

# WAR ATTITUDE OF SOCIALISTS

Is Explained by Mr. Kintzer, a Leading Local Member of Socialist Party.

(By Edward H. Kintzer.)

Since my return from the national committee meeting of the Socialist party in Chicago, I have been requested in person and by correspondence for information as to what, in particular, has been accomplished.

To these and the people of Harrison county who are interested in our cause and the position of the Socialists on war and our program for peace, I wish to address myself through the columns of the Telegram.

Our war manifesto and peace program I consider by far the most important matter that the Socialist party dealt with or could have considered.

In the month of last December the national committee of the Socialist party, through a sub-committee, was organized to define our attitude toward the world struggle that is now raging, our anti-war position and our program for peace.

The report of the sub-committee was repudiated, and this caused a break in the interest of our divergent views on these great questions. What the objections were to the sub-committee's report were is not material. Suffice it to say that the position of the Socialists of America is no longer in agreement with the proclamation of the International Socialist Conference as regards wars of invasion.

For many years the Socialists of the world, represented in the International, have considered the problems of the then impending war, which has now come and is threatening the engulfment of even this country. Before the war, at least, if not now, the Socialists in Europe were the only anti-war organization, and today they are looked upon as the most important political factors in the war-ringing nations and in Italy, which country up until this time, has been held out of the war by the attitude of the Socialists and trade unionists, who are closely united if not altogether.

The International Socialist movement has taken a definite stand against wars of offensive invasion. The inference was that wars of defensive were justified and that the Socialists would take a part in such warfare, in support of their native land.

Whatever might have been the position of the American Socialists on the latter proposition, by their recent declaration they leave no room to speculate upon the matter of approval for even wars of invasion. They have taken a stand in "opposition to every form of militarism and war."

The question of defensive wars—wars of invasion—was debated and the conclusion we came to was this: That in every national crisis bringing about the cry of "national defense" would and should be raised, and that justification might be sought on such grounds as was the case with the German Socialists and under stress of which the Socialists in the reichstag, 111 in all with one exception, voted for the war appropriations.

However, there is enough cheer and comfort in the declaration for our comrades in the trenches and with the Carranza troops in the following: "The Socialists of America extend the hand of comradeship to their unfortunate brothers in all countries now engaged in the war; the sufferers and victims of the

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vicious system which has engulfed them in fratricidal carnage. We convey to them our unflinching faith in the world-wide class struggle, in international Socialism and in the brotherhood of man."

I invite your attention to the full text of the preamble to our war manifesto and especially to our peace program which follows:

**Anti-war Manifesto and peace program of the Socialist party of America.**

The supreme crisis in human history is upon us. European civilization is engulfed. The world's peace is shattered. The future of the human race is imperiled.

The immediate causes of the war are obvious. Previous wars and lasting hatreds which created lasting animosities and bred thoughts of revenge; imperialism and commercial rivalries; the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente dividing all Europe into two hostile camps; secret intrigue of diplomats and lack of democracy; vast systems of military and naval equipment; fear and suspicion bred and spread by a vicious jingo press and nations; powerful armament interests that reap rich harvests out of havoc and death—all these have played their sinister part. But back of all these factors lie the deeper and more fundamental causes, causes rooted in the very system of capitalist production.

Every capitalist nation on earth exploits its people. The wages received by the workers are insufficient to enable them to purchase all they need for the proper sustenance of their lives. A surplus of commodities accumulates. The capitalists cannot consume it all. It must be exported to foreign countries.

In every capitalist nation it becomes increasingly difficult for the capitalists to re-invest their accumulated profits to advantage in their own country, with their people destitute and their resources fully developed and exploited. The capitalists are constantly forced to look for new and foreign fields of investment.

In many countries of Europe, limited territorially and densely populated, the supply of natural resources is insufficient to support the large volume of industrial requirements. The capitalists must look for new sources of raw materials and supplies to less developed foreign countries.

Hence arise the commercial struggles between the nations, the rivalries for the acquisition of foreign colonies, the efforts to defend and extend the overseas "possessions," the policies of imperialism, the conflicts for commercial supremacy, ever growing more intense and fiercer as the nations expand and the world's field of conquest narrows. Hence arise the policies of armaments every year more immense and monstrous. Hence arise the strategy, the intrigues of secret diplomacy, till all the world is involved in a deadly struggle for the capture and control of the world markets.

Thus capitalism inevitably leads to commercial rivalry and imperialism and functioning through the modern state with its vast armaments, secret diplomacies and undemocratic governments, logically leads to war.

Reactionary ruling classes sometimes also deliberately plunge countries into war for the purpose of crushing progressive movements by creating false patriotic excitement and thus sidetracking the real class issues. Every war, furthermore, is used by the capitalists in order to destroy the organized forces of the labor movement.

For more than half a century the Socialist movement has warned the world of this impending tragedy. With every power at their command the Socialists of all nations have worked to prevent it. But the warning has gone unheeded and the Socialist propaganda against imperialism, militarism and war has been ignored by the ruling powers and the majority of the people of all the nations.

Today our prediction has been only too swiftly and too tragically fulfilled. War, with all its horrors is upon us.

And it has come as the logical and inevitable outcome of the forces of the capitalist system. It has come in spite of the warnings and protests of the socialist and labor movements and indeed in spite of the personal desires of many of the capitalists themselves. The capitalist system is a modern Frankenstein which is destroying its own creators.

If this unspeakable tragedy shall serve to demonstrate to the world, and particularly to the workers of all nations, the real and fundamental causes of war, so that by removing these causes man henceforth may live at peace, the war may be worth the cost.

If, on the other hand, the people shall remain blind to the terrible lessons of this war, and leave the destiny of the world in the hands of unscrupulous, war-inciting capitalist rulers, then indeed is this world-war an unmitigated curse. For, if the causes that brought on this war are left to operate, then this war will not be the last. It will be only the first of a series of wars more terrible and more tragic, until one mighty and monstrous imperialism has drenched the world in blood and subdued the peoples in abject slavery. Mankind alone will ultimately save mankind from the standing menace of self-destruction.

The supreme duty of the hour is for us, the Socialists of all the world, therefore, to summon all labor forces of the world for an aggressive and uncompromising opposition to the whole capitalist system, and to every form of its most deadly fruits—militarism and war; to strengthen the bonds of working-class solidarity; to deepen the currents of conscious internationalism, and to proclaim to the world a constructive program leading towards permanent peace.

The Socialists of America extend the hand of comradeship to their unfortunate brothers in all countries now ravaged by the war, the sufferers and victims of the vicious system which has engulfed them in fratricidal carnage. We convey to them our unflinching faith in the world-wide class struggle, in international Socialism and in the brotherhood of man. We proclaim our determination to join our comrades in the task of rebuilding

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the Socialist International upon such a basis that henceforth it cannot be shaken by the most violent storms of capitalist conflicts.

To the Socialist and labor forces in all the world and to all who cherish the ideals of justice, we make our appeal believing that out of the ashes of this mighty conflagration will yet arise the deeper internationalism and the great democracy and peace.

As measures calculated to bring about these results, we urge

**Our Program**  
I. TERMS OF PEACE AT THE CLOSE OF THE PRESENT WAR must be based on the following provisions:

1. No indemnities.  
2. No transfer of territory except upon the consent and by vote of the people within the territory.  
3. All countries under foreign rule be given political independence if demanded by the inhabitants of such countries.

II. INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION—THE UNITED STATES OF THE WORLD.  
1. An international congress with legislative and administrative powers over international affairs and with permanent committees in place of present secret diplomacy.

2. Special commission to consider international disputes as they may arise. The decisions of such commissions to be enforced without resort to arms. Each commission to go out of existence when the special problem that called it into being is solved.

3. International ownership and control of strategic waterways such as the Dardanelles, the Straits of Gibraltar and the Sue, Panama and Kiel canals.

4. Neutralization of the seas  
III. DISARMAMENT.  
1. Universal disarmament as speedily as possible.  
PENDING COMPLETE DISARMAMENT.

2. Abolition of manufacture of arms and munitions of war for private profit, and prohibition of exportation of arms, war equipments and supplies from one country to another.  
3. No increase in existing armaments under any circumstances.  
4. No appropriations for military or naval purposes.

IV. EXTENSION OF DEMOCRACY.  
1. Political democracy.  
(a) Abolition of secret diplomacy and democratic control of foreign policies.  
(b) Universal suffrage, including woman suffrage.

2. Industrial democracy.  
V. SOCIAL CHANGES IN ALL COUNTRIES TO ELIMINATE THE ECONOMIC CAUSES OF WAR, such as will be calculated to gradually take the industrial and commercial processes of the nations out of the hands of the irresponsible capitalist classes and place them in the hands of the people, to operate them collectively for the satisfaction of human wants and not for private profits in co-operation and harmony and not through competition and war.

V. IMMEDIATE ACTION.  
Immediate and energetic efforts shall be made through the organizations of the Socialist parties of all nations to secure universal co-operation of all Socialist and labor organizations and all true friends of peace to obtain the endorsement of this program.

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## ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

All persons indebted to the estate of Edward King, deceased, are hereby notified to settle with the undersigned, and all persons having claims or demands against said estate are likewise notified to present the same to the undersigned.

CRIST I. SLIKE, Administrator of the estate of Edward King, deceased.

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## BRISTOL

BRISTOL, May 26.—Employees of the Eureka Pipe Line Company were on Indian run the last of the week when the roadbedging outfit led by Mr. J. H. Dodridge county to the pump station near Marshville.

Mrs. Lucy Straley and children, of Curtis, are spending a few days at the home of her mother, Mrs. Amanda Bailey and son, Lewis, of Indian run.

The county commissioners for Harrison county and Charles C. Fittro, county road engineer, were looking after matters of importance on Tenmile creek, in Tenmile district, a few days ago.

William S. James, an aged resident of Grass run, is in a very critical condition due partially to advanced age and disorders of the stomach.

Misses Edna and Jennie Morris and Gay Dennison were calling on Mrs. Quintilla Lynch at her home on Route 1 Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Ella Donnelly suffered very much from cramps the last of the week but is very much better at present.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Clinton Goodwin and children, of Grass run, visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William C. James Sunday.

Miss Edna Morris, who is staying at the home of her aunt, Miss Sallie Morris, of Cherry Camp run, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wellington Morris, of R. F. D. No. 1, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ira Ash, of Cherry Camp run, are suffering from attacks of rheumatism to the extent that they each have to be turned in bed—practically unable to move a muscle.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jones were shopping in Salem Saturday from Indian run.

Gregory Bleakly, Jr., is spending a week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Matthey, of R. F. D. route No. 1, this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jones and daughter, Miss Beatrice, and Miss Mary Williams, of Marshville, motored to Clarksburg Sunday evening to hear the Rev. John S. Hamilton at the tabernacle.

Mrs. William Wolverton and children, of Upper Indian run, were guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Zina E. Thompson Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Julius Matthey were calling on Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Donnelly Sunday evening.

Luther Wolf, of Uew Milton, resumed his position with Julius Matthey as blacksmith last week, after being away for several weeks during the illness and death of his mother.

The majority of the county road supervisors have the spring road maintaining done; at least such is the case in Tenmile district. The roads throughout the district are in excellent condition.

The Salem Independents and Marshville will clash in a game of baseball on the Marshville diamond Sunday afternoon.

## CLARKSBURG PROTESTANT HOSPITAL

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