

I. F. T. U. Demands for Economic Planning

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Preface

- (1) The objective of the working class is to overthrow the economic order of private capitalism, which is built up on the private ownership of the means of production by the relatively few and which, as its only incentive is to obtain as high profits as possible, pursues its course anarchistically and without regard for the interests of the community. The working class seeks to substitute for this economic order a planned economic administration, the first principle of which will be to ensure an adequate supply of the needs of all. Such planned economic administration is alone able to give all men, and the working class in particular, their share in the natural wealth of the world and to enable them to enjoy the benefits rendered possible by the perfection of technique.
- (2) The working class considers it possible to build up an economic order based on the supply of needs even under present circumstances, especially as the failure of the mechanism of the economic order of private capitalism is steadily driving out private initiative and private economic administration and substituting for them economic administration by the State, its finances and its power. In any case, it will only be possible to put an end to the present economic crisis and to prevent the recurrence of similar catastrophes if the State intervention which has already taken place in certain countries, ceases to be merely sporadic and is adopted universally and systematically.
- (3) To achieve these objects, there must be a fundamental reconstruction of the economic system: the power of disposing of means of production must be transferred to the community and the various sections of a planned economic system must be fitted harmoniously in one with another. This objective can be pursued even within the framework of the present capitalist economic system and, if we are to avoid more terrible upheavals, it must be done on the basis of the present economic system. Hence the working class demands that in all countries the process of reconstruction shall go forward systematically under public control by the planned intervention of the State in economic administration, in order to substitute for machinery which is to-day ceasing to work a rationally-framed administration based on economic planning, functioning in the interests of the community.