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**Letter to J. Louis Engdahl,  
Editor of *The Worker*, in New York  
from Eugene V. Debs in Chicago,  
March 17, 1923. †**

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Chicago, Ill., March 17, 1923.

J. Louis Engdahl,  
Editor, *The Worker*,  
799 Broadway, New York City.

MY DEAR LOUIS:—

Your favor of the 12th inst. in duplicate has been received. In answer to your inquiry, it may be that the Socialist Party delegates at Cleveland and New York voted as they did in order that the delegates of the Workers Party might not suffer humiliation and imperil their revolutionary reputation by affiliating with “yellow-legged renegades,” “agents of the petite bourgeoisie,” and “traitors to the working class.”‡

As to myself, had I been a delegate of the Socialist Party I should have voted to admit the delegates of the Workers Party notwithstanding their organs and speakers having screamed themselves hoarse in their denunciation of the party I represented. This would have been my answer to their silly screeds and their vicious calumnies.

The wonderful meetings we are holding out this way and will hold elsewhere, including New York, consisting of all the hitherto discordant elements among the workers, give assurance. I think that the matters you bring to my attention will be adjusted in due course and meanwhile you will excuse me for declining to waste your time and my own in senseless and fruitless controversy.

With all personal regards and all wishes for a united working class, I remain, as ever,

Yours fraternally,

Eugene V. Debs.

†- Not included in the 3 volume *Letters of Eugene V. Debs*, J. Robert Constantine, ed. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1990).

‡- Reference to Cleveland is to the 2nd Conference for Progressive Political Action (CPPA), held Dec. 11-12, 1922. Reference to New York is to the 2nd Conference of the American Labor Party, held March 3-4, 1923. At both of these gatherings, the Socialist Party was heavily represented and took a hard anti-United Front position, successfully working to exclude Workers Party of America delegations from both conclaves.

***Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport.***

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