
Socialist Party Going Strong!

by Jack Carney

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Unsigned editorial attributed to editor Jack Carney.

New York after all is the barometer. New York gives the Socialist Party its national color. And it's not red.

The Socialist Party has exposed itself. All that has been said about it by its critics of the left has been proven true by its actions since the expulsion of the 5 Socialist Party legislators from the New York State Assembly.

Coming close upon the heels of the red raids, the news reached the national that 5 Socialist Party assemblymen had been expelled by the New York State Assembly. It was a deathblow to the Socialist Party until — prominent capitalist politicians, lawyers, and masters of industry sensed that this action on the part of the New York Assembly proved the contention of the communists that simple political action would never emancipate the working class and that the capitalist class dictatorship would never permit a working class majority in any legislative assembly to function, even in a pseudo-revolutionary manner.

The “agents” of the master class wanted to do a good job of the clean-up they were making. And they went right ahead, denied representative government, constitutional guarantees, boasted liberties and democracy and everything, just ex-

actly as they will again do at any time the dictatorship of capital is threatened. Wise heads among some of the capitalists and their retainers saw the danger. They decided it was too early in the game to take extreme measures, especially against a party which is not dangerous, a party which is reform and moderate and a splendid safety valve to keep capitalism from exploding.

What underground wires were working as between the Socialist Party leaders and leaders of the Republican and Democratic Parties only few know. However, as if they had been paid for it and handsomely, prominent lawyers and politicians of ruling class views began making public their opposition to the action of the New York State Assembly.

Charles Hughes and the New York City Bar Association began by resolution and public interviews, to criticize the action of the assembly. Other “big” men lent a hand. Several capitalist papers of New York City decided to champion the cause of the expelled Socialists. All this was done to help preserve representative government — for a little while longer, we might add.

Had the Socialist Party and its officials acted



independently of this support which was coming their way from an enemy source, some respect for that party might have been maintained. The direct contrary happened. The leaders of the Socialist Party began bending the knee to the big lawyers who smiled upon them. Hillquit, the gig man in the party, salaamed his best when news reached him that Hughes was against expelling the Socialist assemblymen. And when the bar association elected a committee of 5, Hughes among them, to go to Albany and help fight for representative government, Hillquit, in a letter in *The Call*, graciously bid for Hughes' support as one of the counsel for the party. Note that it was not a case of hiring Hughes as counsel, but a sheer compromise with a capitalist class representative in a fight which should have been made independently if the Socialist Party had any honor.

Now comes the *New York World*, a daily capitalist sheet, and starts a fund for the defense of the expelled Socialists. The money is to be used to defray the legal expenses. Does the Socialist Party refuse this enemy money? *The World* itself gives \$250. Ralph Pulitzer gives \$100. And lo and

behold, here is Barney Baruch with a hundred in blood money made out of the war. Forward steps Hillquit again and tells the readers of this capitalist sheet, which is gathering these dollars from enemy sources, how the money so obtained will be spent. That means that the Socialist Party approves of these contributions from the capitalist class.

The Socialist Party is done for as a weapon for the working class. Only those will remain in its ranks who are dishonest or who do not understand the difference between reform and its compromising program and revolution with its deadly opposition to the master class.

The Socialist Party is now a lightning rod for the capitalist class. From it will be born a Noske and a Scheidemann. It is going strong down the wrong road, not in numbers, for the masses have left it, but in tactics. Its flag is pink and here in New York it is turning yellow.

And if the New York Assembly decides to make the expulsion of the 5 Socialist assemblymen permanent? Then what?

Order a coffin!

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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