
Special Socialist National Convention Proposed by Local St. Louis, Mo. [March 14, 1918]

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St. Louis, Mo., March 14, 1918.

To the Members of the Socialist Party
National Executive Committee:

Comrades:—

Our General Committee at its meeting of March 4, 1918, after careful consideration, unanimously passed the following resolution:

That the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party be requested to call a special national convention of the party, to be held not later than the second week in June of this year, time and place to be fixed by the NEC, but said convention should be held at some centrally located point; each state organization shall defray the expenses of its own delegates.

The situation confronting us is such that in our opinion a special national party convention has become imperative. By next June [1918] the Congressional election campaign will be in progress all over the country. A national convention of that party at that time will tend to increase the energy, activity, and enthusiasm of our party membership and bring about the spirit of cooperation, unity of action, and determination essential for a successful Congressional campaign.

There is the Russian situation and other most vital questions affecting the present and future policy and attitude of our national and interna-

tional movement that demand our close and conscientious consideration, which can only be given by the representatives of our Socialist Party from all parts of the country in national convention assembled.

No doubt new problems will develop before the convening of such a national gathering. The economic, political, and social reconstruction work after the war is one of the greatest problems confronting the entire working class in this and all other countries here and abroad. We need not go into predictions and prophecies, but we all realize now that Labor's great tasks will begin in the coming days of peace.

The Socialist Party must prepare to meet the unprecedented situation, outline its program, and become fully conscious of the historical mission it is expected to fulfill in the coming period of reconstruction.

Our National Executive Committee, at its February [1918] meeting, took up a number of these questions, covering some of the points herein mentioned. In carefully and ably prepared documents the Socialist position was stated and explained. But the effect of these statements on the rank and file was not what the present critical time in the history of the nations requires.

Statements of that nature, discussed, agreed upon, and issued by a National Socialist Convention would arouse our entire membership, and its inspiring effect would instantaneously create a most energetic and enthusiastic Socialist activity

throughout the country.

Hoping that the members of the National Executive Committee will coincide with our opinion and favorably act upon our appeal, we remain, with best wishes and confidence in the success and victory of our great cause,

Fraternally,

Socialist Party of St. Louis,

W.M. Brandt, Secretary.

Note: Socialist papers, please copy. State secretaries are asked to bring matter before their State Executive Committee.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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