
Communists Try to Disrupt Socialist Rally: Create Uproar at Brownsville Labor Lyceum During Address by London — Disturbers are Ejected: A Tonic to Audience: Incident Stimulates Enthusiasm of Workers for Socialist Message — Report Fusion Aids Communists. [event of Sept. 23, 1921]

Unsigned report in the *New York Call*, v. 14, no. 268 (Sept. 25, 1921), pg.

Terroristic tactics employed by Communists at a Socialist campaign rally in the Brownsville Labor Lyceum, 219 Sackman Street, held last Friday night [Sept. 23, 1921], led to an uproar which resulted in the forcible expulsion of several Communists. More severe casualties were avoided by the timely action of the Socialists, who restrained the audience from exerting drastic means of expelling the disturbers and by a policeman who was stationed near the building.

The disturbance, expected to break from a group of Communists that gathered in several corners of the Lyceum, came while Representative Meyer London, the lone Socialist member of Congress, was delivering an appeal to the 1,500 workers who crowded the hall to rid Brownsville of the old-party politicians.

The commotion developed when a Communist shouted "Traitor!" in the midst of London's talk. Immediately a group of workers began battering away at the disturber. The chairman, Dr. Louis Sadoff, appealed to the audience to remain quiet, but in the disturbance the Communist, aided by several friends, tried to hold back the crowd. The scuffle ended as the few Communists were ejected by the Socialists, aided by Policeman Boehm of the Brownsville precinct.

When quiet was restored, Representative London warned the Communists who remained hidden in the hall that in the future the Socialists will not be responsible for what happens to those who try to break up Socialist meetings.

Try to Sell Communist Leaflets.

"These disrupters will be treated in the same way as a scab is treated by a good union man," London shouted, bringing forth a demonstration that lasted several minutes. "No decent working man will tolerate them in their midst," he added. He analyzed the so-called "legal platform" of the Communists and charged that it could have been written only by a government agent.

The incident, which it was feared for a while would result in a riot call to the police station, served as a tonic to the Socialist and trade unionists who had packed the hall and contributed over \$100 to the campaign fund of the party. The resentment it engendered did more to raise the enthusiasm of the audience on behalf of the Socialist Party than did the speeches delivered in the course of the evening. One of the results was an immediate contribution of \$25 from a Brownsville professional man.

The meeting was held to ratify the candidacies of Charles Solomon for the Board of Aldermen and Louis P. Goldberg for the Assembly. The Communists of the section, declaring that they were primarily concerned in defeating the Socialists, made every effort to make a fizzle of the first meeting. The fact that the hall was packed, every inch of space on the main floor, the galleries, and the aisles being filled, increased the bitterness of the Communist group.

As soon as the doors of the lyceum were opened Communists began to trickle in. Some of them tried to sell in the hall Communist literature, but they were compelled to retire to the exterior of the building, where they continued their efforts to dispose of the few copies of the publications they had on hand. Not meeting with much success, workers turning away from them when they learned that they were being introduced to Communist literature, the Communists came up to the hall, massing themselves into one corner of the hall.

Fusionists Aid Communists?

During the early part of the evening it was apparent that some prearranged plan to create a disturbance was to be executed. The Communist group expressed its dissent from the statements made by Abraham Cahan, the editor of the *Jewish Daily Forward*, by laughing boisterously when his statements were made. Circulars and cards issued by the "Workers' League," a Communist organization, were scattered from the galleries.

Reports received at the Socialist campaign headquarters in the lyceum have it that the old parties, who have fused against the Socialists, are openly aiding the Communists in their campaign. It was stated that the fusion candidate for alderman in that district is attending the Communists' meetings. It is believed that the quietus put on them at the meeting last Friday night will leave an impression that will endure through the rest of the campaign.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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