

The Flynn Signature Campaign

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

Designation of Elizabeth Gurley Flynn as Councilmanic candidate from the 24th District of Manhattan in the November elections is a timely move, worthy of support by all workers and other democratic forces. Now the big job is completion of the task of obtaining 3,000 signatures to guarantee her place on the ballot.

To complete this job should be a first order of business by the Communists and all other progressive forces.

The working people of New York City, particularly the great Negro and Puerto Rican masses, are harassed by a whole series of flagrant evils that urgently demand correction, the shameful slum conditions that exist upon all sides, the rickety and inadequate condition of the school system and its element of jimcrowism, the prevalence of widespread graft and corruption in the city administration, the need for more adequate representation in the City Council for the Negro and Puerto Rican workers, and the general neglect and cynicism towards the real needs of the people.

The Democratic Wagner Administration is doing little or nothing about all this. It is another Tammany-type city government, such as has plagued New York from time immemorial. Its leaders believe they

have the election in the bag and that, therefore they are not called upon to make any real improvement in the situation. And it would be folly to expect the Christenberry Republican ticket, if elected, to introduce any serious betterment. This situation calls for the maximum pressure against these reactionaries both from within and without their parties' ranks.

This is clearly a situation where labor and the progressive forces should put forth an independent city ticket, in the spirit of developing a broad election coalition. Obviously, however, this is not going to be done. The trade unions are not building up such a movement, nor is the Liberal Party. And no other party is presently in a condition to do so effectively. It all goes to emphasize the ultimate need for a strong independent party of the workers and their political allies.

In this unsatisfactory election situation, Comrade Flynn's nomination strikes a strong and constructive note. She will make an effective candidate. In the long and bitter fight for peace and against McCarthyism, and the 28 months of federal prison under the Smith Act which grew out of it, she has again demonstrated her undying loyalty to the working class. Her courage and principle in this hard struggle has not been over-

looked by the workers, nor has her half a century of devoted struggle in behalf of the working class and the American people.

The campaign will provide Comrade Flynn with an excellent opportunity to bring the real issues of the campaign to great masses of the people, not only the questions of immediate local importance, but also the great international problems of peace and war that lie at the bottom of the local questions and profoundly shape them. She will be able to rouse large numbers of workers to bring constructive pressures to bear upon especially the Democratic Party, which the greatest masses of them still follow.

The campaign especially provides the Communist Party with an opportunity to again demonstrate its constructive program. Particularly this first task of completing the signature campaign to put Elizabeth Gurley Flynn on the ballot calls for vigorous action. All together, this local election struggle, particularly to develop the best possible campaign and support for Comrade Flynn, calls for a full expression of the well-known leading role, organizing ability, and fighting spirit of the Communist Party. In all this it must not fail.