
Socialist Party Declared Dead: Ex-Members Dine, Chant Requiem for Organization in Various Keys [event of Oct. 8, 1921]

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Recent wholesale desertions from the ranks of the Socialist Party have sealed its death warrant and made the need for a new and more radical party imperative, according to the speakers at a dinner held by the Workers' Council last night at the Labor Temple on 84th Street. J.L. Engdahl, Benjamin Glassberg, J.B. Salutsky, Rose Weiss, Alexander Trachtenberg, L. DeGregoria, Isadore Cohen, and Ludwig P. Lore were the speakers who united in urging the immediate formation of a party on Communist lines.

J.L. Engdahl announced that the revolutionary Socialist Party is at last up in the open air to take its place beside the movement in other countries. "Because the Socialists have turned against the revolution as unconstitutional, under the leadership of Hillquit and Berger, the Socialist Party is doomed. If Hillquit and Berger do not want the Soviet, we do," he said.

Glassberg said: "The credit for destroying the Socialist Party belongs to the Socialist officials alone. The Rand School incident must prevent anyone from taking the Socialist Party seriously. The right of free teaching has been denied."

The progress of the revolutionary movement among the Jewish workers was described at some length by Salutsky.

Trachtenberg made a plea for funds, and said: "I have tried to continue on in the Socialist Party. A few weeks ago I found that it was impossible to stay in. Now is the time to build up a class-conscious, revolutionary party that will stay our in the open."

Isadore Cohen, the New Jersey organizer of the Yipsels, said: "We young people have allied ourselves with the Young Communist International and are affiliated with the Third International. The only way to accomplish the revolution is to join the Communist Party.

"Socialism was born crooked," began DeGregoria. "This meeting sounds the death knell of the Socialist Party. We Italians are always to be found on the Left. Let us have a new party."

Ludwig Lore, the concluding speaker, summarized the rest, and said, "We need the Communist Party. We need frank discussion and education for the masses. This is the movement which will give us what we want and need."

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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