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# Let Us Build.

by Eugene V. Debs

Published in *The Socialist World* [Chicago], v. 4, no. 8 (Aug. 1923), pg. 9.

We have heard and still hear a great deal about “the reds” and “the yellows” in the Socialist Party. I know a good many of both, and so far as I am able to discern, they are much alike. The actual difference between them, were it fire, would hardly be enough to light a cigarette.

We are all Socialists. We all stand for the same thing. Are we to be forever divided into angry factions and spend a large part of our time and energy in making faces and calling one another “reds” and “yellows” in contempt and derision?

A vast amount of good energy is turned into bad blood over things that either amount to nothing at all or that are beyond the range of academic discussion. The weapons and the tactics of the Workers in the daily struggle, the hand-to-hand fight on the industrial field, will be determined from time to time in the progress of the struggle itself.

The Socialist Party is a political party, and it is not its business to decide what weapons the workers shall choose, or what tactics they shall employ, in their struggle on the economic field.

In the idle discussion which has been devoted to syndicalism, direct action, sabotage, etc., enough energy has been wasted to double our party membership and quadruple the power of our press.

Let us now unite our efforts to build the party and make it strong for the great work there is before it.

If we mean to destroy capitalism we must develop the power of our class, and we can only do that through the class-conscious unity and the

energetic and harmonious cooperation of our forces.

The Socialist Party has undoubtedly its weaknesses, but these will not be remedied if we spend most of our time vainly lamenting or searching each other for further weaknesses to absolve us from our party duty and make our despair complete.

We have traveled with the Socialist Party these 22 years past, and with all that may be charged against it, it is today beyond question the most vital force in the class struggle of the United States.

What we need above everything else at present is a period of united and energetic party building. Too many of our locals are weak and non-progressive for the want of the active support that loyal members should give them. Most of our papers and periodicals are in the same condition for the same reason.

We are all needed to make a party, and as long as we are agreed on fundamental principles and the final goal, we can safely concede to one another the limits of toleration in the discussion of our conflicting opinions and in carry forward our diversified activities.

The Socialist Party, it should be remembered, is a political party, and there is room enough in it for everyone who subscribes to its principles and upholds them in good faith; but there is no room in it for those who either openly sneer at political action or who avow it falsely to mask their treachery while they carry on their work of disruption.



The Socialist Party, if it is to fulfill its mission, must ever be the revolutionary party of the working class, rigidly uncompromising so far as its principles are concerned, true to the interests of the workers in every phase of the struggle, clean and aboveboard in all its methods, and it must preserve its character and integrity inviolate before the world. It must avoid alike political opportunism and industrial anarchism and steer straight ahead if it is to reach safely its destined port.

Let us have a period of united, energetic, enthusiastic party building and press building throughout the country! The party needs it, and we need it, and it will be to the infinite good of both. It will mean new strength and fresh inspiration for us all.

It is only when we unite and work together in the true spirit of Socialism that we can do the best and overcome the worst there is in us.

Let us build! Build ourselves and each other in the building of the party.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

*Caricature of Debs by Ryan Walker, from McAlister Coleman's Eugene V. Debs: A Man Unafraid. (New York: Greenberg, Publisher, 1930).*

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