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# Report of the Hungarian Socialist Labor Federation to the 16th Convention of the SLP, April 9, 1924

by Alex Kudlik

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April 9, 1924

Arnold Petersen, National Secretary.

Dear Comrade:

Comrade Theodore Vaszily, National Secretary of the Federation, is at present on an organizing tour, so to enable you to include the report of the Hungarian SLP in your report, I will outline the activities of the Federation since our 1920 convention to the present time.

### **Membership.**

According to the dues stamps bought from the National Office of the SLP, the Federation has had an average membership of 317 in 1920, 258 in 1921, 200 in 1922, and 250 in 1923, and at the present time the membership is on the way to a healthy increase. We can proudly say that though our membership is not large in quantity, it is very good in quality, sound in principle, and is in full accord with the tactics of the SLP. The Federation has now [15?] Branches in 10 states, and 1 in Canada. While Comrade Vaszily was on tour, he organized a new Branch in Erie, Pa., and one in Baltimore, Md.

### **Press.**

The Hungarian SLP organ, *A Munkas* (The Worker) is published weekly and its subscription price is \$2 per year. Its income was from individual subscriptions: \$5,186.25 in 1920, \$4,023.87 in 1921, \$3,477 in 1922, and \$3,846.90 in 1923. The average

circulation (including bundle orders) was 2,800 in 1920, 2,200 in 1921, 1,900 in 1923, and it is printed in 2,350 copies at present.

### **Leaflets.**

The Federation has published a total of 60,000 leaflets on five topics, including a translation of the 1920 campaign leaflet, "The Only Issue." All were distributed by the Branches and were sent also by mail to the members of different fraternal organizations for propaganda.

The Subcommittee of the Federation is of the belief that the Party should publish leaflets on timely topics more often and shall make its distributions compulsory for all SLP members.

### **Pamphlets.**

The Federation has published from 1920 to March 1924 five different pamphlets. These are:

*Socialism* by T.J. Holmes and *Factory Work* by William Morris (one pamphlet) — 3,000; *The Origin and Downfall of the Hungarian Council Republic* by Boehm Vilmos, preface by Alex Kudlik — 3,000; *Woman and the Socialist Movement* by Olive M. Johnson — 3,000; *The American Labor Movement* by Christ Anastasoff and *Is the SLP Justified?* by Alex Kudlik (one pamphlet) — 2,000; *Appeal to Woman* by Kelecsenyi Gyorgy — 2,000.

**Agitation.**

Unfortunately the Federation was unable to maintain an organizer in the field for a long period. An organizer employed steadily would be the best propaganda for the SLP, and to build up a strong organization. But we did our best to do agitation without the aid of a national organizer. We had an organizer in the field for a few weeks in 1920. We had also voluntary organizers in the field in and around Cleveland, which has the largest Hungarian colony.

Where we have Branches, it is customary to do house to house canvassing. In this way SLP literature is sold and subscriptions are secured. Every Branch has a regular business meeting once a month and several agitation meetings with local or district talent as speakers. To provide ways and means for better agitation, we have two district organizations. One is in South Norwalk and its territory is Connecticut and Greater New York. The other is in Loraine and its territory is Ohio. These District Committees have secured donations for the organization fund of the district from fraternal organizations, to the amount of about \$200.

Akron, Ohio, is the only place where we gain steadily. The subscription list of the *A Munkas* was increased from 88 in 1920 to 181 in February 1924. The comrades in other cities are in a race at present, attaining similar results.

**Financial Condition.**

The big industrial depression in 1921-22 was also hitting the Federation hard in a financial way. To save what we could, the national office was put on a voluntary work basis. The editing of *A Munkas* was done by Comrade A. Kudlik, and the National Secretary's duty was taken over by Comrade Fred Kardos. All work was done at night without pay, until a better condition arrived which made it possible to employ a comrade with pay. Comrade Vaszi was elected National Secretary and Editor and has taken charge of the national office in September 1922.

**Funds.**

For the 1920 National Campaign Fund we have sent to the national office of the SLP \$227.95; for the 3rd International Representative Fund \$310.40; for the Carrol-Pfister Defense Fund \$349.54; for the Manuel Relief Fund \$12.50. A Russian Famine Relief Fund of \$332.66 was collected and sent via Sweden to Moscow. In 1920 a Relief Fund of \$575.39 was collected for giving aid to the sufferers of Horthy's White Terror, and was sent to Vienna.

**Tactics.**

The membership of the Federation is very much in accord with the Party's stand as to the 3rd International and its 21 points, but there is a feeling that somehow another attempt should be made to enlighten the 3rd International about the real situation in the Labor Movement of the United States.

The NEC resolution on concentration of energies for the SLP was ratified unanimously by the membership and accordingly a WIIU local in Bridgeport, Conn., composed of mostly Hungarian SLP members was liquidated.

As to the "Third Party" and the so-called "United Front," the membership takes the same attitude as expressed in the editorials in the WEEKLY PEOPLE, which are as a rule republished in the *A Munkas*.

To sum up, the Federation as a whole is sound, healthy, and is willing to do all in its power to make the Socialist Labor Party, the only sound revolutionary political party, bigger and better to fight for the Socialist Industrial Republic of Labor.

By order of the Subcommittee of the Hungarian SLF,

Fraternally,

Alex Kudlik,  
Acting Secretary, HSLF

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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