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# Official Minutes of the General Committee of the Socialist Party of St. Louis, August 4, 1919

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St. Louis, Mo., August 4, 1919.

Regular meeting of the General Committee called to order at 8:10 pm. [George] Tourville elected chairman. The following comrades were seated on credentials: W.F. Boettcher and D. Onken of Ward 3-18, and Otto Pauls of Ward 13 North Branch. Mrs. Anna Kessler of German Women's Branch admitted to membership.

## Secretary's Report.

Of which you will find attached an amended copy, with Comrade Proske's name stricken out.<sup>1</sup> Motion made that the report be received and [its] recommendations concurred in.

After considerable discussion, a motion was made to lay the report on the table. Motion lost by a vote of 18 to 17.

Original motion carried by a vote of 22 to 16.

The following five comrades were elected as the committee to hear the charges: John S'Renco, John Munck, Charles Seifert, Adolph Koch, and Sigmund S'Renco.

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<sup>1</sup> See W.M. Brandt, "Report of the Secretary to the General Committee of the Socialist Party of St. Louis" [Aug. 4, 1919]. Corvallis, OR: 1000 Flowers Publishing, 2014.

The Secretary [William Brandt] also submitted the following recommendations, which were adopted by a vote of 18 to 15:

I hereby recommend that a roll call be held of the delegates present on the following questions:

(1) Are you a supporter of the National or local left wing movement as represented by the organization with headquarters in Chicago, Dennis E. Batt, Secretary, or the other National left wing organization with headquarters in New York City, I.E. Ferguson, Secretary?

(2) Have you taken part in the proceedings and the organization of any Left Wing sections here in St. Louis?

A roll call was taken on these two recommendations, the vote being as follows: No — 29; Yes — 6; Present but refusing to vote — 10.

### **Executive Committee Report.**

Showing net proceeds from the New Club Hall meeting [July 20, 1919] amounting to \$50.81 [???], this amount to be donated to the National Party Defense Fund. Received and concurred in.

Also, in connection with this meeting, your Executive Committee reports that it was decided by the sub-committee having the arrangements in charge that no literature dealing with the left wing controversy should be sold or distributed at this meeting. Notwithstanding this, a number of our comrades violated this action.

Also that at your Executive Committee meeting, a motion was put forward to hold a General Membership meeting to discuss the left wing controversy. Your Executive Committee voted down this motion by a vote of five (5) to three (3).

At this juncture [Left Wing Executive Committee] delegates [Joseph] Stutz and [Joseph] Norvell stated it was their desire to bring before this meeting a demand for a General Membership meeting, and they asked of the chair to make a ruling, that if the

vote on this question from the Executive Committee would decide the proposition of holding a general membership meeting. The chair ruled that if you vote for the Executive Committee report, it means that there will be no General Membership meeting.

The Executive Committee report was adopted by a vote of 18 to 15.

### **Communications.**

Communication read from Comrade Tucker, offering to speak here Sunday afternoon, August 17th; terms, \$30 flat. Proposition accepted and decided to hold the meeting at new Club Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

[*W.M. Brandt,*]

[Secretary.]

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*Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport*

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