
Who Says “Farewell”?

Letter to the Editor of the *New York Call*, April 5, 1917

by A.M. Simons

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Editor of *The Call*:

Algernon Lee would read out of the party everyone who refuses to bend the knee to Prussian autocracy and militarism or dares to stand in defense of democracy, Socialism, and humanity in an international struggle. Is he quite sure that he is the whole Socialist Party and can say “farewell” to all who disagree with him?

I would not have subscribed to everything in the statement of Stokes, Russell, Walling, et al. But any Socialist could far better have signed that than the official statements of the NEC.

Local New York seems to have been mighty quick to call Walling down because he was reported to have said that “the war policy of the Socialist Party is written in Berlin.” Will it investigate the following and ascertain whether that reported charge is not true?

Simultaneously with the representative of Kuhn, Loeb & Co. in the League to Enforce Peace, a member of the NEC made a move in the Socialist Party for an international peace conference. This was manifestly in preparation for the announcement of a peace move by the German government a few days later. No recognized news channels had yet brought word of this move. Columns could be filled with similar illustrations of the close connection between the German foreign office and the Socialist Party.

Lee lists many sins of omission on the part

of the signers of that statement. Has Lee, or any of those who stand with him, protested against the indifference of party officials to the killing of American workmen on ships sunk by submarines, to the hiring by the German Embassy of men to blow up American workers, to the hitching of the machinery of Socialism to the defense of the worst manifestation of military autocracy on earth, to the use of Socialist papers to spread race hatred against all born in this country, to the use of party funds to route propagandists in favor of Germany, or to any other efforts to steal the livery of Socialism to serve the worst devils of capitalism? In one case this race hatred material was furnished directly to a Socialist paper by the German foreign office via the *Continental Times*. This paper faked cablegrams out of whole cloth day after day and reversed and distorted the meanings of others to help the cause of German race war in this country. I heard no protest nor criticism from Lee.

I will not let go undenied the charge that [H.M.] Hyndman has become the tool of a reactionary government. If Lee, and those with him, show half the courage Hyndman has shown in the past three years in fighting reaction, then war will carry us, as it has Great Britain and her colonies, closer to Socialism. Twice Hyndman has deliberately assumed responsibility for the publication of matter forbidden by the censor. He did this that reaction might not crush labor. Both times he took this responsibility with the full ex-

pectation of dire punishment. His age, he said, rendered his life of less value than others. Both times the government yielded and reaction suffered an important defeat.

It is contemptible to compare such a man to Scheidemann, who, with Legien, boasts that German workingmen are not like those English unionists who fight for their own rights during war.

If Lee is authorized to say "farewell" to every Socialist and every American in the Socialist Party, then, of course, we must go. But some of us who love Socialism and the Socialist Party more than we do the German kaiser and his form of autocracy will fight before we go.

A.M. Simons.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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