

### Debs' Loyalty to His Imprisoned Comrades a Superb Sacrifice

TELEGRAMS AND LETTERS FROM LIBERATOR REPRESENTATIVES JUST RETURNED FROM CONVOYIZATION WITH WORKERS' COMPLAINTS

Debs made his decision. A month ago when our representatives visited him to consult him in regard to starting habeas corpus proceedings for the purpose of ending his illegal confinement in Atlanta federal penitentiary, he said "Return in thirty days and I will give my answer."

On Sep. 30th, attorneys Sharts and Castleton again visited him to receive his answer.

Here it is, a telegram sent us immediately after the convocation was ended, and a letter from comrade Sharts which gives further details.

### WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

A WAGENKNECHT, 1281 COOK AV. CLEVELAND, O.

DEBS SAYS: "I HAVE STUDIED THIS MATTER THIRTY DAYS. EVERY INSTINCT IS AGAINST MY MAKING AN INDIVIDUAL FIGHT FOR LIBERTY WHILE MY COMRADES ROT IN JAIL. WOODROW WILSON AND HIS POLITICAL CROWD SENT ME HERE FROM MOUNDSVILLE TO KILL OR BREAK ME. I SHALL STAY UNTILL I DIE OR HE IS FORCED TO RELEASE US ALL. MY FAITH IS IN THE BANK AND FILE OF MY COMRADES."

SAMUEL M. CASTLETON — JOSEPH W. SHARTS

A. Wagenknecht, 6207 Clark Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.  
Dear Comrade:

My telegram of last Saturday tells the story. Debs, was much surprised to see me. For one thing, he thought the 30 days would not be up until the 22nd. For another, he said he had written home to Terro Harbo telling the folks to notify Comrade Prevey and me not to come as he had finally decided not to make an individual fight for freedom. Comrade Prevey must have got that word, for she did not come.

The telegraphed message from the boys in Leavenworth also failed to reach me in time. I wish I had had it to show to Gene. It is as magnificent a thing, coming from the political prisoners he is trying to rescue by his own self-sacrifice, as is his own attitude. He would have cried over that telegram, I know.

He is still in the hospital. And right here let me say a word for the warden of the Atlanta Penitentiary. Those who heap curses upon the warden for the brutalities committed upon our comrades in that hell-hole—and it is a hell-hole, I know—do him a great wrong.

The brutalities that are being practiced at the Atlanta penitentiary are systematically prescribed from Washington.

Let us get that fact clear. To blame the warden for what is being done to Debs and our other comrades is like hitting at the stick instead of attacking the hand that wields the stick.

The men we have to hold responsible for what is happening to Debs and the others are in the White House and the Attorney General's office and back of them all is brutal capitalism. It is silly for us to look lower down.

There is a lot of twaddle extant about the alleged "kind heart" of Woodrow Wilson and his personal desire to pardon those prisoners and end the sufferings of the conscientious objectors also, were he not deterred by "reasons of state." He acquired that credit by commencing the death sentences inflicted on a couple of soldier boys who fell asleep on picket and mercifully giving them a chance to die in battle killing Germans. After all it was a more efficient and economical way of using them.

I have looked into the cold, thirty Scotch Presbyterian heart of Woodrow Wilson, and I believe Debs is right when he says that neither he nor his fellow political prisoners will be released thru any spark of magnanimity emanating from that fountain of fancy phrases.

The release which came when Woodrow Wilson and his satellites are forced to do it by the rising tide of the workers' indignation; they will do it then to avoid being inundated but will put on a show of magnanimity to save "their face."

Our task, then, is to rally our comrades in a united effort to force Woodrow Wilson to recognize the necessity of releasing all political prisoners.

For Gene Debs individually, it may be that appeals pending against him from his fellow-prisoners and from his comrades may induce him to change his mind. I think you should wire him the message from Leavenworth or enclose it in a letter to him. He ought by all means know of it. He ought also hear from his comrades so that he may know whether or not they wish him to remain passive in prison or make the effort thru habeas corpus for his own release.

(Continued on page 4.)

## "Every instinct is against my making an individual fight for liberty while my comrades rot in jail"

THOSE WERE THE WORDS DEBS SPOKE TO LIBERATOR REPRESENTATIVES JOSEPH W. SHARTS AND SAMUEL M. CASTLETON AT ATLANTA FEDERAL PRISON SEPT. 30th. "SHALL WE GO AHEAD WITH HABEAS CORPUS PROCEEDINGS AND GIVE YOU A FEW WEEKS, POSSIBLY MONTHS OF FREEDOM, WHILE THE QUESTION OF THE LEGALITY OF YOUR REMOVAL FROM THE HUMANE CONDITIONS OF MOUNDSVILLE PRISON TO THE HEALTH DESTROYING ATLANTA PRISON ARE BEING THRASHED OUT IN THE U. S. SUPREME COURT?"

IT IS PERHAPS NOT THE ANSWER WHICH YOU OR WE WOULD HAVE THE MORAL AND PHYSICAL COURAGE TO GIVE TO SUCH A QUESTION—WITH TEN YEARS AND PERHAPS DEATH IN PRISON CONFRONTING US. VERY LIKELY OUR ANSWER WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT. YOU AND WE LOVE LIBERTY. VERY LIKELY THE SMILING FACE OF FREEDOM AS WE GAZED THRU THE BARRED WINDOWS WOULD HAVE BECOMEN TO US—JUST AS IT DID TO DEBS—BUT WE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PUT THE TEMPTATION FROM US. WE LOVE LIBERTY, SO DOES DEBS. YET HE ANSWERED "NO" WHEN IT WAS OFFERED HIM.

BUT DEBS' ANSWER WILL FOREVER BIND HIM TO THE OPPRESSED FOR WHOM HE HAS ALREADY GIVEN A LIFE OF SACRIFICE AND SERVICE, AND FOR WHOM HE STANDS READY NOW TO GIVE HIS FEW REMAINING YEARS OR EVEN LIFE ITSELF. DEBS HAS ANSWERED EVERY CALL OF HIS COMRADES, ANSWERED THEM FULLY WITHOUT STINT OR LIMIT. AND NOW IN PRISON, ILL OF BODY AND LIVING UNDER MERCILESS PRISON RULES HE STANDS LOYALLY BY THE PRINCIPLE WHICH HAS GUIDED HIM IN HIS LIFE WORK.

DEBS IS AS CLASS CONSCIOUS IN PRISON AS HE WAS WHEN AMONG US. HE FEELS HIMSELF ONE WITH THE THOUSANDS OF OTHER POLITICAL AND CLASS-WAR PRISONERS NOW IN AMERICAN BASTLES. HE IS ONE OF THEM AND THEIR CAUSE IS HIS CAUSE. RUMORS FROM MANY SOURCES HAVE REACHED DEBS

THAT PRESIDENT WILSON AND HIS ADVISERS HAD HIS CASE UNDER ADVICEMENT FOR A PARDON. THEY HAVE HAD NO EFFECT UPON HIM. HE HAS REPEATEDLY AFFIRMED THAT HE WAS ENTITLED TO NO MORE CONSIDERATION THAN THE MOST LOWLY AND UNKNOWN POLITICAL PRISONER IN THE LAND. HE DOES NOT APPROVE OF THE ADMINISTRATION ABOLVING ITSELF FROM DOING JUSTICE TO ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS BY SETTING AT LIBERTY A FEW OF THE MORE NOTED ONES. DEBS PREFERS TO BE THE LAST MAN OUT. HE WANTS TO SEE THE BOYS FROM LEAVENWORTH, THE FELLOW WORKERS AT ALGATRAZ, THE MEN AND WOMEN FROM EVERY POLITICAL PRISON IN THIS LAND WALK OUT INTO THE SUNLIGHT, FREE TO GO AND COME AS YOU AND WE ARE FREE TO DO SO, THEN AND ONLY THEN, DOES HE CONSENT TO LIBERTY FOR HIMSELF.

DEBS KNOWS THAT POLITICAL PRISONERS WILL BE FREE IN THIS COUNTRY ONLY WHEN THE DEMANDS OF THE WORKERS REACH FLOOD TIDE AND THREATEN THE POWER OF THE CAPITALIST CLASS. HE KNOWS THAT ONLY THREATENED MASS AND GATHERED BY THE WORKERS WILL OPEN THE PRISON DOORS AND HE IS RIGHT. ONLY AN ABOUSED WORKINGCLASS, DETERMINED TO SEE JUSTICE DONE THE POLITICAL PRISONERS WILL STIR THE ADMINISTRATION INTO ACTION.

DEBS HAS TAKEN HIS STAND FOR FREEDOM FOR ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS. HE IS WILLING TO DIE IN PRISON IF NECESSARY FOR THAT PRINCIPLE. HE HAS MADE HIS DECISION. ARE YOU? HAVE YOU MADE YOUR DECISION. BUT YOU WILLING—NOT TO DIE—BUT TO LIVE AND WORK FOR THE RELEASE OF DEBS AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS? WILL YOU STAND BY DEBS, AND STRENGTHEN HIS DETERMINATION THAT ALL SHALL WALK OUT TOGETHER UPON THIS MATTER THERE CAN BE BUT ONE ANSWER. EVERY WORKER MUST DO HIS PART. THINK, TALK AND ACT FOR THE FREEDOM OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS. JOIN THE LIBERATOR ARMY. COLLECT FUNDS TO CARRY ON THE WORK.

STAND BY DEBS ON THE PRINCIPLE OF

## "ALL TOGETHER!"

### Stevedores Refuse to Move Rifles for Kolchak

SEATTLE.—Frank Waterhouse, Seattle shipping magnate, has declined to become a party to the shipping of munitions to Russia for the slaying of Russian working men by Kolchak, it is declared by his waterfront representatives.

Three carloads of rifles now on the government dock will be turned over to government officials in Seattle, according to the announcement. The government is being notified by the Frank Waterhouse company that this firm will refuse to handle all shipments of munitions for the American army in Siberia.

The action of the Waterhouse company is in the nature of instant support to the action of 12 dockworkers who walked off the job at Pier 5 when they found that cases being loaded on a Japanese freighter contained rifles, munitions and machine guns intended for the wholesale slaughter of the supporters of Russia's working class government.

Cases believed to contain ammunition, rifles and machine guns consigned to Russia are sitting unmoved on Pier 5, the Frank Waterhouse & Co. dock, this was the result of a car party of 13 men walking off the job following their demands to know what the cases contained.

This action follows the passage of a resolution by the Central Labor Council, indorsing the action of waterfront workers in their planned refusal to ship munitions to kill Russian workers according to their contract with the company for work and began loading the cases when the question was asked as to their contents. After some further questioning a customs officer was called and opened one of the cases. He found the workers dead, displaying their quality of resistance to the case. The men help get together and refused to continue the loading.

Time questioned those in charge. At the headquarters of Local 8812, Stevedores and Dock Workers, it was declared that the men had refused to move the cases and that the matter would now go up to the Central Labor Council. Longshoremen on the waterfront have been warned to keep a careful watch for rifles concealed in innocuous cases. Pacific coast longshoremen will be expected to refuse to handle rifles. The Diego before they will land rifles on munitions for Siberia or any part of Russia, Michael Delegate from the

### ASK PARDON FOR DEBS.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30.—Because of Debs' broken health, Dr. Earl K. Dudding, president of the Prisoners' Relief Society, announced today his intention of placing before the department of justice a recommendation for Debs' pardon. Dr. Dudding believes that the state of Debs' health, if for no other reason, is sufficient ground for his immediate release from prison by the federal authorities.

### Keep Informed

Order a Bundle of the Communist Labor Party News \$1.50 a hundred, single copy 5c.

Every Party member should read the first number of the official organ of the Communist Labor Party, in order to have complete information of the city of the Chicago Convention. Full reports of minutes of the convention, Party platform and all matters pertaining to the occurrence which led up to the formation of a new revolutionary working class party are given in this issue. Have your local order a bundle. Keep informed.

### COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY

3207 Clark Ave., Cleveland, O.

Biggers' and Stevedores' Local No. 8812 meeting of the Central Labor Council.

Stating that efforts are being made to lead vessels with munitions in crating innocently marked "having nothing to do with the war" and to let their arguments to the support from the longshoremen to lead, asking the financial and moral support to keep the rifles out of Russia. Also a wild burst of shouting a motion that full support be given.

One delegate said he was well known that 17 carloads of munitions were sent to Siberia on Aug. 29.

### No Wonder!

We do not wonder that the Attorney General's office is so eager to have it appear that there are no political prisoners in America. To deny the existence of existing political facts seems to be the altogether too familiar method of our legal and military system in times of war. Moreover, to admit that we have political prisoners would make the barbarous length of their sentences and their brutal tortures in prison entirely out of proportion to their offense, and it would establish a most unfavorable comparison with Central Russia's treatment of Germany. In England's Germany, Karl Liebknecht was sentenced to four years' imprisonment for having gone out to the German front on the Eastern front and distributed handbills among those calling upon them to resist against their oppressors. But in New York a number of young men and a young woman were indicted and convicted for using inappropriate language in handbills opposing American intervention in Russia. The men or others were sentenced to twenty years, the young woman to fifteen years, and the woman who had added the remarks and behavior of the Court in connection with the trial was to be characterized as "making head of a dog's ass."

Upon the question of the miners' stand for the release of political and class war prisoners, there is little doubt in the minds of any who know the miners. Even tho' the most prominent labor leader of the country were not a prisoner, it is likely that the miners' stand would have been different. But with the name of Debs added to the long list of oppressed men and women who are serving long sentences in prison, far from their families, a decided stand favoring their release was certain at the convention.

The reading of the resolution demanding amnesty for all political prisoners was followed by a speech by a wealthy miner whose language was that of the man in the street speaking of the interests that lay nearest them touched in language of the men who toll. It was marked by deep sincerity and comradely feeling for the imprisoned. He reviewed the entire situation of the 2,000 delegates who showed by their faces how deeply they felt the injustice perpetrated upon their fellow comrades.

The mention of Debs' name was a signal for applause which swept in wave after wave and which showed the great admiration of Gray's Army, where the convention was held. Where after these greeted him some, while eyes grew moist and many a hand was raised to add the sympathy in the grip and send a determined glance upon all faces.

The resolution demanding amnesty for all political and class war prisoners met a perfect storm of approval.

### The Toledo Primary Elections.

Toledo showed the results of its work at the polls in the primary election held. The Socialist Party date for may received the second highest vote. However, the date for first place in the crowded ballot box even better than that they were two years ago when there were only two candidates in the field, one the expelled labor agitator, the other and the other — Robert W. the Socialist candidate. The date for the election is that the "Blatting Element" turned out in full force for the primary. The yard gave Scribner the capitalist candidate 1142 votes and to the Socialist candidate only 97 votes. But in 9 other wards the socialist vote date was the winner. This leaves 6 wards for the present incumbent in office, who is blamed for the murder of 6 strikers in the Willys Overland Co. strike. The date for the majority candidates follows:

Cornal Schreiber (Ind.) 668  
Edwin J. Lynch (Democrat) 4607  
Alvin J. H. (Socialist) 4775  
Edwin J. Lynch (Democrat) 4607

All the wards in Toledo are composed of small business men. This applies also to the wards where the Socialist candidate won. In the second ward the contest was between the Socialist candidate and the Socialist candidate. Wherever the Socialist candidate won, the date for the ward gave a majority for the Socialist candidate.

Some of the candidates for city council fared so less successful. Four of the six wards in ward the 22nd, in their ward, several held the second place. The Socialist candidate for Mayor won the Socialist ticket two years ago. The date for the ward gave a majority for the Socialist candidate. Wherever the Socialist candidate won, the date for the ward gave a majority for the Socialist candidate.

Thomas C. Devine (Socialist) Councilman fifth ward received 680 votes in his nearest competitor received only 570. Other socialist councilman who received 5000 votes among the respective wards were — W. C. Hittner (Socialist) 4775, W. C. Hittner (Socialist) 4775, W. C. Hittner (Socialist) 4775.

Three running second ward — Al. T. Tooby 2nd ward, Edward Hoelke 3rd ward, Walter Harbo 4th ward. Several came in third. All of these were new names.

Michael Schreiber had 2100 less votes this year than two years ago and the Socialist score than double their vote of 1917.

3215 votes. The Socialist candidate for Treasurer received 5000 votes among the second, whereas two years ago the Socialist candidate for Treasurer had 2500 votes among the final election. Debs was not one of the three highest. The date for the ward gave the largest vote polled at a primary election in Toledo is being over 82000.

### Miners Demand Amnesty For Political Prisoners.

A rousing scene occurred in the convention of the U. M. W. of A. in the closed shop room in Toledo, Ohio, Cleveland last week when the resolution was carried for political prisoners to be set free for action before the bulky coal figures.

## Socrates took the hemlock; Galileo, the stake; Christ the Crucifixion, and Debs, Ten Years in Prison





