

I Had Hoped That My Name Would Not Be Mentioned:  
Telegram to Seymour Stedman  
(May 14, 1908)

[Girard, Kansas, May 14, 1908]

Seymour Stedman,  
Chicago, Ill.

My Dear Steddy:—

Telegram sent by yourself, Williams, and Berger has been received this moment. I am sorry to be able to comply with your request.<sup>1</sup> The Appeal has undertaken certain special work of some importance on the strength of my being here, and I cannot well abandon it at this time.<sup>2</sup> I should be happy, of course, to attend the convention and to meet the comrades if the situation were such that I could do so.

I see that my friends have again been very kind to me in this matter of nomination. I had hoped that my name would not be mentioned in that connection this year and have done what I could to discourage it; the reasons for this purely from the party standpoint, seem quite apparent to me. As for myself personally, I never had any ambition along that line. If I do anything worthy of keeping my name alive I prefer that it shall be done as a private in the ranks and not by having my name associated with some public office.

With loving regards, etc., I am yours in the same old way,

*Eugene V. Debs*

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<sup>1</sup> Stedman, attuned to the fact that Debs was still on the mend from throat surgery and did not desire the 1908 nomination for president, had requested that Debs appear at the Chicago convention to dissuade delegates from making the nomination. He read this telegram into the record as part of his speech nominating A.M. Simons as the Socialist Party's 1908 presidential nominee.

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<sup>2</sup> Note that Debs's previous explanation for his non-attendance of the 1908 convention, "sickness in the family," has been forgotten.