
The Socialist Party Convention

by Jack Carney

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Unsigned editorial attributed to editor Jack Carney.

One of our readers has asked us for a report of the Socialist Party. We forgive him. The *Duluth Herald* states that the SOCIALIST PARTY TOOK A STAND AGAINST BOLSHEVISM AND STANDS FOR SANE SOCIALISM.

The Socialist Party convention [New York: May 8-14, 1920] has sealed the doom of that party. Never did a Socialist convention betray the cause of the working class in a manner that the SP convention has done. True it is they named Debs as their Presidential candidate. They named Debs because they realized that the wonderful personality and sterling integrity of Debs would be the means of giving them a new lease of life. They lied to and betrayed Debs. They lied about the Third International, when they told Debs it was an organization confined solely to Russia. They betrayed him when they adopted a program that they knew Debs would repudiate. Only those workers who have no backbone or brains will join the Socialist Party or maintain their allegiance to it. The worker who has a serious purpose in life will shun the Socialist Party like he would the little animal whose name has become synonymous with odoriferous infamy.



Listen to this by Victor Berger: "Outside of Milwaukee and the East Side of New York, nobody knows anything about a proletariat. Maybe the Steel Trust and Samuel Gompers know about it, but the American people in general don't." This is a sample of the arguments used against the theories of Karl Marx.

Let us write over the Socialist Party grave R.I.P. It will not be needed until after the revolution and then— Boy! Page Herr Noske—

The Socialist Party convention decided to reaffirm the vote of the rank and file of its membership to reaffiliate with the Third International. What a nerve some people have! The Third International does NOT state that ALL countries must pursue the same tactics, but it does insist that all parties who claim allegiance to it must adopt the principles of the Third International. For instance, the program of the Third International distinctly states that its task is as follows:

To gather up the revolutionary experience of the working classes, to rid the movement of the unhealthy blend of opportunism and social patriotism, to unite the forces of all the truly

revolutionary parties of the world proletarians, and thus to pave the way for, and to hasten the Communist revolution all over the world.

The Third International program condemns the very thing that the Socialist Party has recently adopted in convention, namely, the theory denoting “the progressive steps of Capitalism towards Socialism.” It also points out to the workers that in order to “shorten the time of crisis through which we are passing” we must establish

the dictatorship of the proletariat, which does not look backward, nor does it take count of hereditary privilege or right of property, which, contemplating solely the salvation of the starving masses, mobilizes to that end by every means within its power, decrees the necessity of work for each individual, institutes discipline as an urgent need of the workers, in order not only to heal in a few years the horrible wounds made by the war, but finally to raise humanity to great and undreamed heights.

The Socialist Party convention has only affiliated with the Third International because it desires to make a good showing in international circles. But its hypocrisy will not deceive the revolutionary working class parties of the world.

Let us not waste any more time over the Socialist Party convention, but get down to business. We need to hear the sound of marching men, marching along the road to industrial freedom, rather than the marching of politicians to the political pie-counter.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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