
Fair Play:

Joint Letter to the Editor of *The American Socialist*, May 6, 1916.

by the Translator-Secretaries of 10
Socialist Party Language Federations

Published in *The American Socialist* [Chicago], v. 2, no. 43, whole no. 183 (May 6, 1918), pg. 3.

The *Milwaukee Leader* in a recent editorial stated:

In many cases the foreign branches have the unit rule and whenever a majority of those present at a meeting cast their vote in favor of a certain measure or candidate they turn in the total vote of the entire membership in good standing as having voted that way.

If that charge were true the foreign branches would make the referendum a ridiculous farce. But it is not true. It was obviously invented to create a prejudice against foreign speaking branches.

Therefore, the undersigned Translator-Secretaries of the Language Federations, SP, deem it their duty to send to *The Leader* a correction of the slanderous statement, which correction we mailed April 13 [1918].

The Leader in an editorial, Sunday, April 23rd, states that "it can not permit its own fairness to be questioned" but it did not publish our correction. It allows the prejudice, created by its accusation, to spread.

We are, therefore, forced to declare through the columns of *The American Socialist* that there does not exist and never did exist a so-called unit rule in our Federations; each member votes on every referendum as he or she pleases, and every vote is counted as it is cast, and, of course, only those voting are counted.

The Translator-Secretaries:

I.B. Bailin, Jewish; Armin Loewy, Hungarian;
Paul Bruchtel, Slovak; J.F. Maki, Finnish;
Juel Christensen, Scandinavian; P. Mazurkiewicz, Polish;
A. Dreifuss, German; Joe Novak, Bohemian;
John LaDuca, Italian; and Frank Petrich, South Slavic.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2006. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.