
One Lie Nailed.

by L.E. Katterfeld

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In an article sent broadcast through the National Office Press Service, James Oneal claims that in our recent Party elections the old National Executive Committee wasn't repudiated at all, at all.

He admits the figures published in *The Ohio Socialist* as current, but alleges that "these figures show a very small vote in the states as a whole, which confirms the charge that the Left Wing through a campaign of terrorism has driven many party members from the Locals in sheer disgust." In this article he bases his whole argument upon the assertion that the vote was much lower than in other Party referendums and that therefore the fact that the Left Wing received a majority of the votes cast does not mean repudiation of the old NEC.

Even if it was true that a very small vote was cast in the recent referendums, that would not justify the old NEC in suppressing the referendum results. But it is not true.

Oneal says: "This report shows a TOTAL of a little more than 16,000 votes cast for the referendum." The fact is that it shows 20,674 votes for the 26 states included in the *Ohio Socialist* tabulation. Left Wing candidate John Reed received 16,074, while the leading Right Winger, Victor Berger, received only 4,465, while James Oneal, "our" present International Delegate was "endorsed" by the magnificent total of 1,726.

Oneal alleges that the vote was much smaller than is usually recorded in Party elections. The fact is that it is one of the largest ever polled in any party referendum. In the election for NEC one year ago, 17,310 votes were cast, of which only 10,611 were in the 26 states that we have tabulated. This year those same 26 states give 20,674 — or nearly TWICE AS

MANY as last year.

If the states that have so far suppressed their referendum returns show the same increase as those already tabulated, the vote this year may actually surpass the "high water mark." Here are some figures from the official reports of the National Office: the spirited contest over the St. Louis program brought out 22,345 votes for the majority and 2,752 for the minority report, total 25,097. The total vote in the 1917 election to International delegates showed only 14,219 comrades voting. Berger was elected at that time with 4,655 votes.

The highest vote ever cast on any referendum in the Party's history was in 1912, on the question of holding our national convention in Indianapolis instead of Oklahoma City, a little over 34,000. In that same year John Work received the highest vote ever polled by any individual in the Party, 22,081 against 6,440 for J.O. Bentall for National Secretary. When we consider that at that time the Party had about 20,000 more members than at present, and that this year several thousand good standing party members were prevented from voting because reactionary party officials refused them the ballots, we must conclude that actually a larger percentage of our membership voted in this year's referendum elections than ever before.

In view of these facts, what becomes of Oneal's assertions and allegations? I commend these figures to our would-be "historian" James Oneal. Was he ignorant of these facts, or did he deliberately lie in his efforts to defend the defeated and discredited party officialdom and to prejudice the membership against the Left Wing and Revolutionary Socialism?

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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