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# Good Work Well Done:

## National Committee Holds 3 Days' Session and Accomplishes Much Work:

### Minutes of Meeting Show What Was Done.

[St. Louis, MO — Jan. 24-26, 1902]

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The National Committee of the Socialist Party assembled in Parlor 22 of the Lindell Hotel [St. Louis] at 10 am, Friday, Jan. 24, 1902.

The committee was called to order by M. Ballard Dunn, Secretary, Local Quorum. Max Hayes was elected Temporary Chairman, and M. Ballard Dunne, Temporary Secretary.

Credentials Committee elected, consisting of Job Harriman, Walter Thomas Mills, and George E. Boomer. Committee on Rules elected consisting of Victor L. Berger, James F. Carey, and E. Val Putnam.

Work (Iowa) moved that in order to save time all matters pertaining to the contest from Utah be brought immediately before committee as a whole.

Chairman declared motion out of order. Morning session adjourned, to meet at 1 pm.

#### **Friday Afternoon [Jan. 24, 1902].**

Afternoon session called to order at 1:15 pm by Chairman Max Hayes.

Boomer read a partial report of the Credentials Committee, as follows:

Your Committee on Credentials finds the following entitled to sit as members of the National Committee: James F. Carey, Massachusetts; Job Harriman, New York; Max Hayes, Ohio; John M. Work, Iowa; Walter Thomas Mills, Kansas; George E. Boomer, Washington; Victor L. Berger, Wisconsin; George H. Turner, Missouri; B. Berlyn, Illinois; James Oneal, Indiana; James S. Roche, California; Charles Ufert, New Jersey; George E. Bigelow, Nebraska; Local Quo-

rum: L.E. Hildebrand, E. Val Putnam, G.A. Hoehn, and M. Ballard Dunn.

Comrade Bigelow of Nebraska arrived in place of National Committeeman McCaffery, who is ill. Thirteen states represented, with 17 votes [including the 4 members of the Local Quorum]. Upon motion of Carey the report was accepted, seating all committeemen named, excepting Bigelow of Nebraska. Berger moved that Bigelow be seated as committeeman from Nebraska upon condition that he got regular credentials from State Committee. Roche offered an amendment that Bigelow be given voice, but no vote. Substitute offered that Bigelow be not seated. Lost. Amendment offered by Roche carried.

Committee on Rules reported as follows:

#### **Order of Business.**

1. Call to order by Secretary of committee.
2. Election of Chairman.
3. Roll Call.
4. Reading Minutes.
5. Communications and Bills.
6. Reports of Special Committees.
7. Reports of Standing Committees.
8. Unfinished Business.
9. New Business.
10. Adjournment.

Sessions of the committee shall be held daily from 10 am to 12 midday, and 2 pm to 5 pm. Evening sessions to be held whenever determined by a majority vote. A chairman to be elected daily, the Secretary of the Local Quorum to act as secretary. No member shall speak more than 10 minutes or more than twice on any question without the consent of the body.

No sub-committee shall meet while the National Committee is in session without the consent of said National Committee. All sub-committees to consist of 3 members unless otherwise ordered. The Secretary of the National Committee [Leon Greenbaum] to be given the same privileges as the members except the right to vote.

We recommend the appointment of the following standing committees:

1. Committee on Secretary's Report.
2. Committee on Local Quorum.
3. Committee on Finance.
4. Auditing Committee.
5. Agitation and Organization.

We further recommend the selection of a committee of 3 to serve as a Nominating Committee, whose duty shall be to suggest to the full committee the names of members to serve upon the standing committees.

Report of Committee on Rules was acted upon seriatim and finally adopted.

Credentials Committee then reported as follows on the Utah case:

#### **Contesting Delegation Utah.**

Your Committee on Credentials, after considering the Utah controversy to a great extent and hearing the parties on both sides, make the following recommendations:

1. That the charter issued to the state of Utah be hereby revoked and a member of the National Committee be sent to Utah with power to reorganize all locals and call a State Convention to be made up of delegates from organized and chartered locals on a basis of representation of 1 delegate to every 5 members in good standing, no delegate to represent other than the local of which he is a member.
2. That both of the Utah comrades, Mrs. I.C. Hazlett and A.B. Edler, be extended the courtesy of a seat and voice in the committee, but no vote.

Moved that the report as offered be adopted as the sense of the committee.

Upon request the question was divided. The first section carried, with recommendation for submitting to a referendum of the party membership. Berger was recorded in the negative. The second section of report carried.

Upon motion the temporary organization was made permanent for the day.

Berger, Harriman, and Carey elected as Nominating Committee.

Motion of Carey adopted that when we adjourn we adjourn to 4 pm.

Recess was then taken for 30 minutes.

Committee reconvened at 4 pm.

Nominating Committee reported as follows:  
*Secretary's Work* — Work, Hayes, and Bigelow. *Local Quorum* — Carey, Turner, and Edler. *Finance* — Oneal, Berlyn, and Mrs. Hazlett. *Auditing* — Roche, Boomer, and Ufert. *Agitation and Organization* — Harriman, Berger, and Mills.

National Secretary Greenbaum then read his report, after which the committee adjourned.

#### **Friday Evening Session [Jan. 24, 1902].**

Called to order at 7 pm.

Committee on National Secretary's Report submitted their report, which was as follows:

In regard to the equipment of National Office, we appreciate the generous aid of those mentioned by the National Secretary and suggest that the National Committee vote its thanks for courtesies extended.

That part of the Secretary's report under the sub-head "Agitation" on pages 6,7,8,9, we respectfully suggest be referred to Committee on Agitation and Organization. We recommend that that part of Secretary's report under sub-head "Financial," pages 10, 11, 12, and 13, be referred to Committee on Finance. We recommend that that part of Secretary's report from pages 14 to 18, inclusive, be referred to Committee on Agitation and Organization, and that part of Secretary's report, pages 19 to 23, inclusive, be referred to Committee on Local Quorum.

Foregoing report adopted as read.

Upon motion, the National Secretary [Greenbaum] was instructed to send the following telegram, after which the committee adjourned. Berlyn, Boomer, and Roche recorded in the negative on telegram.

W.B. Wilson,  
 National Secretary,  
 United Mine Workers of America,  
 Convention Hall, Indianapolis, Ind.

The National Committee of the Socialist Party of America, in session in St. Louis, send you greeting and appreciate your efforts in waging the battle for industrial emancipation by organizing against capitalism and the trust power. We hope that the 200,000 mine workers of the country will rapidly come to see the necessity of combatting with their political power the same class that they are compelled to fight with the strike and boycott.

*Leon Greenbaum,*  
 National Secretary, Socialist Party.

**Saturday, January 25 [1902].  
Morning Session.**

Committee called to order at 11:30 am. Roll call. Ufert and Roche, members Auditing Committee, excused by motion. Reeding of minutes. Same approved, after correction by Carey.

Communication dated Jan. 16 [1902] from Local Troy, NY, requesting referendum on Amendment to National Constitution so that Article 6, Section 4, will conclude as follows:

“Provided, that the National Committee shall have the power to arrange interstate lecture tours with such locals as may desire.”

The request of Local Troy, NY, was endorsed by Locals Geuda Springs, Kansas; Sedalia, Mo.; Bevier, Mo.; and St. Louis, Mo. Upon motion the Local Quorum was instructed to put said amendment in form for referendum of the party membership as required by the constitution.

Greenbaum recommended that National Secretary should be placed under bond. Recommendation adopted and referred to Local Quorum for action.

Charles Dobbs of Kentucky presented credentials as alternate National Committeeman in place of F.E. Seeds, who was unable to attend. Upon motion, F.E. Seeds was seated as National Committeeman and Charles Dobbs as alternate.

It being the noon hour, the chairman then declared meeting adjourned.

**Afternoon Session [Jan. 25, 1902].**

Committee assembled at 2 pm.

Order of reports changed by motion and report read from Committee on Local Quorum, as follows:

We recommend:

1. That the Local Quorum shall submit to each of the members of a National Committee a weekly statement of the business pending or transacted.

2. Not less than 2 nor more than 3 weeks shall be allowed from the date of sending for replies to referendums submitted to the members of the National Committee.

3. No state charter shall be granted until after the expiration of 30 days from date of application. If during such period objections are filed, a statement of the facts involved shall be submitted to the members of the National Committee for action.

4. All applications for state charter shall be accompanied by a copy of the State Constitution and platform.

5. Upon the organization of 4 or more locals in any unorganized state or territory, the Local Quorum shall call a State Convention (if agreeable to said locals) for the purpose of perfecting a state organization, and shall notify such locals to nominate temporary chairman and time and place for holding said convention. The temporary chairman shall be furnished with the list of the respective locals and of the members in good standing in same, as shown by the records of the National Secretary.

6. The dues for the current month shall accompany all applications for state charters.

Report of Committee on Local Quorum was considered seriatim and adopted according to the foregoing, after changes had been made. Communications read from People's Fund and Welfare Association, inviting the committee to assign speakers to deliver addresses at the association's headquarters on Sunday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

On motion, communications was received and referred to the consideration of the individual members of the committee.

The Committee on Agitation and Organization reported as follows:

1. That a list of speakers for interstate lectures be selected by the National Committee and supplied to the states on application, and where such arrangements cannot be made, then with the locals that may desire.

2. That the Local Quorum be instructed to raise funds by popular subscription for the purpose of prosecuting general Socialist propaganda.

3. That the Secretary of the National Committee [Greenbaum] prepare a uniform system of stationery for party use together with blanks upon which local workers may make weekly reports to their locals, and the locals make monthly reports to the State Committees, and the State Committees to the National Committee, the National Secretary to submit a summary of these reports to the Socialist press.

4. The National Committee shall furnish uniform stamps. It shall also furnish uniform dues cards, application blanks, etc., the same to be sold at not more than 10 percent above cost.

5. The National Secretary shall prepare a constitution and bylaws (supplementary to the National Constitution) for the use of locals in unorganized states, the same subject to amendment by locals adopting them.

Report of committee considered seriatim. Edler offered amendment providing for traveling card. Amendment rejected. Report of Committee on Agitation and Organization adopted.

The noon hour having arrived, motion made to

adjourn.

### **Afternoon Session [Jan. 25, 1902].**

Committee on National Secretary's Report made report as follows:

We fully endorse the action of the National Secretary and Local Quorum in communicating the fraternal greetings of our party to the various conventions of labor. We deem this policy a necessary one, not only because of misunderstandings in the past, which are at last being cleared up, but also for the reason that the Socialist Party is the political expression of the awakened workers of this country, and is largely composed of men and women who are also united industrially, while over and above all, the fact stands but clear and bold, that our interests, hopes, and aspirations are identical. Therefore, constituting as we do the department of the Grand Army of Labor that is struggling to obtain control of the governing power in nation, state, and municipality for the purpose of abolishing the wage system, and in which the workers shall receive the whole instead of a part of the wealth they produce, and being but recently organized to accomplish this end, it is our natural duty to acquaint our fellow workers who are consciously or unconsciously aiming to achieve this same noble purpose with the principles and methods of the Socialist Party and to welcome their support and good will.

Your committee is of the opinion that the National Secretary and Local Quorum are entirely in accord with the resolutions adopted by the unity Convention in Indianapolis regarding the attitude of the Socialist Party on the trade union question.

Report of committee adopted.

Motion adopted that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at 9 am.

Motion that George E. Boomer be instructed to go to Utah for space of 60 days, if necessary, to carry out intention of the committee adopted, Quorum having power to extend time if necessary; same to be at expense of National Committee and locals of the state of Utah. Adopted.

The Committee then adjourned.

In the evening comrades Carey, Hayes, Harriman, and Mills and Comrade Ben Tillet of England addressed a large meeting at Music Hall.

### **Sunday Morning Session [Jan. 26, 1902].**

Meeting called to order at 10 am. Turner elected chairman. Roll call and reading of minutes dispensed

with.

Communication read from Local Louisville, Ky., endorsing request of Local Troy, NY, for referendum on amendment to constitution. Referred to Local Quorum.

Finance Committee made report, which was considered seriatim and after some changes adopted as follows:

1. We recommend that the national dues stamp shall be the evidence of membership in the party and that every state and territorial organization, and local organizations in unorganized states and territories, shall purchase their stamps and supplies from the National Secretary.

2. That each and every organized state represented by delegates to the Indianapolis Convention shall pay dues from that date upon all the members within their borders to the National Committee, except those states which thereafter paid dues to the Chicago NEB, and that such states shall pay dues to the National Committee from and after the time they ceased paying dues to the NEB according to the number of votes represented at Indianapolis.

3. That the National Committee charge 10 cents [monthly] dues to members in unorganized states and territories, instead of 5 cents.

Adjourned to 1:30 pm.

### **Afternoon Session [Jan. 26, 1902].**

Committee called to order at 1:40 pm.

Roche offered following resolution:

No member, speaker, or other representative of the National Committee shall receive as salary more than \$2.00 per day and expenses.

Amended by Harriman to read \$3.00 instead of \$2.00. Motion as amended adopted. Roche recorded in the negative on maximum of \$3.00 per day for speakers.

Harriman offered following resolution:

That the Local Quorum place in the hands of Organizer Boomer dues stamps to the amount of expenses incurred by one of the contesting delegation, the same to be turned over to the State Committee to be elected in Utah, and to be equally divided between both contesting delegates, provided unity is secure in the above state, and further, we recommend that the party members of Utah pay the balance of 50 percent of contesting delegates' expenses.

Resolution was adopted.



Berger offered the following resolution:

That the National Committee hereby disapproves the action of the Local Quorum in placing a boycott upon the World's Fair in St. Louis. Further, the National Committee hereby disapproves of any action of the Local Quorum that would tend to make the national or international movement subservient or party to any local trade union squabble.

Harriman offered the following substitute:

*Resolved*, That the Socialist Party is in thorough accord with the trade unions of St. Louis in their struggle against the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, and be it furthermore

*Resolved*, That upon the endorsement of a boycott against said Exposition by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, the National Committee of the Socialist Party will cordially cooperate by giving national and international support.

Substitute adopted.

Roche offered the following, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the Local Quorum shall not endorse or commit the party to the endorsement of any boycott or strike that is not national or international in its scope and that has not been sanctioned by the national or international executive committee of the organization involved.

Adjourned.

### Evening Session [Jan. 26, 1903].

Committee called to order at 7:30 pm. Dunn being absent, Putnam was elected temporary secretary. Roll call.

Roche brought up the Vallejo battleship affair, reading resolutions voted for by Hildebrand in the Central Trades and Labor Union [of St. Louis] and the resolutions passed by Local St. Louis, and in order to obtain the sense of the National Committee on the question offered the following:

*Resolved*, That the National Committee disapprove of the action of Hildebrand in voting for the Vallejo resolution.

Resolution tabled.

Harriman moved the following:

*Resolved*, That all government work be done under the direct supervision of the government and that no such work of whatever nature be done under the contract labor system.

Carried.

Turner having to leave city, Carey was thereupon elected chairman.

Communication read from Nebraska State Committee opposing Socialists receiving office at the hands of the capitalist class. Received and filed.

Communication read from G. Weston Wrigley, Provincial Secretary, Ontario Socialist League, inviting Socialist Party to send a fraternal delegate to the National Canadian Convention to be held in September 1902. Moved and carried that we send a fraternal delegate to Canada. Quorum was instructed to call for nominations.

Communication read from Paul Bethke, Secretary, German Brand, Local Philadelphia, Pa., requesting National Committee to send German speaker on a general agitation tour. Received and referred to Quorum.

Harriman offered following:

No member of the Socialist Party shall accept an appointment to an office in the gift of a capitalist party. This shall not include appointive offices to which the Socialist Party is legally entitled by reason of its votes.

Adopted, and recommended to the party as an amendment to the National Constitution.

Ufert offered the following:

No member of this party shall accept the nomination or endorsement of any other political party, nor allow such nomination or endorsement to stand without public protest.

Resolution was adopted.

Auditing Committee made report as follows:

Comrades Boomer, Ufert, and Roche, the Auditing Committee elected by your body to examine the books and accounts of the National Secretary, beg to report that a most thorough investigation justifies us in stating that said books and accounts are correct up to Jan. 1, 1902, with a balance on hand on that date of \$60.88.

Respectfully submitted,

*James S. Roche,*  
Chairman.

Report adopted as read.

Moved that the National Secretary notify all National Committeemen to make nominations for official speakers, as soon as possible, the entire list of names of which are to be submitted to vote of the

committee as a whole. Carried.

Moved that the Municipal Committee, appointed by the Local Quorum, be continued. Carried.

Moved to proceed to elect the Local Quorum. Carried.

Moved that the four now acting continue.† Carried.

Moved that William M. Brandt be elected member of the Local Quorum. Carried.

Harriman moved that Leon Greenbaum be elected National Secretary. Carried.

Motion by Harriman that action of Local Quorum in continuing contract with Charles H. Vail until April 1, 1902, be approved. Carried.



Moved that referendum be taken on party emblem, as between the following designs:

1. A red flag (in the exact shape of a flag) bearing the words "Socialist Party."
2. A globe with clasped hands across, surrounded by the words "Socialist Party."‡

Roche introduced the following for Boomer, who was not present:

Resolved, That the Local Quorum, subject to endorsement by the whole committee, shall devise and formulate some plan whereby the Quorum may secure or publish leaflets, pamphlets, books, and other Socialist literature, the same to be furnished at cost to all state and local organizations, or the members thereof.

Tabled.

Berlyn moved:

That on or about July 1, 1902, the Quorum call upon Socialists throughout the country, noted for their literary ability, to write and submit 2 campaign leaflets, not to exceed 1,000 words each, to be published by Quorum and furnished to state and local organizations at low rates.

Carried.

Moved that Quorum ascertain cost of printing convention report and submit estimates and plan for publication to referendum of National Committee. Carried.

The National Committee then adjourned, subject to the further call of the National Secretary.

†- The 4 members of the St. Louis-based Local Quorum then serving were L.E. Hildebrand, E. Val Putnam, Gus Hoehn, and M. Ballard Dunn.

‡- The red flag-with-name motif was used previously as a logo by the Social Democratic Party with headquarters in Chicago. The globe-and-hands logo was ultimately adopted by the party in the 1902 referendum. An alternative logo emerged in New York state at about this time, featuring an arm and torch. This logo, designed by Joseph Weil for use as a ballot image by the Social Democratic Party with headquarters in Springfield, remained a widely used motif throughout the first two decades of the Socialist Party despite its lack of official status.

*Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport.*

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