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# Socialists Make Sure Suicide is Successful

by J. Louis Engdahl

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Today the Socialists have made doubly sure that the suicide of their party will be completely successful at this year's elections.

They left no possible escape from sure death when the party's National Executive Committee issued the official congressional policy stating that:

“When the candidate of another party has the official endorsement and approval of the Conference for Progressive Political Action, and the Socialist Party has no chance of election, it may be best, in the campaign of 1924, to abstain from making a rival nomination.”

Bi-chloride of mercury or potassium cyanide are not more deadly to human life than this policy will be upon the flickering political life of what remains of the Socialist Party. In only one congressional district in the land, that now represented by Victor L. Berger in Congress, can the Socialists be said to possess that ephemeral thing called “The Chance of Election.” Everywhere else over the land one finds only the graveyards of the Socialist political hopes of years gone by.

This is true even in New York City. There [Fiorello] LaGuardia, the Republican, who has been trailing the [Robert M.] LaFollette bandwagon, is already in Congress in the strongest Socialist district. Under their own policy the Socialists will be compelled to swallow LaGuardia as they have swallowed the “LaFollette and Wheeler” ticket.

Under their own policy the Socialists will everywhere be compelled to work for the election of old party-ites. this is shown to be doubly true since it is a working out in practice that the LaFollette forces are everywhere declaring war on the Farmer-Labor Party movement.

This was shown in the attack of the LaFollette following at the Minnesota Federation of Labor convention against the idea of independent political action.

It was shown in the refusal of the Conference for Progressive Political Action in Montana to endorse Farmer-Labor Party officials, already in office, for re-election.

It was even slapped into the face of Morris Hillquit himself when Thomas E. Ryan, the New York state legislative agent of the railroad brotherhoods, sent out the call for the meeting of the New York Conference for Progressive Political Action, to be held in Albany, August 16 [1924], without even inviting Hillquit and his fellow Socialists to attend.

The fact that the National Office of the Conference for Progressive Political Action, at Washington, appointed Morris Hillquit, Gilbert E. Rowe, and Thomas E. Ryan as a committee to call a full convention does not change the situation. Even suicides are given the last chance of a hurry-up rush to the hospital.

Class conscious workers and farmers everywhere are called upon to fight this year under the Communist standards of the Workers Party. Only in the fight for the Communist candidates, William Z. Foster for President and Benjamin Gitlow for Vice-President, will the class interests of the workers and farmers be safeguarded in this year's political struggle. ONLY through the refusal of militant labor to take the Socialist bait held out by the LaFollette "little business" ticket, thus refusing to betray its own class interests, will it be possible to continue building for the great class party of workers and farmers.

The Socialist Party may commit suicide, as it is doing. The reactionary officialdom of labor may run after LaFollette and Wheeler in the two old parties of Wall Street. But greater and greater masses of workers and farmers, confronted daily with their own problems, will realize their class interests, enter more vigorously than ever into the growing class struggle, and march onward, ever more confident, to the final victory.

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

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