

## Jewish Federation Leaves Socialist Party

The Jewish Socialist Federation has withdrawn from the Socialist Party. The convention held in New York, September 3-5, called specifically to consider withdrawal from the party, showed 41 delegates against the party and 33 for it.

However, the attitude of the entire convention, that of both sides in it, constituted a convincing demonstration against the old organization of Morris Hillquit, Victor Berger, Gerber, Branstetter, Stedman, Germer, etc.

The debate on the main issue consumed fully five hours, evenly divided between the pro's and the con's. The defenders of "law and order," of the status quo in the party, had not one word to say in favor of the party. Fear for the new, for the "jump into the unknown," was all they could find in favor of remaining in the Socialist Party.

The loyalists organized into a Jewish Alliance (Verband) within the party. The withdrawing federation retains its name, organization, membership, its weekly paper, the "Naye Welt" (New World), large book publishing plant and other valuable assets.

The 33 delegates who voted for the Socialist Party represented what is known in Gogol's classic epic as "Dead Souls." While still in session the convention continually received telegrams from the membership in the branches, whose delegates remained in the party, urgently requesting them to quit the ship that no longer sails under the revolutionary Socialist flag.

The Jewish Forward, the powerful daily in New York, with editions in half a dozen other cities, played a rather peculiarly interesting role in the proceeding.

Its circulation and advertising agents all over the country "delivered" the delegates with the votes for the Socialist Party. The publishing association that runs the daily placed an embargo on all and any criticism in the paper's columns against the party.

Yet the entire editorial staff of the Forward went with the seceding Federation, the exception being the editor-in-chief, Abraham Cahan, who "gives a rap for the party," and Business Manager Alderman Vladek, who "knows better."

Thus the Federation lined up on its side such tried and proved Socialists as Morris Winchevsky (the Grandfather of Jewish Socialism); Moissaye J. Olgin; Dr. B. Hoffman (Zivien); Harry Rogoff, until the day of the convention the acting editor of the Daily Forward, Loliput, and P. Novick. All these people left the staff of the Forward.

It is not, however, the aligning of the leading Jewish Socialists on the side of the Federation that made its convention a red letter day in the Socialist movement of the country. The clear-cut position taken by the Federation on all the current issues of the day, its uncompromising and well-considered attitude toward the Third International, the problems of Political Action, Trade Union Tactics, Soviet Rule, Dictatorship of the Proletariat, and

other questions, make for the importance of this step. The statement of withdrawal follows:

### THESES ON WITHDRAWAL FROM THE S. P. ADOPTED AT THE CONVENTION

The Jewish Socialist Federation was organized as a central body of Jewish language branches of the party, with a sincere obligation to work in the party and through the party for the realization of the ideals of revolutionary Marxian Socialism.

The members and leaders of the Jewish Socialist Federation realized and have at several conventions pointed out that the party was far from being a revolutionary Socialist organization in many instances, both with regard to general formulation of principles as well as tactics. Our criticism was comradely. We sought to convince from the inside.

But the international revolutionary movement, which followed in the wake of the world-war, put the party to a test, along with the other sections of the world movement. The time came to speak in clear-cut Socialist terms. In this the party failed. It remained silent.

The crisis in the party followed. The split of 1919 was the first consequence of this failure. The formation of the left wing strengthened the reactionary element in the party. This we foresaw and we opposed the step from the outset. It was tactically wrong. The Left Wing was equally wrong in point of principle, and time has proven to us and to the left elements the correctness of our position. We remained in the party, giving the party membership the warning that the future would test the ability of the leaders to withstand the temptation to join the camp of the reactionaries.

They have not stood the test. They tried to deceive us, though for a short time only. They showed their colors a few months after the Chicago (1919) Convention. They took the position that they always had been and under all conditions would remain a non-militant party of law-abiding reform "Socialists," although they were not opposed to coquetting at times with revolutionary phrases.

The Albany chapter of party history cannot be recalled too often, but we do not intend to repeat again in detail what transpired there. The whole conduct of the Albany trial aimed to show that the party is law-abiding before everything and is out for respectability at any cost.

The defense disavowed the Third International, shelved all pretense to party discipline, and convicted through its spokesmen the Soviet Government and the Soviet Regime.

Yet the disgrace heaped upon the Socialist movement by the Albany trial cannot be measured alone by its betrayal of all Socialist principles. It remained for the New York (1920) Convention to complete the infamy, this being the theoretical approval of the actual betrayal of Socialism.

Even Comrade Debs felt obliged to state that the party looked more like a party of politicians than a party of workers.

The 1920 election proved the actual demoralization of the party from the point of view of membership, influence and activity. It showed that no more could there be any hope that the Socialist Party would survive, that it could be resurrected in the Socialist sense. It became impossible for a serious Socialist to remain in the party.

We decided to put the party to a test on the issue of the Third International, its spirit, its principles, its aspirations. This is why we remained thru the Detroit Convention.

But all Socialist fundamentals were deserted at Detroit in June. The convention there refused to take a positive stand on any question except that dealing with political fusion, adopting the tactics of discredited, bankrupt politicians.

It put the Third International, the Department of Justice and American capitalism on the same basis. The party that was already dead now received its spiritual burial.

Under these circumstances the convention declares that the Jewish Socialist Federation can no longer remain in the Socialist Party and is withdrawing from it, individually and collectively.

## Tentative Statement of the Position and Purposes of the Workers' Council of the United States of America

The Workers' Council of the United States has been called into being for the purpose of aiding in the struggle to unite all class-conscious working-class groups into a truly revolutionary Socialist organization.

It pledges itself to aid in the effort to establish a Socialist Soviet Republic in the United States.

For immediate organization purposes it offers the following tentative draft of a program upon which all such revolutionary elements can unite:

1. **THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL:**—Unconditional affiliation with the Third International.

2. **DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT:**—The transitional period, following the inevitable breakdown of the capitalist system, may take a long time and will unavoidably be accompanied by civil strife in one form or another. At such a time the new order has a right to defend itself, and the Communist-conscious workers and their party are then duty-bound to disregard the formal rights of the bourgeoisie as a minority of the people and build the power of the workers as the great majority upon such a strong basis and with such guarantees that the revolution will not be endangered by counter-revolution from within nor intervention from without.

3. **POLITICAL ACTION:**—Participation in all political activities, as well as electoral campaigns, in order to utilize them for the purpose of carrying the Communist message to the masses. But the parliamentary struggle is only one form of the political struggle of the working class for its emancipation. The political struggle must never be circumscribed by purely parliamentary activity; on the contrary, it must be extended in all possible spheres.

4. **THE TRADE UNIONS:**—We must make clear to the workers that in the struggle for the abolition of the wages system, the economic organizations of the workers are a most important factor, and that to be most effective, labor must be imbued with the spirit of the class struggle; must aim at the complete abolition of the capitalist system; must work for the re-organization of labor along industrial lines to meet with equal force the ever-extending industrial forces of capitalism, and that it must be aggressive in its tactics and methods.

5. **FORM OF ORGANIZATION:**—It must provide for the concentration of power and authority within the party in the hands of the executive committee, subject to control by the membership. The Workers' Council will carry on all its work as an open organization.

6. **PARTY PRESS, ELECTED OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS:**—The party executive shall have complete control of the press and the activities of all elected officials, with the power of expelling officials who fail in their duty to the party and the workers. It shall also coordinate and direct the work of the party members in the trade unions.

Upon the basis of this tentative statement the Workers' Council of the United States issues a call for a National Conference to be held some time during November, the exact time and place to be announced at an early date.

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Direct all requests for information to J. Louis Engdahl, Secretary, Workers' Council of the United States of America, Room 233, 80 East 11th Street, New York City, N. Y.

## Competition Among Sleuths

The Socialist Party, its secretary, Otto Branstetter, and the Call, New York party daily, parade in the role of informer and agent provocateur of the department of justice in the issue of the Call, Tuesday, September 6, page 7.

The Call becomes a party to these spy activities by voluntarily giving space to Branstetter's latest, entitled "Communists Try 'Legal' Work," in which the Socialist secretary glories in his ability as a sleuth by proclaiming that the American Labor Alliance is "simply an alias of the United Communist Party, camouflaged in an attempt to secure the support of the workers under false pretences."

Branstetter thus joins the quixotic Feigenbaum of the Call in taking bread and butter out of the mouths of underpaid secret service agents who must do this dirty work for a living.

The American Labor Alliance is a federation of organizations. The U. S. secret service, now headed by that king of dime novel detectives, "Bill" Burns, has been exerting every effort to link these organizations with the Communist Party. But without success, because there is no connection between them except the solidarity that should unite the ranks of all class-conscious labor.

What the police hounds have failed to do, Branstetter, Feigenbaum and Co. brilliantly achieve with a few mesmeric waves at a typewriter. Great is the power of the traitor. Capitalism daily recruits new renegades. \* \* \*

**LATER.**—Branstetter is unanimously re-elected national secretary of the Socialist Party by the party executive. Feigenbaum ought to go to congress, at least.