
Report of Committee on Foreign Speaking Organizations to the National Convention of the Socialist Party, May 17, 1908. †

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Chicago, Ill., May 1908.

To the Delegates of the Convention:

Comrades:—

We are not going to burden you with all the material which came before us for consideration. You have had enough of it these few days. We wish to state, however, that your committee on the Relationship of Foreign Speaking Organizations to our party consider them worthy of our time and labors. WE must not forget that they are proletarians, suffering from the rule and oppression of the same master class, you and we who are assembled here suffer. Neither must we forget that they are the victims of the ward heelers and prostitutes who sell themselves to blight the lives of millions of men, women, and children by misleading those of the foreigners who have not tasted of the food of the Socialist philosophy.

We have had before us Comrade Fraenckel, Cook County Secretary; Comrade Max Kaufman, representing the Jewish Agitation Bureau of the Socialist Party, Rochester, NY; Comrade Smith, representing the Lettish [Latvian] local; Comrade Skala, in behalf of the Bohemians [Czechs].

A thorough investigation into the affairs of the above named organizations resulted in the unanimous conclusion that our party pay more attention to the

foreign speaking organizations.

We therefore recommend that all foreign speaking organizations be recognized as party organizations provided —

(1) They are composed of Socialist Party members only.

(2) Any foreign speaking organization having a national form of organization of its own be recognized only if all the branches composing this organization having been chartered by the national, state, or local Socialist Party organizations, and pay their dues to the respective Socialist Party organizations.

(3) No foreign speaking organization asking the Socialist Party for recognition shall issue their own particular national, state, or local charters. Same to be issued only by the respective organizations of the Socialist Party, as the case may require.

(4) All foreign speaking organizations affiliated with the Socialist Party must and shall conform in every respect with the Socialist Party national, state, and local constitutions, platforms, and resolutions.

(5) They should function only as agitation, education, and organization bureaus of the Socialist Party.

U. Solomon, Chairman.

Louis Goaziou,

Esther Nieminen,

T. Hiltunen,

S.A. Knopfnagel, Sec. of Com.

†- According to the stenographic record, this report by Delegate Knopfnagel was amended by motion of Winfield Gaylord as follows: "That no state or local organization shall refuse admission on account of race or language to any Socialist comrades willing to comply with the constitutional conditions for membership." No mention of this addendum appears in the report published in the *Official Bulletin*. [*National Convention of the Socialist Party Held At Chicago, Illinois, May 10 to 17, 1908: Stenographic Report...*, pg. 314.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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