

Report Submitted in Behalf of the Jewish Socialist Agitation Bureau to the Socialist Party National Convention. [May 1912]

by Jacob Panken

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This foreign-speaking organization is organized on an entirely different basis than any of the other foreign-speaking organizations. The membership is affiliated with the Socialist Party in the respective states and counties directly, paying the same dues as the English-speaking members of such localities do. The branches of the Bureau are in every respect similar to the ordinary party locals or branches, excepting that they use and speak the Jewish language in their meetings and to a great extent use the same in the general propaganda.

Since the last Socialist Congress held in Chicago, 1910, the Bureau has extended its usefulness over 30 states. In the last two years it has organized 16 new branches which are directly affiliated with the party, taking their places side by side with the English speaking organizations.

While the Bureau is not connected directly with the national Socialist Party, as provided for in the National Constitution, the National Executive Committee has helped the Bureau in its work materially, donating sums of money for propaganda purposes, and the National Secretary helping by valuable advice.

A partial report of the work actually done, which we herein submit, will clearly show the good that can be accomplished by foreign-speaking organizations among the immigrant workers in America.

Hall Meetings.

May 1910 - May 1912	320
Average attendance	200
Total attendance	64,000

Leaflets published and sold	150,000
Price per 1,000	\$1.50
Total	\$225.00

Leaflets Distributed by the Bureau.

Without cost to the branches	40,000
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Booklets Published and Sold.

Various Booklets	15,000
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These booklets were sold in 1911 for prices ranging from \$20.00 to \$35.00 per thousand.

American Government Booklets Sold (\$70 per M.)	4,000
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The American Government Booklet referred to is one that could be easily translated into other languages and would be of invaluable use among immigrant workers of other nationalities.

At the present time the Bureau is in communication with upwards of 80 branches in about 30 states. Besides, it is in communication with hundreds of branches of the Workman's Circle. It might be added that the Workman's Circle is of great help to this Bureau in its work.

There can hardly be two opinions as to the necessity of foreign-speaking organizations. The comrades of the non-English speaking nations are surely best fitted to carry on the propaganda among their own people. Yet, in some instances, local county organiza-

tions have refused to permit the organization of Language Groups.

The Constitution should be amended so as to give foreign comrades speaking foreign languages the right to organize separate branches and to conduct their affairs in the language they know best. At the same time it should be provided that all branches must affiliate with the local movement in their respective localities, and through these local organizations with the National party.

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Edited by Tim Davenport.

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