
Circular Letter to the Editors of All Socialist Papers from Adolph Germer, Executive Secretary, Socialist Party of America, August 1, 1917

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Chicago, Ill.
August 1, 1917

To the Editors of All Socialist Papers.

Dear Comrades:—

As the capitalist papers mold the sentiment of the large reading public, so our papers are the medium of information for our readers. Our people act upon the information given them through our press.

The Socialist Party is on trial. We will either be equal to the needs of the hour or we will not. It all depends on how much interest and enthusiasm we are able to arouse.

You readily realize that the Socialist Party needs the Socialist press and the Socialist press needs the Socialist Party. Our interests are common. We want to make the Socialist Party stronger so that the press can be made stronger. We want to make the press stronger so the party can be made stronger.

The national organization is the connecting link in the chain of Socialist activities. We cannot function properly so long as we are hampered by

financial restrictions.

There is an unprecedented opportunity open to us. We want to take advantage of it. You can be of material assistance.

As a result of the Presidential campaign, the St. Louis convention, and other expenses incurred in connection with our peace propaganda, we have liabilities to the amount of \$20,000 in round numbers.

We owe some of this money to comrades who are in need of it. We owe some to other creditors who have been patient with us. We want to pay all of these bills and do it soon so we can undertake new work without unnecessary delay.

What I am asking of you, comrade, is to use a little space in the columns of your paper, if not every issue, then at frequent intervals, to emphasize the need of clearing the financial decks of the Socialist Party. To meet our urgent liabilities we issued special "party building and anti-military assessment stamps," 25 cents apiece, and we want to dispose of at least one to every member. If we can do that we can pay all our bills. Some members have already purchased three or four. Surely all others can purchase one.

In order to carry on our fight for a free press

and free speech, we are raising a "Liberty Defense Fund." Each state organization gets half of all that is collected from the respective states. With that fund we will help fight our battles. You can issue an urgent call to the members to respond as they have never responded before. Will you do it? Make the appeal in your own way. Or, if you desire, we will furnish the articles, and will be reasonable in space.

Please do not lay this aside, but write me at once, assuring me that you will join in a supreme effort to lift the burden of the national organization and place it in position to meet all challenges from the enemy.

Yours for victory,

Adolph Germer,
Executive Secretary.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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