
Socialists Call National Convention: War Crisis to Be Dealt With April 7

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CHICAGO, March 12 [1917].— By unanimous vote the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party today decided to call an Emergency Convention for April 7 to adopt a definite plan of action in the present war crisis.

While the city has not been definitely selected, it is probable the convention will be held either in Chicago, St. Louis, or Cleveland.

Morris Hillquit of New York pointed out at the beginning of the session that, although the constitution did not give the National Executive Committee authority to call a general convention, he believed that the plan would meet with universal approval. He said that it was vitally important for the party to meet and define its policy in the event of war and to transact other party business of great importance.

A vote was taken by wire of the National Committeemen, which resulted overwhelmingly in favor of calling the convention immediately.

All the language federations of the party united in favoring the project for a special convention.

Those voting on the proposition were Hillquit, Victor Berger, Anna Maley, and John M. Work.

John Spargo, who was unable to attend the sessions, will be asked to vote by telegraph.

200 in Convention.

The convention will be made up of 200 delegates. Each language group will be entitled to a fraternal delegate. One delegate for each 550 members shall be chosen.

It was tentatively proposed that the order of business at the special Emergency Convention be as follows:

Political policies of the party in case of war.

Revision of the party program.

Revision of the constitution.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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