

Warning Notice (September 21, 1900)

Terre Haute, Ind., Sept. 21, 1900.

To our Comrades and Friends:—

The persistence with which the report is circulated that I have resigned, or intend to resign, in favor of the Democratic candidate,¹ impels me to issue this denial of the falsehood originated by the capitalist press to deceive and mislead our friends and supporters.

Comrade Harriman and I have been nominated as candidates for Vice-President and President, respectively, of the Social Democratic Party, and we shall stand as candidates to be voted for on election day, all reports and rumors to the contrary notwithstanding.

It is not at all improbable that this report may be sprung afresh on the very eve of the election, too late to be met and contradicted by the weekly socialist press of the country, and for this reason I take the liberty to request all socialist papers, and any other that may be friendly to our party, to publish this statement and keep it standing in the last three or four issues preceding the election.

To resign at such a time would be rank betrayal, of which no honorable man would be guilty; but if from any inconceivable reason such a step became necessary, I would not under any possible circumstances resign in favor of the Republican or Democratic Party. They are alike the representatives of the capitalist system; they are one in the support of private property in the means of production; they are agreed as to wage slavery; they do not differ in their hostility to socialism, and I would as readily think of resigning in favor of one as the other of these parties.

Our party comrades understand this, and cannot be misled; but there is danger that some of our friends may be deceived, and hence this warning note.

The Republican papers declare that socialists will vote for Bryan, while the Democratic press charges that Socialists are in the pay of Mark Hanna. These old campaign liars know better, but they understand each

other. This fall they will be made to realize that with all the corruption funds at their command there is no private property in socialists.

Others may prefer Capitalism and Slavery. We stand unyielding as a wall of granite for *Socialism and Freedom*.

Eugene V. Debs.

[Friendly papers please copy.]

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¹ William Jennings Bryan, for whom Debs campaigned actively in 1896, was again the nominee of the Democratic Party in 1900.