
Socialists Urge Russell to Leave Commission Post: Letter Tells Writer He Can Not Represent Party with His War Views

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(Special to *The Leader*.)

CHICAGO.— Following is the text of a communication to Charles Edward Russell from the Emergency Committee of the National Executive Committee, Socialist Party:

It is reported in the press that you have been appointed as a member of the American commission to Russia. If this report is true, we request you to decline the appointment.

As you know, you are one of the very slight minority of the members of the Socialist Party who are in favor of the war in which our country is now engaged. The party as a whole is overwhelmingly opposed to it.

Any Socialist serving on the commission to Russia should be one who really represents the Socialists of the United States, and should accept the appointment only on condition that he shall be completely at liberty to really represent them. You are, of course, aware that you do not represent them, and that you can not represent them so long as you hold your present views regarding the war.

It is evident that your appointment was made for the purpose of avoiding the real representation of the Socialists of the United States on the commission, while at the same time making a pretense of having them represented. Your name is also used for covering up the appointment of Elihu Root, who is sent to Russia to represent the interests of the worst and most dangerous elements of the American plutocracy. This was a cunning and unfair action, and we trust that you are too honorable to stand for it.

The most fundamental dictates of good faith and honorable dealing require that you, or any other member of the slight minority, should decline such an appointment.

Fraternally yours,

Victor L. Berger — Adolph Germer — John M. Work,
Emergency Committee of the
National Executive Committee, Socialist Party.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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