

# FOSTER SAID:

(The following is the speech of William Z. Foster in the courtroom before he, Robert Minor, Israel Amter, Harry Raymond and Joseph Leston, unemployed delegation of the New York workers, were sentenced.)

I WISH to protest against this whole procedure of our trial and conviction as a political attempt to prevent the organization of the unemployed and the struggle of these unemployed workers in defense of their interests. The breaking up of the parade, our arrest, our being held without bail, the framing of the various charges against us, our denial of a trial by

jury, our forced appearance before judges who have their minds made up to sentence us before the evidence is heard, are an excellent example of capitalist class justice. This will serve to wake up, in part, at least, the American workers to the true nature of the capitalist State and how, in all its branches, it is used for the oppression and persecution of the workers. But it will not prevent the organization of the unemployed under the leadership of the Communist Party and the Trade Union Unity League.

The economic crisis deepens thruout the country. The unemployed army grows and becomes more and more permanent. But the workers are not going to starve upon the streets. They are going to fight. The Communist Party proposes a program under which it can clearly fight, and presents its central demand of work or wages — unemployment insurance for these workers. You may send us to jail, but you will not prevent the unemployed workers from making a fight in defense of their interests, and they will understand why we are being sent to jail. The unemployed in this country will have to be conceded unemployment insurance. As I stated, the unemployed army grows and becomes more and more permanent. These work-

ers will not starve. They will fight. More than that—these workers will learn that even the concession of unemployment insurance will not solve their problem, that the problem of unemployment, in the final analysis, can only be solved—it is bound to grow progressively worse in the United States as it is in all the capitalist countries—by the abolition of the capitalist system and the establishment of a workers' and farmers' government in the United States; and the Communist Party and the Trade Union Unity League organize the unemployed, not only for the purpose of these immediate demands but for this ultimate revolutionary goal.

In spite of all efforts on the part of the International Labor Defense attorneys to release the delegation of the New York unemployed workers on bail pending the appeal against the vicious sentences, bail has been refused by Justice Ford of the Supreme Court.

William Z. Foster and Israel Amter imprisoned on Hart's Island, Robert Minor sick on Welfare Island, and Harry Raymond on Riker's Island, all sentenced from six months to three years, must sit in prison to await the argument for appeal before the Appellate Division of the State of New York which has been set for June 3. Joseph Leston, sentenced to 30 days, released May 5.

The hearing on the second charge of felonious assault in the first degree, carrying with it a sentence of from 5 to 10 years, has also been postponed until June 3.

*Wm. Z. Foster speaking at the March 6 demonstration. He speaks with the same force from behind prison walls.*

