
National Secretary Germer's Letter of Resignation: Retiring Party Official Gives Reason for Quitting Post at This Time — Is Under 20 Years' Prison Sentence.

by Adolph Germer

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National Secretary Adolph Germer, whose resignation as National Secretary of the party was announced yesterday, has sent the following letter to the National Executive Committee:

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To the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party.

Comrades:

I herewith tender my resignation as National Executive Secretary of the Socialist Party, same to take effect on Saturday, October 11, 1919, or sooner if the NEC can make arrangements to have a successor take over the affairs of the National Office.

Much has been made of the claim that the old National Executive Committee precipitated the controversy within the party in order to keep itself in power. Many well-meaning comrades have given credence to this absurd and unfounded claim. The report of the special committee that investigated the election frauds fully vindicated the course of the old National Ex-

ecutive Committee. Those who questioned the motives of the National Executive Committee in holding up the election for party officials, suspending the 7 foreign language federations, and expelling Michigan and Massachusetts were proven malicious slanderers and professional disrupters.† The holding up of the national referendum on the election of party officials was unanimously endorsed by the recent national convention, which included a large number of the Left Wing delegates.

I assume my full share of the responsibility, not alone for holding up the referendum but also for the suspension of the 7 foreign

language federations and the expulsion of Michigan and Massachusetts. Since this action has created such unjustifiable criticism, the members of the old National Executive Committee have eliminated themselves by refusing to stand for re-election.



†- Germer omits the expulsion of the Socialist Party of Ohio, also perpetrated by the outgoing National Executive Committee.

Fully convinced that their course was correct and that it has been fully justified by subsequent events, they withdrew from official connection with the party, hoping thereby to bring harmony in our ranks.

I feel that I can do no less than the old National Executive Committee and I, too, eliminate myself and give the lie to the oft-repeated claim that we tried to perpetuate ourselves in office.

Here it may not be amiss to point out that while we withdrew from office, several of those who made the false claims against us have placed themselves in office. Finding themselves repudiated by the membership of the Socialist Party, it justifies the conclusion that the formation of new parties and hypocritical rantings against us were partly, if not chiefly, for the purpose of providing offices for them.

In retiring from official connection I want to express my deepest gratitude to the many com-

rades who have so promptly and freely responded to every call for cooperation and assistance. Their many kindnesses will ever remain fresh in my memory and I shall always look back to my associations with them with infinite pleasure.

Now that the old National Executive Committee and I have withdrawn from office I hope that every member will prove his and her loyalty to the party by giving you, the new administration, every possible support and help bring the party organization to a dominant position in national and international politics and economic affairs.†

The old National Executive Committee did its duty. It is now up to the members to do theirs.

Yours fraternally,

Adolph Germer,
National Executive Secretary.

†- Beneath Germer's letter in *The Call* appears the following, possibly written by Oneal himself:

“**A Correction.** Germer's letter is in error in one point. James Oneal, member of the retiring National Executive Committee, is a member of the new National Executive Committee, pro tem. Oneal, together with his colleagues of the old NEC refused a number of times to serve on the new committee. The convention was insistent, however, and he was elected with but 14 votes against him. He made it plain, however, that he would not serve on the new permanent committee to be elected shortly by the party membership.

Germer, together with William F. Kruse, J. Louis Engdahl, Victor L. Berger, and Irwin St. John Tucker, is under a jail sentence of 20 years for alleged violation of the espionage gag act. The 5 Socialists are out on appeal.”

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