

# THE SOCIALIST PARTY

## OFFICIAL BULLETIN

Issued Monthly by the National Committee at the National Headquarters, 180 Washington Street, Chicago

Volume V

CHICAGO, OCTOBER, 1908

Number 2

### Report of Action of National Committee on Motion No. 30

National Headquarters,  
Socialist Party,  
Chicago, Ill., Oct. 21, 1908.

TO THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE.  
Comrades—Herewith is submitted report of National Committee Referendum No. 17, Motion No. 30, by Howard H. Caldwell, National Committee member of Ohio.

#### MOTION NO. 30.

"I move that the National Secretary be instructed to furnish printed matter to the amount of seventy-five dollars to the ten congressional districts having the best chance of electing a congressman this year. Such printed matter to be selected by the candidate or congressional committee of each district named by the National Executive Committee."

#### VOTING YES.

Arkansas ..... LeFevre  
California ..... Richardson  
Connecticut ..... McLevy  
Idaho ..... Rigg  
Iowa ..... Shank  
Louisiana ..... Van Brook  
Maine ..... Hunter  
Massachusetts ..... Hitchcock  
Minnesota ..... Williams  
Montana ..... Maattala  
New Hampshire ..... McHugh  
New Mexico ..... Murray  
New York ..... Wright  
Ohio ..... Spargo  
Oklahoma ..... Clifford  
Oregon ..... Axelson  
Pennsylvania ..... Barzee  
Rhode Island ..... Boudreau  
South Dakota ..... Knowles  
Utah ..... Syphers  
Vermont ..... Dunbar  
Washington ..... Herman  
West Virginia ..... Gillespie  
Wisconsin ..... Berger  
Total, 28.

#### VOTING NO.

Alabama ..... Baldwin  
Arizona ..... Galentine  
California ..... McDevitt  
Colorado ..... Cole  
Illinois ..... Bule  
Indiana ..... M. W. Simons  
Iowa ..... Berlyn  
Kentucky ..... Collins  
Louisiana ..... Reynolds  
Maine ..... Work  
Maryland ..... Dobbs  
Massachusetts ..... Behrens  
Michigan ..... Schenkel  
Minnesota ..... Lee  
New Jersey ..... Wanhope  
New York ..... O'Hare  
Ohio ..... Maurer  
Pennsylvania ..... Payne  
Texas ..... Hastings  
Wyoming ..... Hastings  
Total, 20.

#### NOT VOTING.

Arkansas ..... Hogan  
Colorado ..... Miller  
Florida ..... Pettigrew  
Kansas ..... Willits  
Kentucky ..... McAllister  
Maryland ..... Culp  
Massachusetts ..... Carey  
Michigan ..... King  
Montana ..... Striton  
New Jersey ..... Kearns  
New York ..... Walker  
North Dakota ..... Fieldman  
Ohio ..... Lampman  
Oklahoma ..... Caldwell  
Pennsylvania ..... Ross  
Tennessee ..... Moore  
Texas ..... Voos  
Washington ..... Clark  
Wisconsin ..... Burgess  
Total, 21.

Motion is therefore adopted.

#### COMMENT.

ARIZONA (GALENTINE): "I vote no on Motion No. 30, for the reason that I consider the time between the closing of the Referendum, October 20th, and the necessary time required to forward literature to the different congressional districts before November 3 entirely inadequate to justify an expenditure of seven hundred and fifty dollars. Should have favored the motion had it been submitted a month sooner."

ALABAMA (BALDWIN): "I vote no on

this question because the time is too short between the 20th of October and the election to do any effective work as anticipated by the motion. Such work should have been done long before this in order to bring results."

COLORADO (BUIE): "Below are my reasons for voting against Referendum 17, Motion 30:

"First—I cannot tell how it would be possible to decide just which ten congressional districts had the best chance of electing the Socialist candidates.

"Second—The National Committee has voted for several special leaflets during the past year and I have not seen one yet.

"Third—If there is to be any free literature then give some of it to pioneer workers like myself and others who find many opportunities to distribute literature when speaking to a good crowd."

CONNECTICUT (MLEVY): "I am heartily in favor of the motion of Comrade Caldwell to furnish printed matter to the amount of seventy-five dollars to the ten districts having the best chance of electing congressmen. I believe that the National Office should do all within its power to send as many representatives to congress as possible. In furnishing this aid, however, I believe the National Office should take into consideration the strength of the party organization in the district.

In my opinion this aid should be mainly literature with an educational value, so that if a victory is secured it will not be lost again at the next election. Let the National Office give all the aid possible to the districts that have an organization that is willing to work for a Socialist victory.

The victory of a Socialist in a district which is not strongly organized is a doubtful victory at the best."

FLORIDA (PETTIGREW): "I return unsigned card purporting to be Motion No. 30, because it is not definite; it don't say 'furnish free' or with postage; it don't say which have 'the best chance' nor how to decide which have the best chance, nor does it provide for sending 'printed matter' before November 3. It is so thoroughly indefinite that I do not vote, but if the motion had been made sooner and properly acted on in reference to the printed matter and the right ten districts, it would do our cause good."

ILLINOIS (BERLYN): "My reason for voting no is that this matter properly belongs to the state committees and as no special application has been made through such committee, it would be intrusion on the part of the National Office, which would be a violation of state autonomy.

"I believe every comrade nominated for congress ought to be elected, but it is just possible that they won't be. Let us try to make Socialist voters everywhere and in due time we will elect congressmen and other officials."

KANSAS (WILLITS): "If I knew that you had the surplus funds for this purpose I could vote for it, but without this information I prefer not to vote at all."

KENTUCKY (DOBBS): "I vote in the negative on this motion because I am not satisfied with the form of the suggestion, though I subscribe heartily to the sentiment which doubtless prompts Comrade Caldwell in the premises. In the first place there are not ten districts in which we have a chance to elect candidates for congress, and in my judgment it would be unwise to devote funds from the national treasury to the project outlined. If, in the judgment of the National Secretary and the National Executive Committee, there is a chance to elect the Socialist candidate in one or two districts, it would be well to concentrate in such districts, but at this stage of the game I do not think it wise to scatter \$750 as proposed. In this connection it appears to me that members of the party should begin to give more serious consideration to the fitness of men nominated for office. We are coming into our own and it is quite likely that in the near future we will have in the national legislature one or more Socialist representatives. It would mean a serious setback to the movement if such elected representatives should not be able to meet on intellectually even terms the chosen champions of capitalism. Accordingly it behooves us to proceed carefully at all times and put up the very best material we have."

Fraternally submitted,  
J. MAHLON BARNES,  
National Secretary.

### Correspondence of the National Executive Committee During October

National Headquarters,  
Socialist Party,  
Chicago, Ill., Oct. 13, 1908.

To the National Executive Committee.  
Dear Comrades—Herewith is a report of the action taken by your committee upon the question submitted under date of September 30th:

#### QUESTION.

"Regarding the continuance of National Organizers in service following election day it has been the custom since the campaign of 1904, and obedient to a National Quorum motion, passed at that time, to route the speakers home as soon as practicable after election day. Question: Shall the same course be pursued this year?"

Comrades Floaten, Hillquit, Thompson and Work voted in the affirmative. No expressions were received from the other members of the committee. Affirmative action has, therefore, been taken.

Herewith are submitted the letters relating to the same:

LETTER FROM COMRADE FLOATEN,  
DATED OCTOBER 5.

"Dear Comrade Barnes: In reply to your question to the National Executive Committee, in regard to speakers and organizers, after election, I would answer that you follow the former rule and custom of routing them home as soon as practicable, unless there are some who have other understanding and arrangement with the National office. This year particularly we will probably be in debt when the campaign is over and the demands for speakers will not be so great for a few months after the election, so I say pay the debt and get in good condition for the spring."

LETTER FROM COMRADE WORK,  
DATED OCTOBER 2.

"Dear Comrade—In reply to your National Executive Committee letter of September 30, I am in favor of dispensing with the services of all field workers from election time until after the holidays, except such as may be needed in states where they have elections in December. So far as possible they should be toured so as to arrive at home in time to vote. I outlined my own route with that in view, arriving at home on election day. This rule regarding field workers, however, should not be considered a precedent in future. In odd numbered years good meetings can be had until just before holidays. This is also partly true of those even numbered years when there is no presidential election. It is only in presidential years that everything stops with a jerk on election day.

"I want to take this opportunity to say that in my judgment a special communication should be sent to every local and member at large in the United States urging upon them the necessity for having watchers at the polls on the evening of election day to witness the counting of the ballots. A special letter on the same subject should be sent to the state secretaries. It should also be urged through the Weekly Bulletin. And a special letter should be sent to each Socialist editor, urging him to harp on this subject time after time in his editorial column."

"After all of our strenuous work we cannot afford to lose half a million votes by a little negligence on election day."

"Immediately after election I think a systematic effort should be made to place lecturers on the Chautauqua programs for next summer."

"I wish also to recur to the fact that last year the National Committee passed a motion granting pay to some of the field workers during their holiday vacation. The motion was so worded that it only applied to a few of the field workers and left the rest out in the cold. I am not in favor of any such motion being passed this year, because this time it will be rather a release from service than a vacation. But if such a motion should be made, either in the National Committee or the Executive Committee, I hope it will be worded so that it will not discriminate in favor of some of the field workers and against the others."

In connection with the above decision you will remember that Comrade Alfred Wagenknecht was employed as a result of National Committee Motion No. 29, introduced by Comrade Alexson, National Committee member of Oregon.

#### MOTION NO. 29.

"I move that Comrade Alfred Wagenknecht be and is hereby appointed organizer for the Socialist Party. Territory to be assigned to him immediately by the Executive Committee and Secretary of said party."

Comrade Wagenknecht writes as follows: "I understood I was employed as organizer and not as campaign speaker and that my employment would continue after the campaign."

"I know the kind of work I report to you I am doing should continue if I am doing my work to suit. If my work is of sufficient

value to the organization it should not cease on November 3. I asked for employment to do the kind of work I am doing. It seems to me that the National Committee in voting me employment understood what kind of work I was expected to do, and that I was not employed as a campaign speaker for the campaign. In consideration of this, will you please lay this matter before the National Executive Committee at their next meeting together with my reports, asking them to decide if my employment shall or shall not continue after November 3?"

#### LETTER OF COMRADE AXELSON

Portland, Ore., Oct. 7, 1908.  
To the National Secretary and the Executive Committee of the Socialist Party.

Dear Comrades—I have just received a letter from Comrade Wagenknecht indicating that he is likely to be withdrawn from his work, and for this reason I wish to state my position in the matter.

I most emphatically declare that an organizer in the Socialist Party should not only do propaganda work, but should principally organize and reorganize locals, and in order that such work should be of lasting benefit to our movement it is not enough to get five or six persons together to sign the pledge and give them a more or less flowery talk on the beauties of Socialism and then leave them and that place almost as unorganized and helpless as ever—no, and a thousand times no, this is not enough.

If the work of an organizer shall bear fruit every signer of the pledge must clearly understand what that pledge means, must understand that the Socialist movement is a movement by, for and of the productive worker—wage slaves, if you please—for their benefit alone, and that anyone who is not a productive worker has no business to perform on this earth that will benefit the workers, much less be fit to take part in the proceedings of the useful members of society, except such person completely surrenders his interests and subordinates himself to the ideas, principles and laws promulgated by the class conscious and useful workers of this earth. Anyone who understands that much will easily understand the consequences of joining the party and is very likely to stick under any circumstances.

The next thing to do is to give clear and concise instructions as to parliamentary rules to be observed in holding meetings. A meeting without strict order is a nuisance, and as far as my observation goes there is room for much improvement even in locals supposed to be models in this respect.

Then instruction is sorely needed as regards the keeping of minutes, of accounts and the making clear, comprehensive reports of committees. An organizer should also watch out to see that every local he visits has the national and state constitution and a local constitution, and should instruct about the importance of understanding and living up to the same—anyone who doesn't understand or care for the laws of the party doesn't understand or care for the welfare of the party.

It is also very essential to instruct the locals and make every member understand the necessity of every local promptly responding to all communications from National and State headquarters, and especially to make clear and complete monthly reports to the state secretary.

Time does not permit me to enlarge on this very important subject, but I think that these hints will enable anyone to understand that if an organizer is to do this kind of work (and if he does not do that he is not an organizer), he must travel not only the wide and well paved roads everybody else has traveled and not only go over the ground once. He must take in every place where it is at all possible to get half a dozen men and women interested enough to start a local, but he must come again before long to revive dormant locals to rehearse the lessons given on former occasions, to encourage and brace up the weak-kneed ones, to make questions of importance clear to those who are not yet grounded in our principles, etc.

Not to carry out what I have here briefly suggested would be to manage our affairs just as badly as our capitalist masters would like us to do, would only play into their hands and retard our movement and minimize our impachment of the ruling class.

This is what I had in mind when I made the motion to engage Comrade Wagenknecht as organizer, and I should certainly be very much surprised if the other forty and some odd members of the National Committee who voted for that motion don't hold the same view. This being the case, it is self evident that a good organizer, whether it be Comrade Wagenknecht or some one else, should not be withdrawn from the field the day we find out whether Taft or Bryan is elected. No, every organizer who has shown himself to be made of the right kind of stuff is needed just as much after the third of November next as now, and he is not needed any more now than after election. This is especially true in the case of Comrade Wagenknecht. My motion is especially true in the case of Comrade Wagenknecht. My motion was clear enough and it was abundantly supported.

Respectfully submitted,  
A. H. AXELSON,  
National Committeeman for Oregon.

Arrangements have been made to route all speakers home for election except one, who

## PLATFORMS.

Party Platform, in English, per 1,000, postpaid . . . . . \$1.50  
Platforms in Foreign Languages--Bohemian, Croatian, Finnish, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Jewish, Lettish, Norwegian, Danish, Polish, Slovak and Swedish, per 1,000, postpaid . . . . . 2.00



Report of Cash Contributions Received at the National Office for the Socialist Special Train From September 20, 1908, to October 31, 1908. First Formal Call Was Issued July 18, 1908. First Contribution Received July 21, 1908

Table of cash contributions with columns for contributor name and amount. Includes entries like 'F. M. Dard, St. Louis, Mo.' and 'George C. Besonet, South Chicago, Ill.'

Table of cash contributions with columns for contributor name and amount. Includes entries like 'George C. Besonet, South Chicago, Ill.' and 'Levi Woods, Sheridan, Wyo.'

Table of cash contributions with columns for contributor name and amount. Includes entries like 'H. E. Farnsworth, Red Lodge, Mont.' and 'Local, Ashabula Socialist Party, O.'

Table of cash contributions with columns for contributor name and amount. Includes entries like 'R. Williamson, Colgate, Okla.' and 'Local, Bedford Co., Tenn.'

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Table of contributions from various individuals and groups, including names like E. Flister, Workman's Circle, Local Morris, etc., with associated dollar amounts.

Table of contributions from various individuals and groups, including names like I. Wise, Col. by Walter Parr, Finnish local, etc., with associated dollar amounts.

Table of contributions from various individuals and groups, including names like A. R. W. Mann, Phil Brown, Ed. Ward, etc., with associated dollar amounts.

Table of contributions from various individuals and groups, including names like W. S. & D. B. F., N. Y., M. Bernson, etc., with associated dollar amounts.

Table listing names and amounts for various locations including Nebraska, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and others.

Table listing names and amounts for various locations including Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and others.

Table listing names and amounts for various locations including Idaho, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, and others.

Table listing names and amounts for various locations including Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and others.

