
Hillquit Starts Debate on Party War Resolutions: Declares Report of Majority Takes Absolute Position Against Conflict: Scores Minority's Views.

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ST. LOUIS.— Declaring the majority report took an absolute, uncompromising position against war, Morris Hillquit opened the debate against two minority reports championed by Louis B. Boudin and John Spargo.

"I honor Spargo for being sincere in taking the position he does," said Hillquit. "It requires some courage to take the position not favored by this convention.

"I can not say the same for Boudin," continued Hillquit. "He submits minority reports on all occasions. He has a minority report in him and it has got to come out."

Denounces Boudin Report.

Hillquit denounced Boudin's minority report as being utterly un-Socialistic, utterly pro-Ally, and pro-war.

Spargo and Boudin both attacked the majority report, saying it was a compromise between such extremists as Berger and [Maynard] Shipley, [Algernon] Lee and [Frank] Midney, between the nationalist Berger and the un-nationalist Shipley.

Hillquit replied that the 11 members of the committee signing the majority report resolved to be done with hairsplitting once and for all, and pleaded with the convention also to be done with hairsplitting.

Will Speak for Himself.

"I'll speak for myself," declared Victor Berger, when Boudin asked Hillquit how Berger could sign the report.

The report of the Committee on War and Militarism did not come until the 5th day of the convention [April 11, 1917]. Many of the delegates had become restless over the delay. Kate Richards O'Hare, chairman of the committee, in making a general report, said the committee had been working day and night ever since its appointment. The committee had received 41 resolutions, 22 of which suggested practical programs, most of these from the agricultural states and having to do with the control of the supply and distribution of food.

All Reports Applauded.

In presenting their reports, Hillquit, Spargo, and Boudin were listened to with great earnestness, and liberally applauded.

Spargo declared there was a minority in the party holding the views he had set forth. He said they were small and weak numerically.

"I am appalled by the intolerant spirit manifesting itself in some of the resolutions that have been introduced, and in some section sections of the convention," he said in attacking those who wanted to expel everyone from the party not taking the orthodox position on the question of war and militarism.

He declared this was an attempt to establish mob autocracy. He attacked the majority report as evading principles and substituting phrases. He said Berger claimed there were two schools of Socialism, the historical school and the hysterical school, and that the majority report belonged to the hysterical school.

Prisoners Send Greetings.

The five labor prisoners in San Francisco sent their greetings to the conventions, declaring "the Socialist and labor movement can save us, as they did John W. Lawson in Colorado. Liberty or death is our motto." The message was signed by Tom Mooney. The convention sent a telegram to President Wilson protesting against suppression of free speech and free assemblage. It follows:

Constituted authorities in various sections of the country are suppressing the right of free speech and assemblage by preventing the holding of meetings called to protest against war and militarism. Socialist Party national convention, assembled in St. Louis, enters its protest against this procedure and urges you to see to it that constitutional rights are preserved and the laws faithfully executed.

Will Compile Expenses.

The convention voted that the National Executive Committee be instructed to compile a statement of the total indebtedness of the national organization, including the expenses of the Emergency Convention, and apportion the same to the state organizations on the basis of their present membership, and that each state organization be required to make final report and payment within 90 days.

Resolutions were adopted urging a congressional investigation in the Mooney case and a reprieve of Mooney pending such investigation. Resolutions were also adopted on the Everett, Wash., cases demanding of Congress a federal investigation and instructing [Congressman] Meyer London to present this petition to Congress at the earliest possible moment and to do all in his power to get favorable action.

Oppose League Fusion.

Resolutions declaring against fusion or compro-

mise of the state organizations of the Socialist Party with the state organizations of the Non-Partisan League were adopted by 114 to 56. The resolutions follow:

Whereas, a new political party called the National Non-Partisan League that according to the report upon the same by Comrade John Spargo to this convention, offers promise of speedily acquiring political power for a certain division of the industrial class of the United States, viz: the toilers of the soil, and

Whereas, in North Dakota and other states it appears that large numbers of comrades have affiliated with the league in the hope of speedy economic reforms through political victory under the banners of the league and such movement being already at work in many others states with a fair promise of success in all; and it being apparent that the National Non-Partisan League presents a problem for solution that must be met and must be solved if the Socialist Party is to continue as a political or a social force in such states as are invaded by the league; it being further manifest that many of the comrades in such states propose to affiliate with the said league merely for the reason that they mistake the mission of the Socialist Party,

It, therefore, becomes the duty of this convention to reaffirm the principles of Socialists, and declare the principles of the party in the performance of its historic mission.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Socialist Party being the political arm of the working class in its fight for industrial freedom and its power resting mainly in its clear-cut, specific declaration of political and economic principles rather than in the number of votes cast for party candidates, and the purpose of the Socialist movement being the emancipation of the working class from economic servitude by the abolition of capitalist exploitation rather than the election to office of candidates for the purpose of speedy economic reform, it is, therefore, declared to be the sense of this convention that all state organizations facing the solution of this question be urged to remember that to fuse or to compromise is to be swallowed up and utterly destroyed; that they be urged to maintain the revolutionary position of the Socialist Party and maintain in the utmost possible vigor the propaganda of Socialism unadulterated by association of office seekers to the end that the solidarity of the working class, the principles of international Socialism, may continue to lay the foundations for the social revolution.

The social revolution, not political office, is the end and aim of the Socialist Party. No compromise, no political trading.

Arthur LeSueur, former member of the National Executive Committee, drew up the resolution for the committee on resolutions and made the principal speech in support of the resolution before the convention. Despite that he is the legal counsel for the Non-Partisan League, he urged Socialists to fight the league.

"Treat the league like any other political party," he said.

The convention received a telegram that William Prosser had been arrested in Pittsburgh and held under \$10,000 bail for making a speech against war.

Resolutions were adopted by the convention in favor of the organization of Young People's Socialist Leagues.

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