

The Congressional Campaign (July 7, 1906)

It should not be necessary to remind any Socialist of the importance of the congressional campaign this fall. The election being a national one, the party will have the opportunity to poll its full vote and this should show a decided increase over any national vote hitherto polled. Whether it does or not will depend largely upon the manner in which the campaign is conducted.

Since the last national campaign a vast amount of literature has been distributed, hundreds of locals have been organized, and thousands of speeches made; deep-seated prejudices have been uprooted, false impressions corrected, and now, on the eve of the election, this sentiment should be properly guided and directed so as to crystalize it into straight Socialist votes.

In this connection the most important thing is method. A large amount of work may be done and yet, in the absence of method, prove barren of results. Each state committee should plan its campaign months in advance and every move that is made should be in concert with every vote and all in accord with the general plan of campaign.

Planless, disconnected, isolated effort should be supplanted by organized, systematic, comprehensive action.

Every available congressional district in the land should place a candidate in the field and every such candidate should, in my opinion, challenge his Republican and Democratic competitors to joint debate. Most of them will be wise enough not to accept, some can scarcely dodge the issue and will have to accept, but in any event, our candidates, evincing the aggressive spirit of revolutionary socialism, will appeal to the working class and to the whole people and thus become not only a nominal but an actual factor in the campaign.

As for campaign material for the stump there has never been such variety and abundance that could be used with such crushing effect. The record of the Congress near closing emits more stenches than Coleridge discovered in Cologne.

The Republicans and Democrats are alike venal and vulnerable and the merest Socialist novice, discussing the main issue and current

developments, can drive the foxiest old party politician from any hustings in the land.

We ought, in fact, to elect our first congressman this fall. It is high time that the Socialist Party had its representative in the national congress to break the doleful monotony of capitalist special pleading by the old fossils and put life, real life, the palpitating proletarian current into the proceedings.

All other nations in which there is a socialist movement have already their quota of representatives in their national deliberative bodies and we should make our start in the congressional elections this fall.

It may be suggested that this is an opportune time to enlarge the circulation of socialist papers, and special efforts should be made to that end. If only half the readers of *The Worker* will determine to double the circulation it can easily be done. Let each reader whose eye falls upon these lines start forth *at once* and capture just one yearly, semiannual, or quarterly subscriber and the trick is done.

Another suggestion I venture to make is that no campaign speech be made by any Socialist this fall without special reference to the Moyer-Haywood affair. The incident expresses and illustrates the class struggle more clearly and vividly than could the most powerful speech. Here we have the real issue of the campaign in living, concrete form.

The late postponement of the trial of our comrades was due mainly to political considerations. Such a trial on the eve of election would not do at all. As an object lesson it would be extremely embarrassing to both Republican and Democratic politicians, and so the curtain must be rung down on the scene until after the election.

Every crime perpetrated upon these loyal comrades has been perpetrated upon organized labor and upon the working class as a whole, and every protest that has been made against these crimes should be carried to the ballot box this fall.

If you want Moyer, Haywood, Pettibone, and St. John — true men, loyal leaders, staunch comrades — to live, and the cause for which they have suffered untold agony to triumph, go to the ballot box like a man and cast a clean vote for *socialism and emancipation*.