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# Statement Subscribed to the Delegates of the Emergency Convention by the Delegates of the State of California. † [September 1, 1919]

Document in the DoJ/BoI Investigative Files, NARA M-1085, reel 939, no doc. number.

We the delegates of the National Emergency Convention of the Socialist Party duly elected by the membership of California, present to the delegates of the Convention the following statement relative to our status and action in the present party crisis.

Each of us at the present state referendum received an overwhelming majority of the votes cast over those received by the candidates who [protested] our election by letter.

This majority of votes was based upon the count from the uncontested Locals of the state.

The allegations upon which the Ex-National Secretary Germer instituted basis of proof are immaterial.

We were ejected from the floor by the Police at the orders of Mr. Germer in spite of our regular election and the fact that no delegates appeared to contest our seats.

We were crowded off to an anteroom where we could to hear the proceedings of the Convention and where many of us had to stand for hours while packed delegations from other states occupied the convention floor.

The hearings on the contest developed into an inquisition on matters irrelevant to the issue. The next morning the delegation was hauled before the inquisitors again without notice to its chosen spokesmen of the previous evening.

The Contest Committee refused yesterday afternoon to announce its decision in our case despite the fact evident to all at the hearing that there was absolutely no grounds on which we could be fairly excluded. This action debarred us from participation in the first two days of the convention although we had each come over 2,000 miles to attend it.

The Contest Committee at this morning's meeting recommended that we be not seated, thus arbitrarily depriving the 5,000 Socialist Party members of California a voice in the deliberations.

We were finally granted our seats over the advice of action of the Committee because the delegates to the convention finally [awoke] to the despotic procedure steamrollered by the officialdom of the convention.

The delegates from California having caucused together have unanimously agreed:—

[1] That they will not take their seats in the convention until all duly-elected delegates have been seated.

[2] Nor until the packed delegations from the so-called reorganization states shall have been reduced to a representation of the actual membership which they in fact represent.

[3] Nor until the convention ceases to act under the guardianship of the Chicago Police

†- The duly-elected California delegation refused seats to the 1919 Emergency National Convention of the Socialist Party of America [Chicago, Aug. 30-Sept. 5, 1919] consisted of: Kasper Bauer (San Jose), Max Bedacht (San Francisco), James H. Dolsen (San Francisco), Edric B. Smith (Oakland), Irene M. Smith (Los Angeles), John C. Taylor (Oakland).

Department.

[4] That unless the convention takes the above action before transacting other business, the delegates from California, representing the overwhelming sentiment of their constituents do join with the delegates refused seats and the comrades of the expelled and suspended Federations and states in the immediate formation of a real revolutionary Socialist Party in the United States, the Communist Labor Party of America, and we urge all comrades having the good of the working class of the United States and the world at heart to at once leave this reactionary convention and repair to the floor below to help us organize the proletariat of America for the final victory over capitalism.

*Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.*

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