
Social Democratic Federation Rejects SP May Day Bid

Published in *The New Leader* [New York], vol. 21, no. 16 (April 16, 1938), pg. 2.

A joint statement by the State Executive Committee and the City Executive Committee of the Social Democratic Federation issued this week announced that the SDF had declined the invitation of the Socialist Party advising that the two organizations should hold a joint May Day demonstration.

The two committees met in a joint session last week and heard a statement by Harry W. Laidler, representing a committee of the SP, urging that such a demonstration be held. After a discussion of the proposal, it was decided to decline the invitation and to state the reasons for the declination. This statement by the SDF follows:

“While we have no doubt that many members of the Socialist Party now deeply regret the procedures by which the party was split in 1936 and has since been further decimated, and that many of them have changed their opinion on the questions of principle which were then at issue, we have no reason to believe that this is true of a majority among them and we know that the party organization as such has not avowed any change of views upon those issues.

“In the presence of a clear opposition between the stand of the Social Democratic Federation and that of the Socialist Party on the fundamental questions of democracy, international relations, and the role of the trade unions, a joint meeting could be held only on condition either that the spokesmen of the two organizations should freely combat each other's views or that they should all refrain from any definite opinion on those subjects. We do not desire, nor do we suppose that the Socialist Party desires, to make May

Day the occasion for a renewal of controversy upon the public platform, and we consider that a meeting in which the subjects named would have to be ignored or spoken of in a vague and superficial manner would be inconsistent with the very idea of May Day.

“We feel that the proposed joint meeting would serve no good purpose and might do considerable harm by confusing or obscuring vital issues, and we accordingly decline the invitation.”

Edited by Tim Davenport

1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR · February 2014 · Non-commercial reproduction permitted.