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# Report on the Minnesota Organization to the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party of America from Adolph Germer, Executive Secretary, Aug. 22, 1919.

A document in the Socialist Party of America Papers, Duke University, microfilm reel unspecified.  
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Chicago, Ill., August 22, 1919.

To the National Executive Committee.

Dear Comrades:

The State Executive Committee of Minnesota asked me to attend a meeting of the State Executive Committee August 17th and 18th respectively. In response to this urgent request, I went to Minneapolis and spent Sunday [Aug. 17] and Monday [Aug. 18] there. On Sunday evening we had a membership meeting and I there explained the reasons for the expulsion of Michigan and the seven language federations. A number of the "Left Wingers" were present and indulged in their usual tirade and misstatements, but the vast majority of the meeting was with us.

On Monday evening [Aug. 18] I attended the meeting of the State Executive Committee in the State Office. State Secretary [Charles] Dirba reported the result of several referendums — one being a motion to recall the State Executive Committee, another to rescind certain action by the State Executive Committee, both of which according to his report had carried. He also reported the vote on the referendum for the election of delegates to the Special National Convention [Aug.

30, 1919]. In each instance the report showed that he had permitted the suspended language branches to participate. At a previous meeting the State Executive Committee passed a motion approving the action of the National Executive Committee in suspending the foreign language federations. But this action State Secretary Dirba overruled and allowed the suspended branches to participate in party affairs.

After he reported the result of these referendums, the State Executive Committee passed a motion that all these referendums be declared illegal in view of the fact that the State Secretary had permitted these suspended language branches to vote. This motion was carried unanimously. When the chairman announced the result, State Secretary Dirba said he refused to recognize the State Executive Committee and any of its actions.

I asked him in the name of the National Executive Committee if he would answer a few questions and he said he did not recognize me or the National Executive Committee. At this juncture, the State Executive Committee and I withdrew to another office. A motion was there adopted that in view of Dirba's refusal to recognize the State Executive Committee and the National Executive Committee and because of his constant defiance of the National Constitution, his office be declared

vacant. This motion was unanimously carried. Comrade S. Friedman was then elected temporary State Secretary. I participated in the meeting of the State Office, also in the meeting of the State Executive Committee afterwards, and approved the course taken by that committee. I am submitting this report to you for your approval or disapproval of my actions.

With best wishes, I remain

Fraternally yours,

Adolph Germer,  
Executive Secretary.

AG/HG

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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