
Statement on the Coming Presidential Campaign, Birmingham, AL — May 24, 1896

by Eugene V. Debs

Wire report, published as “Not a Politician” in *St. Mary’s [KS] Star*, May 28, 1896, pg. 8.

Birmingham, Alabama, May 25 [1896].— Eugene V. Debs, President of the American Railway Union, said last night:

I will state for the public print that I will not serve for public office. I have a fixed conception of a public office and I do not care to hold one. Politics and labor are two different institutions and I will not give up labor for politics. The two don’t go well together and I believe I am of more use to labor. No, I will not go into politics, and will not accept the nomination for President.¹

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport

1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR · June 2017 · Non-commercial reproduction permitted.
First Edition

¹ An attempt was made by left wing elements in the People’s Party to boost the candidacy of Debs for President. According to the *Chicago Tribune* a Central E.V. Debs Club was formed in Chicago on May 20, 1896, with future 1920 Vice Presidential nominee Seymour Stedman elected as president of the new organization.