

Eugene V. Debs' Position

EVER since Eugene V. Debs entered prison the Right Wing has endeavored to make it appear that he is opposed to the actions of the Left Wing. In spite of his statement in a recent issue of *The Class Struggle*, where he unqualifiedly endorses the revolutionary Socialists in Europe and declares himself to be at one with them in purpose and in spirit, in spite of his declaration on his way to jail—"I ENTER THE PRISON DOOR A FLAMING REVOLUTIONIST, MY HEAD UNBENT, MY SPIRIT UNTAMED AND MY SOUL UNCONQUERABLE"—the Right Wing has persistently used his name to support all their actions.

The great love for humanity which is the keynote of Debs' nature, and which must inevitably be the counterpart of a passionate hatred against the system which oppresses the workers, has been used to represent him as an apologist for the compromising attitude assumed by the place-hunting, vote-getting, Jeffersonian liberals who have too long controlled our movement.

Herewith we publish his letter to Rose Pastor Stokes, which she received within the last few days. Unlike the alleged letters quoted against us by our Scheidemanns, but never produced, this letter is an authoritative

the class-conscious revolutionary Socialists of the world. The Bolsheviks were not mistaken when

'Gene Debs is at one with those who stand true to the principles enunciated in the Communist

Manifesto and we would only be too glad if all those who are loud in their protestations that Debs is with them, were in truth with him. Much as we appreciate Debs' endorsement of the principles we espouse and the attitude we assume at this time, it must not be taken that by him, our greatest comrade, we are proven right. This is a question of principles, not men, and Debs is as usual concerned only with the advancement of the cause of which he is such a brilliant and fearless advocate. Debs stands for the principles of revolutionary Socialism and we are proud to be associated with him and to make his alleged crimes our own.

If he is guilty, we too are guilty; our determination being one with his; to sweep away for ever the last foul vestige of Capitalism to the end that his dream and that of other great rebels, may be realized in our time, and in his.

Debs has always stood in the forefront of the American Socialist movement, and the fact that he writes this letter is convincing proof that he does not consider the formation of the Left Wing as a move to destroy, but rather as an effort to unite the

and unsolicited document, and proves that now as they severed Debs from the officialdom of our Party on the basis of revolutionary Socialism. Debs is true to the principles and teachings of Party in their invitation to the Third International.

Give full address of your letter here

Place name and serial number here

Name *Rose Pastor Stokes*

Address *88 Green St*

City *New York*

State *New York*

Serial No. *2253*

Cells No. *2253*

818 JEFFERSON AVE.

MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA. *April 28, 1919*

My dear Comrade Rose:

Days before I came here I intended to write in answer to your letter touching certain vital party matters but I was kept so busy until the last moment that I was prevented from doing so. Under any other circumstances my silence would have been inexcusable, but pressed as I was by so many demands and not so well physically, I felt certain that you would understand and make generous allowance for my seeming remissness. In my present situation I am unable to write as I would wish, nor do I think it now necessary since I am sure you know that in all the progressive changes, all the developments now taking place your position is my position and I am with you in all things.

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