

Resolution on the Economic Organization of Labor

(Adopted by the Seventeenth National Convention of the Socialist Labor Party of America, New York City, May 12–14, 1928)

The Seventeenth National Convention of the Socialist Labor Party of America, in session in the City of New York, May 1928, reaffirms the position taken on the question of the economic organization of labor at the Party's Twelfth National Convention, and reaffirmed at the Thirteenth National Convention, 1912, as follows:

Whereas, The integrally organized industrial organization of the working class forms the necessary framework of the Commonwealth of Labor, or Socialist Republic, and constitutes the organic form of that Commonwealth, as well as of its administrative powers; and

Whereas, Craft unionism, wherever capitalism has reached untrammelled development, has ever shown itself to be what the plutocratic *Wall Street Journal* has designated it, when hailing the craft-divided American Federation of Labor as the “bulwark of capitalist society”—an organization which because of its inherent character has bred the officialdom which a once notorious capitalist politician recognized as his “Labor Lieutenantship”; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the bona fide or revolutionary Socialist Movement needs the political as well as the economic organization of labor, the former for propaganda and to conduct the struggle for the conquest of the capitalist-controlled Political State upon the civilized plane of the ballot; the latter as the only conceivable force with which to back up the ballot, without which force all balloting is moonshine, and which force is essential for the ultimate lockout of the capitalist class; and be it further

Resolved, That without the political organization, the Labor or Socialist Movement could not attain the hour of its triumph; and without the economic organization, the day of its triumph would be the day of its defeat. Without the economic organization, the movement would attract and breed the pure and simple politician, who would debauch and sell out the working class; and without the political organization, the movement would attract and breed the agent provocateur, who would assassinate the movement; therefore, in order to maintain the

uncompromising policies and tactics of the Socialist Labor Party of America, based upon the foregoing postulates, be it

Resolved, That we condemn all efforts to blur the lines of the class struggle, by whomsoever attempted, efforts that aim at misleading the working class on the political field into middle class movements and confounding it with middle class issues; and on the economic field would seek to confine all efforts at working class organization to a “boring from within” collaboration with the capitalist-controlled labor lieutenants of the pure and simple craft unions.

[Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.](#)

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