

WAYNICK DEFIES STATE COMMITTEE

Socialist Party of Washington, Office of State Secretary,
Seattle, Wash., July 12, 1909

To all members of the Socialist Party of Washington:

Comrades: It is presumably well known to all members of the Socialist Party throughout the state that the annual State Convention in Everett, in its effort to place the control of the Party in the hands of the element which has for years opposed the regular Party Organization, absolutely disregarded the will of the rank and file, as expressed in the constitution, and rode roughshod over it on several occasions.

At an informal meeting in Everett, July 5, four members of the State Committee, three of whom were delegates to the convention, had a call issued for a meeting of all members of the State Committee. They deemed the condition of the party in this state critical, and the meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the situation, and, if possible, to devise ways and means of averting probable calamity.

This call was sent to all members of the State Committee and delivered to five of them by special messenger, while still present on the floor of the convention in Everett, and to the others by mail. The following eight members, constituting a majority, of the State Committee met in Seattle, July 7, in response to the call: Ada Gatchell, Anna Steele, E. E. Martin, J. W. Morris, Emil Hendrickson, Tom Russell, L. W. Longmire and A. Jonas.

Although a majority of the members were present, no action was taken and in order to give the minority additional opportunity to attend, a request signed by seven members (J. W. Morris was temporarily absent) was presented to the then temporary State Secretary W. H. Waynick, asking him to call, by telegraph, a meeting of the entire committee to be held at State Headquarters, July 8, at 2 p. m.

W. H. Waynick first stated to these seven members of the State Committee that he would issue the call in due form but shortly after he said that he must seek advice on the question. Later in the afternoon the above named seven members of the State Committee received a statement signed W. H. Waynick, in which he refused to send out the call for the meeting. In the evening of the same day, after another conference of the eight members of the State Committee had been held, two special messengers were sent to W. H. Waynick with a written demand, signed by the eight members, insisting that the call for the meeting of the State Committee be wired at once, and assurance was given that the demand would be complied with.

Shortly before the appointed time and place of the meeting, several of the members of the State Committee had occasion to visit the State office, and there the following notice was found pasted on the door:

"Work will not be resumed in this office until it can be done without interruption."

At one o'clock it was found that the office door was locked and the regular key to the office not being available, the master key of the landlord, which is supposed to open every lock in the building, was taken into requisition, but it was found that not even that key would fulfill its regular service, thus conclusively proving that W. H. Waynick, without any authority either from the landlord or from the State Committee, had ordered a locksmith to alter the combination of the office lock.

With the assistance of a locksmith the lock was put in its original condition, subject to the landlord's key. Upon entering the State Office it became clear that W. H. Waynick had absconded with the state records in his possession. However, the meeting was duly called to order by Comrade E. E. Martin, who was chosen temporary chairman in the absence of the regular chairman. After a lengthy discussion of the situation it was decided to issue another call for a meeting of the State Committee to be held Sunday, July 11, at 12 o'clock, noon, this call to be signed by the eight members of the State Committee present, in order that no opportunity be lost to give the absent minority a chance to be heard on any and all questions.

The same eight members were present at this meeting, July 8. Committeeman Bostrom, from Bellingham, appeared during the meeting, but simply opened the door to decamp again. Several of the most conspicuous members of the "Independent" forces made themselves unbearable by boisterous conduct and interruption of the discussions until it became necessary to exclude all but regular party members from the meeting. W. H. Waynick, as well as the seven members of the State Committee, were conspicuous by their absence.

Sunday, July 11, at the time set for the meeting, seven members (Ada Gatchell, Anna Steele, J. W. Morris, L. W. Longmire, Emil Hendrickson, A. Jonas and E. E. Martin) had responded to the call. Tom Russell sent word by telephone that he could not be present, owing to some trouble among the United Mine Workers, but that he would come the following morning. The meeting therefore adjourned until 9 a. m. without taking any further action.

The following are the minutes of the meeting of the State Committee of the Socialist Party of Washington, held at State Headquarters, 208 Shafer Building, Seattle, Wash., July 12, 1909:

Minutes

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE COMMITTEE, S. P. OF WASH., JULY 12, 1909.

After the meeting had been called to order at 9 a. m., the roll call was had and showed the following members present: Ada Gatchell, Anna Steele, E. E. Martin, J. W. Morris, Emil Hendrickson, Tom Russell, L. W. Longmire and A. Jonas. Absent, A. Roeder, C. L. Whiting, A. H. Barth, C. C. Hale, W. W. Smith, W. K. McNeil and Franz Bostrom.

The following motion was introduced by Comrade Jonas and seconded by Comrade Steele:

That the action of the State Committee at the meeting of April 18, by which State Secretary Krueger was declared removed from office on the charge of incompetency, without serving notice on him, said action being consummated without allowing him to be heard in his own behalf and in his absence from the meeting, be, and is hereby declared null and void on the ground that said action was illegal and a flagrant violation of Section 15 and 17 of Article IV of the State Constitution and therefore is hereby rescinded, and the temporary State Secretary Waynick, elected illegally at said meeting, is hereby directed to turn over to this committee at once all Party paraphernalia of the State office. Adopted.

The following Resolution, initiating a state membership Referendum was received and submitted:

Referendum

Seattle, July 8, 1909.

To the State Committee of the Socialist Party of Washington:

Comrades: Local Seattle No. 1 hereby calls for an immediate Referendum of the membership of the Party on the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the State Convention, which convened at Everett, July 3 to 5, refused to allow debate, applied Gag Law and suppressed discussion, and

WHEREAS, The State Constitution in its last section adopts Robert's Rules of Order which provide for free discussion, and

WHEREAS, There can be no deliberative assembly which denies free discussion, and

WHEREAS, The State Constitution was thus deliberately violated by the Everett Convention and the fundamental principle of Free Speech abolished, and

WHEREAS, The convention refused to submit this question to a Referendum, and

WHEREAS, Fifteen delegates representing twelve Locals withdrew from the convention rather than submit to the suppression of debate and announced their purpose to appeal to the rank and file, therefore be it

Resolved by the Socialist Party of Washington by Referendum vote That the annual Convention assembled at Everett, for violating the constitution of the Party and the suppression of free debate, is hereby declared illegal and all its acts null and void.

(Seal) (Signed) JOS. S. BISCAY, Sec.
BERNARD KUBASKI, Chairman.

Endorsements were received from Locals Buckley, North Yakima, Seattle No. 3 and the regular course ordered pursued.

Moved by Steele and seconded by Longmire that the action of the State Executive Committee employing the State Organizer to do the State Secretary's work, routing field workers from the State office, be declared and is hereby rescinded. Carried.

A Motion instructing State Organizer Wegenknecht to render a report at once was carried.

The bond of State Secretary Krueger in the sum of one thousand dollars signed by five regular Party members owning property in the city of Seattle, was approved.

After a lengthy discussion a motion instructing the Secretary to route all available speakers on the best terms possible, supply them with the proper literature, was carried.

The State Secretary reported at this juncture that W. H. Waynick had absconded with Party property from the office, as well as from residence, including Postoffice key and Party funds.

A motion that the State Committee take the necessary steps to recover Party records and funds from W. H. Waynick was carried.

Also a motion carried to elect a committee of six Party members to assist the State Secretary in an effort to recover the property and take whatever steps they may deem advisable. Committee: Anna Steele, Emil Herman, J. A. McCorkle, H. F. Titus, Joseph Biscay and Floyd Hyde.

A motion instructing the State Secretary to notify Local secretaries, by wire, of the action taken at this meeting with reference to the office of State Secretary was carried.

Charges

The State Secretary read the following charges:

Seattle, Wash., July 11, 1909.

To the State Committee, Socialist Party of Washington:

Comrades: We the undersigned members of the Socialist Party hereby enter formal charges against A. H. Barth and W. W. Smith, members of your committee, and elected by your body on the State Executive Committee, for gross misconduct while members of your committee.

We charge them individually and jointly with conduct on the Executive Committee as officials of the Party, injurious to the Party, and calculated to disrupt the Party and destroy its efficiency as a Proletarian organization.

We also charge them with conduct traitorous to the Party in that they, each of them, and both of them, conspired with E. J. Brown, W. F. Parks and other expelled members of the Party to defeat and overthrow the regular Party organization in Seattle and the State, and to con-

trol the State Convention in the interest of the "Independent" Organization in Seattle.

We therefore demand the impeachment of A. H. Barth and W. W. Smith as members of the State Committee of the Socialist Party of Washington. We stand ready to present the evidence of these charges at any time you may designate.

(Signed)

ARTHUR JENSEN,
National Committeeman.
E. B. AULT, Local Seattle No. 1.
JOHN DOWNIE, Local Seattle No. 1.

A motion to accept the charges and pursue the regular course in matters pertaining to trials, was adopted.

At this juncture State Organizer Wagenknecht reported verbally, but received the instructions to submit a report in writing and an itemized bill for his services.

The Secretary read an address proposed to be sent out to the Party membership, the general principles of which were adopted on motion. Another address also proposed to be sent to the secretaries and Locals, signed by the eight members present at this meeting. Adopted.

State Secretary rendered a verbal report with reference to the present complexion of the State Executive Committee on account of charges preferred against Barth and Smith and also the probable attitude of Comrade Whiting and suggested that a member of the State Committee be elected to act temporarily as a member of the State Executive Committee, in case a vacancy should occur.

Emil Hendrickson, of Black Diamond, was elected.

A motion to send a message to the National Secretary, signed by the eight members present and informing the National office of the actions taken with reference to the reinstatement of State Secretary Krueger. Adopted.

The Secretary was instructed to procure a proper party seal.

A motion to pay the expenses of the State Committee members who remained in Seattle to attend this meeting was adopted.

A motion to allow Comrade Wagenknecht \$20 on account for his services, while working in the State Office under the instruction of the State Executive Committee was adopted.

Adjourned subject to call.

Fraternally submitted,

R. KRUEGER,
State Secretary.

Note.—A correction should be made with reference to the number of delegates leaving the convention and the number of Locals represented by them. Seventeen delegates representing twelve Locals and the members at large left.

Address all communications as formerly:

R. KRUEGER,
Box 52, Seattle, Wash.

Manifesto

STATE HEADQUARTERS, SOCIALIST PARTY OF WASHINGTON.

To the Secretaries and Members of all Locals:

Comrades: Your State Committee desires to warn you against misleading and false statements concerning the officials of the Party, which have been and are now being sent out from Seattle by members and non-members of the Party who are united in their purpose to disrupt the Party organization and to gain control for the Middle-Class element which they represent. If the Locals and Local Secretaries refuse to pay any attention to these false and unauthorized circulars much trouble will be saved.

We suspect their object is to establish a dual organization in this state. Your committee warns you to recognize from this date no State Secretary but Richard Krueger, Box 52, Seattle Washington, or his duly elected successor. We have today decided that Secretary Krueger's removal without any trial was unconstitutional and illegal. The former action of this committee in removing R. Krueger as Secretary and electing W. H. Waynick temporary Secretary-Treasurer is therefore reversed in order to do justice to an efficient official and to avoid legal complications. Any claim or pretense that Waynick or any other not elected by your State Committee has any right to act as Secretary-Treasurer of the Socialist Party of Washington, should be ignored by all who desire to avoid a dual organization in this state.

Various claims and charges will be made in behalf of a new organization represented by a minority of this committee. But we ask you to remember that a majority of the State Committee forms the highest and only authority in the Party until the will of the rank and file has expressed itself in a Referendum vote. The State Convention has no constitutional authority whatsoever unless approved by vote of the entire membership.

Unless a new committee is elected by your vote we hold ourselves responsible for the conduct of Party affairs and expect the cordial cooperation of all loyal comrades.

Fraternally yours,

ANNA STEELE,
ADA GATCHELL,
TOM RUSSELL,
EMIL HENDRICKSON,
J. W. MORRIS,
L. W. LONGMIRE,
A. JONAS,
E. E. MARTIN,

State Committee, Socialist Party of Washington.

J. Mahlon Barnes, National Secretary:

Action State Committee April 18, which unconstitutionally removed Richard Krueger, regular State Secretary, was this day rescinded by majority vote of State Committee and Krueger duly reinstated as State Secretary, vote being Yes 8, No 0. Membership referendum annulling all acts of recent state convention for defying state constitution in progress.

Signed by above Eight Committeemen.

[TELEGRAM SENT JULY 12, 1909]

