

Letter of Acceptance of the Nomination
for President of the United States
(July 31, 1900)

Terre Haute, Ind., July 31, 1900.

William Butscher,
National Secretary,
Social Democratic Party
Springfield, Mass.

My Dear Comrade:—

Your communication of the 18th instant [July 18, 1900] has been received, and I note that by the election of the unity committee, elected at the Rochester and Indianapolis conventions, approved by referendum vote, my nomination has been ratified as candidate of the Social Democratic Party for the office of President of the United States. Permit me to return my thanks to the committee and the comrades they represent for the ratification of my nomination, which I esteem a signal honor.

Having responded to the call of my comrades in accepting the nomination of their confidence and partially bestowed upon me, I am deeply sensible of the responsibilities which rest upon me as a socialist candidate for the office of President of the United States. Fully imbued with the philosophy of socialism, I seek no personal preferment and I claim consideration of as a representative of the principles of international, class-conscious socialism. In that capacity and that alone, I appeal to the working class and my countrymen for their support. The confidence implied by the unanimous action of my comrades moves me to regret my limitations and to wish myself a worthier representative of the principles so sacred to them because fraught with such grave import to the countless victims struggling in the grasp of economic bondage.

But all the strength and ability I have are at their service. Long since I consecrated myself to the cause, and all I have laid with joy on the altar of socialism. As we look abroad we behold the steady and stately march of transformation. Capitalism, which has written its record in the tears and

blood of the human race, is staggering to its doom, while socialism, herald of right and freedom, quickened by the spirit of the new revolution, is sweeping over all the world.

Here in the United States of America we are on the eve of our first great battle. Let us gird on our armor and press forward to meet the enemies of freedom, the oppressors of the people, the exploiters of the working class, and the foes of all humanity. Let us dismiss all minor considerations and unite in every state and territory from end to end of the land, in one mighty effort to hasten the end of capitalism and the inauguration of the cooperative commonwealth.

Thanking you again and through you the members of your committee and all your comrades for the honor conferred upon me, I remain

Yours fraternally,

Eugene V. Debs.

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