
Report of the South Slavonian Socialist Labor Federation to the 16th National Convention of the SLP, May 1924

by Milos Malencich

Published in *Sixteenth National Convention, Socialist Labor Party, May 10-13, 1924: Minutes Reports, Resolutions, Platform, Etc.* (NY: National Executive Committee, Socialist Labor Party, 1924), pp. 90-92.

Dear Comrades:

For your information as to the conditions and activities of our Federation for the period of 8 months since our convention was held, I shall summarize in the following brief report:

Our Activity.

For the last year our Federation was in active condition, if we take in consideration the lethargy on the side of the working class all over the country; poisonous and deadly teaching spread by the burlesque bolsheviks, who have had a certain influence among the South Slavonian workers; nationalistic and chauvinistic propaganda during and after the World War which has had the result of inflaming the tribal hatreds among Serbians, Croatian, and Slovenian workers. Our membership was alive to its duties and has done considerable work, which has resulted in an increase of membership, and subscribers for *Radnicka Borba*.

Since October 22, 1923, to March 22, 1924, we have had an organizer in the field. The results which he obtained during the period of five months tell us that the ears of the workers are accessible to the SLP message. Beside that, we follow our method of house to house canvas with our books and papers. In the course of 8 months we held two general mass meetings. One was held in November, celebrating the Russian Revolution; the other one was held March 23, celebrating the Paris Commune. The last one was very satisfactory and most fruitful. We got a number of new subscribers for *Radnicka Borba* and about 35 to 40 new members.

Another significance of our activity is to arrange picnics and entertainments. These affairs have proved a very favorable method for our revolutionary purpose.

The numbers of attendants at these is much bigger than at our meetings and lectures. The average attendance is about 300 to 400 persons. Branches usually arranged plays and good speakers, who have the opportunity to deliver good SLP lessons to audiences of several hundred workingmen and women. Also, they appointed special comrades as literature agents and sub-getters. Occasionally, a collection is taken up for one or the other fund, and sometimes those collections obtained amounts of \$150 to \$200. Generally speaking, those affairs are very good for advancing our revolutionary principles. Our last convention decided that each Branch shall arrange one entertainment for the benefit of the WEEKLY PEOPLE and net proceeds of them to be sent to the National Office.

Branches.

We have 24 Branches with about 500 members. In the past year we lost two Branches and organized two new Branches instead. So we have the same number of Branches but more members. On this point I can add a few words on intellectual standing of our membership. Our members are well acquainted with the SLP teachings and they are very loyal to the Party's principles, tactics, and policies, a fact which our enemies admit also. The general vote which was taken upon the NEC resolution regarding the concentration of efforts on SLP alone shows that our membership is well informed about the SLP.

Press.

Radnicka Borba has about 2,600 subscribers. Since

our convention the mailing list is increased by about 100 subs. We hope the present condition remains favorable to us, and our mailing list will go higher.

Socijalisticna Zarja (Slovenian monthly) was discontinued last July [1923]. The main reason for stopping the paper was of a financial nature. We failed to organize a sufficient number of Slovenian workers during the 1919-1920 period. If we had succeeded in this it would have been their task to have taken care of the paper. Nevertheless, the Central Committee is willing to republish the paper again, if conditions allow, with the added experience and knowledge.

Robotnychy Holos (Ukrainian monthly) constantly appears. The group of courageous comrades in Akron endeavor as best they can to keep up the paper. They have very many obstacles created by the confusionist a la SP-burlesque-bolsheviki on one side, and the Third International on the other. So they don't know where they are at, either in Russia or in this country. We hope the Ukrainian comrades some day will clear the path for an organized Ukrainian Federation.

Literature.

As usual, this year we published 5,000 copies of a 164-page Almanac for 1924. *Fifteen Questions* is translated already and we will publish it sometime in May. *Reform or Revolution* is republished in a second edition, and *DeLeonist* for 1924 is in press.

Finances.

We admit the fact that our regular revenue cannot cover the expenses of the Central Office. So the convention decided that each Branch shall arrange entertainments and picnics, and net proceeds of them to be sent to the Central Office. From these proceeds we covered our expenses. Our balance sheet as per January 1924: Receipts — \$14,431.89; disbursements — \$15,104.29; cash balance — \$327.60. Assets of our Federation are \$27,329.34.

From this condensed report I hope you will be able to post your self on the conditions which prevail in our Federation.

Fraternally yours,

South Slavonic Socialist Labor Federation
Milos Malencich,
National Secretary

(Enclosure)

Cash received and disbursed, Aug. 1, 1922 — July 31, 1923

Balance as at July 31, 1922 — \$9.88; receipts — \$19,499.82; grand total — \$19,509.70. Expenditures — \$19,574.46; deficit as at July 31, 1923 — \$64.76.

M. Malencich, Secretary

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2005. • Free reproduction permitted.