

# SOCIALIST WORLD

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## Platform Adopted by Conference for Progressive Political Action

St. Louis, February 12, 1924

The nation is astounded at the revelations of fraud, bribery and corruption of public officials by great financiers to secure for themselves natural resources belonging to the government, which have been brought to light by investigation of the leasing of Teapot Dome and other naval oil reserves.

Never before have the people of America so clearly seen the inner workings of the invisible Government, which, through special privilege, has secured for a favored few the ownership or control of the nation's natural resources, its transportation, its credit system, the marketing of farm products, and all basic industries.

Teapot Dome has taught the American people the sinister meaning of "More Business in Government." They have seen the corrupt hands of predatory wealth reach into the very Cabinet of the President and find there willing accomplices in the looting of the public domain.

They know also that the oil scandal does not stand alone. It is merely the latest of a series of colossal public betrayals—the war frauds, the Veterans' Bureau, the Shipping Board, the sugar scandal, the shameful and intentional mismanagement of the government owned railroad of Alaska for the purpose of discrediting public ownership of railroads and the insidious attempts to turn over the priceless natural resources of that territory to private profiteering interests, and other cases of fraud and corruption unparalleled in American history. The

people's purse, the soldiers' funds, the public treasury, and the public domain—all have been systematically looted to build princely fortunes for conscienceless scoundrels.

Criminally high protective tariffs; cruelly high interest charges on farmers' and home builders' loans; exorbitant freight and passenger rates, fixed by a pliant Interstate Commerce Commission to pay extravagant dividends on billions of dollars of watered stock, and provide juicy melons for railroad officials and stockholders who own stock in railroad supply and equipment companies; price-fixing associations, which, in violation of law and morals, maintain profiteering prices in the essentials of life: monopolization of coal, of iron ore and timber lands—all fostered and protected by the servants of the System in both parties, have brought unparalleled disaster to farmers and untold hardships to wage and salary earners.

Not content with these wrongs inflicted upon the men, the women and children of this nation—not satisfied with the billions of tribute annually wrung from overworked and underpaid millions of America's producers—the present administration now proposes to reduce the taxes upon multi-millionaires and to deprive the war veterans of the adjusted compensation which was solemnly pledged to them.

Sinclair and Doheny, like other big business men, have fattened the campaign coffers of the Democratic and Republican parties. The Teapot Dome

## THE SOCIALIST WORLD

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by the  
**SOCIALIST PARTY OF AMERICA**  
BERTHA HALE WHITE ..... Bus. Mgr.

exposures were made by members of the Senate who have foresworn allegiance to party and borne allegiance to the people. They indict not only both the old parties but the system which fosters and maintains them.

For generation after generation, slowly and cunningly, corporate wealth has builded its power until it controls every branch of the government — legislative, executive and judicial. Its stronghold lies in the courts.

Fundamentally this system which now dominates the government rests upon the concentrated control of the great financial interests over the nation's transportation, its banks and credit, and its natural resources.

This corrupt control must be broken. The people by the ballot have the power to break it, if they have but the will.

We, therefore, upon this 115th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, call upon the American people to join us in supporting for President and Vice-President, Senators, Representatives, and other public officials, candidates pledged to support the following fundamental measures:

- 1 Demand immediate repeal of Cummings-Esch Law, and the public ownership of railroads, with democratic operation.
2. Abolition of the tyranny and usurpation of the Courts, including the practice of nullifying acts of Congress and State Legislatures.
3. The abolition of injunctions in labor disputes and of the power to punish for contempt without trial by jury.
4. Adequate laws to guarantee to the agricultural and industrial workers the right to organize and to conduct strikes for the maintenance or improvement of their standards of life and for the protection of organization funds against attacks from the capitalist interests.
5. Amendment of the Constitution to confer upon Congress full power to protect childhood and end the evils of child labor.

6. The creation of a government marketing corporation (embodying the principles of the Norris-Sinclair bill) to create a direct route between farm producer and city consumer and to assure farmers fair prices for their products, and protect consumers from the profiteers in foodstuffs and other necessities of life.
7. Retention of surtaxes on swollen incomes, restoration of the tax on excess profits, taxation of stock dividends and profits undistributed to evade taxes, rapidly progressive taxes on large inheritances, and repeal of excessive tariff duties on trust-controlled necessities of life and of nuisance taxes on consumption. To relieve the people of the present unjust burden of taxation and compel those who profited by the war to pay their share of the war's costs, and to provide the funds for adjusted compensation solemnly pledged to the veterans of the World War.
8. Public ownership of the nation's waterpower and creation of a public superpower system. Strict public control and permanent conservation of all natural resources, including coal, iron and other ores, oil and timber lands, in the interest of the people.
9. Reconstruction of the Federal Reserve System to provide for direct public control of the nation's money and credit, and legislation to permit and promote co-operative banking.
10. Measures designed to curb, and if possible to eliminate, the twin evils of war and imperialism.

We propose that the government of the United States shall dedicate itself to peace rather than war. To this end we favor:

- (a) International action to outlaw war.
- (b) Opposition to compulsory military service and training in every form.
- (c) Taking the profit out of war by government manufacture of all arms, munitions, and other war equipment.
- (d) Drastic reduction of present excessive expenditures for military and naval purposes, which are an encouragement to Imperialism, grossly wasteful of the public funds, and provocative of war.

We ask the support of fathers and mothers for these measures, reminding them that under existing law their sons may be taken from them by conscription without further congressional action.

# Report of Committee On Organization and Finance

*Conference for Progressive Political Action  
St. Louis, February 12, 1924*

In view of the vital importance of the approaching presidential election and the unparalleled opportunity which it offers to organize and mobilize the progressive forces in American politics for united action in behalf of the wealth producers of the country, the Conference for Progressive Political Action in General Meeting assembled on this 12th day of February, 1924, resolves:

1. That the National committee of this conference be instructed immediately to issue a call for a Convention of workers, farmers and progressives for the purpose of taking action on nomination of candidates for the office of President and Vice-President of the United States, and on other questions that may come before the convention.
2. That the convention shall be held in the City of Cleveland and shall open on the 4th day of July, 1924, at 10:00 A. M.
3. That invitations to participate in the convention shall be extended to all bona fide labor organizations, progressive organizations of farmers, co-operative societies and progressive political parties and groups.
4. Representation at the convention shall be on the following basis: Every national or international organization of labor, farmers, co-operative societies, and political parties shall be entitled to three delegates; every state organization of the Conference for Progressive Political Action, state Federations of Labor, every state legislative board of the transportation organizations, and every state committee of a political party, shall be entitled to two delegates; every general city central body of labor and every local organization of farmers and local co-operative societies in states in which there are no state organizations of such bodies, shall be entitled to one delegate. The national committee shall be authorized to invite as delegates to the convention such individuals as it may select, but such delegates shall have no vote in the convention.
5. All motions and resolutions shall be voted on by viva voce vote or by a show of hands, except that upon the demand of at least fifty delegates, the vote on any question before the meeting shall be taken by roll call. Upon a roll call vote, each national or inter-

national organization of farmers, workers or co-operative societies shall be entitled to one vote for every ten thousand members in good standing or fraction of such number; every other organization shall cast as many votes as the number of delegates to which it is entitled.

6. The national committee shall be authorized to call for voluntary contributions for the special purpose of enabling it to make all necessary arrangements for the convention and to bring out the largest possible representation.

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## RESOLUTION ON KU KLUX KLAN

*Adopted by National Executive Committee*

February 9-10, 1924.

Resolved: By the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party that we are opposed to any movement that has a tendency to destroy the unity of the American workers, to divide them along racial or religious lines, such as the Ku Klux Klan, which represents a revival of the spirit of the Know Nothing party of the early fifties, and of the infamous Klan of reconstruction days.

The workers have everything to lose and nothing to gain by supporting an organization that has already proven a source of untold bitterness, racial, religious and factional strife among them. Trade unions in many instances have become a hot bed of religious and racial heresy hunting. Workers who, because of the common ties of labor, should be united in the closest bond of brotherhood have become the most bitter enemies and are suspicious of each other because of racial and religious differences. The economic master class and a few promoters and organizers are the beneficiaries of such an organization as the Ku Klux Klan.

The Socialist Party through its National Executive Committee proposes to do all in its power to combat the harmful activities of the Ku Klux Klan and to point out to the workers of America that only through political unity and economic solidarity can they attain their salvation from social bondage.

# The Socialist Party in the Coming Campaign

By Bertha Hale White

At the National Convention of the Socialist Party at Detroit, Michigan, June 26, 1921, the first steps toward the formation of a political party of Labor in the United States were taken. A decision of far reaching consequences was made when the following was adopted:

"That the incoming National Executive Committee be instructed to make a careful survey of all radical and labor organizations in the country, with a view to ascertaining their strength, disposition and readiness to co-operate with the Socialist movement upon a platform not inconsistent with that of the party, and on a plan which will preserve the integrity and autonomy of the Socialist Party. That the National Executive Committee report its findings with recommendations to the next annual convention of the Socialist Party."

The action taken by the convention was published in the official bulletin in July and sent to every organization of the party and to every member whose name appeared on the mailing list in the National Office. As the proposed survey, with all that it implied, was a new step for the party, the National Executive Committee waited two months in order that opposition, should there be any, could be expressed. However, no attempt was made to reverse the decision of the convention, and in September the survey was begun.

## MAKING THE SURVEY

While the work of canvassing radical and liberal forces of the country was under way, the Socialist Party was invited to participate in a meeting held in Chicago on February 20-21, 1922, and which resulted in the formation of the Conference for Progressive Political Action. The Socialist Party representatives were Morris Hillquit, Daniel A. Hoan, Victor L. Berger, James Oneal, Otto Branstetter and Bertha Hale White. When the newly formed organization had concluded its deliberations, the Socialist delegation issued a statement quoting the Detroit resolution which authorized steps looking toward a political party of the workers along the lines of the British Labor Party, and concluding with the following comment:

"This is the only credential and authority which we have from our party to participate in the deliberations and work of this conference. We accepted the invitation to attend the conference as individuals and in the hope that it would result in the creation

of an organization such as outlined in the above (Detroit) resolution. We found that a majority of the conferees were not ready to organize for independent working class political action.

"We appreciate the difficulties under which each group in the conference has labored and the consistent efforts which all have made to reach a common basis of agreement. We believe that the mere fact that we have been able to meet is of itself evidence of progress and a forecast of the unity and solidarity of rural and industrial workers which all seek to realize, and we think particularly that the decision of this conference to continue its work, to increase its numbers and to meet again for further consideration of the vital problems before us in the light of the experience to be gathered in the meantime is of great promise for the future of the producing classes in the United States.

## THE PARTY'S POSITION

"We propose to submit the action of this conference to the next convention of our party with recommendations to endorse the same to the extent to which it is consistent with the fundamental principles of our organization. We are frank to state that we do not believe in and do not intend to urge Socialist participation in efforts to capture old party primaries or in support of candidates of the Republican and Democratic parties.

"We believe on the other hand that our party will be ready to co-operate to the fullest extent with the other groups represented in this conference in all cases in which groups unite for the independent nomination and election of officials pledged to the expressed purpose of this conference, i. e., to the interests of the producing class and to the principles of genuine democracy in agriculture, industry and government, and we sincerely hope that the subsequent conferences will prepare the ground for ever closer union and co-operation between all the constituent elements.

"It is on this understanding and with this hope that we are ready to continue working with the conference pending definite instructions from our next convention."

The attitude of the Socialist representatives was accepted by the Conference for Progressive Political Action.

### THE CLEVELAND CONFERENCE

At the Cleveland convention of the Socialist Party, April 29—May 2, 1922, the above position was approved. The recommendation of the National Executive Committee that the party continue its co-operation in the movement was accepted, with the understanding that the Detroit Resolution should continue to determine and guide the actions of Socialist Party members that would attend future conferences.

The Cleveland convention also authorized State Organizations of the Party to co-operate whenever possible with organizations of Labor and working farmers within their state in independent political action, but with the provision that such co-operation must at all times preserve the independence and integrity of organization and official political standing of the Socialist Party, and that such co-operation could be possible only and solely with groups organized in express opposition to the Republican and Democratic parties.

The decisions of the Detroit and Cleveland conventions were again endorsed at the New York convention, May 20, 1923, and are effective at the present time.

A second convention of the Conference for Progressive Political Action was held in Cleveland December 11 and 12, 1922. The position of the conference and the attitude of the Socialist representatives were unchanged. There was little to indicate progress and independent political action by the workers of the United States, with the exception of the million voters who supported Socialist candidates, seemed as remote as ever. If, at the Chicago Conference, it had appeared that Labor was stirring in its long sleep and opening its eyes to actualities in American politics, it now appeared that Labor did not like the big day's work ahead, or feared its strength and skill were insufficient to its demands, and so had turned over and gone to sleep again.

### THE PRESENT SITUATION

On the other hand, throughout the country the question was more and more engaging the thought of radical and progressive forces. The sentiment for independent political action was undoubtedly growing; the current was setting in that direction, but whether or not it was strong enough to carry with it the great, potentially powerful mass of American workers and farmers could not be predicted. Attempts to make surveys, to analyze and localize labor party support were unsatisfactory and inconclusive.

This was the situation until February 11, 1924, when the Conference for Progressive Political Act-

ion held its third convention in St. Louis, Mo. The deliberations and decisions of that body have been published throughout the country. A more sweeping indictment of any government was never issued than the preamble to the platform adopted on the second day of the conference; adopted with cheers and without opposition. A call for a national convention to be held in Cleveland on July 4th was issued "to organize and mobilize the progressive forces in American politics for united action in behalf of the wealth producers of the country."

In view of the platform adopted, and which no old party candidate could accept, the possibility that the July 4th convention will endorse candidates of the Republican or Democratic parties is hardly worth consideration. Every indication points to independent political action by the workers and farmers in the 1924 campaign.

Considering these changed conditions and the Socialist Party's affiliation to the Conference for Progressive Political Action, an affiliation approved by the membership and continued by instructions of the membership, there was but one possible course for the Party to take at St. Louis. To have held a national convention; to have named our presidential and vice-presidential candidates in advance of the date fixed by the Conference for Progressive Political Action would have subjected the Party's good faith to suspicion, to the accusation that our advocacy of a labor party was not sincere.

### SOCIALIST PARTY KEEPS FAITH

No hostile influence has ever been able to sustain a charge of bad faith against the Socialist Party. In deciding to hold the National Convention on July 6th, the National Executive Committee followed the only logical course. At that time the July 4th convention will have made its decisions and our delegates will have full information. If an independent political party of labor and farmers will have been launched, separate and apart and opposed to the Republican and Democratic parties, the indications are that the Socialist Party convention will act in harmony with the position taken by the last three conventions.

But—should these high hopes fail at last; should Labor retreat and once more sink back into its drugged slumber; should it leave a helpless country to be further ravaged and pillaged by the ruthless crew that has robbed the people of their wealth and liberties, then the Socialist Party will not go back. It will go forward with its own campaign, with its own candidates, and take up the work with a vigor and determination that will soon overcome any loss resulting from the five or six weeks delay in holding the party convention.

# WHAT WILL THE ISSUE BE?

*By Joseph E. Cohen*

Politicians of the Republican and Democratic parties are on a wild goose chase to find an issue for the 1924 campaign. The season is wide open, but healthy issues do not seem to be lying around loose. They are on the wing, and the old party hunters have not the weapons to bring the birds down.

For several campaigns it took a very vivid imagination to discover with the naked eye any real difference between these two parties. Whatever luck there was in the past, there is practically none now.

Both birds have conservative and liberal wings. A few tail feathers in each are progressive. But head and body, they are the same old birds.

Take the tax question for example.

The Mellon side of the Republican Party offers a vertical cut in the income tax act. The Democratic Party asks for a slight curve instead of a straight line. The progressives want the line to lean over so it flattens the pocketbooks of the ultra-rich somewhat more. Does that constitute an issue?

Truth to tell, the law as it now stands was put there by the two old parties, without much murmuring from either when the other was in power. Both parties are concerned only in distributing the cost of keeping the government as seems easiest to them. Neither regards the matter of taxation from the standpoint of securing to the nation that which the individual has not created, but which results from the inter-dependent working of industry as a whole.

And that is what taxation ought to do.

The question is not how much money is needed to cover the budget of present expenditure. What should be taken is every dollar that the possessor did not come by through productive effort on his part. Until that is done, all will continue to be wrong with the world.

That is the only issue worth while in this and every succeeding campaign. It may be hidden, compromised and ignored. But it will be involved in every important action of the government, whichever party is in control. And it will assert itself until it is settled right and once and for all.

Both old parties accept as fundamentally sound the present economic system which brings to individuals and corporations wealth in stupendous amounts and which belong to the labor that brought the values into being. The difference on the whole between that which a man begets by productive effort alone and in society belongs to society and not

to the individual. Society should take it. Taxation is a means.

Until that is taken by the nation, the rule of either old party will mean that anyone with the might has a right to plunder his fellows. In practice that comes to this—the small class of capitalists who own the natural resources and run the industries levy tribute upon the rest of the people. Capitalism means plunder.

Plunder by the plutocracy means insufficient wages to those who work, with improper conditions of livelihood, inadequate safeguards for health and life, recurring depressions and unemployment, insecurity and poverty, war between classes and among nations.

Until the power to tax is used to return to the people that of which they have been plundered, the contentions of political parties are so much fiction and fake—a show for which the public pays, and the actors, whether alleged heroes or villains, divide the receipts.

And the great war and the terrible peace serve to show what a frightful price is paid.

Belonging to the same company, it is easy to understand why the old parties are so hard put to it to find an issue. There is none really between them. There can be no mistake about that.

As with taxation, so with such pressing questions as the disposition of the railroads, mines, generated power, credit, banking and every other public question. So with the conduct of industry altogether. So with the troublesome matter of whether there is a future for civilization other than general destruction through the remorseless struggle of monster greeds. Even now Europe is on the brink, and only labor can save it from irreparable disaster.

It is folly to say that America is in the same predicament as Europe. But where America now is Europe once was, by comparison. Let the rapacity of capitalism go on until another world war breaks loose, and victors and vanquished alike may not remain to tell the story.

What concerns us then is whether or not the men and parties who are the government are to let the plundering forces pile up the causes for conflict until there cannot be peace at home or abroad. Those forces are already enormous. If the power of taxation does not begin to be wielded soon against them, they may not be stopped until they have rushed the world to ruin. This is the time to act.

By taxation there should be returned to the nation what rightfully belongs to the nation, the sums so taken to be spent in distributing the benefits of industrial effort to all involved. Instead of squandering the major part of the nation's funds upon wars and the penalties of wars, the outlay should bestow the victories of peace. As yet our government has hardly tapped the healing waters of social legislation.

Whether in the problem of taxation or any other national question, the only thing which matters is to bring the fruits of our common industry and enterprise to the whole people. That is the issue in the campaign of 1924 and in every campaign until labor has taken the place of those who stand for the existing inequality, both in government and industry, and brought forth social democracy.

## PROSPERITY AND HARD TIMES

Article No. 3

### THE ROOT OF THE TROUBLE

By August Claessens

Geologists inform us that earthquakes are caused by great faults in the strata of the earth. A rapid and steep decline from mountain heights to great valley or sea depths generally describes the type of country where frequent adjustments and earth movements are imminent. These immense slides create the tremors and shocks that foretell the visitation of great catastrophies such as the earthquake that recently devastated Japan.

Our business system is in somewhat of the same precarious condition. It also rests upon a faulty basis. Great heights of prosperity overhang treacherous chasms. Top-heavy business conditions result in frequent failures and broadcast vibrations and shocks that betray an unstable economic order.

Conservative economists, sociologists and publicists frequently describe and analyze the vicissitudes of our business system. They may disagree as to the nature of the defect and its remedy, but they are often forced to admit that there is something fundamentally loose in the economic basis of modern society. Socialists ascribe this defect to the profit system that poisons the life-blood and affects its whose constitution.

The profit element in wealth production, transportation and exchange, contrary to popular notion, has not been with us since Eve's cat was a kitten. This system, historically named capitalism, is not more than 150 years old. True, exploitation, money-making, wealth hoarding and barter are older than Tut's tomb, yet the pernicious system of profit-mongering that graces our present-day civilization is distinctly modern. It began in England in the latter part of the 18th century and was born out of the discovery of steam, the invention of machinery, the improvement and extension of navigation and world-wide commerce and exchange. Capitalism has progressed so rapidly and thoroughly that it has permeated our whole economic, social and political existence. Many people believe it has

always been with us and is destined to continue to eternity.

It is important to repeat that in all parts of the world, not so long ago, the production of goods was carried on mainly for immediate and local consumption. The products of the soil and handicraft were generally exchanged on the terms of value for value, and the maxim "Fair exchange is no robbery" was considered an undisputed truism. Strange to observe, this wise saying is still echoed in this day when the practice of "do others before they do you" is practically the religion of business success.

Certainly, storms of righteous indignation frequently beat about our ears whenever some unscrupulous business men overstep the bounds of conventional commercial decency. Our liberal and progressive friends are especially vituperative in their appreciation of "pitiless profiteering," and the public is quite willing to hang the merciless miscreants upon our traffic-tower. They overlook the fact that these audacious profiteers are but the brilliant blossoms that flower in the congenial soil of a fundamentally criminal business system. The audiences hiss the villain and complacently tolerate the villainy of the plot.

Future historians will most likely be perplexed to comprehend this feature of our civilization and the abject shamelessness of the best elements of our day, sanctioning and encouraging it. Socialists and radicals in general are but voices in the wilderness. To their everlasting credit and honor, they denounce this entire sordid business system as grossly inefficient; immoral and inhuman. They do not attack the individual offenders as much as they expose the general condition that must necessarily bring forth such offenses.

The rest of our dear people either don't seem to care or else stand by like oxen in a butcher's stall.

And so the mean game goes on and on. "Give as little as you can for as much as you can get" has completely ousted the honest concept of "fair exchange." Do it clumsily, inartistically and vulgarly, and you bring contempt upon your head. But if you profiteer "within the rules" and do it inconspicuously and artfully, you will be honored by the state, blessed by the church and popularly acclaimed as a worthy citizen and a successful business man.

Food is not produced, stored, transported or distributed for human consumption primarily. The supreme motive behind, before and around it all is profit. The same is true of clothing, hats and shoes. Good values and shoddy are advertised and salesman-ed so brazenly that only a wide-awake purchaser can be undeceived. Substantial and comfortable homes are built for substantial and comfortable incomes. Ramshackle houses, with miserable materials and hasty workmanship, are erected for the less fortunate. The halo of profit enshrines the ugly buildings that encroach upon fair acres of the earth and blaspheme what men call "a city of homes." A vast amount of labor, time and materials are wasted upon making cheap and useless

*(Article No. 4 in the next issue)*

things, and most of life's needs are the object of unbridled gambling and speculation.

Our social hypocrisy also taboos and outlaws certain types of gambling and speculation. Hitting below the belt, fouling our "moral" sensibilities is frowned upon. But within the rules all else is "kosher." Gamble with the milk for infants; rent rack the sanctity of the home; take advantage of the innocent and the ignorant; speculate with the yield of our farms and its toilers; hoard during the flood and sell high during the drought; kill the joy of creative labor; debase talent, and coin the sweat of agony into currency and stamp upon it "In God We Trust"—all this is permissible in the reign of successful business.

It is the combination of all these elements that is responsible for the faulty foundation of our economic well-being. In gambling there is no certainty, no trust nor good fellowship. In speculation there is no stability, no security nor good will. Our periods of prosperity are spasms of delirium and pain. From the roots of this economic system grows only a noxious plant with gaudy flowers of false hopes.

## FARMERS AND COOPERATION

*By John M. Work*

It is a fact that speculation in farm land has been one—but not the only factor in the woes which the farmers have suffered during the past few years. This is charged by the critics of the farmers, but they lay stress upon it to the exclusion of the other factors, such as high freight rates, the cruel deflation of 1920, and the low prices paid to the farmers for things which bring high prices when sold to city consumers.

Of course, there has been land speculation in America ever since the early days when there was only a thin line of settlements on the Atlantic coast—long before the expression "the United States of America" was first used by Thomas Paine in his original best seller, *Common Sense*, which converted George Washington to the cause of independence. Some of the fathers who founded our nation were not above investing in land and holding it for a rise. Land speculation has been a feature of American life ever since.

There was, however, a special impetus given to such speculation by the recent war—one of the numerous baneful results of that wicked wrecker of civilization.

The war created an abnormal demand for farm products. This in turn created an abnormal rise in

the price of land. Farmers and others bought land which they did not intend to till themselves, and held it for speculative purposes. Many of them went heavily in debt for these speculative tracts, exhausting their credit at the banks, and making as large mortgage loans on the land as possible.

This continued until 1920. When the thunderbolt of deflation struck, in that year, it ripped the inflated values out of farm land. In many cases the selling price went down to a point where it was barely equal to the amount of the mortgage. Farmers who had bought land for legitimate farming purposes, without any speculative motives, found themselves in the same predicament—for the deflation of value did not adroitly pick out the speculative land and leave the rest alone. Billions of dollars have been lost by both speculators and legitimate farmers because of this drop—and the banks in the country towns have had a hard time on account of the resulting frozen credits which they have had to carry while waiting for balmy days.

It must be remembered, however, that this is not all that is the matter with agriculture. If it were all, the situation would not be so bad, for land was too high and it had to come down. It is still too high.



The farm renters—who constitute about forty per cent of the total number of farmers—suffer from high-priced land. The stiff price not only makes it next to impossible for a renter to buy a farm, but it boosts his rent up to a point where it will bear a certain relation to the price of the land—for an owner of rented land, like an owner of a city flat building, wants to get as large a percentage of income on the selling value of the property as possible.

Obviously the solution of the farm problem—for owners and renters—does not lie in jacking up the price of land again.

It lies rather in the extension of co-operation—both voluntary and collective.

As to collective co-operation, the farmer would be greatly benefited by the collective ownership and control of the railroads, the coal mines, the steel industry, the agricultural implement industry, and the other great industries—for the reason that he would be able to buy his necessities and comforts at the cost of production—and for the further reason that this would increase the income of the average city dweller and thereby increase the demand for farm products.

As to voluntary co-operation, the farmers already have many co-operative stores and elevators, and they are now in the process of developing co-operative marketing. In our judgment they should develop this co-operative marketing until they get themselves

compactly organized in a nation-wide body—with the necessary subdivisions along the lines of the different products, such as wheat, corn, cotton, etc., or small grain, cotton, fruit, etc., as may seem best. Call it a farmers' guild or whatever you like—that is in effect what it would be.

By that time the urban industries should be socialized—and the farmers' organization can deal face to face with the collectivity—selling the farm products at prices which will have been scientifically arrived at, instead of the present hit or miss method. The farmers—as also the city workers—will then at last get the full value of their labor.

Nor will the farmers' co-operation end there. Sooner or later—unless I am mistaken—the farmers will till the land co-operatively, too. Of course, nobody is going to force them to do so. In this and all other sorts of co-operation in which they may engage, they will use their own free will. In course of time I believe they will voluntarily undertake co-operative production of farm products. It would enable them to use machinery more extensively, cut down their hours of labor and increase their production. It would also make it feasible for them to live in villages where they could have all modern improvements in the way of housing and household facilities, better education for their children, and better opportunities for entertainment and for the development of their higher qualities.

## Appeal From Labour and Socialist International Help For German Working Class Children

To All Affiliated Parties:

We are forwarding you the following appeal which we have received from the Central Committee of Labour Welfare in Berlin.

On behalf of the Secretariat of the L. S. I.  
T. SHAW.

London, December, 1923.

### *Help for German Working Class Children*

Privation and hunger are making terrible ravages in Germany. Starvation wages, gold mark prices, unemployment and short time work are daily reducing the strength of the German working classes. The greatest sufferers of all are, however,

### THE CHILDREN OF THE WORKING CLASSES

Various charities unconnected with Labour are beginning to collect crumbs from the tables of the rich for the poorest of the poor. But Labour itself is anxious to take a hand in the work; not only

foreign labour, but even German Labour burdened though it is with its own privations. The rescue of the children of the German workers must, in so far as that is possible, be

### THE WORK OF THE WORKERS THEMSELVES

The Local Committees for Labour Welfare and the National Council of the Friends of Children have undertaken the task of relieving this distress. Our work must be to assist them in this task. We have no intention of organizing any new Executive Committee, which would only serve to swallow up much of the funds provided; we are aiming to make use of the organizations already in existence so that they may give help where it is most needed. These organizations, namely the Labour Welfare and the Friends of Children, cover so large an area and are so well managed that there is every guarantee of their furnishing speedy and efficient relief.

We, therefore, ask all comrades at home and abroad who, despite their own privations, are both able and willing to make a gift to the hungry children of the German workers, to send their donations to us. They may rest assured that the whole of the fund thus accumulated will go direct to the purpose for which it is destined, namely the feeding of workers' children in Germany.

Donations are to be sent—if possible in stable currencies—to  
**HAUPTAUSSCHUSS FUER ARBEITER-  
 WOHLFAHRT, Berlin, S W68, Lindenstr. 3.  
 REICHSARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT DER  
 KINDERFREUNDE, Lindenstr. 3.**

(Postschenckkonto: Richard Lohmann, Berlin SW 68, Nr. 155468, Postscheckamt, Berlin NW 7).

### OUR CHILDREN ARE STARVING!

Give quickly and according to your means.  
**HAUPTAUSSCHUSS FUER ARBEITER  
 WOHLFAHRT.** Gemeinschaft der Kinderfreunde: Marie Juchacz. Paul Loebe.

### HELP THE RHINELAND AND THE RUHR!

The complete economic collapse in the Rhineland and the Ruhr district has brought unemployment to two-third of the population. Millions of cold and hungry children share unwarmed room with careworn parents, invalids and old people. Death is knocking at their door. Those who have still a little strength left are making their last efforts to earn a crust of bread.

The once powerful institutions which in former days provided for the welfare of the workers are now forced to look on in despair, while unemployment, currency depreciation and political chaos decimate their resources.

Comrades in foreign lands, and all friends and helpers of innocent children, to you we appeal in the hour of our deepest need. Will you help us to save human lives and to destroy hate from among the peoples?

#### Notice.

Under instructions of the National Executive Committee the National Office has issued a call for funds for German relief. Contributions for this purpose should be sent to the National Office, 2653 Washington Blvd., Chicago, to be forwarded to Germany.

## The Campaign Idaho

Boise, Idaho,

February 20, 1924.

*To Idaho Comrades and the Socialist Party  
 of America*

Greetings:

Now that the St. Louis Conference is gone and the Cleveland meeting is in preparation and slated to be held on July 4th next, it behooves Socialists everywhere to be on guard against being caught napping. There is a state of mind we must guard against, that of thinking George will do it on July 4th. For George may not do it, and the Cleveland Conference may not decide to nominate a presidential ticket, and then what? *Now* is the time for us to prepare against such a possibility; to clear the decks for action so as to be ready to launch our own campaign; to be ready if necessary to nominate a Socialist national ticket and adopt a Socialist National Platform immediately after the Cleveland Conference is over and adjourns, if that Conference fails to put up a candidate on which all concerned can and do agree.

The Socialist Campaign Committee for Idaho (where we are circulating petitions for signatures for a place under our own party name) through its State Executive Board will not relax its efforts to obtain the desired end, to be ready to name Socialist electors, candidates for Senate and Congress and a full state ticket at the appointed time for State Conventions in Idaho. The time is fixed by law. In Idaho all parties must hold conventions on the same day.

Therefore, let all comrades and friends of the Socialist Party in Idaho put forth their untiring effort to obtain the desired results, to re-establish our party again firmly as it was before that outbreak of human butchery which is now known to history as the World War.

Socialists in Idaho know that unless we do overcome the many obstacles put in our path to victory "there will not be a political party in Idaho that will stand up unflinchingly for the fundamental rights of the workers and producers of wealth," for the simple reason that office-grabbing does not constitute relaxation from exploitation by the private owners of the means of life, does not mean the dawn of industrial liberty, democratically administered, for and by those that perform beneficial labor for society at large, but does mean plunging deeper into the quagmire of desolation in which Labor and Farmer now find themselves.

You men and women of Idaho schooled in the Socialist faith, reassert your intent again to acquire your rightful place in the political arena. Then you will not again have to be a political football for capitalist politicians, whose only aim is to hoist themselves into office, there to do the bidding of the master class; that class which owns and controls the means of production, distribution, transportation, communication, the natural resources in which we should all have common ownership, and the financial arteries of exchange and other powerful agencies — an ownership and control which tend to peonize the American working population.

Send all signed petitions to Box 31, Boise, Idaho.

Fraternally yours till success crowns our effort.  
C. H. Cammans, Secretary, Campaign Committee.  
C. H. Felton, Chairman.

### Emil Herman Lecture Dates

Saturday, March 1	.....	Florence, Montana	
Sunday, "	2..2 P. M.	Darby,	"
Sunday, "	2..8 P. M.	Hamilton,	"
Monday, "	3.....	Clinton,	"
Tuesday, "	4.....	Butte,	"
Wednesday, "	5.....	Great Falls,	"
Thursday, "	6.....	Stockett,	"
Friday, "	7.....	Sande Coulee,	"
Saturday, "	8.....	Fort Shaw,	"
Sunday, "	9..2 P. M.	Black Eagle,	"
Sunday, "	9..8 P. M.	Great Falls,	"
Monday, "	10.....	Whitefish,	"
Tuesday, "	11.....	Kallispell,	"
Wednesday, "	12.....	Eureka	"
Thursday, "	13.....	Spokane,	"
Friday, "	14.....	Moscow,	Idaho.
Saturday, "	15.....	Lewiston,	"
Sunday, "	16.....	Hermiston,	Oregon
Monday, "	17.....	Umatilla,	"
Tuesday, "	18.....	La Grande	"
Wednesday, "	19.....	Yankton,	"

Congratulations were cabled to Ramsay MacDonald, the new prime minister of Great Britain by Victor Berger, as follows:

"Congratulations and best wishes from the only Socialist in Congress. Today Americanism and capitalism have come to mean the same thing. The working class of Great Britain is the hope of the white race and of the world. Therefore down with the hellish Versailles pact and up with the banner of justice and human brotherhood. And since you have the world's conscience in your keeping you need fear nothing. You cannot lose, Comrades, good luck."

### RESOLUTION ON RECOGNITION OF SOVIET RUSSIA

"Whereas, the Soviet Government of Russia has been in existence for more than six years, and is today perhaps the most stable government in Europe, having existed longer than the governments of any of the large European powers, and

"Whereas, the people of Russia, and not the 'oily' political representatives of private greed in the United States, must be the ones to select their own form of government best suited to their needs and psychology of their people, and

"Whereas, the government of the United States recognized for a century and a quarter the corrupt tyrannical government of the Czars, and is today dealing in closest relations with swashbuckling militaristic France and the government of Italy under the dictatorship of Mussolini, whose iron hand has destroyed the Co-operatives and many other organizations set up by the Italian people in their interest, and

"Whereas, Russia covers almost one-sixth of the land surface of the globe, more than eight million square miles of territory rich in natural resources and food producing possibilities, that will have a tremendous effect for good in restoring the shattered economic forces of the world, when once these resources can be utilized, and

"Whereas, many of the leading nations of Europe, including the Labor Government of Great Britain, have recognized and have set up diplomatic relationship with the Soviet Government of Russia, therefore be it

"Resolved, that the Socialist Party of the United States, through its Executive Committee, demand of the Government of the United States an immediate recognition of the Russian Soviet Government, in order that trade relations may be established and friendly intercourse secured with the Russian people. To this we pledge the whole-hearted support of the Socialist Party and of the Socialist press, and promise to do all within our power to urge upon Congress and the Department of State the necessity of immediate action, to the end that justice may be established between the nations of the world, for until Russia is allowed to take her place along with the family of nations and work out her own political, economic and social salvation, peace, equity and prosperity will be denied to countless millions of mankind."

Through a typographical error in the published apportionment of convention delegates in the January Socialist World, the Jugo-Slav Federation has no paid delegate. The Jugo-Slav Federation is entitled to one paid and two unpaid delegates.

# Minutes of The National Executive Committee St. Louis, Feb. 9-12, 1924

Hotel Majestic, St. Louis, Mo.

February 9-10, 1924

Meeting called to order by Executive Secretary Otto Branstetter at 10 A. M.

Present, Morris Hillquit, New York; Birch Wilson, Pennsylvania; Leo M. Harkins, New Jersey; W. M. Brandt, Missouri; W. R. Snow, Illinois; Otto Branstetter, Executive Secretary; Bertha Hale White, Assistant Executive Secretary.

Absent, Eugene V. Debs, Indiana (on account of illness); Edmund T. Melms, Wisconsin, (detained on party business).

Hillquit elected Chairman of the meeting.

The Executive Secretary reported that he had come by Comrade Debs' home enroute to the meeting and had found him confined to his room and that his condition prevented his attendance upon the meeting; that his eventual recovery from his long illness imperatively demanded uninterrupted rest and quiet. Comrade Debs sent his cordial greetings to the committee with the assurance that the condition of his health alone could have kept him from being present at this important meeting of the National Executive.

The Secretary was instructed to convey the deep regret of the committee that he could not attend, and the earnest hope that he would soon be restored to health.

*Motion by Harkins:* That we proceed with consideration of agenda as prepared by the Executive Secretary. *Carried.*

The first question upon the agenda was the resignation of Executive Secretary Branstetter presented to the committee by correspondence. Letter of resignation and acceptance follow:

February 1, 1924.

To the National Executive Committee.  
Dear Comrades:

I herewith tender my resignation as Executive Secretary to take effect at the committee meeting in St. Louis on February 9th. This action is taken after due deliberation and with the firm conviction that it is to the best interest of the Party that my resignation be accepted by your committee at this time.

I wish to assure the committee that in tendering my resignation I am inspired by the same desire to serve the Party with which I accepted the position over four years ago.

I have no grievance against the Party or against your Committee. I have served during a very trying period and am tired and worn out. This is Presidential



**The National Convention of The Socialist Party will be held on July 6th at Cleveland, Ohio.**

**State Organizations of the Party are urged to secure the attendance of their full quota of Delegates.**

**Matters of Vital Importance to the Socialist Movement Will be Decided. It Will be the Most Important Convention in the History of The Socialist Party.**



year, and in addition thereto we are entering upon a new phase of the Party's history. The work of the Executive Secretary is important, and it is essential that we have the best man available for that work during the coming year. Whatever my qualifications may have been in the past, I do not feel that I am in a condition to warrant my undertaking this heavy responsibility at the present time. I feel that in justice to the organization it is necessary for me to insist upon retiring in order that a new and fresher person may be secured.

I wish to express my appreciation of the fine spirit of this and the preceding committees under which I have served. It has been a very great pleasure to work with you for our common cause. The kindness and consideration shown me by the committee at all times and under all circumstances is deeply appreciated and my sole reason for resigning is the conviction that the best interests of the Party will be served thereby.

With sincerest personal regards to every member of the committee, I am.

Fraternally yours,

Otto Branstetter,  
Executive Secretary.  
February 9, 1924.

Dear Comrade Branstetter:

The National Executive Committee learns with deep regret that you have definitely determined to resign from the office of Executive Secretary of the Party. You have been in charge of the affairs of the Socialist Party in the most difficult and trying years of its existence and have on all occasions demonstrated an unwavering and rare loyalty and devotion to the Party, and your personal relations with our Committee have always been cordial, comradely and helpful.

We accept your resignation in deference to your positive desire and with the conviction that you will continue your useful activities within the Party in an unofficial capacity, and that you will always give our Committee your voluntary co-operation in the task of rebuilding our movement.

With best wishes for your personal happiness, and fraternal greetings,

National Executive Committee

Eugene V. Debs.  
W. M. Brandt,  
Leo M. Harkins,  
Morris Hillquit,  
Edmund T. Melms,  
W. R. Snow,  
Birch Wilson.

Election of secretary deferred until later in the session.

Discussion on proposed St. Paul Conference. *No action.*

Discussion on Conference for Progressive Political Action.

The chairman read report of a survey of the political situation recently made by party members and submitted by James Oneal of New York.

William Mahoney of Washington, D. C., requested to privilege of appearing before the committee. It was agreed that Mr. Mahoney should be given the floor at three o'clock.

Discussion on National Convention.

*Motion by Wilson:* That the National Convention of the Socialist Party be called to begin on May 17, 1924. *Adopted.*

*Motion by Harkins:* That New York City be selected as the convention city. *Adopted.*

Adjourned until 2.30 P. M.

*Afternoon Session, February 9th.*

Meeting called to order at 2.30.

*Motion by Harkins:* That Comrade White shall be elected National Secretary to fill vacancy caused by Comrade Branstetter's resignation.

Hillquit outlined a tentative plan of dividing the functions of the National Office, leaving the executive work in the hands of someone qualified by experience and familiarity to discharge the duties of the office and at the same time selecting some capable and energetic member to have charge of the organization activities and political phases of the National work. It was his belief that the selection of National Executive Secretary should be deferred for the time being and that Comrade White should continue in charge of the national headquarters until the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

*Amendment by Wilson:* That the present arrangement continue. *Carried.*

*Motion by Brandt:* That the Socialist Party delegates at the convention for Progressive Political Action will support a motion for the calling of a convention to make independent nominations for President and Vice-President, at the same time informing the Conference of the Party's intention to hold a national nominating convention on May 17th, upon the understanding that the Party's nominations would be subject to change if conditions will warrant it. *Carried.*

*Motion by Harkins:* That Comrade White be requested to prepare a preliminary agenda for the National Convention as soon as possible and send copies to members for suggestions. *Carried.*

Agenda suggestions,

*Motion by Snow:* That the state



## **EDUCATION!** *The Spoken and Written Word of Socialism.*

**Send in Your Ap-  
plication for a  
National Speaker.**

**Replenish Your  
Stock of  
Literature.**

**Prepare for the  
Campaign.**

**There is Work to  
be Done.**

**The Time is All  
too Brief.**

**Work Demands  
Speakers**

**and Literature**

**Write the National  
Office Today!**



charter of the Socialist Party of Montana be restored and that Comrade James D. Graham be appointed state secretary until such time as the state organization can select a state secretary. *Carried.*

Communications from Emil Herman, District Secretary of Northwestern District, outlining the needs of the district for the ensuing year. After a careful consideration of the financial situation of the National Organization, the committee decided it would not be possible to grant any appropriations at this time.

*Motion by Wilson:* That Comrade Morris Berman be appointed the representative of the National Executive Committee in connection with all the arrangements for the National Convention. *Carried.*

Comrade Hillquit reported the necessity of his attending a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Conference for Progressive Political Action which would prevent his attendance upon the Sunday morning session of this committee. It was then agreed that a Sunday night session should be held beginning at 8 o'clock.

Adjourned until 10:00 Sunday morning.

*Sunday Morning Session*

Meeting called to order at ten o'clock.

Wilson elected Chairman for the meeting.

Report of Albert Weisbord, National Director of the Young People's Socialist League.

*Motion by Snow:* That the secretary write Comrade Weisbord that the committee declines to accept his offered resignation at this time, but have in mind his offer of work in other lines and will consider it, and in case it seems practicable will take it up at that time. The committee regrets the financial condition of the party will not permit the establishment of a Y. P. S. L. department at the National Office. *Carried.*

Report of Jugo-Slav Federation by Charles Pogorelec, Translator-Secretary. Report received.

Committee discussed the growing laxity on the part of local, state and federation officials in the matter of reports.

*Motion by Harkins:* That a committee of two or three be elected to confer with the secretary and prepare a resolution on the question of party discipline. *Carried.*

The Secretary was instructed to conduct correspondence with Robert Smillie and other well-known comrades abroad in the effort to arrange tours of this country.

*Motion by Brandt:* That the Secretary correspond with comrades in Iowa

on party organization. *Carried.*

Committee on Resolutions: Appointed, Snow, Harkins, Brandt, Wilson.

Communication from William Van Es-sen, Pittsburgh, on establishment of national weekly.

*Motion by Harkins:* That we do not believe the situation such as to warrant the undertaking of the national publication at this time. *Adopted.*

Communication from Walter Baber reporting on recent Denver conference. Report received and Secretary instructed to express the appreciation of the committee for the information conveyed.

Communication from Mrs. Hatfield, Terre Haute, asking the committee to authorize the National Office to handle pamphlet "Why Pay Taxes."

*Motion by Snow:* That the National Office should not increase its stock of literature before the opening of the National campaign. *Adopted.*

Adjourned until night session.

Committee called to order at eight o'clock and at once entered into a discussion of the possibilities of an independent labor party in the ensuing campaign. A report was made by Comrade Hillquit based upon discussion of such independent ticket by the Executive Committee of the Conference for Progressive Political Action.

The subject was very thoroughly discussed and every possibility to the Socialist Party considered in the event that a labor party should enter the political field in this campaign.

It was the opinion of the majority that if such a Labor Party was created the Socialist Party, through its organization and political machinery and through the training and experience of its members, would have a decided and salutary influence on the new movement and would at the same time not only be able to maintain its integrity as an organization but would be largely strengthened because of its new and important functions.

Adjourned to meet at the Conference for Progressive Political Action in convention Monday, February 11, at 10.00 A. M., Hotel Statler.

#### *Monday Afternoon Session*

Convened at 3:00, Hotel Statler.

Present: Wilson, Brandt, Snow, Harkins, White.

Snow elected Chairman for the meeting.

#### *Italian Controversy.*

Correspondence relative to controversy existing between the State organization of the Socialist Party and the Italian Socialist Federation submitted, including

report of special subcommittee to investigate charges and make recommendations.

The situation was canvassed as thoroughly as possible and careful consideration given to the material available, supplemented by information given by Comrade Harkins.

*Motion by Brandt:* "In view of the fact that from report of the committee it appears that the national constitution has not been violated, as no charter had been issued to a rival Italian Branch in West Hoboken, and the application for such charter is in the hands of Local Hudson County, that we refer the entire question back to the State of New Jersey, as it involves matters that come only within their jurisdiction, and that we recommend that the State Committee of New Jersey and the Italian Federation again meet and attempt to adjust the matter to the satisfaction of both." *Carried.*

#### *Party Discipline*

*Motion by Wilson:* "There is a laxity of discipline in the organization which has grown beyond the limits of fairness or toleration and becomes in itself a source of weakness and disintegration. Indifference and negligence of many party officials hamper our activities, dishearten the membership and destroy the morale of the organization.

"During the period of persecution and dissension through which we have passed, it was natural and justifiable that a certain laxity should develop. The reasons for this laxity no longer exist, and since it has become a source of further weakness and disintegration, the National Executive Committee declares its intention of rigidly enforcing the provisions of the constitution dealing with the state, federation and local officials to, and their relations with, the national organization.

"In the event of such negligence or failure to observe such constitutional regulations, the Executive Secretary is instructed to report to the National Executive Committee."

*Carried.*

Berger German Credit Bill.

*Motion by Harkins:* That the Socialist Party through its press and local organizations and other means of reaching the people give all the publicity and support within its power to the bill introduced by Comrade Berger in Congress for the relief of the German people, and requests all those interested in German relief to write to the members of Congress urging the passage of House Resolution No. 4081. *Carried.*

Resolution on Mexico, offered by Harkins. *Adopted.*

Resolution on Child Labor, by Harkins. *Adopted.*



## AVAILABLE

For lectures under the auspices of the Socialist Party:

*April, Eastern and Central States: Ryan Walker, famous cartoonist, creator of Henry Dubb.*

And

*August Claessens, Socialist Assemblyman of New York, the "Little Giant" of the Socialist movement.*

*April, Central and Western States: Esther Friedman, the most effective Socialist woman speaker on the platform today.*

*Locals desiring to secure these speakers should make application to the National Office immediately.*



Resolution on Naval Oil Lease Scandal, by Hillquit, approved.

Resolution on Ku Klux Klan, offered by Snow. Adopted.

Resolution on Lineberger Bill, offered by Snow. Adopted.

Adjourned until 7.30.

Evening Session, February 11, 1924

Meeting called to order at 7.30.

*Finance*

*Motion by Hillquit:* That a voluntary assessment be called in amounts of fifty cents, one dollar and five dollars to be evidenced by a special assessment stamp for convention and membership drive purposes and that a letter outlining the situation be prepared and sent to all locals. *Carried.*

Adjourned subject to call.

Tuesday Afternoon Session, February 12, 1924.

Meeting called to order by Snow, Chairman of previous session. Present, Hillquit, Brandt, Harkins, Wilson, Snow, White.

*Motion by Harkins:* To reconsider motion fixing the date and place of the National Convention as May 17th at New York City. *Carried.*

*Motion by Hillquit:* That the date of the next convention be fixed at July 6th and the place Cleveland, Ohio. *Carried.*

*Motion by Snow:* To reconsider motion on election of acting Executive Secretary. *Carried.*

*Motion by Harkins:* That Comrade White be elected National Executive Secretary. *Carried.*

*Motion by Hillquit:* To allow Comrade Bransteter four weeks' salary in lieu of vacations. *Carried.*

Adjourned sine die.

Bertha Hale White, Secretary.

**The Socialist Party**

BERTHA HALE WHITE  
Executive Secretary

2653 WASHINGTON BLVD.

Chicago

National Executive Committee:

Eugene V. Debs, Terre Haute, Ind.

Morris Hillquit, 19 W. 44th St., New York City.

Edmund T. Melms, 579 8th Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.

Birch Wilson, 616 Genesee St. Buffalo, New York.

W. M. Brandt, 940 Chouteau Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

Leo M. Harkins, 1325 Arch St., Philadelphia, Penna.

W. R. Snow, 1501 Warren Ave., Chicago Illinois.

Official Business

December 22, 1923

To the National Executive Committee.  
Dear Comrades:

I submit for your consideration the following:

National Executive Committee Motion Number 20.

By Harkins.

"That the National Secretary shall appoint three members of the party to investigate the charges filed by the State Committee of New Jersey against Comrade Valenti of the Italian Federation, the report of the Committee to be made to the meeting of the N. E. C. in February for action."

*Comment.*

Comrade Valenti is charged with violating Article 2, Section 2; Article 5, Section 3; Article 6, Section 1, Constitution of New Jersey; Article 10, Section 6 (a), first and second paragraph, of National Constitution.

Ballots enclosed. Vote closes January 2.

Enclosed is copy of communication from Fred Schwarting, State Secretary of New Jersey.

The Executive Committee of the the Italian Federation is preparing a statement in connection with this matter, and as soon as we receive it in this office, it will be forwarded to the members of your committee.

Fraternally submitted,

Bertha Hale White

Assistant Executive Secretary

January 9, 1924

To the National Executive Committee  
Dear Comrades:

I beg to report as follows:

National Executive Committee Motion No. 21

By Snow

Submitted December 28, 1923. Vote closed January 7, 1924.

(1) To raise funds for relief of German workers; (2) To support Congressman Berger's Resolution for a German Credit in food and raw materials.

Voting Yes: Brandt, Harkins, Hillquit, Melms, Snow. (5)

Not Heard From: Debs, Wilson (2)  
Motion adopted.

Fraternally submitted,

Bertha Hale White

Assistant Executive Secretary.

January 14, 1924.

To the National Executive Committee  
Dear Comrades:

In accordance with the action of your Committee as reported January 9 (Motion No. 21), I am submitting the communication prepared by Comrade Hillquit

**NOTICE TO ALL PARTY MEMBERS.**

**Voluntary Assessment Stamps Have Been Sent to All Locals and Branches of the Socialist Party.**

**Present your Red Card to your Local Secretary and See That a Voluntary Assessment Stamp for 1924 Is Affixed.**

**The National Executive Committee Urges your Prompt Support of the Assessment. The Stamps are in Denominations of 50c - \$1.00 - \$5.00**

**Do Not Delay.**

to be sent to our locals and branches in the name of the N. E. C.:

"The trade unions of Germany call for your support. They are in acute distress. Their accumulated funds have been rendered worthless through the total depreciation of the mark, their members can pay no dues because of unemployment and starvation wages; trade union offices, journals and organizations are threatened with immediate suspension unless relief comes quickly and generously.

"The American Federation of Labor has issued an appeal to the organized workers of this country for help to their German fellow workers and has inaugurated an active and comprehensive drive for that purpose.

"At the same time the Social Democratic Party of Germany is issuing a similar call for help. The Socialist Party of the United States has refrained from making a public appeal in behalf of the German Socialists because it wants to avoid any possible clash or conflict with the good work undertaken by the American Federation of Labor, but Mr. Gompers, in behalf of the Federation, has expressed a readiness to accept and forward all contributions which may be made for the benefit of the German Social Democracy in addition to those made in support of the trade union movement.

"No worthier cause was ever presented to us than this double appeal of the ten million organized workers of Germany. Engaged in a desperate struggle to maintain living standards in the economic field and to stave off a reactionary dictatorship in the political field, the German working masses represent the only hope for the maintenance of a pacific and democratic Germany, the recovery of Europe and safety of the world.

"The German labor organizations, in the period of their prosperity, always responded generously to the appeal of their fellow workers from all parts of the world. This is the first time that they find themselves under the necessity of calling for foreign help, and America of all countries in the world is the one best situated to make an effective and generous response.

"The Socialist Party of France is also making an urgent appeal for financial support of its daily paper—Le Populaire.

"Our party in France has within the last few years made a splendid fight against the jingoism of the French ruling classes and the disruptive activities of the Communist movement. It has achieved notable successes on both fronts and all indications point to a complete restoration of the Socialist movement in France within a short time. At present the party



**The National Office has been Instructed to Receive Contributions For the Following:**

**Relief of Starving Workers of Germany.**

**Help for the Social Democratic Party of Germany**

**Support of Le Populaire, Official Publication of Socialist Party of France.**

**Send your Contributions for These Worthy Causes to National Office Socialist Party 2653 Washington Blvd., Chicago**



is concentrating its forces upon the coming parliamentary elections to be held next May. The French Socialists hope to elect a sufficient number of representatives to insure to them the balance of power in parliament and to enable them to overthrow the Poincaré government, and we can readily realize what that would mean to the International politics of Europe in general and to the Socialist movement in particular.

"At this juncture, however, our French comrades are threatened with the danger of having to suspend the publication of Le Populaire, which would be fatal to the movement. The Populaire is operating with a monthly deficit of about 40,000 francs, a sum almost impossible for the French Socialists to raise, particularly in view of the other heavy expenses involved in their campaign. Their hope is that the Socialists outside of France, particularly those in the United States, will come to their aid.

"The Socialist Party will receive contributions from its locals, members and sympathizers for all three purposes. It will transmit funds contributed in support of the organized workers of Germany through the American Federation of Labor, and contributions in favor of the French movement direct to the Socialist Party of France."

*National Executive Committee  
Motion No. 22.*

(Executive Question)

"Shall the above communication be sent out as a call for funds by the National Executive Committee?"

Ballot enclosed. Vote closes January 24.

Fraternally submitted,  
*Otto Branstetter*  
Executive Secretary.

January 28, 1924

To the National Executive Committee  
Dear Comrades:

I beg to report as follows:

*National Executive Committee  
Motion No. 22.*

(Executive Question)

"Shall the communication submitted by Hillquit be sent out as a call for funds by the National Executive Committee?"

Submitted January 14. Vote closed January 24.

Voting Yes: Brandt, Hillquit, Melms, Snow, Wilson. (5)

Voting No: Harkins. (1)

Not Heard From: Debs. (1)

Motion carried.

Fraternally submitted,  
*Bertha Hale White*  
Assistant Executive Secretary.