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# **Delegates Ask US Recognize Soviet Russia: Convention Condemns Boycott Against Workers' Republic — New Executive Committee Chosen: Federations Intact: War Veterans, Misled by Press Lie, Visit Hall to Protest — Silenced by Vigorous Reply**

by William M. Feigenbaum

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DETROIT, June 29 [1921].— The 9th national convention of the Socialist Party ended its sessions here today after putting behind it a hard day's work in the sweltering heat, from which the following actions emerge as most important:

1. Sent a vigorous letter to President Harding and Attorney General Daugherty, protesting against the "outrageous delay" in considering the question of releasing Eugene V. Debs, Joseph Coldwell, and other political prisoners of the government, and demanding an immediate definite reply.

2. Adopted unanimously a ringing resolution congratulating Soviet Russia, denouncing the imperialistic attacks on it and America's participation in them and in the present economic boycott, and demanding immediate recognition of the workers' republic by the United States.

3. Received a delegation of disabled ex-service men, listened to a protest against bloody revolution based on a garbled newspaper story, and sent the former soldiers away satisfied, after treating them to a brief, pithy explanation of the Socialist Party's position on war and its determination to assert its rights of free speech at all times.

The convention demanded that the government recognize Soviet Russia. Evils existing in Russia, the resolution declared, were wholly or largely due to the animosity of the capitalist powers.

"By their heroic struggle to abolish class rule and

exploitation," the resolution continued, "the Russian people have given inspiration and incalculable aid to the working class movement in all lands. Their defeat would mean disaster to us. Their victory will be a victory for us as well."

The convention adjourned with cheering for international Socialism, with the singing of "The Internationale," with fellowship and comradeship. The feature of the closing session was the expediting of business, a tribute to the excellent agenda system used for the first time this year by the party.

## **New Committee Elected.**

Two other important resolutions were adopted by the convention. One congratulated the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America and the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union on their success in upholding their standards against the employers' open shop drive.

The other laid down four rules to guide municipal or other local administrations where the Socialist Party is in control.

Through the sweltering day the delegates toiled to clear up the agenda. A new National Executive Committee was elected, composed of James Oneal, 32 votes; James H. Maurer, 32; William H. Henry, 29; William M. Brandt, 27; E.T. Melms, 27; Lilit Martin, 27; and Julius Gerber, 22. William F. Kruse

and Joseph W. Sharts received 18 and 16 votes, respectively, but were not elected.

The following 7 alternates were elected: Algeron Lee, 25 votes; J.W. Sharts, 24; Joseph Bearak, 24; Madge Patton Stevens, 24; Robert H. Howe, 23; B.C. Vladeck, 22; and William F. Kruse, 20. Ida Crouch Hazlett, Leo Krzycki, and Fred Feuchter received 19, 15, and 12 votes, respectively, but were not elected.

### **Federations Intact.**

The federation question, after being debated for hours, was settled by passing a few minor amendments to the constitution and leaving the federations practically intact.

Following is the needle trades resolution:

The Socialist Party, in national convention assembled, rejoices in the success achieved by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America and the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in upholding their standards against the organized employers in the midst of the intense depression which has prevailed throughout the past year.

The defeat of the open shop drive in the needle industry will be an inspiration and a source of strength to the workers in all other fields of production. We attributed the success of these unions chiefly to the strong feeling of solidarity and the intelligent understanding of the class struggle which have been developed among the rank and file through years of [active] organization work and educational activity, in which their own press and also the Socialist papers which they have helped to maintain have played a very large part. We are confident that the same spirit and power can be developed among the workers in all other industries, and that the working class movement on the economic field can thus be rendered invincible even under the most critical circumstances.

### **Rules for Socialist Executives.**

The resolution on municipal administration follows:

Wherever the Socialist Party is in control of a municipal or other local administration they should be guided by the following rules with regard to public employment of labor and the filling of appointive offices:

1. In the matter of wages, hours, and conditions of labor, they should maintain standards equal to or better than those which prevail in private employment.

2. They should establish suitable agencies for the statement and redress of grievances and also for the enlisting the active cooperation of the public employees in improving methods and developing the highest degree of efficiency.

3. They should apply the Civil Service system as far as

possible, for the purpose both of getting efficient work and of discouraging office-seeking and political trading for jobs.

4. Where the Civil Service system is not applicable the appointments should be made by the executive by and with the advice of the caucus or conference of all the Socialist elected officials within the unit in question.

### **Ex-Soldiers Visit Convention.**

A garbled report of a speech in the convention here, published in the [Detroit] Free Press, brought a delegation from the convention of the Disabled World War Veterans' Association to Auto Workers' Hall today, to "warn" the Socialists against a bloody revolution.

The disabled war veterans, headed by W.H. Horr of Seattle, appeared to be pretty well recovered from their experiences overseas when they marched into the Socialist convention. Horr demanded the floor, and Cameron King, presiding, invited him to the platform.

"Information has come to us," Horr asserted, "that there are certain persons here who have said that they were not 100 Percent American and that they wouldn't fight under any flag but the red flag. We do not advocate force, but if there is any disloyalty we will meet it as we have met other enemies, with machine guns.

"We warn you," Horr shouted, "that force will be met with force. We are of many political parties, but we are united on the protection of the flag that protects us all. We have made sacrifices and we are ready to do it again. We are willing to do it on foreign fields, or domestic.

"As long as you act peaceably it is all right, but if you have any idea of starting a revolution you will have to take the veterans into account. If you have any war-like intentions we will fight you. I hope we have implanted in you the love of our flag."

### **King Answers Horr.**

Erect, with flashing eyes, Chairman King explained to Horr:

"Mr. Horr and committee from the Disabled Veterans of the World War, we are glad to state the position of the Socialist Party on the question you have raised. It has been stated many times. We understand the motives which impelled you to participate in the

world war and for which you have suffered so grievously. The Socialist Party was opposed to this war, which disabled and crippled so many of you and caused the deaths of others. We acted as a political party, exercising our prerogative to influence the destiny of this nation, just as the Republican and Democratic Parties following their respective policies.

“In 1914 there was only one organization in the world which attempted to stop the war, which has caused you and millions like you such suffering. That was the international Socialist movement. We are proud of our internationalism. We only regret that we were too weak to stop the war. Our force was insufficient to prevent the workers of the various nations being hurled into a conflict out of which they only got wounds, disabilities, and death.

### **Have Suffered, Too.**

“You have suffered. But we also have suffered. Our comrades have been imprisoned for exercising the right of free speech and free assemblage. Their only crime was an endeavor to prevent the war in which you have been sacrificed. We stand upon our right to free speech and free assemblage. These are our rights under the Constitution. And these we will maintain.

“Having said so much the chair will recognize one of our national leaders, Comrade Algernon Lee, an elected alderman of New York, who has been kept out of his office by those who boast of 100% Americanism, while they defy the foundation of popular liberty, the people’s vote.”

Lee rose in his place and said:

“Comrade Chairman, I think it is unnecessary for me to add anything to what you have so well said. You have expressed my thoughts, and I believe that you have expressed the thoughts of every delegate in this convention. I therefore move that the remarks from the chair stand as the reply of this convention to the address made by the spokesman of the Disabled Veterans of the World War, and that the convention pass to the regular order of business.”

The motion was immediately put, passed without dissent, and the ex-service men, apparently satisfied, filed out.

The following resolutions on anti-Semitism was adopted by the convention:

The Socialist Party of the United States, in convention assembled, raises its voice to protest against the frightful persecution of the Jews in various parts of the Old World, in which hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children have been slaughtered and other hideous outrages perpetrated. We denounce also the campaign of forgery and slander by which certain reactionary element in this country seek to create prejudice and hatred against the Jewish people. Those who thus propagate antagonism in the United States thereby make themselves accomplices in the bloody massacres in the Old World.

This revival of race antagonism in its worst forms is very largely a direct result of the world war, which glorified violence and set loose every brutal passion; and in every case it has been used to support the rule of capitalists, aristocrats, and militarists, and to divide and weaken the forces of the working class democracy.

We further call attention to the fact that the imperialistic League of Nations, while ever ready to use armed force to decided territorial disputes in the interests of high finance, has cynically looked on at the mass murder of Jews in Poland, the Ukraine, and elsewhere, and even, in some cases, given positive support to the murderers.

### **Greetings Sent to Mooney.**

With great enthusiasm the convention listened to George H. Goebel in a powerful plea for the continuance of amnesty work. Celia Rotter reported on her successful work in Southern Illinois and Kruse and Engdahl urged that the work be continued.

Cameron King reported to the convention the project of the California Socialists, who are going ahead with plans to put the question of a new trial for Tom Mooney to a vote in the state initiative and referendum. The report on motion of Noonan was endorsed, and greetings were ordered sent to Mooney on behalf of the party and the convention.

Morris Novik of New York, who is fraternal delegate of the YPSL, reported the plan of his organization for reorganization of the Yipsels. After a considerable discussion the plan was endorsed by the convention, and the new National Executive Committee instructed to call a convention of the National YPSL within 6 months to reorganize as a national organization.

### **Goebel Talks on Call.**

Among the agenda motions passed was one providing for a control of elected Socialist officials by the party organization, a motion strongly supported by

Mayor Hoan and Alderman Coleman of Milwaukee. The project for occupational branches was tabled.

One of the stirring events of an eventful day was a strong address by Goebel on *The Call*. He was listened to with close attention, and following his address numbers of delegates pledge their fullest support for *The Call*. Goebel told of the struggles of the paper.

Before closing the convention, Chairman King called upon Engdahl, Branstetter, Hoan, Lilith Martin, Lee, Valenti, and others for short addresses and then he made a moving plea for party unity. He told the story of the brave death of Herbert C. Tuck, former editor of the *Oakland World*, and how his sole thought was for the success of the cause.

“And when I think of the glorious death of that noble man, and when I think of the prisoner of Atlanta [Debs], I am moved to appeal to all of the comrades to redouble our efforts in the cause. The forces of history are fighting on our side. We cannot lose. This convention is adjourned.”

The report of the Jewish Federation was distributed but not read, as it came too late.

***Edited by Tim Davenport.***

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