
Letter to Otto Branstetter, Executive Secretary of the Socialist Party of America in Chicago from J.G. Brown, Secretary of the Farmer-Labor Party of the US in Chicago, April 11, 1923.

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Chicago, Ill., Apr. 11, 1923.

Mr. Otto Branstetter, Executive Secretary,
National Socialist Party,
2418 W Madison St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir and Brother:—

The following proposition has been unanimously adopted by the National Committee of the Farmer-Labor Party of the United States:

That the National Council of the Farmer-Labor Party recently voted by the National Committee be held in Chicago, Ill. beginning July 3, 1923, and remain in session till the business of the convention shall have been completed. Also, that the National Secretary [Brown] be authorized to invite all labor, farm, and political groups to send representatives to the said National Convention of the Farmer-Labor Party with the authority to take such steps as may be necessary to bring about complete unity of the political forces of the entire working class.

An earnest effort is being made by the Farmer-Labor Party to bring together the various groups and organizations, industrial, agricultural, and political, with a view to trying to work out a method of uniting the workers of hand and brain,

of farm and factory, on the political field — a method that will be acceptable and secure the allegiance of the great body of workers in the country.

In the past, as you know, the farmers and city workers have been either divided in numerous minority parties with competing candidates at election time or have supported the candidates of one of the old parties. Where the latter course has been followed it has been with the hope that if friendly candidates were elected consideration would be given to the political demands of both divisions of labor.

Nearly all agree that results from any of the plans so far tried have not been satisfactory. All felt the methods followed were justified as being the best under the circumstances. Many have waited and hoped that some group would take the step now being taken by the Farmer-Labor Party and invite all organizations and all parties to a convention where this grave situation might be dispassionately discussed and, if possible, ways and means found for solidifying political power of the workers as has been done in other countries.

To this end, your organization is invited to send representatives to the *National Convention of the Farmer-Labor Party, to be held in Chicago, Illinois, beginning July 3, 1923*, clothed with au-

thority to take such steps as may be necessary to accomplish the ends indicated.

It should be understood, however, that in sending delegates your organization commits itself to nothing. If plans can be worked out that will meet the approval of your organization, time will be saved if authority is had to express such approval and join officially in such further steps as may appear proper and feasible.

The holding of the proposed convention will obviously entail considerable expense. We do not wish to suggest that your organization should contribute any specific sum, but any amount you can send will be most helpful and will be gratefully received.

We will appreciate it if you will forward us a list of the delegates chosen to represent your organization as soon as possible. We will then be able to communicate to them additional details of the Convention, such as arrangements for hotels, location of the convention hall, and the possibility of getting reduced railroad fares.

Trusting we shall have the pleasure of welcoming delegates from your organization at the coming Farmer-Labor Party Convention, and that the outcome of the Convention may mark a further advance in the forward march of the toilers toward a better day, we are

Fraternally yours,

Farmer-Labor Party of the United States,

J.G. Brown, Secretary.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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