
Socialist Party Fights Unity of Action of Workers

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The National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party has sounded a note of alarm to the locals and members of that organization and made what the *St. Louis Labor* terms "an important request" to the units of the party.

This "important request" is nothing less than a seven point warning to the locals of the Socialist Party not to permit themselves to become part of united action of the workers in their present day struggles.

The locals of the Socialist Party, according to the request of the National Executive Committee, should not enter the fight for the protection of the foreign-born workers by participating in the organization of councils for the protection of the foreign-born. They must not join in a united fight against discrimination from which Negroes suffer. They must remain away from the united movement for the release of political prisoners nor should they aid workers in a strike.

The Reason for This Warning.

The reason for this warning of the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party is that the Communists are often the leaders and initiators of united front movements to fight in the workers' interests. For the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party, it is a crime for the Socialists to join with trade union organizations, workers' fraternal organizations, and Communists in a united front struggle to prevent the foreign-born workers from being registered, photographed, and finger-

printed or to fight against racial discrimination from which the Negro suffers or to take action to help workers who are fighting their bosses for higher wages and better working conditions through a strike.

This warning has, however, a deeper significance than mere fear on the part of the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party that the members or units of that organization may really participate in the struggles of the workers. Many local organizations of the Socialist Party have ignored the policy of the National Executive Committee of keeping the workers from uniting to fight their immediate battles against the capitalist exploiters. There are in the Socialist Party many sincere workers who still believe that the Socialist Party is an organization fighting in the workers' interests. Branches of the Socialist Party in which such workers predominate have, in spite of all the past warnings and denunciations by the leaders of the Socialist Party, joined in united front action in the interests of the workers even though those actions were initiated and led by Communists. These working class members and units of the Socialist Party dominated by such members do not fear to be associated with Communists in a common struggle to aid striking workers or to protect foreign-born workers against exception laws which would register, fingerprint, and photograph them like criminals.

Socialist locals have joined with trade union representatives, with representatives of the fraternal organizations of foreign-born workers, and with the Communists in forming Councils for the Protection of the Foreign-Born Workers. It has been through the mass pressure of these councils that the enactment of these exception laws by Congress has been prevented. Now the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party warns its locals to keep out of such a struggle to protect foreign-born workers.

The same has been true in relation to the great struggle of the striking textile workers of Passaic. Many Socialist locals could not be prevented from joining in the united front movement to support the Passaic workers in their heroic strike. The Socialist locals have joined with trade unionists, Communists,

workers' fraternal organizations in forming relief committees for the Passaic strikers. The National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party tells the Socialist locals to get out of these relief committees and let the Passaic workers fight their own battles.

Socialist locals have found themselves in united front political conferences formed for the purpose of promoting independent political action and participated in by trade union representatives, fraternal organization representatives, and Communists, in addition to the Socialists. The National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party is opposed to such a movement to break the workers away from the Republican and Democratic Parties and to organize them for an independent political party through the formation of a labor party. It warns its locals to keep out of such organizations for united action in the political field.

The National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party is even against the united front movement to win complete political, educational, industrial, and social equality for the Negroes of this country. The Socialist locals must not participate in a united action to fight against racial discrimination against the Negro.

Will the Socialist Locals Abandon the Workers' Struggles?

The instructions of the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party to its locals places before those locals made up of workers who wish to participate in the workers' struggles in this country the question: whether they shall abandon the class struggle or whether they shall abandon the Socialist Party?

There could be no greater confession of bankruptcy so far as fighting for the workers' interests in this country is concerned, than this seven point statement constituting "an important request" by the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party.

The National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party endeavored to confuse the view placed before the Socialist locals by reference to financial domination of these organizations by

the Communists. But no workers will be deceived by this. The instructions to the Socialist locals actually mean that these locals must keep out of every movement of the American workers which represents a fight on the basis of the class struggle, because every such struggle in this country has been either initiated, or is being led or supported, by the Communists.

The issue before the Socialist locals is whether they will participate in such united action by the workers against their capitalist exploiters or give up the idea of the class struggle.

The National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party will fool no one by its reference to the Communist leadership of such united front movements. Where the Communists have become the leaders of the united front movements of the workers, it has been because they have won the confidence and support of the workers through their services in the common struggle. If they have initiated united front action through which the workers have been able to make a better fight against the capitalist bosses, that is to their credit. The fact that this is so shows that the Communist program today is a program through which the workers can achieve results and relieve themselves from some of the oppression and exploitation from which they suffer and against which they are struggling at the present time.

What Does Debs Say?

There is another phase of this statement of the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party which deserves some attention. Eugene V. Debs is the Chairman of the National Executive Committee. It is not likely that he participated or approved of the statement of the Socialist Party. He is reported ill at his home in Terre Haute.

But the workers of this country want to know the opinion of Eugene V. Debs of this statement of the National Executive Committee of which he is the Chairman.

The workers have heard Debs make eloquent appeals for united action against the capitalist exploiters. For more than 25

years, he has been an advocate of unity of the working class in their struggle against the capitalists.

Will Eugene V. Debs approve of the instructions of his National Executive Committee to refuse to join in united action for the protection of the foreign-born workers, for the fight against discrimination against the Negroes, for the fight to release political prisoners and in support of the strikes of the workers?

The Socialist locals which, in spite of the reactionary policies of the National Executive Committee of their party, have joined in these workers' struggles will want to know where Debs stands on these questions. The workers generally who honor Debs for his years of struggle in which the workers' cause in spite of his continued adherence to the Socialist Party, will want to know his stand on the effort of the National Executive Committee of his party to divide the workers in place of uniting them.

Eugene V. Debs should not permit such a stain to be placed upon his record as will be placed there if he permits the action of the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party, of which he is Chairman, to go unchallenged.

The self-respecting workers in the locals of the Socialist Party, if they are sincere in their desire to fight the workers' struggles, will repudiate this action of the National Executive Committee to divide the workers in place of endeavoring to unite them for the class struggle.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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