
Open Letter “To All Party Members” from Alfred Wagenknecht, Socialist Party Executive Secretary *pro tempore*, [published Aug. 20, 1919]

Published in *The Ohio Socialist* [Cleveland], whole no. 81 (Aug. 20, 1919), pg. 2.

To All Party Members.

Comrades:—

Your local secretary has again been blessed with a tirade from Adolph Germer, who speaks for the former National Executive Committee, which constitutionally ceased to function on July 1, 1919.

Overlooking the personal attacks which this communication contains, which all fair-minded [persons] always overlook and which only those use who have no other argument, permit us to make answer so that you may more fully understand the situation.

Yes, we are guilty of asking all State Secretaries to retain all money received from locals from the sale of the convention assessment stamps. We have advised all State Secretaries to send this money to the convention with the delegates. To place this money into the hands of Adolph Germer would be dangerous, for Germer is obeying the outlawed National Executive Committee and this committee is only active at present in “expelling” state organizations.

For instance, this former committee is now voting (despite the fact that it went out of office CONSTITUTIONALLY on July 1, 1919) to “expel” the Socialist Party of Ohio. Had Ohio sent the proceeds from the sale of convention assess-

ment stamps to Adolph Germer, it would have lost this money, for it would never have been paid to the Ohio delegates to defray their fare to the convention.

Adolph Germer is obeying a usurping committee. No one can tell what actions this committee may take in regard to the national convention [Aug. 30, 1919]. Therefore it is safest to send the delegate expense money to the convention with the delegations and then let the convention itself elect a committee to receive this money and make disbursements.

We do not deny the “machine voting” or slate voting of some of the language federation branches, BUT THIS IS NOT FRAUD. Adolph Germer seems so absolutely convinced that there has been fraud. He gives no proof. How does he know there has been fraud in the election of the new National Executive Committee? Facts are that to him slate voting constitutes fraud — when the votes are not in his favor. He was elected National Executive Secretary several years ago by the same kind of “machine voting” which he now criticizes. He did not protest at that time because he won by it. He protests now because he and his fellow moderates lost by it.

And then comes the foolish plea that “we ought wait until the national convention before doing anything.” We should wait, but in the meantime, then, the former National Executive Com-

mittee plus Germer, DO NOT WAIT until the national convention before carrying out their plans. They "expel" right and left in an effort to make the national convention "sure" for them. The strong Ohio state organization is now being "expelled" by this former committee which has no power to expel, no more than any other individual member of the party has.

Adolph Germer and his fellow moderates do not wait. They only want the rest of us who oppose them to wait so that they may do a good job before being interfered with. Neither will we wait. We have renewed the call for the national convention to convene in Chicago on August 30th. We call upon all State Secretaries to send a roster of their delegates to the undersigned. We intend to assure a national convention. We intend to see to it that all party elements are represented irrespective of the "expelling fit" of the outlawed former National Executive Committee.

All comrades who are with us for the Socialism of our Russian comrades, our Communist Italian comrades, our Spartacan German comrades, as against the Socialism of the Mensheviks and the Scheidemanns, will join us in our effort to represent true revolutionary workers.

Yours in Comradeship,

A. Wagenknecht,
Executive Secretary *pro tempore*

3207 Clark Avenue,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2006. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.