
Socialists Expel Simons, Gaylord: County Central Committee Vote Stands 63 For and 3 Against [event of May 23, 1917]

Unsigned report in the *Milwaukee Leader*, v. 6, no. 143 (May 24, 1917), pg. 1.

By a 63 to 3 vote, the County Central Committee of the Socialist Party expelled Winfield R. Gaylord and A.M. Simons Wednesday night [May 23, 1917]. This action sustained the charges of the Executive Committee, which specifically accused Gaylord and Simons of the following acts:

Publicly slandering the Socialist Party and the Socialist convention in the capitalist press;

Publicly slandering members of the Socialist Party in the capitalist press;

Bringing the Socialist Party into disrepute by accusing it of sending out treasonable matter and of treasonable conduct.

The Central Committee sustained the charges after receiving documentary evidence submitted by the Executive Committee and copies of *The Congressional Record* containing a letter to Senator Paul Husting from Gaylord and Simons denouncing as treasonable the majority report of the recent Socialist convention in St. Louis [April 7-14, 1917], and recommending its suppression by the government. Senator Husting used this letter and communications from Gaylord and Simons to the *Milwaukee Journal* in support of the Espionage Bill.

Neither of the men appeared before the meeting, but letters from both were ready by E.T. Melms, county organizer.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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