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# **Socialists of Buffalo as One Man Swing Over to Left: The Largest Meeting of Party Members Ever Held Endorses Program Promulgated by Left Wing of Local New York [event of April 13, 1919]**

Unsigned report in *The New Age* [Buffalo, NY], v. 7, no. 359 (April 17, 1919), pp. 1, 4.

In LaTouraine Hall last Sunday afternoon [April 13, 1919] by unanimous vote the largest meeting of Socialist Party members ever held in Buffalo endorsed the Left Wing program as formulated by the Left Wing Section of Local New York, as a basis for the future position and activities of the party.

The principal feature of the program is the repudiation of political activity in favor of social reform measures and the substitution of mass action, the organization of the workers in the industries, and political action for the purpose of education.

The meeting demanded that the National Executive Committee call an immediate Emergency National Convention to formulate party policies and tactics to meet the present crisis. This was a reaffirmation of Local Buffalo's position on this proposition, the local being probably the first to follow Local Boston in the demand several weeks ago.

The program as adopted follows:

1. We stand for a uniform declaration of principles in all party platforms both local and national and the abolition of all social reform planks now contained in them.
2. The party must teach, propagate, and agitate exclusively for the overthrow of capitalism, and the establishment of Socialism through a proletarian dictatorship.
3. The Socialist candidates elected to office shall adhere strictly to the above provisions.
4. Realizing that a political party cannot reorganize and

reconstruct the industrial organizations of the working class, and that that is the task of the economic organizations themselves, we demand that the party assist this process of reorganization by a propaganda for revolutionary industrial unionism as part of its general activities. We believe it is the mission of the Socialist movement to encourage and assist the proletariat to adopt newer and more effective forms of organization and to stir it into newer and more revolutionary modes of action.

5. We demand that the official party press be party owned and controlled.

6. We demand that officially recognized institutions be party owned and controlled.

7. We demand that the party discard its obsolete literature and publish new literature in keeping with the policies and tactics above mentioned.

8. We demand that the National Executive committee call an immediate Emergency National Convention for the purpose of formulating party policies and tactics to meet the present crisis.

9. We demand that the Socialist Party repudiate the Berne congress or any other conference engineered by "moderate Socialists" and social patriots.

10. We demand that the Socialist Party shall elect delegates to the International Congress proposed by the Communist Party of Russia (Bolsheviki); that our party shall participate only in a new International with which are affiliated the Communist Party of Russia (Bolsheviki), the Communist Labor Party of Germany (Spartacans), and all other Left Wing parties and groups.

A committee was elected to go over the literature on sale by the party with a view to discarding what may be obsolete in the circumstances.

***Edited by Tim Davenport.***

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