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THE REBEL

THE GREAT APPEAR GREAT TO US ONLY BECAUSE WE ARE ON OUR KNEES—LET US ARISE

HALLSTVILLE, TEXAS, SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 1917.

T. A. HICKY, Editor.
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No. 298

NATIONAL EMERGENCY CONVENTION

Upon the call of the national executive committee delegates from 42 states met in St. Louis, Mo., April 7, and worked almost the whole week. The most important part of the work was their resolution on the war, which was signed by all except two, Louis D. Boudin of New York, and John Spargo of Vermont. Each of these follows in a minority report. The result of the ballot was as follows:

The majority report was carried with 140 votes.
 Boudin's minority report got 31 votes.
 John Spargo's report got 5 votes.

Thus was put to shame the contention of the capitalist press that the Socialists favored the war as we sought to convey it by publishing the resolutions by a half dozen of parlor Socialists, who have made some profits by writing "hot stuff" for magazines and publishing houses.

Below we publish the majority report of the Emergency Convention, and in our next issue we will print the two minority reports if space will permit:

MAJORITY REPORT ON MILITARISM AND WAR.

Resolutions on War and Militarism.

1. The Socialist Party of the United States, in the present grave crisis, solemnly reaffirms its allegiance to the principle of internationalism and working-class solidarity the world over, and proclaims its unalterable opposition to the war just declared by the Government of the United States.

Modern wars as a rule have been caused by the commercial and financial rivalry and intrigues of the capitalist interests in the different countries. Whether they have been frankly waged as wars of aggression or have been hypocritically represented as wars of "defense," they have all ways been fought by the classes and fought by the masses. Wars bring wealth and power to the ruling classes, and suffering, death and demoralization to the workers.

They breed a sinister spirit of passion, unreason, race hatred and false patriotism. They obscure the struggles of the workers for life, liberty and social justice. They tend to sever the vital bonds of solidarity between the workers and their brothers in other countries to destroy their organizations and to curtail their civil and political rights and liberties.

2. The Socialist Party of the United States

SENATOR LANE DYING.

News comes from Washington that Doctor Harry Lane, United States senator from Oregon, is dying; that he has broken under the tremendous strain of the gallant and heroic fight he made to keep this country out of the hell called the "World War."

Senator Lane was one of the six Senators who voted "NO" to the last. He was one of the straightest and noblest men this nation ever produced, yet in that one end of this country to the

United States is unalterably opposed to the system of exploitation and class rule which it upholds and strengthened by military power and sham national patriotism. We, therefore, call upon the workers of all countries to refuse support to their governments in their wars. The wars of the contending national groups of capitalists are not the concerns of the workers. The only struggle which would justify the workers in taking up arms is the great struggle of the working class of the world to free itself from economic exploitation and political oppression, and we particularly warn workers against the snare and delusion of "defensive" wars.

As against the false doctrine of national patriotism we uphold the ideal of international working-class solidarity. In support of capitalism we will not willingly give a single life or a single dollar in support of the struggle of the workers for freedom we pledge our vote.

3. The mad orgy of death and destruction which is now convulsing unfortunate Europe was caused by the conflict of capitalist interests in the European countries.

In each of these countries the workers were oppressed and exploited. They produced enormous wealth, but the bulk of it was withheld from them by the owners of the industries. The workers were thus deprived of the means to repurchase the wealth which they themselves had created.

The capitalist class of each country was forced to look for foreign markets to dispose of the "surplus" wealth. The huge profits made by the capitalists could no longer be profitably reinvested in their own countries, hence they were driven to look for foreign fields of investment. The geographical boundaries of our modern capitalist country thus became too narrow for the industrial and commercial operations of its capitalist class.

The efforts of the capitalists of all leading nations were, therefore centered upon the domination of the world's markets. Imperialism became the dominant note of the European scene. The acquisition of colonial possessions of the extension of spheres of commercial and political influence and became the chief object of diplomatic intrigue and the cause of constant clashes between nations.

The acute competition between the capitalist powers of the earth, their jealousies and distrusts, led to the present war.

When the Cotton Crop of 1914 was being stolen from the Farmers of Dixie, he was the ONLY man to stand up in the United States Senate and protest, de-

claring of the rising power of the working class forced each of them to arm to the teeth. This led to the mad rivalry of arms must, which, years before the outbreak of the present war, had turned the leading countries of Europe into armed camps with standing armies of many millions, drilled and equipped for war in times of "peace."

Capitalism, imperialism and militarism had thus laid the foundation of the inevitable great conflict in Europe. The ghastly war in Europe was not caused by an accidental event, nor by the policy or institutions of any single nation, but was the logical outcome of the competitive capitalist system.

The six million men of all countries and races who have been ruthlessly slain in the first thirty months of this war, the millions of others who have been crippled and maimed, the vast treasures of wealth that have been destroyed, the untold miseries and sufferings of Europe, have not been sacrifices exacted in a struggle for principles or ideals, but wanton sufferings upon the altar of private profit.

The forces of capitalism which have led to the war in Europe are even more hideously transparent in the war recently provoked by the ruling class of this country. When Belgium was invaded, the government enjoined upon the people of this country the duty of remaining neutral, thus clearly demonstrating that the "distaste of humanity," and the fate of small nations and of democratic institutions were matters that did not concern it. But when our enormous war traffic was seriously threatened, our government calls upon us to rally to the "defense of democracy and civilization."

Our entrance into the European war was instigated by the predatory capitalists in America, food stuffs and other necessities. They are also deeply interested in the continuance of the war and the success of the allied arms through their sale before all men. It is the same interests which strive for imperialistic domination of the entire hemisphere.

The war of the United States against Germany cannot be justified even on the plea that it is a war in defense of American rights or American "honor."

Knowing that the Government VALOROUSLY. For this action, too, he was denounced in unmeasured terms and by the very game that is now throwing BILLIONS into the maw of war.

For the sake of the secret sessions of the Senate of its committees and by so doing, has forced many of its most important committees to do their work before all men. It is that the President literally hated him.

By no means could his enemies charge that he was not an AM-

erican citizen in all the best that the term conveys, for his family were warriors and his family the nation's flag, but he was, besides, part Indian blood—was all around and then of the blood that phobed violence and honor before the great things on Earth, and the things of society are

And now, this man who, like all the days of his life, fought the people's fight with unswerving dedication is dying. The lion of there is a jutting on his deathbed and the things of society are howling their curses on his de-

Butless as the unrestricted submarine war policy of the German Government was and is, it is not an invasion of the rights of the American people as such, but only an interference with the opportunity of certain groups of American capitalists to earn colossal profits out of the blood and suffering of the men in the warring countries of Europe.

It is not a war against the militarist regime of the Central Powers. Militarism can never be abolished by militarism.

It is not a war to advance the cause of democracy in Europe. Democracy can never be imposed upon any country by a foreign power by force of arms.

It is not an hypocrisy to say that the war is not directed against the German people, but against the Imperial Government of Germany.

We send an armed force to the battlefields of Europe, its cannon will march down the masses of the German people and not the Imperial German Government.

Our entrance into the European conflict at this time will serve only to multiply the horrors of war, to increase the toll of death and destruction and to prolong the frenzied slaughter. It will bring death, suffering and deprivation to the people of the United States and particularly to the working class. It will give the powers of reaction in this country the pretext for an attempt to throttle our rights and to crush our democratic institutions, and to fasten upon this country a permanent militarism.

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The working class of the United States has no quarrel with the working class of Germany or of any of the United States. The people of the United States have no quarrel with the Germany of any other country. They have not been consulted about the war and have had no part in declaring war. They have been plunged into this war by the trickery and treachery of the ruling class of the country through its representatives in the National Administration and National Congress, its demagogic agencies, its subsidized press and other servile instruments of public expression.

We brand the declaration of war by our government as a betrayal against the people of the United States and against the nations of the world.

In all modern history there has been no war more unjustifiable than the war in which we are about to engage.

No greater dishonor has ever been forced upon a people than that which the capitalist class is forcing upon this nation against its will.

In harmony with these principles, the Socialist party emphatically rejects the proposal that in time of war the workers should suspend their struggle for better conditions. On the contrary, the acute situation created by war calls for an even more vigorous prosecution of the class struggle, and we recommend to the workers and pledge ourselves to the following course of action:

1. Continuous, active, and public opposition to the war, through demonstration, mass petitions, and all other means within our power.

2. Unyielding opposition to all proposed legislation for military or industrial conscription. Should such conscription be forced upon the people, we pledge ourselves to continuous efforts for the repeal of such laws and to the support of all mass movements in opposition to conscription.

3. We pledge ourselves to oppose with all our strength any attempt to raise money for payment of war expenses by taxing the necessities of life or issuing bonds which will put the burden upon future generations. We demand that the capitalist class, which is responsible for the war, pay its cost. Let those who kindled the fire, furnish the fuel.

4. Vigorous resistance to all reactionary measures such as censorship of press and mail, restriction of the rights of free speech, assembly and organization, or compulsory arbitration and limitation of the right to strike.

5. Consistent propaganda against military training and militaristic teaching in the public schools.

6. Extension of the campaign of education among the workers to organize them into strong class-conscious, and closely unified political and industrial organizations capable then by concerted and harmonious mass action to shorten this war and to establish lasting peace.

7. Widespread educational propaganda to enlighten the masses as to the true relation between capitalism and war, and to rouse and organize them for action, not only against present war evils, but for the prevention of future wars and for the destruction of the cause of war.

8. To protect the masses of the American people from the pressing danger of starvation which the war in Europe has brought upon them, and which the entry of the United States has

already accentuated, we demand

(a) The restriction of food exports so long as the present shortage continues, the fixing of maximum prices, and whatever means may be necessary to prevent the food speculators from holding back the supplies now in their hands;

(b) The socialization and democratic management of the great industries of the country with the production, transportation, storage and the marketing of food and other necessities of life;

(c) The Socialization of all land and the natural resources which is now held out of our monopolistic speculative profit.

These measures are presented as means of protecting the workers against the evil results of the present war. The danger of recurrence of war will exist as long as the capitalist system of industry remains in existence. The goal we will come with the establishment of socialist industry and industrial democracy the world over. The Socialist Party calls upon all the workers to join in its struggle to reach the goal and thus bring into existence a new society in which peace, fraternity and human brotherhood will be the dominant ideals.

Recommendations.

1. We recommend that the convention instruct our elected representatives in Congress, the State Legislatures, and in local bodies, to vote against all proposed appropriations or loans for naval, naval, or other war purposes.

2. We recommend that this convention instruct the National Executive Committee to extend and improve the propaganda among women, because they as housewives and mothers are now particularly ready to accept our message.

3. We recommend that the convention instruct the National Executive Committee to initiate an organized movement of Socialists, organized workers, and other anti-war forces, for concerted action along the lines of this program.

Kate Richards O'Hare, Chairman
 Victor L. Berger,
 Joe Bartram,
 Morris Hillquit,
 Dan Hoan,
 Frank McNulty,
 Peter J. McGuire,
 C. E. Ruthenberg,
 Maynard Shipley,
 Geo. Blyden, Jr.

Algeron Lee, Secretary.

and them: "Give me strength to follow the road of liberty and duty to the end, as well and truly and only O' God of the common Good, as grandly as you have done."

Covington Amt.

Our hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars a share a lone bandit ten miles into Mexico, six billion dollars to destroy Kierulff's playhouse, but not one cent to feed the starving millions of American people.

This last prayer I make of you

TEXAS

