
14,000 Cheer Hillquit and Early Peace: Monster Meeting Held in Madison Square Garden for Socialist: Malone and Pinchot Shine as Pacifists [event of Oct. 31, 1917]

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Demands for “an early peace” were approved with outbursts of thunderous applause by 14,000 persons who packed Madison Square Garden last night [Oct. 31, 1917] at a rally held for Morris Hillquit, Socialist candidate for Mayor. Agents and stenographers from the Department of Justice were present at the meeting.

Every mention of peace evoked a sympathetic demonstration. References to Mayor [John] Mitchell, Judge [John] Hylan, Colonel [Theodore] Roosevelt, Elihu Root, Postmaster General [Albert] Burleson, and the war were greeted with hoots, hisses, and catcalls.

The meeting was marked by the frequency and fervor of the interrupting enthusiasm. Mr. Hillquit received two ovations that lasted 25 minutes. When he entered the building the whole audience rose and cheered for 16 minutes. Again, when he was introduced by Amos Pinchot, the chairman, as “New York City’s next Mayor,” the scene was a tumult. Men and women stood in their chairs. Thousands of hats were tossed into the air. Whistling, cheering, pounding of feet, and a mighty chorus of hoarse voices mingled in the din that lasted 9 minutes.

Another Wild Outburst.

When Mr. Hillquit referred to his platform as preaching “the gospel of world peace” there was another wild outburst.

The Socialist candidate was not alone in receiving applause. It was shared by Mr. Pinchot, who declared that [Fusion Republican] Mayor Mitchel, "because of his disloyalty to the people," and [Straight Republican] Mr. [William M.] Bennett were "no longer in the race," but that "the choice is now between Mr. Hylan and Mr. Hillquit." The thunderous applause was shared also by Dudley Field Malone.

Mr. Malone, who was introduced as "the man who gave up a \$12,500 job to help in the fight for Hillquit and a democratic government for New York, attacked Colonel Roosevelt. Standing on a platform raised 20 feet above the ground floor, and with arms gesticulating dramatically, he questioned Colonel Roosevelt's sincerity in offering to lead an American contingent to France.

"Colonel Roosevelt only recently disclosed his disability and could not have gone under any circumstances," said Mr. Malone. "If I had his zeal to fight I would have waited here for epaulettes. I would have done as the great Lafayette did — gone and fought as a private."

Federal Agents Appear.

Just then a half a dozen Federal officials walked up the aisle and stood beneath the platform with their hats on. Mr. Malone recognized them, "I am glad to see that the United States government is adequately represented here by the District Attorney's office and their stenographers. They will hear good American doctrines and get a liberal education." That provoked jeers for the officials and cheers for Mr. Malone's sentiments.

Talking of peace, Mr. Malone said, "How is peace to come? Is it to come as Roosevelt, Root, and Mitchel believe — by making a bayonet long enough to reach Berlin?"

"No! No!" chorused the audience.

"Permanent peace can be assured only through the democratization of the German Empire. To follow the policy of the militarists in our country would mean that by force of arms we might destroy the Kaiser and his military clique, but mere warfare alone can never achieve the democratization of the German Empire. The real liberalizing forces in Germany are the Socialists, and if we expect to help them achieve peace we must not suppress the free discussion of similar peace terms in this country." Mr. Malone then launched into an attack on Mr. Burleson for suppressing Socialist newspapers.

Incidentally, Mr. Malone provoked a wave of sympathy for woman suffrage when he demanded the passage of a constitutional amendment “to give women their political freedom, so they will no longer have to clamor at the White House gates and then be thrown into a rotten prison.”

Gives Mitchel Fifth Avenue.

Mr. Pinchot said while he considered Mayor Mitchel was out of the race, he would concede that “he will carry Fifth Avenue.”

Mr. Hillquit appeared on the platform standing between two young soldiers in uniform. They said they were from Camp Upton. One of them gave his name as Isador Gennett, of the 306th Machine Gun Battalion, 1st Corps.

“The Socialists have brought a new spirit and a new tone into this campaign,” said Mr. Hillquit.

“The other political parties have been daily insulting the intelligence of the voters by a disgusting exhibition of petty mutual abuse and recrimination. Think of a political party and a candidate for the highest office in this greatest city of the world putting the campaign against a rival for office on the ground that a well known millionaire calls him “Jack.”

“Think of the counter-attack of that self-same ‘Jack’ upon his opponent on the ground that the latter’s name had appeared some time ago as one of the honorary vice-presidents on the letterhead of a peace society!¹

Scores His Critics

“Think of both parties attacking the Socialist nominee on lying accounts of his private business and private income and elaborate descriptions of his home, his kitchen, his bedrooms! And this while the country is passing through the greatest crisis in its history. While the whole world is on fire, and the most stirring issues of local, national, and international import are agitating the minds of all thinking persons.

“The Socialist Party alone has lifted this campaign from the mire of personal abuse to the higher level of a dignified and seri-

¹ Reference is to an attack on Tammany Democrat John Hylan. During the campaign the Irish-American Hylan made only broad patriotic statements without giving a ringing endorsement of the French and British war against the Central Powers which the Wilson Administration had joined.

ous political and social contest; and that is one reason why it has attracted to its support not only the masses of the workers, but also the best elements from all other classes.

“We have again accustomed the people of this free Republic to argue out their difference of opinion; to express their honest views without being threatened to be shot at sunrise as Elihu Root did in speaking of editors of opposition newspapers; without being lynched, with semi-public sanction as Frank Little was; without being mobbed as Herbert Bigelow was the other day. We have broken the unreasoning, un-American mob spirit, and no power of reaction and oppression will ever again be able to resurrect the deadly spirit in New York after this election.”

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport

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