

THE SOCIALIST PARTY

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

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Number 6

Correspondence of the National Executive Committee During Month of February

February 5, 1910.
National Headquarters,
Socialist Party.

To the National Executive Committee.

Dear Comrades—I have to report that pursuant to the sentiment of the committee expressed in report made under date of January 14, 1910, and relating to the request by Comrade Richey Alexander of Grand Saline, for list of local secretaries in Texas, I transmitted copies of the entire correspondence to the present State Secretary, E. R. Meltzen of Hallettsville. The following is his reply:

"Regarding the list of local secretaries: By a vote of three to two the Executive Board grants your office permission to issue a list of local secretaries of Texas to Richey Alexander of Grand Saline. I think this is as it should be. I do not think a state organization has the right to evade what is plainly the spirit, if not the letter, of the National Constitution."

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 16, 1910.

To the National Executive Committee.

Dear Comrades—For your consideration I submit herewith a copy of a letter from Comrade Freeman Knowles:

Deadwood, S. D., 2/16, '10.

Dear Barnes—I suppose you have kept in touch with our great labor fight here and of the condition of the Lantern. I have three criminal libel suits on my hands resulting from the lockout of the Homestake miners.

I am "up against it," as my friends, the miners, are all out of employment, and the Western Federation can not help me, as it has 4,000 families to feed. I have no attorneys and no money to employ them.

When I was in trouble two years ago the Executive Committee offered to help me, but at that time the miners came to my relief and I was not compelled to call upon the committee.

I wish you would communicate with the members of the committee and place the condition of the Lantern before them. Personally I care nothing for myself, but I would not like to have The Lantern "blown out" just at this time when it is so badly needed.

The cases against me are set for March 7, so you see, I have very little time. I need \$200.00 to employ attorneys to defend me. You can also help me by mentioning my case in your next bulletin, asking the comrades to come to my assistance by subscribing for The Lantern."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) FREEMAN KNOWLES.

Regarding the above and the reference made to two years ago, I would state that immediately Comrade Knowles returned to his home from the National Convention, May, 1908, the federal authorities had him arrested and railroaded the trial upon a charge of publishing an unmailable article in The Lantern, issue of May 30, 1907.

The National Executive Committee, in June session, 1908, took cognizance of the case and adopted the following motion:

"That the National Secretary write him and inquire in what manner we can assist him." At that time he was imprisoned for twenty-five days pending an appeal, and because he refused to pay a fine.

Comrade Knowles, until the first of this year, has been a member of the National Committee continuously since 1906.

In consideration of all the above, I submit the question:

Shall two hundred dollars be appropriated for attorney's fees for Comrade Knowles?

I also enclose a copy of a leaflet entitled, "What Shall We Do for Food?" written by John C. Chase, which I consider pertinent to the present situation, and one of the best propaganda leaflets that could be used by the party in the immediate future.

Unless advised to the contrary I shall print 500,000 for sale at a moderate price from this office.

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 18, 1910.

To the National Executive Committee.

Dear Comrades—I transmit herewith a motion and comment by Comrade Spargo. Kindly vote yes or no on the proposition and let me have your vote at your earliest convenience:

MOTION.

"I move that we at once issue a special appeal to the party membership, calling for funds to assist the Milwaukee comrades in the approaching municipal election."

COMMENT.

"Recently I spent a week in Milwaukee and was surprised at the prevailing unanimity of opinion that our comrades have a good chance to carry the city in April. Owing to the nature of my business engagements in Milwaukee, most of my time was spent among non-Socialists, and I saw very little indeed of our comrades. I confess I was astounded to find such a strong belief among

these non-Socialists that Comrade Seidel would be the next mayor of Milwaukee, provided only that the party could raise funds enough to make a good campaign. On every hand I heard it expressed that if the party had ten thousand dollars to spend on an effective campaign its victory would be certain.

"Now, this is not at all an ordinary local campaign. It is a matter of great national importance. I can conceive of no single achievement within the range of present possibilities which would do so much to inspire and strengthen the whole national movement. It is my belief that we ought to do something more than issue the proposed appeal. I should like to see five hundred or a thousand dollars voted from our party treasury. I believe it could and should be done. For the present, however, I propose simply the issuance of a strong appeal, to be sent to all the locals of the party and published in our press. Such an appeal should, in my judgment, be based upon the following considerations, which are, I believe, of national importance:

(1) It is important that we should marshal our forces in Milwaukee at this time. The very imminence of our victory will naturally bring forth the strongest fire of the enemy. The movement in Milwaukee has good speakers and organizers and a splendid body of volunteer workers. It has four newspapers. Funds are, however, lacking. The heavy expenses of former campaigns, especially that of the last election, and of establishing the local Socialist press, have left the comrades with a burden of debt which cannot be other than a handicap to them. With a boost from the national membership they could win a triumph which would inspire the whole Socialist movement.

(2) Such an evidence of our solidarity as a nation wide response to this appeal would be a notable demonstration to the enemy of our sincerity and strength.

(3) The Milwaukee comrades have reached the point where the capture of the city is almost within their grasp. They have reached that position, not as a result of mushroom enthusiasm, but solid, persistent work and growth. Their victory would not only stimulate and inspire comrades in other cities all over the land, but, through the work of meeting the responsibilities of power which would follow, it would necessarily contribute to the solution of various great municipal problems along Socialist lines. It is morally certain also that victory in Milwaukee would open up the way for similar victories elsewhere.

(4) Our Milwaukee comrades are notably well prepared to assume the responsibilities which victory would bring. The movement is well organized; for ten years past the party membership and vote have steadily increased; there have been no reactions. The union of the party and the trades unions is closer than in any other city in America. More important still is the fact that the Milwaukee comrades are fortunate enough to have among them men and women of capacity and experience in the administration of municipal affairs. Some twenty-five comrades have had actual, practical experience in the city council, the county board, the school board and similar bodies. Further, the presence of representatives in the state legislatures would be an enormous support to a Socialist municipal administration.

(5) Milwaukee is overwhelmingly an industrial city. Its people are progressive, its working class intelligent and class conscious. The movement is being silently and almost unconsciously strengthened as a result of the progressive spirit which characterizes the State University at Madison. Altogether conditions are admirably suited to the making of the first attempt to administer the affairs of a great American city on Socialist lines."

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 21, 1910.

To the National Executive Committee.

Dear Comrades—Upon my suggestion of the 14th for dates for holding the next meeting of your committee, namely, March 18 and 19, I have received replies from all members, which disclose the fact that the dates suggested are inconvenient to the majority.

Comrade Berger does not desire to be absent from Milwaukee prior to election day, April 5th. Comrade Hillquit at least could not be present on the first day of the session and suggests Saturdays and Sundays as the days for meetings rather than other day of the week. Comrade Hunter wishes a later date in April and fears that he could not otherwise be present. Comrade Spargo suggests at least a week later than the dates mentioned.

In consideration of all of the above I submit the motion that a meeting of the National Executive Committee shall be held at National Headquarters, beginning at 10 a. m., April 23d.

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 26, 1910.

To the National Executive Committee.

Dear Comrades—I herewith make report as to the consideration given by your committee to the subject submitted under date of the 16th, relating to an appropriation of \$200.00 for attorney fees for Comrade Freeman Knowles of Deadwood, South Dakota. The proposition was adopted by the unanimous vote of the committee.

LETTER OF COMRADE GOEGEL, DATED FEBRUARY 18th.

"As to the \$200.00 for attorney fees for Knowles, I vote yes, but wish there was some other way of doing it, whether by using him as a resident National Organizer for a certain time, or otherwise, as I do not like to establish precedents of a certain kind. But seeing no other way than you suggest, I vote for the appropriation, as I consider and know that Knowles has made a wonderful fight and should have his arms upheld, not simply for his sake, but for the sake of the party in that locality."

Relating to a date for a meeting of the committee I suggested March 18th and 19th. Having heard from the majority that the dates suggested were inconvenient, I submitted a motion for a further date, namely, April 23d.

Only three members have thus far expressed themselves on this motion and the vote upon it remains open until March 5th. However, I deem it advisable to acquaint you with the opinions of two of the members. Comrade Goebel requested that his letter be so treated. I, therefore, transmit copies of letters from Comrades Carey and Goebel:

LETTER OF COMRADE CAREY, DATED FEBRUARY 23d.

"As to Executive Committee meeting being held April 23, allow me to say that the Congress is slated for May 15th, and I am of the opinion that the referendum to prevent it will fail, for most of the members are so sick of referendums that they will vote against any proposition to make further changes in the National Constitution until they get a chance to read what they have got now. If so, the National Executive Committee will meet about three weeks before the Congress, and as likely most of the members of that body will attend the Congress, it will mean so much more expense, beside the failure to make practical preparation for the Congress. There are several matters that I would like to talk over with the Executive Committee, and I would like to do so as soon as possible. If there is any value in their meeting at all it ought to be done as soon as convenient. Of course I can make motions, but there are some plans that I would first like to have discussed before formal motion. I am, however, ready to be present at any time they may settle upon."

LETTER OF COMRADE GOEBEL, DATED FEBRUARY 24th.

"Replying to yours of the 21st about meeting of the National Executive Committee, I wish to say I most earnestly dissent from the calling of the first meeting of the National Executive Committee at such a long time after their election, virtually one-sixth of their term.

Nor do I think Comrades Hillquit, Berger, Spargo and Hunter should place obstacles in the way of an earlier meeting. Today the lines being followed are virtually those of the old committee, of which the comrades named are the surviving representatives. So, by voting for later meeting, they are depriving the new members of a chance to do the work they were elected to help do.

The prolonged discussion concerning "What's the matter with the party?" showed dissatisfaction on the part of a portion of the membership with the work being done. The fact of three new members of the committee being elected showed further a desire for something different. The new committee should meet at once. They may do nothing startling or new, but they should at least meet and find out whether it is desirable to. I have no chip on my shoulder, but I have never been willing to be a "dummy" on any committee on which I served, and I object strenuously to the members surviving from the old committee by indirect action making their past actions binding on the new members without a meeting to so decide.

Nor the least important phase of the matter is the delay in any plans it may be found needful to carry out. No matter what new plans were adopted, it would take six weeks or two months to get them in action fully, so that if the committee did not meet until April 23d, as suggested, it would mean the hot weather had been reached before plans could be carried out.

I think Comrade Hillquit correct in saying the meetings should be Saturday and Sunday.

I ask that a copy of this letter be sent to the members of the National Executive Com-

mittee. I shall consider the matter important enough to be of interest to the general membership. This meeting could have been held the first week in March at the latest, and should."

Fraternally submitted.

J. MAHLON BARNES,
National Secretary.

National Committee

National Headquarters,
Socialist Party,

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 18, 1910.

To the National Committee.

Comrades—I herewith report the result of vote on second ballot, in which the preferential system was employed, for the selection of a city and date for holding the party congress.

Forty-seven members voted on both propositions. Comrades Clifford and Prevey of Ohio failed to vote on the date, and the vote of Comrade Thompson of Wisconsin for the city was thrown out on account of incorrect marking. The following members did not vote: Isaac of Alabama, Morrison of Arizona, Stirton of Michigan, Murray of New Hampshire, Wright of New Mexico, Lampman of North Dakota and Johnson of Wyoming. The vote for the respective cities and dates are as follows:

Chicago, 125; Indianapolis, 189; St. Louis, 200; Kansas City, 202; Milwaukee, 233; Detroit, 235; Louisville, 265; New York, 315.
May 15th, 210; May 22d, 211; May 10th, 217; May 23d, 228; May 2d, 263; June 13th, 265; May 1st, 268; July 4th, 269; July 12th, 327; September 5th, 382.

In accordance with the above recorded vote Chicago has been chosen as the city and May 15th as the date for holding the party congress for the year 1910.

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 19, 1910.

To the National Committee.

Comrades—By vote closing February 9, 1910, National Referendum "F." 1909, was adopted by a vote of 5,740 to 3,071. By the referendum your committee was instructed "to restore the old rate of three dollars a day and expenses to national organizers and speakers." If agreeable to you, and without formal action on your part, the instructions will be carried into effect as a matter of administration of this office.

Fraternally submitted,

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 26, 1910.

To the National Committee.

Comrades—Your attention is directed to an accompanying letter of even date addressed to the State Secretaries and relating to the constitutional provisions controlling the election of delegates by the several states to the Party Congress.

Although the general subject of the Congress was brought to your attention in November last, no action has been taken to decide the period of time on which the basis of representation should be founded, consequently no instructions on this point have been given to the State Secretaries.

For your information would state that for the National Convention of 1908 your committee decided that the representation should be based upon the dues paid during the three months of December, 1907, and January and February, 1908. The National Executive Committee, regarding representation to the International Congress, recently decided that the membership for the year 1909 shall be taken as the basis.

National Constitution, Article X, Section 6, reads:

"Railroad fare of the delegates going to and coming from the conventions and the congresses of the party shall be paid from the National Treasury, and such expenses shall be raised by setting aside ten per cent of the National dues."

The last convention retained in the constitution the old provision for a mileage assessment. The above section was adopted by a National Party referendum, upon which the result was declared in February, 1909.

The reserve fund, according to the above provision, was started in the month of March, 1909, and to the end of January amounted to \$2,387.70. At the present rate of increase of this fund at the time of the Congress it will amount to about \$3,000. There will, therefore, evidently be a considerable deficit and you are advised to consider ways and means to meet the same.

Fraternally yours,

J. MAHLON BARNES,
National Secretary.

(Attest) J. MAHLON BARNES, National Secretary.

J. MAHLON BARNES, Chicago, Ill., 10,435.

TABULATION OF INCORRECT AND EXCLUDED VOTES

Table with columns for States, Number of Voters, and various names (Bell, Berger, Berlyn, Branstetter, Brower, Carey, Carr, Clark, Collins, Duchez, Gerner, Goebel, Hiquit, Hunter, Kaplan, Lewis, Maurer, McDewitt, Moran, Rose, Slayton, Snyder, Spargo, Strickland, Thompson, Work, Total, Barnes). Rows list states like ALABAMA, ARIZONA, ARKANSAS, BENTON, DETROIT, etc.

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J. MAHLON BARNES, National Secretary, 180 Washington St., Chicago, Ill.

To State Secretaries

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 26, 1910.

To the State Secretaries: Dear Comrades:—You are hereby advised that the National Committee, by vote, decided upon a city and date for the holding of the next party congress, Chicago being chosen as the city and May 15 as the date. The situation is somewhat complicated by the fact that National Party Referendum "A," 1910, is now going the rounds for the membership vote. This referendum proposes to wipe out that part of the constitution relating to party congresses. The vote will close upon it April 6th. However, relating to this subject, your attention is directed to the National Constitution, section 2 of article 10, reading in part as follows: "The basis of representation shall be one delegate at large and one delegate for every five hundred members. Delegates shall be elected and accredited otherwise as for a nominating convention." Section 5 of article 10, in part: "That no delegate shall be considered eligible unless he is a resident of the state from which the credential is presented and shall have been a member of the party for at least two years." Section 7 of article 10: "The election of delegates to the national conventions shall take place not later than sixty days preceding the national convention and the respective State Secretaries shall furnish the National Secretary not later than thirty days preceding such a convention with a list of the accredited delegates to the convention."

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 26, 1910.

To the State Secretaries: Dear Comrades:—As directed by the National Executive Committee, a call has been issued for the nomination of delegates to the International Congress to be held at Copenhagen, Denmark, beginning with the last week in August. The National Constitution provides in article 14, section 1, as follows: "Delegates to the International Congress shall be elected by referendum in the year when the Congress is held; one delegate for every five thousand members, and their expenses shall be paid out of the treasury of the National Party." Based upon the membership for the year 1909, eight delegates are to be elected. Under separate cover I am sending you a quantity of nomination blanks. Said blanks contain the formal call. Kindly see to it that these blanks are distributed to your local and members at large as early as possible in order to give them the greatest limit of time for action. By reason of the limited time allowed it is deemed necessary that the nomination blanks be returned directly to the National Headquarters, and they must reach this office on or before March 31st. If more blanks are needed advise me. Fraternalty yours, J. MAHLON BARNES, National Secretary.

To the Members of the Woman's National Committee:

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 4, 1910.

Dear Comrades:—Recently I received word from Comrade Winnie Branstetter, secretary of your committee, stating that she was quite agreeable to have the correspondence of your committee conducted by this office. Comrade Branstetter points out that she at no time has been able to give to the work the amount of time its proper attention deserved, but that during the last three months a number of circumstances, combined with frequent changes of address, have interfered with her work, and that she had contemplated resigning, but the knowledge that other members of the committee were also doubly burdened deterred her. The members of the committee are, therefore, united in favor of the proposition of the National Office handling the correspondence. Upon this subject and for your guidance I quote from the minutes of the National Executive Committee the following: "Letter from Franklin H. Wentworth reference the National Office handling the correspondence of the Woman's Committee. Motion—That Comrade Wentworth and the members of the Woman's National Committee be informed that this committee is not in a position to depose the duly elected secretary of that committee nor to assume the duties of that office. The committee, however, is entirely willing, if it is the unanimous decision of the Woman's Committee, that motions for the Woman's Committee and matters pertaining thereto shall be sent out through the National Office, as is the case with the National Committee." I herewith direct your attention to the fact that on the 13th ult. I sent out a circular letter to all the local secretaries, signed by a majority of your committee, relating to the special meetings for Feb. 27th. The said circular has been reproduced in the January Bulletin, which was mailed from the National Office during this week. I shall mention this special day and its purposes in the Weekly Bulletin issued tomorrow. I was pleased to be able to include in the annual report a few words with reference to your committee and its work, and I feel confident that the party will benefit greatly by a continuance of the propaganda work designed to enlist women into active party service. Fraternalty yours, NATIONAL SECRETARY.

TABULATION OF INCORRECT AND EXCLUDED VOTES

Table with columns for Number of Voters, States, and various candidate names (Bell, Berger, Berlin, Branstetter, Brower, Carey, Carr, Clark, Collins, Duchez, Germer, Goebel, Hiltquit, Hunter, Kaplan, Lewis, Maurer, McDevitt, Morgan, Rose, Simons, Slayton, Snyder, Spargo, Strickland, Thompson, Work, Total, Barres). Rows are grouped by state: ALABAMA, ARIZONA-Bisbee, ARKANSAS, MICHIGAN, MASSACHUSETTS, OHIO-Springfield, MEMBER-AT-LARGE, SOUTH DAKOTA, and a final Totals row.

