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# **Socialist Peace Plan Wins!**

## **President Wilson Adopts Bolsheviki Policy: Socialists of Nation Rally to Back Them Up**

Unsigned article in *St. Louis Labor*, whole no. 885 (Jan. 19, 1918), pg. 1.

**In his address before both houses of Congress on January 8, 1918, President Wilson adopted and made the principal object of world strategy the Russian revolutionary plan of appealing to the Socialist and radical forces of the nations to overthrow their own militarist and imperialist classes.**

**The World War is rapidly changing from a conflict between nations to a struggle between classes.**

**German Socialists have nobly responded to their Russian brothers' and comrades' appeal.**

**British labor during first week of January [1918] completed its organization and is now the controlling peace factor in the United Kingdom.**

**Seemingly only in America are the forces**

**of labor, confused by blind leadership, helpless to act. Irony of history: Socialists here have been bitterly opposed and misrepresented by the powers which are appealing to the Socialists abroad.**

**Socialists of St. Louis! Through the chaos of the World War, International Socialism stands revealed as the only hope of world peace!**

**Let us unite in response to the appeal of Russia! Let us strengthen the German Socialists by assisting all the nations at war to emancipate themselves from their own militarism and capitalist class rule!**

**Workers of the World, Unite!**

**Socialist Party of St. Louis, in public mass meeting, adopts strong resolutions setting forth its position. In accord with President Wilson on most vital peace conditions.**

The Socialist Party of St. Louis held a great public mass meeting at the Sheldon Memorial Hall, 3648 Washington Avenue, last Sunday afternoon [Jan. 13, 1918], under the chairmanship of Comrade Clore Warne.

The principal speaker of the occasion was Comrade Irwin St. John Tucker of Chicago, who delivered a masterful address on the subject: "President Woodrow Wilson's Address to Congress on War Aims and Peace Conditions, in Relation to Premier Lloyd George's Speech and the Russian

Revolutionary Struggle for Democracy."

The substance of his address is contained by the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted by the mass meeting.

### **Resolutions.**

Whereas, President Woodrow Wilson has now adopted the Bolsheviki policy of appealing to the radical forces in Germany against the forces of their own militarist caste. As a result of this

policy, which was first pursued at Brest-Litovsk, the cleavage between these forces was made manifest to the world and a revolt against the militarists stirred up throughout the central empires.

### I.

It is evident that the salvation of the world depends on the overthrow of the German militarist and junker party by the Socialist movement in their own land. President Wilson has recognized this, and his utterances tend steadily toward that end.

But this enlightened policy is in grave danger of defeat through the incredible stupidity of the Allied diplomats and the blind ignorance of our own politicians and press, coupled with the malevolent greed of the war profiteers in every land.

Every threat of a "war to the knockout," every demand for the dismemberment of the Central Powers, every plan for an economic strangulation of Germany as the price of her defeat, rallies the German people around their warlords. Recognizing this, the President has now guaranteed the integrity of Germany.

American newspapers, American politicians, and so-called "loyalty leagues" and "security leagues" are busily playing the game of the German militarists, as it has been played for 20 years and is still being played by their paid agents, who, like Bolo Pasha, purchased in the press of hostile nations the publication of bitter threats against Germany, which convince the people of those lands that in their warlord and his party lay their only safety.

It becomes evident that the destruction of the militarist party in Germany depends upon the overthrow of the militarist party and the imperialist party in every other land; and this can only be done when the imperialist policy of commercial conquest, which gives rise to militarism, is overthrown.

Rapidly the great war is altering its character, from a vertical cleavage between nations to a horizontal cleavage between classes. The militarist party in one country supports in power the militarist party in every other, through threats and policies of conquest and reprisal.

In each country the radical and Socialist forces are working together with the radical and Socialist forces of every other country for the abolition of the whole system of blood and iron and gold which dominates the world.

British labor has openly taken this stand, and by rallying to the cry of the Bolsheviki for support in other lands has forced upon the statesmen of the world the recognition of this unquestionable fact, and made it a cardinal point of world strategy.

The Socialist Party in this, as in every other country, has pledged itself to work to the uttermost for the strengthening of this policy; but in so doing it asks the President to strengthen its efforts by removing certain grave difficulties in the way of realizing this hope for the life and safety of the world.

### II.

Chief among these difficulties are:

1. Ferocious threats of Allied spokesmen for a war to the death, the dismemberment of the Central Powers, and future plans for economic suppression. These he has already striven to remove.

2. The refusal of the Allied governments heretofore to reply to, accept, or even to acknowledge the repeated request of the Russian revolutionary government for a conference at some neutral point; for a revision of war aims; for a clear statement of peace terms; or for any sort of action which would make good the Allied claims to be fighting a war for democracy. This policy has to a certain extent been modified by labor pressure.

3. The refusal of the Allied governments to

grant passports to Socialist and Labor delegates to meet with Socialist and Labor delegates from all other lands at the projected Stockholm conference. This would immeasurably have strengthened the Socialist and radical forces of Germany and correspondingly weakened the militarist forces.

4. The repression in our own land of all attempts at intelligent discussion of war aims and peace terms, and the encouragement given to the militarist party and its press, by which the militarist party of Germany has been encouraged and retained in power.

5. The retention in high office in this country of representatives of the same junker class whose dominance in Germany has destroyed the peace of the world; who in this country are opposed to those measures of democracy on which we insist abroad.

6. The repeated refusal of the Allied governments to recognize the conference at Brest-Litovsk, or to accede to the request of both parties thereto that delegates be sent to Stockholm, or some other neutral point, to open peace negotiations on the basis of principles already theoretically accepted by both sides.

We, therefore, ask the President to use his powers to compel a change in this policy. Inasmuch as the Socialist and radical forces in this country are the only ones from whom support of these policies can be expected, their destruction would immeasurably weaken the prospects of the success of this policy.

Specifically we demand the retirement from office of Albert Sidney Bursleson, Postmaster General, representative of the land junkers of the Southwest, whose policy of terrorism against the radical press and of open hostility to organized labor makes his retention in office an insult to the name of democracy at home and abroad.

### III.

The Socialist movement of the whole world

is in hearty accord with the principles outlined in the President's address, namely:

First and principally, the abolition of secret diplomacy, as a cardinal prerequisite to the sanctity of treaties. Treaties made in the dark cannot be regarded as sacred in the light.

Second, recognition of the Russian revolutionary government and the strengthening of the radical and Socialist forces in every land.

Third, the self-determination and free development of all nationalities.

Fourth, an international organization to uphold freedom of the seas, equality of trade opportunity, and reduction of armaments as a step toward the ultimate abolition of armaments.

As to territorial adjustments, we demand the application to both sides in the conflict of the "principles" now theoretically recognized by both. Territorial adjustments are pawns in the great game whose chief stake is the acquisition of trade rights for the disposal of surplus products. Until this struggle is ended, imperialism, with its attendant bloody conflicts and suppression of small nationalities, will continue. Until each country ceases to hoard up great quantities of surplus products, withheld from its workers by autocratic control of the instruments of production and distribution, the struggle for markets will continue to threaten the peace of the world.

Wars, therefore, cannot end until the so-called surplus product of each nation is absorbed at home; namely, until the great bulk of the population, which is the working class, is allowed to consume the full equivalent of what it produces, thus substituting exchange of products among nations for the present-day system of balance of trade.

President Wilson has followed the steps taken by the Russian Bolsheviki toward the realization of this great hope of the destruction of the cause of war, by making the principal aim of the strategy of the world the final overthrow of the militarist and imperialists classes by the Socialist,

radical, and liberal forces. It is evident that around the council table of peace must sit representatives of the radical and socialist forces of every nation. Russian labor is in control; British labor is now the power behind the throne; only in this country are the forces of radical liberalism muzzled.

We urge the President to take the lead in forcing the Allies to send peace representatives, chosen by their highest legislative bodies, and including representatives of the Socialist, radical, and labor forces in every land, to a neutral point, preferably Stockholm, there to open peace negotiations upon the common ground already theoretically accepted by both sides, namely:

1. No forcible annexations.
2. No punitive indemnities, and return of those already levied.
3. Self-determination and free development of all nationalities.

We demand that these negotiations take place absolutely in the open, care being taken that full and accurate reports of all the discussions be promptly transmitted to all the nations, for the intelligent judgment of their people, while the conference is in progress.

In order that this judgment of the people may be intelligently formed and adequately expressed, we demand the restoration in this country of the right of free press, free speech, free assemblage, free petition, convinced that only by this means can the forces of justice and right unite the world over to overthrow the dark and bloody power of absolutism.

***Edited by Tim Davenport.***

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