
**Letter to the *New York Call*
published June 27, 1919, including
Full Text of Letter to NY State Secretary
Walter Cook, dated June 12, 1919**

by Nicholas Aleinikoff

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Editor, *New York Call*:

June 12, 1919.

Dear Comrade:—

Walter M. Cook,
State Secretary,
Socialist Party of New York.

Comrade:—

As I have no other means to reach the State Committee members of our party, I am bound to use the legitimate channels of our press to bring the matter to their attention, and for such purpose I request the immediate publication of the following objections to the action of the SEC submitted by me as a member of the SC representing Local New York on June 12, 1919, within 4 days from the receipt by me of the minutes of the meeting of the SEC held on May 21, 1919. The State Secretary [Walter Cook] refused to act on same and the SEC at its meeting held on June 21, 1919, approved of the action of the State Secretary, refusing to submit my objections to the members of the SC, in clear violation of Section 16 of Article I of the state constitution.

I sincerely trust that the enclosed copy of my objections, together with this communication, will be immediately published so that the members of the State Committee may be apprised of the facts.

Fraternally yours,

Nicholas Aleinikoff.

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Pursuant to the provisions of Article 1, Section 16, Subdivisions (b) and (c), of the state constitution, I hereby file my objection to the action taken by the State Executive Committee at its meeting held on May 21, 1919, and to your subsequent actions taken pursuant thereto in revoking the charters of Locals Kings, Queens, and Bronx.

At the said meeting I voted against the action of the SEC and requested that my vote be recorded. My objection is based mainly upon the following grounds:

1. That the action of the SEC was taken in clear violation of the provisions of the state constitution. The committee claimed to act pursuant to Article 1, Section 15, Subdivision (a) of the constitution, providing for the revocation of the charter of any local "for wilfully adopting and adhering to a constitution or platform in violation of the national or state constitutions of the Socialist Party." There was no evidence before the committee that any of the locals above mentioned had wilfully adopted and adhered to a constitution or platform in violation of the national or state constitutions of the Socialist Party.

2. Under Article 1, Section 16 (a), it is provided that proceedings against a local for the violation of any section of the state or national constitution shall be instituted upon a written complaint signed by at least 3 members in good standing or by the State Secretary. There was no such written complaint submitted to the State Executive Committee; the only complaint submitted was signed only by Julius Gerber,

Executive Secretary of the Executive Committee of Local New York, and his charges were only against Local Queens. No written charges were preferred against Locals Kings, Bronx, Rochester, and Buffalo, and the minutes of the meeting of May 21 read that "after a lengthy discussion the following motion was adopted by a vote of 8 to 1:"

It having come to the notice of the SEC that certain locals, particularly Locals Kings, Queens, Bronx, Buffalo, and Rochester, have adopted resolutions endorsing the Left Wing manifesto and have joined the Left Wing organization, adhering to the manifesto and rules of the Left Wing organization in violation of the state and national constitutions; be it

Resolved, That Comrades Sheahan, Mrs. Maily, and Eugene Wood be appointed to act as a committee to investigate the charges and if same are found substantiated the charters of the locals above named be revoked and steps taken for the immediate reorganization of the locals in question.

It is therefore clearly seen that the action was taken merely on the basis that "it had come to the notice of the SEC," etc.

I was the one member of the SEC referred to above who voted against the motion, having insisted that before any action be taken, proper charges be preferred and the report of the investigation committee be heard by the SEC. The committee, however, by its vote of 8 to 1, decided that the charters of the locals above mentioned be (and hereby are) revoked.

The recording secretary wisely omitted the words "and hereby are," but the effect was the same, as the SEC did not deem it necessary to convene and hear the report and act thereon, but the Secretary was instructed to proceed with the revocation of the charters immediately upon his receipt of the report of the investigation committee.

3. At a meeting of the SEC on May 21, 1919, Comrade U. Solomon, still acting as the State Secretary, had a communication in his possession from 3 members of the SC, submitting the motion concerning action of Local New York in undertaking reorganization of branches prior to the submission of the referendum on the resolution adopted by the SC on April 13, 1919, but such communication, though called for by me as a member of the SEC, was not submitted to the SEC.

Irrespective of the principle involved in the action of the SEC, its action was clearly in violation of the provisions of the state constitution, as above pointed out, and I therefore demand that the decision of the SEC, together with all the documents and minutes, be submitted to a vote of the entire SC, and that in the meantime and until such vote be taken all action pursuant to such decision be suspended.

Fraternally yours,

Nicholas Aleinikoff,
Member of State Committee
of Local New York.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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