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# **Party Manifesto Demands Amnesty and End of Blockade Against Russia Be Instituted by US Immediately: Document Reaffirming Solidarity with Revolutionary Workers of World Adopted Unanimously by National Socialist Convention at Chicago.**

## **League of Nations Flayed as “Black International”: National Executive Committee Rebuked by Gathering for Expelling Language Federations and State Organizations Without Appealing to Their Members.**

**by Herman Michelson**  
(Staff Correspondent of *The Call*.)

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CHICAGO, Sept. 4 [1919].— With every delegate on his feet and cheering, the National Emergency Convention of the Socialist Party unanimously adopted its manifesto this afternoon.

It was the big moment of the convention. The document is regarded as the most revolutionary the party has ever drawn up, and one certain to bring back into the organization thousands of members temporarily outside of it, either because their local organizations were expelled or by reason of what Lenin has called “the intoxication of the revolutionary phrase.”

The convention hall was alternately profoundly silent and resounding with applause as S. John Block, of the Committee on Resolutions, read the manifesto. At its adoption, the convention broke into an ovation that lasted for several minutes, winding up with three cheers for the Socialist Party.

By the manifesto the party takes its stand with the uncompromising section of international Socialism. It unreservedly rejects those European Socialists who supported their governments during the war on the ground of national defense.

The League of Nations is flayed as the “capital-

ists’ Black International.”

The party declares its solidarity with the revolutionary workers of Russia in support of the Soviet government; with the radical Socialists of Germany, Austria, and Hungary, and with the revolutionary workers of England, France, Italy, and other countries, who have remained true to international Socialism.

### **End of Blockade Demanded.**

Official American support of the Tsarist and counter-revolutionist campaign against the Soviets is scored, and immediate lifting of the economic blockade of Russia demanded.

The manifesto demands the liberation of all classes of war prisoners convicted under the “Espionage Law, and the full restoration to the American people of their constitutional rights of free speech, assemblage, and press.”

The workers must be strongly organized on broad industrial lines in one harmonious organization, the manifesto declares, ready to enforce their political demands by industrial action.

### **World Situation Summed Up.**

Opening the report is a resumé of the world situation, which in scope and power is considered unsurpassed in the literature of the Socialist movement.

Brief debate followed the reading. Several minor changes were suggested, none of them materially affecting the manifesto. Alexander Trachtenberg of New York wanted the Majority Socialists of Germany denounced as betrayers.

Dan Hogan of Arkansas suggested that following the endorsement of the Soviet government of Russia be added a statement pointing out the difference between the conditions and psychology of the workers of Russia and the United States. The committee will act on these suggestions as it sees fit.

### **Party Has Taken Stand.**

But so far as the convention as a whole is concerned, it has spoken, and the party has taken its stand. Tonight, the delegates are congratulating themselves on the excellence of the manifesto.

Before reading the manifesto, Block told the convention the manifesto was largely based upon one suggested by Morris Hillquit, not ill at Saranac Lake, NY. The committee spent several days in drafting the manifesto.

Another step taken by the convention, which is seen in the light of further reentrance of members and local organizations now outside the party, was its action on the supplemental report of the National Executive Committee, dealing with the suspension of the language federations.

The convention, 53 to 8, received the report and concurred that "the administration of discipline was necessary and justified, but feels that had the National Executive Committee made a sufficient effort to acquaint the membership of the suspended and expelled organizations with the facts and endeavored to have them repudiate their officials that many of the members now outside the party might have remained in."

The rebuke of the National Executive Committee was in the form of an amendment to the original motion to adopt its report. The amendment carried by 63 to 39, and then the motion, as amended, was put to a vote and carried overwhelmingly.

Valentine Bausch of New Jersey was chairman today, while S. John Block was vice-chairman.

### **NEC Report Debated.**

Practically the entire morning session was given to the reading and discussion of the supplemental report of the outgoing National Executive Committee on the suspension of the language federations and several state organizations. Debate was limited to 2 hours and ran over into the afternoon session. A dozen speakers took part in the morning.

Gradually the discussion of the National Executive Committee's action veered around from questioning its right to expel or suspend to the question as to whether it was good tactics or not. William Henry of Indiana holds this view and said:

"There is little doubt that the National Executive Committee was absolutely right in its action. But that action was very bad tactics."

### **Illinois Delegate Agrees.**

Adolph Dreifuss of Illinois agreed that the National Executive Committee might have been right technically, but held that it should not have acted itself, but should have left it to the convention or the membership.

**"What is the real issue?" demanded Judge Panken in supporting the report. "When did the suspended federations make any attempt to stay in the party, or come to this convention? No, they signed a call for another convention, another party.**

**"Are they Socialists or not? They are organizing a non-political party and they have no place in the Socialist Party."**

William F. Kruse, opposing the report, doubted the wisdom of the National Executive Committee's action, and the wisdom of previous party conventions in giving to the National Executive Committee the power to act as it had.

"It has confused the issue," he said. "It has made it one of personalities, not principles.

"And the language federations have not had a fair trial. Who was the process server in their trial? — The National Executive Committee. Who was the jury? — The National Executive Committee. Who was

the judge? — The National Executive Committee. And who was the executioner? — The National Executive Committee.

**Kruse Won't Bolt.**

**“I am not going to bolt, I am going to stick until the last vote on final adjournment is taken. There are thousands who think as I do, and they also think the National Executive Committee should have left the door open for the federations and the expelled and suspended organizations to come back.”**

John LaDuca, representing the Italian Federation, answered the charge that the language federations had not had a fair trial.

“Every pickpocket, every thief and criminal has a fair trial before a jury and judge. But every pickpocket who goes before a court and pleads guilty has no trial. The language federations pleaded guilty of their actions. They boasted of it. No trial was necessary.

**“Keracher Refused Information.”**

“As for Michigan, the State Secretary, [John] Keracher, arrived at the National Executive Committee the day after action was taken. He was asked for information and told the committee was ready to re-open the case. **He refused all information.**”

“I have not been in harmony with the general tendencies in the National Executive Committee,” said Barney Berlyn of Illinois, a veteran of the Socialist movement of nearly half a century's standing. “I have disagreed with some of their acts and policies. But I glory in their spunk in acting as they did to save the Socialist Party.”

Perhaps Frederick Haller expressed the general sentiment of the convention when he said:

“We must endorse this supplemental report of the National Executive Committee, but we must go back to our constituencies and tell them that we gave the National Executive Committee hell.”

During the noon recess the delegates had their pictures taken on the lawn of the national headquarters.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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