
Jewish Group Seats Enemies of Party Unity: Loyal Delegates Beaten in Every Fight Against Executive Committee — Move for Split: Kahn Flays Bolters: Some Leaders Charged at Opening of Federation Congress with Being Supporters of World War.

Unsigned article in the *New York Call*, v. 14, no. 247 (Sept. 4, 1921), pg. 7.

The convention of the Jewish Socialist Federation at Forward Hall got under way yesterday [Sept. 3, 1921], and at a late hour the Credentials Committee and the Convention was seating every contested delegate who had expressed a desire to see the Federation withdraw from the party and unseating every contested delegate who was loyal to the party.

The Credentials Committee was elected by a vote of the delegates, both contested and otherwise, who had been provisionally certified by the Executive Secretary, who is for the withdrawal plan. They included many men whose seats were later guaranteed by the committee they had elected.

There were 2 slates of candidates for the Credentials Committee, and the vote was about 40 to 25 in favor of the group that favored the Executive Committee of the Federation. Their actions constituted the important part of the day's business.

Fighting every inch of the ground, the loyal party delegation, which claims it represents 75 percent of the Federation's membership, was beaten in vote after vote, the convention voting to seat a delegate from Shreveport, La., whose branch had bought 14 dues stamps a year ago and not one since; 3 delegates with voice and vote from a Yipsel [YPSL] circle organized in Pittsburgh after the Jewish branch there had repudiated the Federation; delegates from branches long out of the party, and delegates from Central Committees whose constituent branches were already represented.

Dual Representatives Allowed.

H. Schneid and Morris Backall, elected by the Executive Committee of the Central Committee of the Jewish branches of Chicago, after one branch had elected delegates loyal to the party, were seated. Another had elected delegates favoring the Federation's withdrawal plan. The election of 2 delegates, giving dual representation, was ratified, because the 2 men were in favor of the disruption plan.

At the time of going to press the loyal party delegates were still fighting every anti-party delegate, but, realizing that, with the contesting delegates voting on their own cases, and with a Central Office eager for the withdrawal plan, it was hopeless to expect to carry the convention.

The one item on the agenda will come up this morning, namely, whether to withdraw from or remain in the party. The branches that are loyal have already voted that, in the event of the victory of the disruption plan, their branches will withdraw from the Federation and remain in the party.

The morning session was taken up with fraternal greetings by representatives of various organizations, the conflict that every delegate knew was imminent breaking out every few minutes in the applause that greeted the speakers.

Executive Committee Assailed.

Every one of the speakers representing the Rus-

sian Bund, the Workmen's Circle, the *Jewish Daily Forward*, the United Hebrew Trades, and the national organization of the Socialist Party, made a plea for the party's position, as against the demand for withdrawal. The high point was reached when Alexander Kahn for the Forward Association denounced the Executive Committee of the Federation as traitors to Socialism for calling a convention with the sole object of splitting.

Vladimir Medim, leader of the Bund in Poland, who recently came to the United States, was greeted with enthusiasm by the delegates and visitors. He made a quiet speech, analyzing and ridiculing the 21 points of admission to the Communist International, showing their inapplicability in the United States.

J. Baskin, General Secretary of the Workmen's Circle, said:

"if you cannot kill an idea with force, you can't force an idea in to the minds of people with bayonets."

Max Pine made a plea for the Socialist Party on behalf of the United Hebrew Trades, and Kahn followed him with a denunciation of the Federation chiefs.

Says Leaders Were "Patriots."

"Many of these 'revolutionists,'" he said, "had records worse than that of Scheidemann. I have a briefcase full of documents to prove what I have to say. Many of the men who are yelling that the party betrayed its trust were war patriots only 3 years ago."

"Name them!" shouted some of the delegates.

"Salutsky!" yelled delegates and visitors all over the hall.

J.B. Salutsky, as editor of the Federation's paper, opposed the party's war policy, it was pointed out.

Kahn made a plea for unity of the working class in the Socialist Party.

Otto Branstetter, National Executive Secretary of the party, made a cool, dispassionate analysis of the party's position.

"There is no other party in the world," said Branstetter, "in any of the great countries that stood so true to international Socialism as did our party. In other countries, minorities stood straight. In America, the official position of the party was straight.

Communists Aided Reaction.

"What have the Communists done? They went out of the party; they said they were going to organize the workers and make the revolution, but to date they have done nothing except to weaken the Socialist Party. And much as they want all the honor for this, they must divide that honor with the American Legion, with the Department of Justice, and with the Chambers of Commerce."

There was a flurry of a fight on the election of the Credentials Committee, but the delegates on both sides determined to present their side to the committee, and to make the fight on the reports on the open floor.

A. Epstein was elected chairman, those who opposed him declining to vote. Three secretaries were elected, and M. Salzman, Secretary of the Federation, a strong advocate of the withdrawal policy, was on the platform.

Samuel P. Kramer of Chicago led the delegates loyal to the party. Among the delegates active on the floor was Morris Winchevsky, who was a pioneer of the present Socialist Party, and who was in the early revolutionary movement in Russia 45 years ago. He is for the withdrawal policy. Most of the delegates are comparatively young men, and newcomers to the movement.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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