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# Former National Executive Committee Thinks It Rules by Divine Right: Sits Like a King Upon the Throne and Calmly Votes to Expel Ohio.

by Elmer T. Allison

Unsigned article from *The Ohio Socialist* [Cleveland], whole no. 81 (Aug. 20, 1919), pg. 3.  
Attributed to Co-editor Allison based on style.

Every party member who makes a study of party affairs knows that the national constitution specifies that the National Executive Committee elected in 1918 shall go out of office on July 1, 1919. Article 3, Section 3 covers this provision. Yet the old National Executive Committee, elected in 1918 and whose term of office ended a month ago, continues to “king” the party as if by divine right.

It is now voting to expel the Socialist Party of Ohio for recognizing the suspended federations; for refusing to remit to the National Office the proceeds from the sale of national convention assessment stamps; and for deciding in convention to affiliate with that section of the Socialist Party which stands for the Left Wing program.

All of the above alleged “crimes” are acts of the recent state convention of the Ohio party. These acts have not yet been ratified by the state membership, and will not become acts of the state party until so ratified. Balloting upon these acts does not close until the last of August.

The actual reason for this attempt to expel the Socialist Party of Ohio upon the eve of the national convention is to further eliminate that great element in the party nationally which is uncompromising and demands affiliation with the Moscow Third International instead of the Berne Scheidemann International.

Information from reliable sources now gives us to understand that [Executive Secretary Adolph] Germer and the former National Executive Committee plan to wreck the Socialist Party so that they may swing what they leave of it into Labor Party ranks. [Seymour] Stedman of the old National Executive Committee frankly stated some weeks ago that if the radical element in the party prevailed, he and others would have to join the Labor Party.

Germer is now in correspondence with Max Hayes, formerly prominent in the Socialist Party and who recently organized the Labor Party in Cleveland, with a view to breaking into the ranks of the strong Cleveland and Ohio Socialist Party organizations. The Cleveland Labor Party, after voting to include in its platform the statement that capitalists are entitled to 6 percent profit, changed this to read that capitalists are entitled to a FAIR profit. It is such an aggregation of muddleheads that Germer proposes to feed the Socialist Party to.

Whether the Ohio Socialist Party is expelled or not, its 16 delegates will be at the national convention to do all in their power to “save the pieces.” There will be nothing but pieces of the Socialist Party left if the former outlawed National Executive Committee is to be taken seriously in its “kinging” business.

Members of the Socialist Party of Ohio are asked by the State Office to pay no attention to personal attacks upon comrades whose years of loyal service in this state have earned them the commendation of all comrades. Personal attacks are only indulged in by those whose case is weak and who are in the wrong.

The Ohio Socialist movement will remain united irrespective of the wrecking activities of the former officialdom of the party. "Expulsion" by this reactionary officialdom, which did not even have backbone enough to ally our party with the struggling Socialists of Russia, means nothing to us. It is rather a mark of merit. Every member of the state would think it an honor to be "expelled" by a clique of Spargos, Scheidemanns, Kerenskys, and such like. We think it an honor to be "expelled" by the Bergers of the former National Executive Committee.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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