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# **Hillquit Wins Irish Cheers in Pacifist Appeal: In Drive for Irish-American Votes He Attacks Mitchel as Militarist**

**[event of Oct. 25, 1917]**

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Hilarious cheering for “a free Ireland,” booes and hisses for “Mayor Mitchel, the militarist,” and prolonged applause for “a speedy termination of the war” were evoked by Morris Hillquit, Socialist candidate for Mayor, when, at a meeting at Terrace Garden, 58th Street and Third Avenue, las night [Oct. 25, 1917] he began a drive to capture the votes of Irish-Americans.

Mr. Hillquit made peace the basis for his appeal for Irish votes. His reference to Mayor Mitchel as a candidate who had “subscribed to the military, political, and imperialistic aims of the Allies”; to Mr. [John F.] Hylan as a candidate who had avoided the war issue “by an expression of vague and meaningless patriotic sentiments,” and his assertion that the Irish now have a common cause with the Socialists, met with ready response. Men stood on their seats and with outbursts of applause repeatedly interrupted the speaker.

When Mr. Hillquit declared “We would hail a democratic revolution in Germany as we hailed the movement for a democratic revolution in Ireland,” the whole audience rose in a body and for several minutes engaged in a demonstration of approval.

“It is but natural that the voters of Irish blood should make common cause with the Socialists in this campaign,” Mr. Hillquit said. “Both are fighting for true democracy, both are inspired by an irrepressible ideal of a better social order. The struggles of the Irish people for political independence have always had the hearty support of the Socialists. In this campaign the Socialist Party alone has a clear and consistent claim to the support of the liberty-loving Irish voters.”

Mr. Hillquit said that the issue of war and peace had been injected into the campaign by the force of public sentiment, adding that it would largely determine the election. He said it was to the credit of Mayor Mitchel that he had made his position clear as an advocate of continuing the war until the Central Powers were crushed and the Allies are in a position to impose upon their enemies “a victor’s terms of peace.”

Clenching his fists by way of emphasis, Mr. Hillquit said, as expressing the cardinal platform of the Socialists:

“We want peace! We are opposed to war!”

That brought forth another outburst from the audience. Cries of “We want peace!” echoed through the building.

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

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