
Dishonesty and Treason

by A.M. Simons

Published in the *New York Call*, v. 10, no. 115 (April 25, 1917), pg. 6.

It requires language so strong that it sounds like the use of epithets to describe the scuttling of the Socialist Party by German nationalistic jingoes and anarchistic impossibilists at St. Louis [Emergency National Convention: April 7-14, 1917].

Therefore, I choose my words with a careful examination of their meaning, and no intention of exaggeration. I charge that these resolutions were dishonest. Berger and Hillquit, who boast of having written them, do not, unless they have completely reversed the opinions they have set forth for the last 20 years, believe in extrapolitical violence as a part of Socialist Party tactics. They opposed the very phrases they wrote at St. Louis when German imperialism objected to them at Stuttgart [1907] and Copenhagen [1910].

Now these words that were rejected at international congresses, where alone they would have been reasonable, because Prussian imperialism, voiced by Scheidemann and his ilk, objected, are now inserted in a resolution of the American Socialist Party, because again Prussian imperialism will be benefited.

The resolutions are dishonest because they are filled with almost grotesque falsehoods. I would like to have either of the two Socialists who are so largely responsible for them defend the statement: "In all modern history there has been no war more unjustifiable than the war in which we are about to engage." There are other statements only a little less insolently false and foolish.

That it is technically and insultingly treasonable no less than 6 lawyers of varying political faith (3 are Socialists) have assured me. It is not alone treasonable to the nation, but also to Socialism, since this action

against the government of the United States is to be in the interest of the most powerful reactionary league existing since the holy alliance.

Those who wrote it may be supposed to have the intelligence to know its treasonable and false character. But they were willing to incite honest fanatics and syndicalists into violence against the United States in time of war, and in aid of German autocracy, while they will remain in their offices. I say they knew its exact character, because it was these very words which were so carefully discussed at Stuttgart and omitted from the resolution as adopted, lest the German Social Democracy be outlawed and Prussian rule be disturbed. Now the American Socialist Party is to be outlawed in order that this same rule may be preserved.

This program was fastened upon a political party in the United States by a combination of nationalistic pro-Germans, violent syndicalists, and foreign-speaking organizations ignorant of American institutions. It is an insulting slap in the face to every Socialist. It is doubly insulting to every American in its bald appeal to race hatred. It is an abuse of the very freedom granted to immigrants in this nation in the interest of the tyranny which drove them here.

There is not a person responsible for its writing who will dare publicly to defend its most important statements. It will be adopted at the referendum because of the ignorance of its meaning. But that meaning is perfectly clear to those who wrote it to help keep autocracy in power in the Germanic alliance, and to extend its influence in this country.

Its adoption writes the obituary of the Socialist Party.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2007. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.