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# Socialists Discuss Labor Party League: National Convention to Decide Whether Union of Forces May Become Possibility.

by J.C. Laue

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New York, May 11 [1920].— Eugene V. Debs will be the Socialist candidate for President on the Socialist Party ticket and some trade unionist as its candidate for Vice President. So much was decided in the opening sessions of the National Convention of the party held here and attended by about 170 delegates from 36 states, and 20 fraternal delegates from trade unions.

The topics that will arouse discussion and debate will be the attitude of the Socialist Party to other political activities of the workers of America, principally the Labor Party and the Farmers Non-Partisan League. It is almost certain that the convention will recommend the party to continue its sympathetic attitude toward all organizations that have cut loose from the dominant political parties and that the way will be paved at this 1920 convention for a coalition of all radical groups in political life after the fashion of the British Labour Party in which each radical group will maintain its integrity but will “go along” without internal war against a common enemy.

The convention went on record to adjourn to Washington on May 15 and camp on President Wilson’s doorstep as a protest against the continued imprisonment of Debs.

The convention, while small as to the number of delegates present, represents all factions in the Socialist Party, with the moderate element

holding the preponderance of the voting strength.

## How They Line Up.

There is the center, the New York group, with 27 delegates, including the expelled Socialist assemblymen, and with such strong personalities as Joseph D. Cannon, Algernon Lee, and Morris Hillquit as spokesmen.

There is the Wisconsin section led by Victor Berger, twice elected as congressman and twice barred because of a 20 year sentence hanging over him for violation of the Espionage Act, with 18 delegates.

There is the Chicago group led by Irwin St. John Tucker, a preacher; J. Louis Engdahl, a Socialist journalist; and William F. Kruse, in charge of the Bureau conducting the affairs of the Young People’s Socialist League at the National Headquarters, with 12 delegates.

The Wisconsin group is heartily in accord with a full and cordial allegiance with the Labor Party and the radical farmer elements. The Chicago group is opposed. The New York delegation takes a middle position inclining toward the view of the Middle West, Southwest, and Far Western representatives.

Practically every delegate west of the Mississippi River is in favor of the coalition and the out-

come will be determined by the quality of the leadership in the convention.

### **Some Platform Planks.**

Morris Hillquit offered a proposed platform. The following were among its planks:

The Socialist Party promises to make family life fuller, nobler, and happier by removing the sordid factor of the economic dependence of woman on man.

The Socialist Party seeks to attain its end by orderly and constitutional methods. Violence is not the weapon of Socialism, but of the shortsighted method of the ruling classes. The Socialists depend upon education and organization of the masses.

The Socialist Party of the United States cooperates with similar parties in other countries and extends to them its full support in their struggles.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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