
The Right Socialist Platform

by Carl D. Thompson

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The Inter-Allied Socialist and Labor Conference [3rd: London: Feb. 20-24, 1918] has set forth the most logical, constructive, and consistently socialistic program that has so far appeared.

This conference endorses President Wilson's war attitude and aims and declares for his program; it repudiates any purpose of dismembering the Central Empires or of pursuing any policy of economic aggression of any kind against them; it firmly resolves to resist every attempt to transform the war into a war of conquest; it lays down an elaborate and detailed program in reference to territorial and colonial readjustments and economic reforms; and it is calling together again the Socialist International, including the Socialists of Germany and Austria, for the consideration and adoption of a common labor and Socialist program of war aims and peace terms.

Meanwhile, with these terms definitely and clearly set forth, the Inter-Allied Socialist and Labor Conference is "Inflexibly resolved to fight until victory is achieved" for these principles; the Conference supports "the continuance of the struggle that the world may henceforth be made safe for democracy."

There, it seems to me, is the right position for the Socialist Party of America to take. It is practical, constructive, statesmanlike, and it is thoroughly consistent with the principles of Socialism.

I cannot see how any consistent Socialist can stand on the St. Louis platform [convention April 7-14, 1917; ratified by referendum July 4, 1917] any longer. I, for one, cannot and shall not try to do so. I am henceforth for the program of the Inter-Allied Socialist and Labor Conference. From this time on, I am for the vigorous prosecution of the war until we have secured a peace based upon the principles laid down by the Inter-Allied Socialist and Labor Conference and affirmed by President Wilson.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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