
A Necessary Protest:

Letter to the Editor of *The American Socialist*, May 6, 1916.

by Ludwig Lore

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The *Milwaukee Leader* and *The American Socialist* published, almost simultaneously, articles which were, in effect, a bitter attack upon the German Language Federation, because its Executive Committee had recommended Comrades Schlueter and Nuorteva as candidates for the National Executive Committee and Comrade Adolph Germer as National Secretary. The content of these articles shows beyond a doubt that both were written by the same person and sent out by the [Carl] Thompson Agitation Committee.

The National Committee of the German Language Federation resents these attacks, not only because their purpose is simply the creation of bitterness and dissension between the native born Socialists and the “foreigners,” not only because it sees in them an attempt to attach the “American” Socialists to the Thompson bandwagon, but more so, because it can prove that its recommendation to the membership was provoked by the underhand and unscrupulous campaign that was being conducted for Comrade Thompson. The *Leader* was the mouthpiece of this energetically conducted campaign in the Middle West, while it commended communications in Germer’s favor to the tender mercy of the wastepaper basket. In the East, George Goebel, a member of the National Executive Committee and A.W. Ricker, whose party activity, since he left the National Office, has manifested itself in libelous attacks upon Local New York, are acting as campaign managers for Thompson & Co. We say Thompson & Co. because it is generally known that the same comrades who are so “righteously” indignant over the “arrogance” of the German Language Group, agreed on and supported a slate of 5 comrades — not 2 —

for the National Executive Committee.

Nevertheless we most emphatically insist that we are justified to inform our membership concerning questions of general importance to the party, about which they may, or may not, carry out. In times like these, pregnant with the most vital problems for the International Socialist movement, where the preparedness campaign has found a strong foothold even in our National Executive Committee in the person of Comrade Victor L. Berger, it is our duty to speak openly and unmistakably without mincing words.

The *Leader* article complains that we did not publish our reasons for opposing Thompson. It is true, we felt it unnecessary to instil bitterness and personal attacks into the election, and so centered ourselves mainly with giving the reasons in favor of Adolph Germer. Since, however, the Thompson advocates demand it, we will speak openly. We believe that Carl D. Thompson’s election as National Secretary would be detrimental to the movement, because in our opinion, the chief officer of a workingmen’s party should be neither a Prohibitionist nor a Christian Socialist, nor a mere reformer. What the Socialist Party needs today, more than ever before, is an Executive officer — a man who, as a class-conscious Socialist — knows and understands the needs of the working class and will keep in touch with the working class movement. Such a man is Adolph Germer and not the prohibitionist, “Christian” Socialist Carl D. Thompson.

National Committee of the German Federation,
Ludwig Lore, Secretary..

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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