

Professionals Should Strive For Economic Security

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The most vital problem confronting the professionals today is that of their economic security. It is an obvious fact that thousands of professionals are unable to secure a decent living in their respective professions, not because their services are not necessary or they lack ability in their chosen careers, for I have seen toppers in bar examinations working in law offices at a salary of 50 pesos a month or even less, and while thousands of men and women and children are dying for want of medical assistance, scores of doctors do not earn enough money to pay for their licenses. Also when millions of children are deprived of even primary education, a legion of teachers are unemployed because of lack of government funds.

The same problem confronts the dentist, the pharmacist, the engineer, the writer, the journalist and other professionals.

As the professional workers attending the National Congress for Unemployment and Social Insurance recently held in Washington said:

"The professional worker's relatively privileged status is gone. He now knows unemployment, insecurity, hunger, want. More than half the architects, engineers, chemists, research and laboratory workers in this country have no work. Teachers, nurses, and government employees in general have been let out in increasing numbers. Musicians, artists, dentists, and physicians have suffered a steep decline in income because the great mass of people lack money to buy their services. . . . The numbers of all these groups are being constantly augmented by college graduates for whom there is no future under our present system." And they stated the line of ac-

tion they intended to follow for their security saying:

"The professional worker. . . has been turning increasingly to the promotion of bread. . . groups whose orientation is frankly economic and which seek security for their members through collective action on specific issues and joint action with other workers' groups on common issues."

There is the remedy. We must unite with other workers to improve our common economic condition. So long as wealth is concentrated in the few of the privileged classes, while the great masses of the people, that is, the workers, farm-laborers and all wage-earners, become more and more impoverished, the professional workers cannot have economic security and many will not secure even a decent standard of living. For how can the masses of the people pay for our professional services if they do not earn even enough for their miserable daily food?

If the professionals want to improve their economic condition, they must forsake that old wrong notion that they belong with the privileged classes. On the contrary, we must be convinced that our interests and economic fate are bound up with those of the working class. By workers, I mean all who function in any part of the productive system, and the cultural, professional, technical and scientific services of society. We should not be condemned to a wretched life, while the parasites, who exploit the workers live luxuriously from the profits of their capital.

But we cannot secure these purposes by currying favor with the governing clique, "upholding and

defending the Constitution" and "conducting a campaign of civic information among the masses through public meeting and other means on what the government has done and is doing for the good of the country," as some would have us do. So, we must attain economic security by uniting with other workers in demanding social insurance, better wages and higher living standard for the working class.

There is no other way. As it is now, we the workers are shouldering all the burden of the economic depression and our living standard is going from bad to worse, while the proprietors, hacenderos and capitalists enjoy themselves in luxury. The poor get poorer and the rich richer.

Let us men and women of the so-called liberal professions shake off our middle class prejudices and take our place on the side of the workers in the class struggle. Let us organize or, as they say now, let us have our own racket, but it must be a racket to fight and end the biggest of all rackets, the capitalist racket.

The Soviet Style . . .

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the birth to provide for supplementary feeding.

In the case of funerals either of an insured person or of a dependent member of the insured's family, aid is given either in the form of money or by the trade union itself undertaking the funeral and charging the cost to the social insurance fund.

Pensions are paid to persons who are permanently disabled either as the result of professional accident, occupational disease or of causes unrelated to his occupation, and the payment of pensions begins as soon as invalidism is established. There is no lapse of time between the stoppage of aid for temporary disability and the beginning of pension payments. The invalids are divided into three groups depending on the extent to which they are disabled. The pension is a percentage of the average salary for the last twelve months of employment. The percentage is determined according to the group of invalids to which the person belongs; by the cause of invalidism; and in some cases by the type of work which

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