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# Convention Urges US to Recognize Republic of Erin: National Emergency Party Gathering Calls on British Workers to Cooperate with Irish Labor in Fighting English Imperialism.

## Formation of Socialist Press Syndicate Favored: Question of Naming Debs for Presidency Put Over Until Today — Resolutions Adolpted Demand Berger Be Seated in Congress and Denounce Recent Race Riots.

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CHICAGO, Sept. 3 [1919].— A syndicate of all Socialist papers in the country with connections throughout the world is forecast as a result of the Press Committee's report to the National Emergency Convention of the Socialist Party here, which was adopted unanimously.

The incoming National Executive Committee will call a conference shortly of all important Socialist papers, looking toward the formation of such a syndicate. There are 10 dailies now, and 2 more will begin publishing within a few months.

If there had been such an organization of the Socialist press, the present crisis in the party would have been averted, the committee reported. Eugene Wood, chairman, presented the report, which was hailed by the convention as the most inspiring piece of constructive work it has accomplished so far.

The question of the nomination of Eugene Victor Debs for President goes over until tomorrow. Seymour Stedman has been endeavoring for the last 48 hours to get in touch with Theodore Debs. He has sent him the following telegram:

From what you know, would the nomination of Gene endanger his chance of release? Can you approve tendering

nomination to him with platform for his refusal or acceptance?

If Theodore answers in the negative, it is likely to decide [that] the Resolutions Committee ask the convention to refrain from nominating Debs now. But whether the convention will agree to this is doubtful, and there is good reason to believe that the overwhelming sentiment for nominating Debs now will prevail.

In the morning session today, 3 resolutions were passed unanimously favoring Irish independence and self-determination for subject peoples, condemning race riots, and demanding Victor L. Berger be seated in Congress.

### Charges Disproved.

Upon the circulation of an anonymous bulletin this morning, understood to emanate from the Communists, that the delegations from Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, and Michigan were "packed" and exceeded the quotas they were entitled to, the convention appointed a committee headed by Rose Weiss of New Jersey to investigate.

The committee found that 4 states were entitled to a representation of 69 and only 61 delegates seated on the floor of the convention.

Oscar Ameringer announced to the delegation that December 3, 1919, the 8th anniversary of the founding of the *Milwaukee Leader*, the *Oklahoma Leader* would appear for the first time. It will be published in Oklahoma City as a daily.

A \$50,000 plant has been put up in the heart of the city, he said, and a \$25,000 press will be installed. A house to house campaign of the Oklahoma farmers, managed by Ameringer, brought in \$130,000 for the new paper in 8 weeks.

### **Press Committee Reports.**

The report of the Committee on Press follows:

There is no reason to believe that the present disruptive crisis in the party might have been averted had it not been that this undemocratic administration has crushed almost all the weaker Socialist publications and seriously crippled those which have survived persecution so far.

One incident alone emphasizes the absolute necessity of an agency for the collection and distribution of Socialist news — the fact that the Socialist Party has no knowledge of the number or the names of those who are now undergoing punishment for their economic and political beliefs.

Many of these are left to suffer privation and loneliness in prisons, not because there is no one that cares what becomes of them, but because those who would be glad to help do not know to whom to send cheering letters and boxes of comforts.

#### **Stock Campaign Urged.**

Only the comrades of a particular city can determine whether a daily Socialist newspaper can be established there. But they should be warned in advance that bitter experience has shown the complete folly of attempting to start a newspaper with a small amount of money collected in advance.

By a campaign of selling shares of stock, in small denominations, enough funds should be in the bank to buy and pay for an adequate plant in full and still have a working capital. Next to be considered is what to go into the newspaper.

The ordinary news service is so full of "poison" that a large part of editorial time — which means money — is taken up in cutting out capitalist misstatement and interpretation.

#### **10 Dailies Published.**

There are now 10 daily Socialist newspapers in the

United States in English and in the foreign languages. Two more are soon to be established. Not one of these is financially able to buy a suitable general news service. Not one of these has the names of comrades in various parts of the country who, while not being actual regular correspondents, could yet be asked to send information as to a local news event. Not one of these can afford a foreign news service. Collectively, they could all afford these services.

In the case of struggling papers, the editor has too much to do to find the time to write even as good editorials as he knows how to write. None of these can command all the time of a first-rate cartoonist. Collectively, they could get an editorial service and the "mats" of cartoons could be sent by mail to all of them for use.

The combined circulation of the Socialist press, daily and weekly, would be a valuable property to any advertising agency, particularly if it is well understood and harped upon in every page that Socialists are a clannish lot and will go out of their way to buy of those who advertise in their papers in preference to capitalist papers. This is an asset which should not be overlooked.

#### **"Persecution to Increase."**

Persecution seems likely now to increase rather than to diminish as the advent of the Cooperative Commonwealth grows near. It is not impossible that the Socialist Party itself may be outlawed. In such a case it would be folly to have the Socialist press "party owned."

Holding corporations are recommended whose property rights would have to be respected by the capitalist courts. Party control can be made secure by the provision that the editorial policy conform to the platform and principles of the Socialist Party.

Your committee recommends that the National Secretary call a conference of the editors of the Socialist dailies and weeklies for the purpose of arranging for a central agency for the collection and distribution of news, particularly of labor and Socialist news, editorials, cartoons, material for Sunday magazines, foreign correspondence, and the handling of general advertising.

### **Irish Resolution Passed.**

The only debate occurred on the Irish resolution. Seymour Stedman of Illinois and Patrick Quinlan of New Jersey urged that the resolution be exclusively on Ireland without mentioning self-determination for all peoples. Their amendment was voted down.

The Resolution follows:

The Socialist Party of the United States, in convention assembled, supports and endorses every people in the world demanding self-determination. We see especially in Ireland a people whose brave struggle for decades to free itself from the domination of the overlords of England deserves our unqualified approval.

### **Party's Support Pledged.**

We pledge to the workers of Ireland our support in every possible way in their efforts for complete separation from the British empire, and therefore demand that the government of the United States at once recognize unconditionally the Irish republic.

Further, we join with the workers of Ireland, through their elected representatives at the Drogheda conference in July 1919, of the Irish Trades Union Congress and Labour Party, to protest against the occupation of their country by the military forces of the British empire, despite the definite and clearly expressed will of the Irish people. And we call on the workers of Great Britain, through an Independent Labour Party and Socialist Parties of Great Britain, to compel their government to withdraw its army of occupation from Ireland immediately. We likewise call upon organized labor and the Socialists in Canada, South Africa, and Australia to join us in this effort.

And, finally, we urge the workers of Ireland to continue and strengthen their participation in the universal struggle for emancipation from the economic masters of the world and the establishment of the Socialist commonwealth in every country.

### **Race Riots Condemned.**

The race riots resolution reads:

Periodical outbreaks of mob violence by members of one race against those of another flatly challenge all claim to human progress and civilization. It is particularly regrettable when workingmen of one race are the perpetrators of such outrages against their fellow workers of another, since all are exploited alike by their capitalist masters, who are interested financially in keeping the workers divided.

This has become clearly evident in the recent widespread rioting in Chicago, East St. Louis, and other cities. The employers, searching for cheap and unorganized labor, enticed thousands of Negro workers from their homes in the South to the factories of the Northland.

### **Workers Compete for Bread.**

Here they came into competition with the white workers in the struggle for bread, and, unfortunately, their very recent removal from a condition of enforced social inferiority made them slow to grasp the need of organized effort in cooperation with their white brothers to better their conditions.

The antagonism of land owners, whose property values were diminished, also contributed to the race prejudice. Lying newspapers, motion pictures, corrupt politics and many other agencies, relied upon by the capitalist to keep the workers divided, soon fanned the smoldering flame into violent fire, and the dead of both races add another indictment to the horrors of capitalist misrule.

The economic base of society, the profit system under which we now live, will be found by all who investigate to be the basis of the racial antagonism which culminated in the recent race riots.

### **Organization Urged.**

The only final solution of the race problem is the abolition of capitalism. When every worker is assured of the full product of his labor and the ownership of his job, there will be no room on earth for race prejudice.

We call on all workers, regardless of color or creed, to organize politically and industrially, to win our emancipation from the chains of economic slavery that now bind us down and apart from one another.

Following is the resolution on Berger:

Whereas, the organized moneyed interests of this country are doing all in their power to prevent our Socialist representative, Victor L. Berger, from obtaining his seat in Congress; and

Whereas, the only offense he is charged with is that of adhering to the platform and principles of the Socialist Party, and is, therefore, a direct attack upon the efforts and the rights of the workers to participate in government; and

Whereas, the success of this attack upon our rights will wipe out one of the bulwarks of constitutional representative government; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, the Socialist Party of the United States, in convention assembled, demand of Congress that it immediately seat Victor L. Berger, and that this resolution be forwarded to every member of Congress.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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