is being lengthened and the speed-up is being set at a mad pace, which measures only increase the number of unemployed and create more misery and starvation. Capitalism suppresses the workers' organizations that fight against its rule; workers' pickets are being arrested, strikes are being prohibited, strikers are thrown into the dungeon, strike leaders are being sentenced to many years' imprisonment, workers are being murdered outright and Negro workers lynched. This is all the workers get after years and years of toil in the factories, in the mills, in the mines, in the fields and wherever wealth is being created. The International Workers' Order realizes that a stop must be put to all this, that the workers must organize to advance against capitalism.

The International Workers' Order realizes that there is no way out for capitalism. In order to save itself, capitalism tries to invade other countries; it arms itself to the teeth in order to be able to seize foreign markets; this leads to war among the capitalist countries and to war against the Soviet Union which is a thorn in the side of the capitalists. The International Workers' Order views with pride and joy the Soviet Union which is the only country where there is no crisis and where the life of the workers is continually improving. Production is growing in the Soviet Union; every factory is running and

new factories, plants and railroads are being added; the peasants are being combined in collective farms and they increase the grain production immensely; the life of the workers and peasants is being elevated to a new level of culture, and the more they work the better they feed, clothe and house themselves and the higher are their cultural achievements. The International Workers' Order realizes that only under a system similar to the Soviet system there is no exploitation of the working class and only there can it advance to real freedom and happiness.

The International Workers' Order therefore appeals to the workers to join the struggle against capitalism and for a system where all power belongs to the working class.

4. Every Day Activity Is Required

The International Workers' Order, however, does not counsel the workers to wait idly for the happy future. We know that the happy future won't come unless we organize immediately to act right now. The International Workers' Order therefore appeals to all workers to organize in class unions, that is to say such unions that will actually unite the workers of every industry in one powerful organization to fight against the bosses for higher wages, a shorter labor day, against the speed-up, for social insurance and against the persecutions of the working class. Such unions have already been organized and are affiliated with the Trade Union Unity League. The International Workers' Order maintains that only through struggle can the workers get something even at present, under the existing system. The International Workers' Order realizes that the only party that leads the working class in its struggle against capitalism is the Communist Party which unites the best and proven militant members of the working class and which is bound to become ever stronger until the moment will

come when the workers under its leadership will overthrow the capitalist system and establish Soviets.

It follows therefore that the International Workers' Order is part of the battle-front of the working class. This part, however, is in many respects different from the other parts of the same front.

The International Workers' Order is no political party. It does not organize election campaigns; it does not inquire about the political affiliations of its membership outside of the recognition of the class-struggle. We are primarily a fraternal organization. But we cannot close our eyes to the political field. We view all parties active in that field. We find that the Communist Party is the only party that fights for the workers' interests. We therefore endorse the Communist Party. We appeal to all workers to vote for the Communist Party. We aid the party in its struggles. At the same time, however, we remain a non-party organization.

Neither is the International Workers' Order a labor union. It does not organize the workers in the shops for strike purposes and for resistance against the bosses. It pursues its own specific tasks. At the same time, however, it realizes that the economic struggle is the fundamental struggle of the working class. It therefore aids in strikes conducted against the bosses (not like the fake strikes staged by the company unions with the aim of fooling the workers). The International Workers' Order supports such strikes both with money and sympathy and with appeals to its members for aid.

We have just said that the International Workers' Order is part of the battle-front of the working class. It does not form, however, the first trench-line of that front. It is mostly an auxiliary organization of the class struggle. It is interested in every phase in the workers' life. It supports the workers both financially and through the personal participation of its branches and members in the struggle. Every struggle of the working class finds response in its ranks.

We recognize that at the present moment there is a number of struggles which must especially draw the attention of the members of the International Workers' Order.

First and foremost is the struggle for social insurance. Sums necessary to create an unemployment fund must be forcibly pressed out of the capitalists; also funds for sick workers, for aged workers who are no more able to work. The struggle for these demands is most urgent. No worker should stay away from them. The International Workers' Order must naturally participate in this struggle.

Another important struggle is that against the war danger. The capitalists are dragging the world into a new bloody morass. Armaments are constantly increased. New stupendous sums are being spent on means of destruction. New plans are hatched every day as to how to attack other countries for the purpose of getting more profits. The workers are against such a war. The workers know that only when they offer a powerful resistance will they be able temporarily to stay the hands of the murderers. In this struggle, the International Workers' Order must play an important part.

Another struggle which must engage the attention of every member of the International Workers' Order is the struggle to protect the foreign-born workers. The Fish commission is now in session for the purpose of recommending new repressive laws against immigrant workers. A vicious propaganda is being conducted against the foreign-born section of the American working class. The purpose is quite obvious. The bosses wish to break the resistance of immigrant workers, to ruin their organizations, to terrorize them, to arrest them by the thousand in order to break the resistance of the entire working class, native or immigrant, white or black. All workers must unite to offer a powerful resistance to these dastardly measures.

Still another struggle on the calendar of the working

class is the struggle to defend the Soviet Union. Every day, nearly every hour, new conspiracies are being concocted against the Land of the Soviets. The capitalist states are mobilizing to attack the proletarian republic. They cannot stand the fact that unemployment has disappeared in the Soviet Union and that the proletarian prosperity is growing under the Five Year Plan. Soon we may be called to fight against the Bolsheviks under one pretext or another. It is the task of the International Workers Order to offer the most powerful resistance to these plans, in close union with the rest of the working class.

There are many other struggles on which we do not have to dwell here. We only wish to say that the International Workers' Order must actively engage in every struggle undertaken by the working class. It must not necessarily always take the initiative; but it must be on the spot whenever and wherever the workers' interests are at stake. And this is why every worker must join the International Workers' Order.

5. The Field of Culture

The International Workers' Order holds aloft the banner of culture. The International Workers' Order is convinced that knowledge is power for the working class, but it does not confine itself to knowledge alone. Knowledge is only one part of culture. The International Workers' Order wishes to furnish its membership with rich and many-sided culture.

But there is culture and culture. There is that kind of culture which befogs the brains of the workers with the lie of class unity and weakens their will with the lie of hopelessness. Such culture is poison for the working class. There is another culture which opens the eyes of the workers, strengthens their will and unites them for the struggle. This is proletarian culture. Such culture is necessary for the working class, and this is the kind of

culture the International Workers' Order wishes to help create.

Our order has already engaged in wide and fruitful activities in this field. We have a special national culture commission and also culture commissions in every branch. The national culture commission directs the work of all the branches; the local culture commissions carry on the cultural work in the separate branches. The national culture commission issues outlines for lectures and discussions to be conducted in every branch. The meetings of the branches are taken up only partly with routine business while a considerable part is devoted to discussions, lectures and other educational activities. The national culture commission is conducting a number of correspondence courses which can be taken either individually or in groups. One of the courses is on economic science; another on natural sciences. The national culture commission is dispatching lecturers to the branches to speak on a variety of topics. The Order is publishing a monthly magazine, "The Spark," which deals not only with the problems of the Order but also with general political, economic and cultural problems and which has engaged the cooperation of the best writers of the left wing.

This is not all. The Order has placed under its supervision the workers' children's schools counting some four thousand pupils throughout the country. The Order has been instrumental in working out their curriculum, and is supervising all their activities. The Order is taking steps to unite under its supervision the various workers' musical and dramatic societies. The Order will issue a number of books for adults and children, and it has already begun preparatory work in this respect. The Order makes it its task to see to it that every member has an opportunity to develop culturally and to contribute his share to the sum total of cultural work.

The Order is hardly six months old. It already has a membership of over 8,000, and the membership is grow-

ing. Its basic group consists of Jewish workers, many of whom split away from the Workmen's Circle and the Independent Workmen's Circle. The Order, however, will not confine itself to the workers of one particular nationality. Plans are on foot to have a number of other language fraternal organizations, Hungarian, Russian, Ukrainian, etc., join the International Workers' Order. Every block of language branches joining the Order will have its culture commission which will conduct the work in the mother tongue of its members. At the same time the Order will be an organization bringing together the workers of various languages and thus introducing in life that which is indicated in its name, the International Workers' Order.

The Order is young. It has just started work. It has, however, planted itself firmly in the ranks of the working class. It is already becoming a factor in the workers' lives. It is playing an important rôle. It is a source of power and encouragement to the workers. It is about to be increased by many thousand of workers from other language groups. Within half a year its membership will certainly have increased to twenty-five thousand. It is the duty of every worker to help build this new workers' organization, this new workers' stronghold.

Join the International Workers' Order. Become a member in our young but hopefully militant fraternal family.

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Fill in this card and hand it to the Branch Secretary

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS ORDER, Inc.

32 Union Square, New York, N. Y.

Name..... Age.....
 Address.....
 Occupation..... Union?.....
 Male..... Female.....
 Married?..... Paid \$..... c..... for..... Month
 Proposed by..... Br. No.....