
Berenberg Resolution is Socialist Espionage Act: Letter to the Editor of the *New York Call*, May 2, 1919.

by Charles W. Gasser

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Editor of *The Call*:

After a careful perusal of Berenberg's resolution, passed by a vote of 24 to 17 at the State Committee meeting, to be sent to a referendum of the membership of the state, it is apparent to the writer there is no difference between a capitalist and a socialist politician. Debs is serving 10 years for a capitalist interpretation of the Constitution of the United States. We are up in arms in horror over this: still the Berenberg resolution, a socialist espionage law. If the constitution (either state or national) of the Socialist Party has been violated, why the Berenberg resolution? Why a referendum? Any one voting aye on the resolution adds to the constitution the power to expel any member or local advocating anything disagreeable to those in control. If the present constitution is being violated, said resolution is unnecessary. I desire to call the attention of the members of the party of the state to the fact that this is an espionage law. Applied to the constitution it gives any faction in control of a party the right to expel for advocating any change in the party platform.

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