
“The Pity of It”

Jim Maurer Says About Leftist Splits

by James H. Maurer

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Once again the old Socialist Party of the United States, from which he Pennsylvania Socialists withdrew last August [1936], is being shattered by internal dissension.

As we who knew our Socialism clearly foresaw, the Trotsky Communist group which it welcomed into the party membership is at the bottom of the latest factional split.

The Pity of It!

It is possible to trace the step-by-step decline of the movement which was once glorified by Debs and Hillquit and a host of sincere American Socialists.

Starting at Detroit in [June] 1934, a “left” national convention wrote a party declaration which belittled political action, glorified violence, and made the party acceptable to Communists and unacceptable to the American people.

Continuing at Cleveland [May 1936] the leftists gave official sanction to the ousting of the New York Old Guard and shamed every political Socialist in the nation.

Of course the split between the Trotskyists and those Socialists who still remained within the national organization had to come!

Now that the facts have been brought out in the open, we learn that mass expulsions are taking place in New York City; that the charter of the state organization of California has been revoked; that what is left of the national organization is being shattered from east to west.

There can be no excuse for what the “leftists” have done to the movement for which true Socialists sacrificed time, money, and life itself. And because they can not justify their own actions, they are hurling mud and calling names to blind the workers of America to the real issue.

Here in Reading a handful of “leftists” are calling us “conservatives.” At the risk of raising personal issue, I ask all unbiased readers:

Did you ever know me to take a conservative position?

Did you ever see me run away from a fight?

No, my Socialist comrades, this is not a decision between radicalism and conservatism. The real issue here is whether we shall go by the Socialist way or the Communist way, the way or democracy or the way of dictatorship and, finally, of fascism.

I am proud to be on the Socialist side. I am happy to see that the real Socialists have reformed their forces within the Social Democratic Federation to rebuild again, as they have always done in the past when apostles of unreason, sabotage, and undemocratic tactics forced party splits.

I ask every Socialists who knows my record to resent the slurs which local leftists have hurled at our comrades by going to the polls September 14 and marking an “X” back of the name of those candidates who have the party’s endorsement.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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