
Debs' Denial

by J.A. Wayland

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Unsigned excerpts from Wayland's front page column relating to the campaign of 1900.

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The Democratic papers are howling for the laboring people not to vote for Debs but to cast their votes for the Democratic nominees. Y-e-s. The Democrats love the working people. Cleveland used the army against them in Illinois; the Democratic Governor of Idaho [Frank Steunenberg] has used and still uses the most brutal oppression toward the miners and has made it impossible for union men to obtain work. Yes, the Democratic Party is entitled to workers' votes!! If the Democratic Party favors socialism, if it wants the people to own something instead of the corporations everything, it should have Bryan and Stevenson withdraw in favor of Debs and Harriman. In every state where the Democrats control, the laboring masses are ground down worse than chattel slaves. Where has the Democratic Party failed to serve the capitalists? Look at the open bribery in Montana for United States Senator!

Pull down your ticket and support the Social Democrats. That will indicate you are sincere. All you are after is the loaves and fishes. You are just the Republican Party with another suit of clothes.

Debs' Denial.

Upon the appearance of the Democratic campaign lie that Debs would withdraw October 1 [1900] in favor of Bryan, the Appeal wired Comrade Debs — not because it took any stock in

the tale, but in order to state the matter in Debs' own words. His telegraphic reply is as follows:

Terre Haute, Ind.
July 20, 1900.

Appeal to Reason,
Girard, Kansas.

My reported withdrawal in favor of Bryan is absolutely false. It is a pure fabrication of the capitalistic press. As a socialist candidate I am equally opposed to all capitalistic parties of whatever name. The Democratic Party, like the Republican Party, stands for the capitalistic system and wage slavery, and I am uncompromisingly opposed to both. I am in the fight to the finish. All reports to the contrary are false and malicious.

Eugene V. Debs.

From National Headquarters.

(Special to the *Appeal*.)

Chicago, July 20.— Since the publication of the report that E.V. Debs was to withdraw from the presidential contest in favor of Bryan, letters and telegrams have been pouring into headquarters announcing the fact that the boys are highly amused at this old campaign trick. There is no danger of the Democrats or any other party being able to stampede the Social Democrats. The gang are onto every campaign trick that can be turned and there is no likelihood of loss to Debs and Harriman through any stories that can be floated. Everything indicates a vote this fall for socialism that will surprise the world.

Theodore Debs.

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A great vote for Debs and Harriman will be necessary to creating a Socialist Party. A million votes for them will cause millions of people to inquire into what the socialists mean, what they want. To investigate is to be convinced. No votes, no in-

quiry. If you are a socialist you throw your vote away to give it to other parties. Suppose no votes are cast, it will leave the impression that there are no socialists in this country. There are fully three millions of socialists in this country. If we had cast a million votes last year they would see some hope and would vote it this year. From now until election work for socialism.

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Duty of Socialists.

Do not be deluded by the claims of old party politicians. They will pretend friendship to anything for your votes. They have done this every four years and will continue to do it to the end of time, if you will put them in power. The duty of socialists is as plain as day — support men who represent what you want. We have no interest in other parties or those that represent them. It matters not to us whether McKinley or Bryan is ruler over us. They both believe in private capitalism. Both are opposed to socialism. Their platforms are cunningly phrased sentences to obtain votes and get them into power.

Neither of them can wholly ruin the country. Its land and people will be here when they are forgotten. The working people of all countries have been divided between parties put up by the upholders of the existing system. Each election the voters have been deluded into believing they would be benefitted by the success of this or that party. In Germany the workers have been aroused and a great socialist vote is building up. It will take time and work to build up a Socialist Party in this country. Every year it is delayed will prolong injustice and fasten tighter the bonds of industrial slavery.

The Democratic Party is no more to be trusted than the Republican Party. The mass of Republican voters believe their party will bring good conditions. They are as honest and sincere as the Democrats. But they both are mistaken. Good conditions cannot come so long as trusts and monopolies own the industries. Socialists want the people to own them. The Democrats

control some states, — Republicans control others. Either could make beneficent changes if they knew how or wanted to. But they do not.

We have millions who believe in socialism. They will ally themselves with the political movement when it begins to grow. We cast 100,000 votes at the last elections. We can make it a million this year. This election is like unto the election of 1856. Men will be as proud who cast a vote for Debs as they were for Lincoln. Let the capitalists make their own campaign. It matters nothing to us. Our duty is to show a great growth and thus encourage others who are timid. Quit voting the ticket of your masters. Vote for what you want. don't throw away your vote by downing socialism and upholding what you do not want.

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Edited by Tim Davenport

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