

How to Cast Your Vote for Shachtman

In voting for MAX SHACHTMAN, Workers Party candidate for Mayor, you will have to study the voting machine very carefully.

The name of Max Shachtman appears in the Second Column, Last Row (Column 2, Line "I") on the voting machine.

It is the LAST NAME ON THE LAST LINE.

Pull down the lever over the name of Max Shachtman, and leave it down.

Jim Crow and the Mayoralty Election

What are Negroes interested in, in this mayoralty election? They are interested in the same basic things that the masses of white working people are interested in. Like all working people, Negroes must first of all have jobs. They must eat, wear clothing and live in a house. The Workers Party program for the election says: "End Discrimination Against Negroes and Other Racial and National Minorities! Make anti-Negro and anti-Semitic practices by employers and landlords a criminal offense. End high rents and prices in Harlem by enforcing the right of Negroes to live in any section of the city at equal rents. Withdraw building rights from landlords and real estate companies that bar Negroes and Jews."

This is what Negroes will vote for when they cast their ballots for Max Shachtman and the Workers Party. This means to break the "gentlemen's agreement" among real estate men by which Negroes are segregated in Harlem and other "Negro sections." It means the right of Negroes to live anywhere they choose to live just like other people: West End Avenue, Park Avenue, Forest Hills, Washington Square. It means the right of Negroes to live next door to Judge Goldstein, Mr. O'Dwyer or Mr. Morris. It means breaking up the iniquitous practice of landlords raising the rent in "white" apartments on the edge of "Negro neighborhoods" as a means of forcing the white tenants out and installing Negroes at the increased rental. It means to rid New York City of such insulting signs on apartments as: "Now Renting to Select Colored Tenants." It means, furthermore, that in all city housing projects Jim Crow will be eliminated completely and that Negro and white tenants will be assigned indiscriminately in the order of application. It means that neither the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. nor any real estate company or individual would be permitted to erect any dwelling or other building for rent from which Negroes were barred. This is what the Workers Party means by SOCIAL, POLITICAL and ECONOMIC EQUALITY for NEGROES.

JOBS FOR ALL MEANS JOBS FOR ALL NEGROES, TOO

We have said that Negroes must have jobs just like other people in New York City. During the Second Imperialist World War which has just ended, Negroes got jobs which they had never held before. Before the labor shortage developed the majority of New York's industries either barred Negroes or gave a few of them only the lower-paying unskilled jobs. Only when the necessities of war production created the demand for more "hands" were Negroes hired in large numbers and a relatively few given the opportunity to work at the skilled, higher-paying jobs. Now that the war is over, thousands of these new Negro industrial workers will be unemployed and the same old Jim Crow hiring practices will emerge again.

Just as the Workers Party demands and fights for Negroes to live and eat and be entertained where they choose, so it fights for them to work where they choose and at what occupations they choose, just like other people. The Workers Party rejects the notion that there are "Negro jobs" and "white men's jobs." This applies not only to industry but to the New York City government and the school system. The Workers Party advocates the practice of Negroes running for any office and holding any post in the city government and in the school system. This is what SOCIAL, POLITICAL and ECONOMIC EQUALITY means and it can mean no less.

END JIM CROW IN NEW YORK

The Workers Party advocates the practice of Negroes going into any public place: restaurant, theater, swimming pool and all other establishments for the accommodation of the public. New York State has numerous laws forbidding discrimination and Jim Crow. We are for the strictest enforcement of these laws and for making any and all discrimination and Jim Crow a criminal offense.

The Workers Party enters this mayoralty campaign firmly committed to the program set forth herewith. There are, of course, other planks in our platform which apply to Negroes as to all other workers. They are contained in LABOR ACTION and in other mayoralty campaign literature.

The capitalist Republican and Democratic Parties talk about "good government." But what is good government for Negroes? Good government for Negroes in New York City can only be that city administration which goes into office committed to full equality for Negroes. Full SOCIAL, POLITICAL and ECONOMIC EQUALITY is the only platform or program under which Negroes can enjoy good government.

A vote for Max Shachtman is a vote against Jim Crow, segregation and insult. It is a vote for a political party that practices what it preaches. A vote for O'Dwyer, Goldstein or Morris is to give support to the Republican and Democratic Parties: the parties of the reactionary Bilbo, the reactionary Taft and the parties of the capitalist employers who pile insult on insult by confining Negroes to the dirtiest, hardest and cheapest jobs.

A vote for SHACHTMAN is a vote for the program of equality, human dignity, genuine democracy for all the common people.

Vote for the candidate of the WORKERS PARTY.

Vote for SHACHTMAN for MAYOR.

(The above is part of a pamphlet, "The Fight Against Jim Crow," by David Coolidge. For the pamphlet itself, write to the Workers Party Election Campaign Committee, 114 West 14th Street, New York 11, N. Y. Price 5c.)

BE SURE TO GET

ELECTION LITERATURE

ISSUED BY THE WORKERS PARTY
ELECTION COMMITTEE

How to Get Jobs For All

The Workers Party Program for Reconversion

By Walter Weiss

Socialism—The Hope of Humanity

Speech by Max Shachtman

The New York Election and the Fight Against Jim Crow

By David Coolidge

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114 West 14th Street

New York 11, N. Y.

LABOR ACTION

OCTOBER 29, 1945

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR



ONE CENT

CAST YOUR BALLOT FOR SHACHTMAN FOR MAYOR

WP Candidates' Speech on Radio

In New York City, some half a million families, more than two million people, representing a good fourth of the total population of the city, are compelled to live, as the Citizens Housing Council puts it, "in homes entirely unworthy of the American way of life."

This is not a new situation caused by the dislocations of war. The war has only made an old intolerable situation a good deal worse.

As far back as 1937, the New York City Housing Authority made a report to the Mayor, which gave us this information:

There existed 65,000 so-called old-law tenement buildings, housing more than half a million families. These buildings were anywhere from 36 to 80 years old—and they were never too good to begin with. But their operation was still extremely profitable. Their owners continued to rent them at the net profit of fifteen per cent they had brought for years.

THE REAL PROBLEM

Tens of thousands of veterans are returning to the city seeking decent homes in which to settle down. Wages, real wages, take-home wages, are everywhere on the decline, and labor is being forced to fight desperately to maintain—let alone raise—the standard of living it has enjoyed up to now.

Most menacing of all is the impudent and cold-blooded strike of the builders. With tens of thousands of new, modern dwellings urgently needed, the builders, and the banking interests behind them, have declared in effect that not a single new building will be erected unless the present rent ceilings are raised. Right in the midst of a declining income for the average worker, the builders and bankers are demanding rent increases on new buildings ranging from thirty to sixty per cent of present ceilings.

To nibble at this problem is worse than farical. Just think: Ten years after the Housing Authority of this city received its appropriation, less than \$100,000,000 has been spent on the construction of low-cost housing. Of the families living in slums, not more than three per cent have found their way into the government housing projects. At this rate, we have three hundred years ahead of us before the rotten slums of New York are cleared!

WORKERS PARTY PROPOSES

The WORKERS PARTY proposes a radical and fundamental solution to this burning problem which is, at bottom, a national problem.

We propose a government expenditure of \$12,500,000,000 over five years—billions, not millions—for a housing and public works program in New York City, as part of a national \$250,000,000,000 program to provide decent housing, schools, hospitals and recreational facilities. Part of this fund can be raised by New York, and part, the greater part, must come from a national appropriation.

Anything much less than this cannot be taken seriously. The WORKERS PARTY does not look upon two and a half billion dollars per year for New York's housing and public works program as too large a figure.

The United States Government alone spent more than two and a half billion dollars every ten days during the war in order to bring death and devastation to Europe and Asia. Why can't it raise and spend as much every twelve months to bring life and comfort and happiness to millions of people of New York and the rest of the country?

FOR SOCIALISM

The capitalist system works like a well-oiled machine to destroy peoples, their riches and their nations. It creaks like a rusty wagon when it comes to providing security, decent housing and a decent living standard for the people.

A system which is excellent for destruction, but confesses its inability to work for the welfare of the people, stands self-condemned. It must give way to socialism, which is based on production for use—production and construction for human welfare, human progress and human dignity.

A vote for the candidate of the WORKERS PARTY—last name on the last line of the voting machine—is a vote of condemnation of the two capitalist parties who are jointly responsible for the housing scandal. It is a vote for a bold, radical housing program to eliminate this scandal. It is a vote of non-confidence in bankrupt capitalism, a vote of confidence in the socialist future.

The indifference of New Yorkers to the current mayoralty campaign has been marked by every political observer. The reasons for this indifference are not hard to find. There is indifference, apathy and even cynicism which is a result of the fact that the problems in which the great majority of the people are vitally interested, have been carefully and systematically ignored by the main candidates, or else they have been dealt with in such vague and general terms as to give them no significant meaning.

These problems can be summed up in a single word: security. Today, especially now that the war is over, the workers of this country, New York City included, are concerned with the problem of security above all others.

They want to be secure against the crushing nightmare of unemployment.

They want to be secure against the misery of low wages.

They want to be secure against a low standard of living, which means low-grade housing,

inadequate feeding and clothing for themselves and their families, poor educational and recreational facilities for their children, inadequate medical care and, especially in New York City, miserable, run-down and crowded transportation facilities.

The Workers Party takes the position that the outstanding issues in the country today, and this includes New York City, are these:

The guarantee of full employment, of a job for every man willing and able to work, at a guaranteed minimum annual wage that will provide a decent standard of living for every worker.

How are jobs for all and a minimum annual wage to be guaranteed? The Workers Party proposes a \$12½ billions appropriation over five years for a housing and public works program in New York City, as part of a national \$250 billions program to provide decent housing, schools, hospitals and public works.

If it can be done for war, why can't it be done in peacetime?

The Workers Party says that billions must be spent, not for wartime destruction, but for peacetime construction, for the guarantee of human welfare. And it says that this money must be raised by placing the economic burden on the shoulders of those able to bear it. The government showed no hesitation in conscripting the lives of working class boys, in placing regulations on wages and jobs. Why cannot it now conscript the wealth of the big monopolists by nationalizing the large industries, mines and transportation systems and taxing away the blood-stained super-war profits coined by the capitalists?

Surely this must bring to mind the question: what good is a government, what good is a political party or a candidate that supports a government that admits publicly that it cannot even guarantee an able-bodied and willing worker a job the year around; that cannot even guarantee him a minimum annual wage to provide him and his family with a living fit for a human being, a living such as the marvelous machinery of production we have in this country is capable of producing?

That is why the Workers Party aims to set up in this country a workers' government. That is our program.

It is the program of socialism, the greatest and noblest ideal ever set before mankind.

It is the program you will be voting for if you cast your ballot for Max Shachtman, Workers Party candidate for Mayor of New York—the last name on the last line.

If you agree with our program, if you want to record yourself for security, jobs for all, a minimum annual wage—then cast your working-class vote for a working-class candidate of a working-class party.



SYMPOSIUM

Max Shachtman

WILL REPRESENT THE WORKERS PARTY

AT AN ELECTION SYMPOSIUM

Monday, November 5

8:30 P. M.

Y. M. C. A.

5 West 63rd Street

Manhattan

ADMISSION FREE—ALL INVITED

Workers Party Stand on Amendments, Proposition

On the voting machine you will find, besides the candidates for office, six amendments and one proposition. Of these, the Workers Party calls your particular attention to Amendment 6 and the lone proposition:

Amendment 6: This gives veterans, both disabled and non-disabled, absolute preference in appointments over all others on civil service lists. In layoffs, all non-veterans—even merchant seamen, wives and children of veterans, or workers with years of seniority—would be dropped first. Like many other recent proposals, this amendment is part of a plan by big business and the capitalist politicians to divide veterans completely from the rest of the working population.

Vote NO on Amendment 6.

Proposition 1: Although the increase in state subsidy for public housing provided by this amendment is just a drop in the bucket, vote YES.

On the first five amendments we suggest the following vote:

(1) No; (2) Yes; (3) No; (4) Yes; (5) Yes.

New York Workers:

Friday, Nov. 2, 8:00 P.M.

AT

CARAVAN HALL

110 East 59th St.

Manhattan

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Come to SHACHTMAN-FOR-MAYOR RALLY

The Real Issue in the Elections

Hear

MAX SHACHTMAN, WORKERS PARTY CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR

ALBERT GATES, EDITOR OF LABOR ACTION

Mary Bell

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