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# Benson Scores Proposal to Withdraw US Army

by Allan L. Benson

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According to reports in the public press, Victor L. Berger is making speeches in his campaign in Wisconsin for the United States Senate in which he demands the immediate withdrawal of the American army from Europe. The Socialists of Belgium, France, and England would, I am sure, oppose such a move as I believe would also the imprisoned Liebknecht and, probably, the 40 Independent Socialists in the German Reichstag.

I believe the Socialist Party of America, could it but speak at this moment, would also join this international chorus of dissent, as I have no reason to doubt that American Socialists are as loyal to the Allied cause as are any other Americans.

I am therefore particularly anxious that the movement, already growing within the party, to bring about a restatement of its war attitude shall be speeded, to the end that another Emergency War Convention shall be held to undo the harm done by the one a year ago [St. Louis: April 7-14, 1917] when the tremendous excitement attendant upon the outbreak of war unsettled many judgments. The party should no longer be called upon to submit to the humiliation and injury that inevitably attend the arrest and the indictment of the occasional individual who may declare, for in-

stance, as one individual a few days ago did declare, that the government countenanced profiteering.

I believe there is much less profiteering under Wilson than there was under Lincoln, as I also believe Wilson detests the financial scoundrels of the present day no less than did Lincoln in his day. Karl Marx certainly did not let the profiteering of the Civil War period prevent him from writing to Lincoln a letter in which he expressed both his appreciation and his admiration of the motives that actuated the Great Emancipation. Marx knew, and we should realize, that when one is waging war he must subordinate everything else to the satisfaction of the hour's great needs, and that in providing for the needs he may be unable to keep out the greeds of the profiteers.

Certainly the issues that are balancing in the battle-scales of Europe are far more momentous than those with which Lincoln was called upon to deal, and where Marx enthusiastically approved, we cannot falter. The President has given every indication of his desire to end the war on just terms, and we may be sure that he will continue this policy to the end.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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