
So Long, Louis!

Our Hearts Are With You!

by Emanuel Haldeman-Julius

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Less than 24 hours ago I was in Louis Kopelin's house helping him pack a little grip that would hold the few essentials for his trip to Camp Funston, Kans. I felt a catch in my throat as I thought that he would soon entrain with more than a hundred other young men. It seemed unbelievable that he was going to war. He went about it all in a calm, methodical manner, as though he were preparing to spend a weekend with friends in Kansas City.

While we were moving around doing little chores, I thought of the years we had worked together. I recalled those early days on the *New York Call* — about 9 years ago, when he was city editor and I was a reporter under him. I knew him when he was hardly more than a boy, and he knew me when I was nothing more than a kid. And later we drifted apart. His work took him to Washington, where he published *The National Socialist*. I went to Milwaukee where I did political reporting while Emil Seidel headed the Socialist administration in that city. Louis next struck for Girard, where he soon became editor of the largest and most influential Socialist paper in the country — *The New Appeal*.† I went to Chicago for a newspaper job, and then to California, where I started *The Western Comrade*, edited a Socialist weekly and a labor newspaper; and just before the world war started I landed in New York where I went back to the *New York Call* as its Sunday editor. And then Louis asked me to join him on *The New Appeal*. That was back in 1915, and I accepted gladly, and I have never regretted it since.

And here was Louis going off to war. As he took my hand he said: "You have a big responsibility, Eman-

uel. It's a heavy job."

I answered: "You're right, old man. I'll do my best, and here's hoping that you will be back again soon at the head of the old job."

I didn't want to get emotional, and I knew Louis didn't want that either, so I changed the subject with a jest, saying: "I guess I'll be safe in betting a cookie you'll feel cocky in khaki. Well, so long; our hearts are with you."

And now Louis is gone. I am a left in charge. I have a big responsibility, and I want to be frank with the loyal friends of *The New Appeal*. I want them to know that the job is really theirs. I'll be here at the editorial desk. But they will be out in this great country, rubbing elbows with the common folk — the people we are trying to emancipate from capitalism. They are the ones who will keep the *Appeal* in action. They will see to it that the people read *The New Appeal* and study its contents. The Appeal Army is called to the colors; they are mobilized. They must work quickly and enthusiastically. *The New Appeal* needs its friends, yes, as much as its friends need the *Appeal*.

You are going to be given a chance to show your loyalty to *The New Appeal* right now. I want you to demonstrate your conviction that *The New Appeal* should climb to new achievements, to new victories. You will do this by going among your friends and getting them to subscribe for this paper — you will do it NOW, so that I can send word to Louis that the Army is standing by and there will be not the slightest let-up.

And in order to accelerate action, in order to

†- Haldeman-Julius anachronistically uses the new wartime name of the publication, which was actually called the *Appeal to Reason* throughout its long history.

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Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.

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