Executive Secretary Candidates in Party Referendum Voice Views on Militarism and Preparedness.

Published in *The American Socialist* [Chicago], v. 2, no. 27, whole no. 167 (Jan. 15, 1916), pg. 2.

By Adolph Germer.

Briefly stated, I am opposed to what is euphoniously called “Preparedness.” There is far less danger of an invasion by a foreign foe than by the American Plunderbund. We should oppose everything that smacks of militarism. Teach the art of Peace rather than the “art” of War.

But, if the people INSIST that there MUST be a military organization, then:

First: Let every able bodied man between 18 and 45 get one month’s training each year with full pay by his employer.

Second: Democratic selection of all officers.

Third: Each such soldier to retain his firearm with at least 200 rounds of ammunition, furnished by the government, in his home.

Fourth: The government to make all munitions.

Fifth: No part of the military force to be called into service by the government during strikes nor aggressive wars against other nations.

Sixth: This military arrangement shall displace all present military forces.

By L.E. Katterfeld.

Not a dollar for war, not a man for militarism, not an ounce for capitalist “preparedness” while wage slavery exists.

The ruling class will use all military powers to protect profits and suppress the workers. Every gun we make will be turned against us.

I am therefore opposed to all military “preparedness,” whether the murder machinery is made in government-owned or private plants.

No government today could goad its working class into attacking an unarmed people. If “our” country had no army and no navy whatever, “we” would be absolutely safe from hostile invasion.

War may be inevitable under capitalist, but the continuation of capitalism is not inevitable.

The capitalist system is rotten ripe for revolution.

It will collapse as quick as we are ready.

Let us prepare.

Stop frittering away our strength on “reforms.”

Educate and organize for the purpose of revolution.

Educate the working class to withstand the pollution of the prostitute press and hypocritical politicians, “patriotic” (for profit).

United into One Great Political Party. Organize into One Big Industrial Union. Train both arms to strike as one.
Let us prepare right and we can refuse to fight our fellow workers and the day they order us into international butchery we’ll light the fires of a revolution that will sweep from continent to continent and herald the dawn of worldwide working class emancipation.

By Walter Lanfersiek.

I am opposed to military preparedness.

By Carl D. Thompson.

I am absolutely and will all my might opposed to the present militaristic propaganda that is going under the name of “Preparedness.” I feel that the Socialist Party should use its utmost wisdom, tact, and power in combatting it.

This, however, is negative. The best way to combat any of the evils of capitalism is to put forward something better, something that supplants the evil and makes it impossible. And we have in our national party program and in the international program the greatest and the most inspiring constructive task in human history. I refer especially, of course, to our program for the development of a federation of nations, a sort of United States of the World with an international congress and court, universal disarmament, and the erection of the World International. While fighting “preparedness” let us urge forward the International.