
Letter to the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party of America preferring charges against Alfred Wagenknecht from Victor L. Berger, Member of the NEC, May 22, 1919.

A document in the Victor L. Berger Papers, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, microfilm reel 15.

To the Executive Committee of the Socialist Party:

Comrades,

I the undersigned, member of the National Executive Committee, hereby charge A. Wagenknecht, the head of the Organization Department of the National Office, with willfully and maliciously using the position to which he was appointed in order to promote the organization and propaganda work of our party — for the satisfaction of his own petty and contemptible personal hatred and for the purpose of injuring and sabotaging the good name of a comrade who was doing earnest work for socialism before said Wagenknecht was born — a comrade who is now under sentence of 20 years penitentiary for his services to the proletariat — a comrade who is under 4 more indictments (on numerous counts), which will be tried and enforced if the higher courts should reverse the first verdict and the first sentence.

This comrade, the most indicted man in the federal courts of this country — is myself. Wagenknecht is using his position in the National

Office to injure my good standing with the membership of the party.

Comrades [Adolph] Germer and [Otto] Branstetter will furnish the details and also act as witnesses in this case.

I furthermore charge A. Wagenknecht with willfully and maliciously sabotaging the Socialist Party in behalf of the so-called “Left Wing” and of using his position as National Organizer perfidiously for that purpose.

I demand that the actions of A. Wagenknecht be investigated by the National Executive Committee and if any or all of these serious charges be found true, that he be at once removed from a position where he can do so much real damage to our great movement in the present crisis.

Yours fraternally,

Victor L. Berger.

[P.S.] Adolph: Please have a typewritten copy of this made for every member of the National Executive Committee.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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