
Russ Divide World Party, Debs Avers: Campaign Committee Rejects "Fourth" International Also

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Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 8 [1920].— How the Socialist Party stands with regard to the Third International is set forth in a statement issued by the National Campaign Committee of the party, which is meeting in the Atlanta federal penitentiary so that it may consult with the party's Presidential candidate, Eugene V. Debs.

The gist of the statement is that the party will adhere to its policy of awaiting further development in the international situation, neither seeking amalgamation with the independent labor party and other organizations in a Fourth International, nor seeking to meet Moscow's "impossible conditions."

The resolution, which was drawn up after a full discussion participated in by Debs and completely endorsed by him, recited the fact that the party cut loose from the Third International early in 1919; that the resolution then carried for an International of "all parties agreeing with us," while the minority resolution, demanding affiliation with Moscow with certain reservations, carried the membership; that the New York convention [May 8-14, 1920] majority report reaffirmed the reservations; that Zinoviev's test of affiliation made it impossible for that party to waive its reservations and enter.

Debs for Reservations.

Asked for a definition of the party's stand

on the Third International, Debs argued for the party's position, affiliation with reservations.

"How can you," asked Debs, "commit the party unreservedly to something that is in a state of gestation? If you were to commit the party in America by the international program laid down by Lenin, you would absolutely kill the party. The angry wrangling over the Moscow program is what is disrupting parties all over the world.

"The first thing we need is a party and if you disrupt the parties you are nowhere. The Moscow program wants to commit us to a program of armed insurrection; the Moscow comrades have arrogated to themselves the right to dictate the tactics, the program, the very conditions of propaganda in all countries. It is ridiculous, arbitrary, autocratic; as ridiculous as if we were to dictate to them how they should carry on their propaganda.

"The Third International is in an experimental stage, and yet it assumes to have discovered the final method of settling all problems in all nations. It is a blind rushing into the dark to accept the program. Now, our job is to devote all our time and all our energies toward making the campaign a success. The rest will take care of itself."

Big Vote is Best Strike.

Replying to a demand of the Hancock, Mich., Finnish branch, that the National Execu-

tive Committee issue a call for a general strike to free Debs, a resolution adopted by the committee asserts the best general strike will be an overwhelming vote for Debs Nov. 2 [1920].

Debs has received many indirect hints that a mere request from him might release him, he told the committee.

“Mr. Palmer and the administration are anxious to give my case favorable consideration. They want me to apply for a pardon. They want me to ask them; they are waiting for me to weaken.

“But I can beat them waiting. We are not their prisoners. They are our prisoners, and the administration is appealing to use for release. Mr. Palmer wants pardon.”

Amnesty Move Stirs Debs.

George Roewer reported on the amnesty mission to Washington and it was then Debs made his defiant statement. Roewer said Palmer had

asked Gompers, “was the amnesty resolution at the Montreal convention [40th: June 7-19, 1920] unanimous?” Gompers said: “Not a dissenting vote.”

Debs said: “At Atlantic City [39th Convention: June 7-24, 1919] the Gompers machine was emphatically against amnesty. Duncan said I should not be pardoned. I should be shot. A year later this resolution is passed. This is what it means:

“The Chamber of Commerce is organizing for what they call the American System; that is, open shop. The open shop is the dead union, and the unions know that if the Chamber and other reactionary groups win, unionism is dead.

“This appeal on our behalf by the American Federation of Labor machine is an appeal for the progressive element in the labor movement to stand pat in the American Federation of Labor. That is all Mr. Gompers’ interest in amnesty means.”

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