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# **Rev. Thomas to Help Hillquit Win Election: Minister Says Prussian Methods of Administration Lead Him to Support Socialists**

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Morris Hillquit, Socialist candidate for mayor, is receiving assurances of support from many non-socialist clergymen, college professors, and teachers, most of whom cannot let their names be used. The following letter was received from the Rev. Norman M. Thomas, pastor of the East Harlem Church and chairman of the American Parish, a federation of Presbyterian churches and agencies on the Upper East Side:

My Dear Mr. Hillquit:—

I should like to assure you of my personal support and keen interest in your campaign. For various reasons I have not seen my way clear to join the Socialist Party, but I am behind you in this campaign for these reasons:

1. I believe that the hope for the future lies in a new social and economic order which demands the abolition of the capitalistic system. War itself is only the most horrible and dramatic of the many evil fruits of our present organized system of exploitation and of the philosophy of life which exalts competition instead of cooperation. Entirely apart from the so-called peace issue, I think your election or even a very large vote for you, must be of very great significance in the struggle for a new day.

2. I believe the time has come when one can say definitely that the indefinite prolongation of this war is not only a profound tragedy, but necessarily dangerous for those ideals which America has professed. I am convinced that the hope of peace lies, not so much in statesmen who have already shown themselves largely bankrupt of ideas, but in the people of all countries who

will demand the cessation of a war in which they pay so horrible a price. To vote for you is to voice that demand and to express a hope in the sort of internationalism in which alone is our confidence for the future.

3. I am especially concerned because in this war for democracy, autocracy is growing so fast. I do not believe that democracy is a garment that can be taken off and put in mothballs for future use, or that you can secure democratic ends by Prussian methods, of which the latest example is the legislation which makes the Postmaster General judge of what the American people shall read. A vote for you is to protest against this sort of tyranny.

I need scarcely add that as far as local affairs are concerned I know that if elected you would have a thoroughly competent administration, which, in its social outlook, would be democratic, rather than paternalistic.

Sincerely yours,

***Norman M. Thomas.***

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

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