
The Majority Report Should Be Carried Overwhelmingly:

Letter to the Editor of the *New York Call*,
May 16, 1917

by Jacob Panken

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Editor of *The Call*:

On the 11th of May, 1917, Senator Husting of Wisconsin, on behalf of W.R. Gaylord of Milwaukee and A.M. Simons of the same city, preferred charges against the committee drafting and reporting the majority resolution at the St. Louis Convention [April 7-14, 1917] and the Socialist Party as a whole.

The charge made against the comrades of the committee is treason; against the Socialists and the Socialist Party membership, treason, coupled with ignorance.

The majority resolution, letters to the dear senator by Messrs. Gaylord and Simons, and various articles in the *Milwaukee Journal*, and a letter to [SPA Executive Secretary Adolph] Germer by Gaylord and a reply by Germer to Gaylord, have been incorporated into the Congressional Record.

The occasion was the discussion of the espionage bill. The documents and the speech were offered in support of the most drastic censorship of the press and sweeping curtailment of the right of free expression and free speech.

The Senator, Husting, said that all of the documents were supplied him by Gaylord, and that Gaylord was the authority for such documents. From the remarks made by the Senator it would appear that Gaylord and Simons furnished

these documents knowing exactly to what use they would be put.

It is borne out by the following, which I quote from the letter of Gaylord and Simons to Senator Husting:

“Some of our Socialist attorneys have considered the possibility of a restraining order along these lines. (An injunction to prevent the distribution of the majority report.) That would be expensive and take time to get the movement for it organized. We have started some correspondence about that, but meanwhile the orders are probably going to the printer.”

What Gaylord and Simons wanted from Senator Husting was to start the government in motion to prevent the distribution of the majority resolution through the mail.

As I understand it, none of these so-called comrades who are opposed to the majority resolution claim that it is not a Socialist document, but that it is a tactful one; that the resolution is not subversive of the interest of the working class, but that it does not breathe the narrow and bigoted patriotism of the jingo nationalist.

These comrades have attempted to inspire prosecution of all those who do not agree with them in their jingoism, and now we have reached the crowning act of treachery by Gaylord and Simons.

The question is, shall we support the minority, led by Gaylord and Simons and supported by Senator Husting and reactionary Republicans and Democrats, or the majority report expressive of the best that there is in Socialist thought?

The majority report should receive, in my opinion, the support of every Socialist; the minority report should receive the vote only of those who are willing to make the Socialist movement the tail to the kite of opportunism and jingoism.

Yours fraternally,

Jacob Panken,
New York.

May 16, 1917.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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