
Resolution on the Debs Nomination: Adopted by the First Convention of the United Communist Party, Bridgman, MI — May 31, 1920.

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The Communist Party and the Communist Labor Party, before unity was achieved, each made clear that it could in no way support the candidacy of Eugene V. Debs for President on the Socialist ticket. The reasons for this stand were fully stated by both parties; and appeal was made to Comrade Debs to reconsider his acceptance of the nomination from the Socialist Party.

At the time of this convention it appears that Comrade Debs has formally accepted the Socialist nomination, though not without misgiving that his name is being used by the political tricksters of that corrupt organization to retrieve their party from the blow of the Left Wing exodus of 1919.

The United Communist Party reaffirms the declarations of the two Communist parties concerning this nomination. The name of Debs cannot in least alter the fact that the Socialist Party of the United States is an organization inherently anti-revolutionary, in that it fosters the illusion that capitalism can be destroyed through the legislative and constitutional methods of capitalist “democracy.” The Socialist Party has the ambition to make itself part of this capitalist government, thereby to reform it. The Communists stand for the destruction of this form of government and constitutionalism, since these are in their very nature the mainstay of capitalist exploitation. The Socialists seek to act only within the forms of capitalist “democracy.” The Communists propose to develop separate forms of working class power and

action for the attainment of the revolution, and depend upon the Dictatorship of the Proletariat, exercised through the council system — the soviets — for the abolition of capitalism and the establishment of Communism.

While we recognize the difficult circumstances under which Comrade Debs had made this decision, with the opportunities for misrepresentation about the facts of the Socialist Party split of last year, nevertheless neither respect and love for Debs, nor admiration for his long service in the militant labor movement of this country, can efface the fact that this nomination makes him the standard-bearer of the Right Wing remnant of the party which existed at the time he went into the Atlanta penitentiary. This Right Wing is of the same caliber and potentiality as the Socialists betrayers of the revolutionary struggle in Russia, Germany, and other countries of Europe.

We shall acquaint Comrade Debs, so far as possible, with the true situation of the revolutionary movement in this country at this time, and with the traitorous purpose for which his name is being used by the miserable remnant of the Socialist Party.

Meanwhile, the United Communist Party reiterates its opposition to any candidacy of the Socialist or other “labor reform” party, whether this candidacy be of Eugene V. Debs or anybody else.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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