
Where Miss Strong Stands:

Statement by Anna Louise Strong, Member of Seattle School Board.

by Anna Louise Strong

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The issues are:

Not whether you agree with all my views,
but rather:

Whether false charges and twisted rumors
can be sheltered successfully be-
hind the waving of our flag;

Whether, in this dark hour
of the world's need, citizens can be
denied the right to discuss laws
pending in Congress;

Whether it is treason to hope
that the stand our President has
taken may lead to a speedy, demo-
cratic peace;

Whether, while making the
world safe for democracy, we are
going to allow some interests to
destroy democracy in our own
land.

On Patriotism.

I take patriotism to mean
love of country and devotion to
its service.

My whole life has been given to the service
of my country, in efforts to establish better and
more wholesome conditions for its citizens, more
equal opportunities for the children who are to
build its future, and a steadier maintenance of

those ideals for which this national was founded
— freedom of thought and expression and demo-
cratic control.

This I take to be the essence of patriotism.



The Charges.

I call your atten-
tion to the fact that any
group of citizens may
charge any official with
any crime whatever, and
have the charge printed
on the ballot. I have no
legal redress and no
space on the ballot to
print a denial.

No attack has been
made on my work as a
board member. Hence I
need not take space to
give my record. I am
charged with conspiring
against the Selective Ser-

vice Law by aiding in the distribution of a circu-
lar which, it is alleged, urged resistance to the draft.

The charges are *entirely false*.

The evidence shows, and my accusers know,
or ought to know: (1) That the meeting to which
they allude was public and open, and took place

nearly 3 weeks BEFORE the draft law was passed; (2) that I had no connection with the circular they describe; (3) that even that circular was distributed a week before the draft law passed.

On the War.

I was opposed to the war and worked against it until war was declared. But war arises inevitably from conditions existing in the world today and cannot be waved aside by individual good will or desire for more ideal methods.

Now that we are at war, I wish the best possible fortune for our boys, the hope of our country's future. I hope, at the end of the war, first, that democracy may make signal gains all over the world; and, second, that the moment a permanent, democratic peace becomes possible we may be in a position to take advantage of it, without the unnecessary loss of one life.

The position taken by our President bids fair to secure these ends, if he is upheld in it by loyal citizens. He is being attacked by the same forces that are attacking me — the jingo-autocrat group who believe that warlike enthusiasm is a complete substitute for statesmanlike thinking. I support our President and any other officials or private citizens who are sincerely and efficiently trying to gain, out of the present turmoil, the ends above described.

Yours for real democracy and permanent peace,

Anna Louise Strong.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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