

A Moderate Socialist Legislator

IN the Spring of 1918 a member of the Socialist Party was drafted and taken to Camp Dix, New Jersey, where he refused military service, claiming to be a Conscientious Objector. Instead of being classed with other Conscientious Objectors, this Comrade was seized, *after taps*, when the rest of the camp was asleep and thrown into the Guard House, where the officers in charge threatened to beat him up. When he protested, he was told that he was entitled to no consideration from the authorities, because he was a Socialist; the officer in charge informed him that if Socialists were given consideration, *they would do in this country what they had done in Russia.*

Having refused to salute an officer, this Comrade was then starved and again threatened. He replied that he had not signed any enlistment papers, and was therefore still a civilian. He then appealed to the "Socialist" Congressman, Meyer London. The following letters, signed by Congressman London's secretary, are illuminating. It will be noticed that the writer ignored the Comrade's contention that he was still a civilian, and addressed him as "Private —"; thus helping to fix his military status:

MEYER LONDON, 12th Dist., New York

House of Representatives U. S.
Washington, D. C.

May 6, 1918.

Pvt. M —,
153rd Depot Brigade,
Guard House, No. 2,
Camp Dix, N. J.
Dear Comrade:—

Under separate cover I am mailing you a copy of the Official Bulletin containing the President's Proclamation with regards to the rights and duties of conscientious objectors. You will realize, if you have not done so already, that there are rules and regulations governing the conduct of men in the military service, and also, that there are punishments provided for any violation of those rules and regulations.

Fraternally yours,

MARK LEWIS, Secretary.

June 2, 1918.

Pvt. M —,
12th Battalion, Guard House,
Camp Dix, N. J.
Dear Comrade:—

I regret very much that I did not make myself sufficiently understood in my reply to your communication.

Your case will not be taken up here. Your immediate superiors have entire jurisdiction in a case such as yours.

I have mailed you an additional copy of the President's Proclamation concerning conscientious objectors, and also, supplementary instruction issued in the same connection.

Fraternally yours,

MARK LEWIS, Secretary.

At the same time the Comrade wrote to Roger Baldwin, of the National Civil Liberties Bureau—not a Socialist organization. And almost immediately he received the following answers, which furnish a glaring contrast to those quoted above:

National Civil Liberties Bureau,
70 Fifth Avenue, New York

May 7, 1918.

Mr. M —,
Camp Dix, N. J.
Dear Mr. M —:—

Your letter of April 30th, addressed to the *Call*

has been referred to me, and I have asked to have inquiry made as to your sentence to determine whether it is in accordance with the orders of the Secretary of War. I knew sometime ago of your having been placed in the Guard House, but I have such confidence in Captain Termini's good sense and judgment that I didn't feel like calling it to the Department's attention. I would write him now about it except that I believe army regulations require any complaints of this sort from citizens to be made directly to the Secretary of War.

Sincerely yours,

ROGER BALDWIN.

June 8, 1918.

Mr. M —,
Camp Dix, N. J.
Dear Mr. M —:—

Left Wing Notes

THE Left Wing organization has decided to support the following nominees and asks all revolutionary Socialists to do likewise:

For the National Executive Committee, 1st District: N. I. Hourwich, N. Y., Edward Lindgren, Brooklyn, N. Y., Louis C. Fraina, Boston, Mass.

For International Delegates: I. E. Ferguson, Chicago, Ill., John Reed, N. Y., Louis C. Fraina, Boston, Mass., C. E. Ruthenberg, Cleveland, O.

Additional Locals and Branches that have joined the Left Wing:

Kansas City, Missouri

Local Tonawanda, New York

Lithuanian Branch, No. 19, Kings

Branch Ridgewood, No. 2, New Jersey

German Federation of Kings and Queens Counties

Spanish Branch, New York

17th A. D. Branch, New York

18th A. D. Branch, New York

The following Left Wing mass meetings and open air demonstrations on May 1st:—

Queens County at Queens County Labor Lyceum, 8 o'clock.

Astoria Local, 458 Broadway Astoria, L. I., 8 o'clock.

5th Russian and Ukrainian Branch, Rutgers Square, 2 o'clock.

Jewish 2nd A. D., Forward Hall, 8 o'clock.

4th A. D., Kings at headquarters, 8 o'clock.

Branch 2, 6th A. D., Kings (Jewish Branch), open air, 2 o'clock.

14th A. D., Kings, at Bridge Plaza, Grand St. Ext., 7 o'clock.

8th A. D., N. Y., 10th Street and 2nd Avenue, and Houston Street and 2nd Avenue, 2 o'clock.

17th A. D., N. Y., open air, 2 o'clock.

There will be a general rally of the Left Wingers of the 23rd A. D. on May 1st, at 12 o'clock before the Brownsville Labor Lyceum in order to form a unit of the Left Wing for the parade that will take place during the afternoon.

All Left Wingers are urged to gather and present a strong front.

On Sunday, April 20th, the Eastern District Convention of the Hungarian Federation of the Socialist Party, adopted the Left Wing Manifesto and Program. This is the third District Convention of the Hungarian Federation to join the Left Wing. There remains only one District, the smallest, which is in the west, and which, up to this time, has not had an opportunity to vote on the question. The Manifesto and Program will be submitted to the rank and file of the Hungarian Federation through-

Thanks very much indeed for yours of June 6th. I am glad to know that you have been released from the Guard House, and now have the freedom of the camp with the other objectors. I may be down at the camp within the next week or ten days, and will certainly look you up.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ROGER BALDWIN.

Thanks to the Civil Liberties Bureau the Comrade was finally released.

This is only one of the counts in the long indictment of the Congressional representative of "the most advanced and resolute section of the work class parties." Nevertheless, the Right Wing in Local New York renominated him at the last election.

out the United States in the form of a referendum. MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE LEFT WING SECTION, HELD APRIL 27, 1919.

Chairman, GYLOW

Minutes of the last meeting read and adopted. Minutes of the membership meeting read and credentials submitted, and the following delegates seated.

Left Wing Group, 20th A. D. Br 2, Kings Co.—Wm. M. Beek
Lithuanian Br. 19 joins Left Wing, delegates Yureff, Zilenkas, also contributes \$10.

Minority Group L. W. Br. 2, 23rd A. D. Kings Co., David Aber.

5th Russian Ukrainian Br., Schwartz and Matserlick.
German Br. 2 Ridgewood, Gottechalk and Reichart.

Motion carried to have roll call by giving sergeant-at-arms lists of delegates who must sign on arrival at meeting, and if any fail to attend, branches be notified.

Kessler seated temporarily for 2nd A. D. pending regular election.

Herman seated temporarily for Br. 4, 16th A. D. Kings. Motion carried to take up instructions of membership meeting after Executive Secretary's report.

Executive Committee's report (minutes):
No Left Winger shall debate on platform with Waldman. Leaflets submitted by Russian Branch be turned over to Special Committee of 5.

Motion carried to elect committee of five to comply with recommendation of Executive Committee's minutes—Hammer, Wilenkin, Larkin, Cosor and Schachter elected.

Motion carried that the secretary should not receive applications for membership with reservations.

Committee from the 17th A. D. asking for 150 chairs for which they will pay later. Carried.

Motion carried not to hold any special meeting but to supply speakers to meetings arranged by the branches.

Following nominated for City Committee:
Lovestone, 12th A. D.; N. Hourwich, Russian Br.; M. Cohen, 8th A. D.; J. Brodsky, 8th A. D.; K. Brodsky, 8th A. D.; F. Horowitz, 8th A. D.; J. Braddy, 3-5 & 10th A. D.; E. MacAlpine, 3-5 & 10th A. D.; Kessler, 2nd A. D.; Hiltzick, 2nd Jewish Br.; Michaels, German; Langnickle, 7th A. D.; Chapchick, Ukrainian Br.

Following nominated for City Committee from Brooklyn: Lindgren, Weinstein, Mrs. Jacobs, Mrs. Milner, De Milt, Zucker, Wichenson.

Executive Secretary's report:
Requests that all volunteer speakers for May 1st mobilize at headquarters.

Motion carried that all Left Wing branches recall all R. W. officers. Adjourned for 2 weeks.

F. HOROWITZ, Recording Secretary.

HELP THE 17th A. D. Refurnish Its Headquarters

One day after the furniture, including the electric wires, was stolen by the leaders, the members of the branch succeeded in holding a meeting in their headquarters. The next day they received word that the furniture would be returned, but they united in the reply, that now they wanted neither the furniture nor the leaders.

At the present time they have only a few old chairs and a set of beautiful new electric lights. They need about five hundred dollars to restore the headquarters.

Will five hundred Left Wingers donate One Dollar each for this purpose?

Send no mail to the headquarters.

Address all communications to
Julius Codkind, 133 E. 97th Street