
Germer's Grand March.

by Jack Carney

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Last Sunday [Aug. 17, 1919] Adolph Germer, ex-National Secretary of the Socialist Party, paid a visit to Minneapolis, in order to reorganize the Socialist Party of Minnesota because it had gone over to the Left.†

The meeting was held in the evening and Germer is the sorriest man in this country. The questions were fired at him from all sides and like all those who have no position to maintain, he indulged in useless abuse. The meeting created quite a diversion for the Minnesota comrades and so it achieved something.

In the afternoon a secret meeting of the State Executive Board was held, along with Comrade Germer. One of the Left Wingers, unaware of the time of the meeting, strayed into the secret meeting and so the cat was let out of the bag. At this secret meeting, all referendums of the party that have just been voted upon were declared illegal. The membership of the state had overwhelmingly voted for the recall of the State Board and elected ALL Left Wing delegates to the National Convention. Thus does our Comrade

Germer proceed with his work of destroying the party. Like a burglar in the night he enters a secret meeting and without the knowledge of the membership plans to destroy the party. Truly an honorable position for a man like Germer to occupy — Official Disorganizer for the State of Minnesota.

On Monday evening [Aug. 18] the State Board, full of smiles, came into the State Office and commenced to do its dirty work. But State Secretary [Charles] Dirba was wise to their game and the meeting was allowed to go so far and then it was disbanded by the State Secretary. Germer endeavored to use strong arm tactics, but he was unable to do so because there were other comrades present that would have been able to settle matters somewhat unevenly. THE STATE CONVENTION WILL BE HELD NEXT SUNDAY MORNING [Aug. 24] AT COMMONWEALTH HALL, MINNEAPOLIS, 10 A.M. At this convention the rank and file of the party must decide what it is going to do. The talk about the elections being illegal is all moonshine, because all state organizations of

†- Adolph Germer is referred to as the former National Executive Secretary due to a crisis of legitimacy in the Socialist Party. According to the SPA constitution, the organization's National Executive Committee was to be replaced by a newly elected group on July 1, 1919. To this end, party elections were held early in 1919; this vote was declared invalid by the outgoing NEC, however, due to alleged voting irregularities and no formal tabulation was compiled of the votes cast. On May 27, 1919, the outgoing NEC suspended 7 foreign language federations from party membership, action which was followed by the expulsion of the state organizations of Michigan, Massachusetts, Ohio, and Minnesota. In other states, such as New York, the repression was more selective, with the Party Regular State Executive Committee reorganizing individual branches and locals which declared their loyalty to the manifesto of the Left Wing. The organized Left Wing section — who felt certain that its candidates would have one a majority of seats on the new NEC and that the attempt to abrogate the party election was nothing more than an illegal seizure of power — attempted to circumvent the outgoing NEC by polling individual State Secretaries as to the vote results in each state. These (incomplete) figures were published in *The Ohio Socialist* on June 18, which in addition to showing the victory of Alfred Wagenknecht over Adolph Germer by a wide margin indicated the electoral triumph of Fraina, Hourwich, and Lindgren of the Left Wing in electoral district 1; Ruthenberg and Prevey of the Left Wing as well as Party Regular Fred Harwood in district 2; Keracher, Batt, and Lloyd of the Left Wing in district 3; the Regulars Nagel, Millis, and Hogan in district 4; as well as Left Wingers Katterfeld, Wicks, and the nonaligned Emil Herman in district 5. In short, the Executive Secretary position and 10 of the 15 NEC seats probably would have been won by candidates of the Left Wing if the results had been properly tabulated and honored. Effective July 1, the Left Wing component of the (invalidated) NEC-elect declared themselves the real National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party — making Germer the “ex-Secretary.”

the party have absolute control over the members of the language federations. This point was settled in the Finnish controversy of a few years back. The election returns for delegates to the National Convention [Aug. 30, 1919] is the reason for the illegal action of the State Board. Peruse those returns and then you will have some idea of how the Right Wing operates:

<i>Left</i>	<i>Right</i>
Dirba 886	Friedman 103
Hathaway 726	Kramerman 57
Holm 785	Sahlman 236
Haglund 804	Sala 149
Skoglund 786	
Ungar 760	
Carney 765	

The returns provide the reason for the mad and foolish tactics of Comrade Germer and the State Board. Therefore the rank and file of the party must act next Sunday [Aug. 24] and repudiate the tactics adopted by the Board and Germer.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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