
Eugene V. Debs Declines Presidential Nomination.

by J. Louis Engdahl

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Eugene V. Debs, 4-time candidate of the Socialist Party for the Presidency, has declined the nomination for 1916. His declination has just been received at the National Office of the Socialist Party, on the regular form blank sent out to all nominees as soon as they receive sufficient nominations. Ten nominations are necessary to qualify for the Presidential nomination. Debs had already received 105 nominations when his declination arrived. Press reports from Terre Haute, Ind., quote Debs as making the following statement:

"It is the first time that I have ever had the opportunity to decline the nomination. Heretofore I have always been nominated at conventions when I was not in attendance. This time the nomination was made by referendum, and I recently received notice that I had been nominated. I have mailed a letter today to the national officers of the Socialist Party announcing that I will decline the nomination."

According to the press dispatches, Debs said he would make no statement regarding his reasons for not accepting the nomination. Debs was the Presidential candidate of the Socialist Party in the campaigns of 1900, 1904, 1908, and 1912.

In response to a telegram from the editor [Engdahl], Debs sent a statement to *The American Socialist* as follows:

"Your telegram in regard to my declination of the nomination for the Presidency is at hand. I do not think I ought to make a public statement, for I really have nothing to say that would be of any interest to anyone, and it would likely seem presumptuous in me to offer an explanation not asked for and not expected.

I have no special reason for declining other than that there are thousands of comrades who are at least as well qualified as I am for the nomination. It goes without saying that I shall give my hearty support to the nominees that are chosen as the standard bearers of our Party.

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