Parties and Elections
State Party Platforms
DEMOCRATIC STATE PLATFORM

1946

We, in Wisconsin are a peace-loving and industrious people. We have been in the forefront of all social and liberal legislation for the betterment of the people. Today we are a nation at peace—a nation which destroyed barbaric and ruthless Nazi-fascism and the war machine of the Japanese aggressors, which threatened the very existence of our civilization. We must work for a genuine people's peace. We pledge our vigor and our determination to maintain and continue the principles of our great departed leader, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who, by his record of achievement and his policies, had won the admiration not only of the people of the United States but of all peace-loving peoples of the entire world.

Partisanship should be set aside during the great discussions that now are taking place in the United Nations Assembly, so that the peace-loving peoples of the world can forge a genuine democratic peace for our nation and the nations of the world. There is no better way to aid our people than by demonstrating our unity and support of the policies and principles laid down by the Democratic administrations since 1932.

We, as true Democrats, carrying out the heritage of the principles and policies of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, urge the voters of Wisconsin to support the candidates of the Democratic Party in the general elections. We call upon all loyal American citizens of Wisconsin to redeem this great state from the obstruction and anti-labor policies of the reactionary Republican administration. We commend the Truman administration for its efforts to enact a liberal program and urge that the social and economic measures which were blocked in the 79th Congress by a coalition of Republicans and a small group of Democrats who act like Republicans, be pushed vigorously in the 80th Congress.

Fundamental Principles

We reaffirm our stand for genuine unity with the United Nations, and especially with Great Britain, the Soviet Union and China, who are pledged to fight against all forces that might lead us into a third world war.

We unreservedly stand for the Four Freedoms as enunciated in the Atlantic Charter, freedom of expression, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

These are the rightful heritage of all people.
We stand foursquare without any qualifications on the Economic Bill of Rights, which are:

The right to a useful and remunerative job in the industries, or shops or farms or mines of the nation;

The right to earn enough to provide adequate food and clothing and recreation;

The right of every farmer to raise and sell his products at a return which will give him and his family a decent living;

The right of every businessman, large and small, to trade in an atmosphere of freedom from unfair competition and domination by monopolies at home or abroad;

The right of every family to a decent home;

The right to adequate medical care and the opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health;

The right to adequate protection from the economic fears of old age, sickness, accident, and unemployment;

The right to a good education.

We abhor and pledge to stamp out all vestiges of racial and religious discrimination in any form in which they may arise and fight them with all the power at our command whenever and wherever they may exist.

We further affirm that as the result of our victory in the war we shall fight for a peace that will insure a fair and equitable world based on unity of the United Nations.

Our duty is to build a peace that is just, charitable, and enduring. The peace must mean a better standard of living for the common man. Those who write the peace must think of the whole world. There can be no privileged peoples. No nation shall have the God-given right to exploit other nations. There must be neither military nor economic imperialism. We are fighting for a people's peace.

We are committed to a continuation of an enlargement of the economic and social gains heretofore obtained for the common man. We declare it to be the function of our government to promote economic security and an economy of abundance for the people of America, so that our victorious returning servicemen and women need not experience the uncertainty that was the fate of the returning veterans of World War I.

We urge the defeat of any candidate who is not pledged to the principles and policies of our democratic heritage that will work out for the betterment of all people.

In every state in the Union, Republicans have ruthlessly purged all liberal leaders from their party. The Democrats of Wisconsin welcome to our ranks all progressive and liberal-minded citizens. We believe that the only choice for all voters who desire to maintain a free and prosperous America in which workers, farmers, and small businessmen can be assured a full opportunity to obtain the good things of life is to vote the straight Democratic ticket. We
accept the challenge of the reactionary Republicans who wish to destroy all the social and economic gains of the last 14 years and are confident the people will support us.

International Policy

We favor full international economic and political cooperation designed to insure world peace and economic prosperity for all nations.

We favor opening up the channels of world commerce so as to stimulate international trade and to promote employment at home and abroad.

We favor the restoration of the economic life of all European peoples, victors and vanquished, so that all may become self sustaining economically, and that the threat of starvation may be removed. To this end we pledge such assistance as may be necessary.

We favor a program of international limitation of armaments, in conjunction with the fullest support on our part of the United Nations in the performance of its policing duties. However, until this end is achieved, we favor an adequate defense policy, geared to the considerations of the atomic age and to the place of science in modern life. This contemplates that our defense policy should be not one of irresponsibility but one adapted to actual needs.

State Policy

During the past eight years under Republican rule there has been steady retrogression in the various departments of state government. In the field of education, we have dropped from a position of leadership to a place where in rural education we are on a level with some of the more backward states of the union. The Board of Regents of our state university has been reorganized to eliminate both labor and farm representation and to place big business completely in control. Our state institutions have not been developed to meet our needs and are now shockingly inadequate. Our Public Service Commission has become a servile tool of the utilities, rather than a defender of the rights of the consumers. The members of the Industrial Commission are subservient to big business.

The Democratic Party pledges itself to the restoration of Wisconsin to its former place of leadership and to that end proposes to carry out the following program:

Constitutional Convention

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin was drafted in 1848, and although the principles contained in the Bill of Rights are just as fundamental as ever, the machinery provided for government has become antiquated and not adequate for the needs of a modern state:
We, Therefore, favor calling a Constitutional Convention in the State of Wisconsin to consider the revision and modernization of the existing Constitution, having in mind the creation of separate departments of government consistent with the requirements of the state, the reorganization of the judicial system, county, village, and town governments, together with any provisions that may be necessary to make our government fit the needs of our time.

Constitution

Constitutions are enacted by the people for the purpose of safeguarding our liberties and as a limitation upon public officials.

The Republican-dominated state government has failed to reappor tion the legislative districts of the state in accordance with Section 3, Article IV of the state Constitution; it has violated a constitutional provision by passing the integrated bar bill with less than two thirds of the members present; the Republican Party sponsored the candidacy of a circuit judge for the office of United States Senator, in violation of Section 10, Article VII of the Constitution, and in violation of judicial ethics; it violated provisions with regard to right of trial by jury.

We condemn these inroads made by the Republican public officials, and demand the repeal of the integrated bar law.

Voluntary Committees

We demand that the activities of voluntary committees be curbed and their expenditures limited in order to prevent a political party's operating through any voluntary committee, limiting such committee activities to the promotion of individual candidates.

Lobbying

We demand an effective curb on professional lobbying; the prohibition of lobbyists furnishing meals, drinks, and entertainment to the members of the legislature, or the receipt thereof by any such member.

The activities of lobbyists should be limited to appearances before assembled committees, and the presentation of arguments and facts.

We believe in paying the members of the legislature an adequate salary or compensation, that will make unnecessary their acceptance of meals and drinks from the lobbyists.

Agriculture

We believe in the establishment and promotion of adequate marketing facilities for the farmers and the establishment of such
protection as will guarantee the farmer a decent income for a decent home.

We demand the continuance of the AAA and the soil conservation program.

We demand an extension of the rural electrification program.

We demand the maintenance of a national price support program for farm products and its continuance as a protection for the farmer.

We demand the return of agriculture to a position of primary importance in the state program.

We demand the establishment of the finest laboratory and experiment station for the development of farm products particularly adaptable to Wisconsin soil.

We demand the restoration of the Wisconsin dairy program for the purpose of restoring dairy leadership to Wisconsin.

**Conservation and Recreation**

We recommend the elimination of all politics with reference to conservation and recreation.

We recommend the creation of a recreational program which will attract tourists to this state, and of full development of the resort business for the benefit of tourists, as well as for the citizens of this state.

We recommend a wide and comprehensive program of reforestation, using all public lands not suited for agricultural purposes for forestry projects, or game and fish preserves.

We recommend an educational program and state advertising program of national significance to aid the Wisconsin tourist business, with such aid as will permit the northern part of the state to enjoy the full benefit of the natural resources that are located there.

**Cooperatives**

We support the extension and development of the cooperative movement in the interests of the farmer and the consumer.

We oppose the tax policy of the National Tax Equality Association in regard to cooperatives.

We shall oppose any movement to restrict or to hamper by law or regulation the organization and continued operation of legitimate cooperative associations.

**Labor**

We demand that labor receive full and adequate protection of its rights, that the right of collective bargaining be preserved, and
that the Wisconsin law be changed to give workers the same rights they enjoy under federal law. We demand the repeal of the Catlin-Peterson anti-labor law.

Unemployment Compensation

We favor an increase in compensation to the beneficiaries of the Unemployment Compensation Act in accordance with the present rise in the cost of living.

We favor the enactment of legislation that will enable working men and women to participate in the benefits of the Unemployment Compensation Act regardless of the cause of their employment.

Pensions

We favor increased pensions for those eligible for pensions in the state of Wisconsin, to meet the added cost of living and necessary requirements.

We favor enactment of legislation that will exempt homesteads; the infamous lien law must be repealed.

Education

We favor the coordination of all public educational institutions in the state, the raising of the standard of rural schools, the maintenance of an adequate minimum wage for all teachers.

We believe in the right of every teacher to a public hearing on question of discharge, with removal only for cause.

Veterans

We favor the enlargement of the veterans' loan fund, and a bonus for veterans of World War II.

Franchise

We believe the legal voting age should be reduced to eighteen years, the age at which citizens are eligible for military service.

Housing

We favor the participation of the state in the solution of the housing problem.
Civil Service

We pledge ourselves to maintain the principle of the merit system in the state service, and will support it by sufficient appropriation.

Taxation

We believe that a uniform system of taxation should be maintained on the basis of ability to pay.

St. Lawrence Waterway

We favor the approval of the St. Lawrence waterway and will work to make it a reality.

STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Officers

ROBERT E. TEHAN, Milwaukee, Chairman.
JOHN KEHOE, Green Bay, Secretary.

First District
Gerald T. Flynn, Racine
Stanley Grazdzel, Racine
Adam Miller, Beloit
J. B. Molinaro, Kenosha
Gilbert K. Muller, Delavan
Mrs. Elma Wade, Kenosha

Second District
Tom Amlie, Madison
H. H. Hilgendorf, Burnett
J. M. McGonigle, Sun Prairie
William Scherwitz, Fort Atkinson
Mrs. Ruth Steinert, Waukesha
Patrick J. Walsh, Waukesha

Third District
F. J. Antoine, Prairie du Chien
John J. Boyle, Darlington
Mrs. Jerry Garvin, Elroy
Mrs. Robert Graves, Viroqua
John D. Rice, Sparta
Mrs. Mary Samb, La Crosse

Fourth District
Mrs. Cecile Cieslak, Milwaukee
Mrs. Genevieve Elsold, Milwaukee

Fourth District—Continued
Mrs. Lillian Fuelleman, Milwaukee
William Galasinski, Milwaukee
Cornelius Jankowski, Milwaukee
Emmet Scanlon, Milwaukee

Fifth District
Sam Corr, Milwaukee
Mrs. Rose Grobe, Milwaukee
Mrs. Gladys Littlefield, Milwaukee
Edward Mertz, Milwaukee
Michael O'Connell, Milwaukee
Mrs. Ann Smith, Milwaukee

Sixth District
Jerome Fox, Chilton
Harold Miller, Fond du Lac
Thomas O'Meara, Jr., West Bend
Otto Stiflow, Sheboygan
Ray Ware, Oshkosh
William Weyker, Port Washington
Seventh District
Byron Conway, Wisconsin Rapids
Herman Gliński, Stevens Point
John Lawrie, Redgranite
Ruth Manske, New London
Mrs. Erna Melaun, Wausau
Albert Menting, Antigo

Eighth District
Ralph Benthein, Manitowoc
G. F. Clifford, Green Bay
L. M. Evert, Marinette
John D. Kehoe, Green Bay
Phyllis Schouten, Appleton
Sam Sigman, Appleton

Ninth District
Arthur Henning, Altoona
John D. Heywood, Hudson
Carmi Lawrence, Eau Claire
Matthew Quinn, Ellsworth

Ninth District—Continued
Thomas Stodola, Black River Falls
Evelyn Witt, Chippewa Falls

Tenth District
Elizabeth Hawkes, Washburn
Herbert A. Mittlesdorf, Oshkosh
Ray O'Brien, Superior
Fred Russell, Superior
Julius Seyfert, Eagle River
Joseph Szumowski, Hayward

National Chairman
Howard McGrath, Washington, D. C.

National Committeemen
Robert E. Tehan
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Mrs. Helen Marty
Monroe, Wisconsin
REPUBLICAN STATE PLATFORM

1946

We, the Republican nominees for state offices and the legislature, in platform convention at Madison this 3rd day of September 1946, pledge ourselves individually and as a body to the continuance of the honesty and efficiency in government exemplified by our present Republican state administration.

We will give our wholehearted support to the United Nations in their efforts to achieve permanent peace.

Under our present economic conditions, new problems will constantly confront our state and nation. These must and will be analyzed and promptly, courageously, and effectively met.

We pledge that our administrative and legislative efforts will be directed solely to the retention and enactment or modification of laws that are for the best interests of all of the people of Wisconsin; that every proposed measure will have full hearings and must stand on its individual merits coupled with the ability of the people to pay for any added services that may be thus demanded.

As to presently known problems such as legislative reapportionment, modernization of election laws, veterans' needs, educational and school requirements, increases in costs of old-age assistance and other social security aids, agriculture, conservation of natural resources, labor, highways, youth conservation, and other equally important matters, we pledge prompt and remedial legislation.

A guarantee of rigid adherence to the continuation of the record of our accomplishments during the past years constitutes the major pledge of the Republican Party.

We further pledge active support to Republican candidates for national offices to the end that inefficiency, ineptitude, waste and extravagance in national government and general New Deal confusion in Washington may be abolished.

We believe that strong state and local units of government are our greatest protection against the loss of individual freedom and initiative. We condemn and oppose the weakening and usurpation of the powers and responsibilities of the states and local governments through the paternalistic assumption of those powers and responsibilities by the federal government. We reaffirm our conviction that an alert and virile state government, ever conscious of the changing wants and needs of the people, is our firmest bulwark against the vicious centralization of government.
STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Officers

ROBERT L. PIERCE, Menomonie, Chairman
MRS. RUTH HOGAN, Ashland, Vice Chairman
ED. KING, Watertown, Vice Chairman
HAROLD A. METER, Shawano, Secretary
CHARLES I. WESLEY, Milwaukee, Treasurer

First District
William E. Fitzgerald, Racine
Jake Van Bendegom, Kenosha
Julius Johnson, Whitewater
William H. Dougherty, Janesville
Mrs. Robert Roto, Monroe

Second District
Arthur A. May, Madison
Mrs. Lila Burton, Eagle
Ed. King, Watertown
Carl Frederick, Fall River
Mrs. Burt Hopkins, Beaver Dam

Third District
Larry Chambers, Mauston
Marion Quay, Richland Center
Theo. Radde, Sparta
Martin Dyrvud, Prairie du Chien
Olga Bennett, Viroqua

Fourth District
Mrs. Blanch B. Hogue, Milwaukee
Charles Wesley, Milwaukee
Howard Fletcher, Milwaukee
Mrs. Mac Baum, Milwaukee
Richard Rice, Milwaukee

Fifth District
Richard Seifritz, Milwaukee
Alfred Gandy, Milwaukee
Robert Vollbrecht, Milwaukee
Mrs. L. E. Stevens, Milwaukee
Mrs. G. W. Knack, Milwaukee

Sixth District
Oscar A. Damrow, Sheboygan Falls
George Duchow, Potter

Sixth District—Continued
John Dickinson, West Bend
William J. Campbell, Oshkosh
William E. Van Pelt, Fond du Lac

Seventh District
Charles H. Avery, Antigo
Harold A. Meyer, Shawano
William H. Seymour, Wausau
Mrs. Bur Crockett, Westfield
Mrs. Emily Baldwin, Wisconsin Rapids

Eighth District
R. C. Breth, Green Bay
Carl Rehfelt, Appleton
Orin W. Angwall, Marinette
Mrs. Glen Brandt, Manitowoc
Mrs. Ralph Flanders, Oconto

Ninth District
Erwin Homstad, Black River Falls
John Lindner, Jr., Eau Claire
William H. Gharrity, Chippewa Falls
Clarence E. Fugina, Arcadia
Dr. C. A. Dawson, River Falls

Tenth District
Olaf Johnson, Superior
Mrs. Ruth Hogan, Ashland
Walter L. Chisen, Merrill
Lewis Charles, Medford
Joe Handlos, Land O'Lakes

National Chairman
Carroll A. Reese, New York, N. Y.

National Committeemen
Cyrus L. Philipp, Milwaukee
Mrs. Estelle O. Morrison, Wausau
SOCIALIST PARTY PLATFORM

1946

Statement of Aims

The Socialist Party is dedicated to building a society in which the principle regulating production, distribution, and exchange will be the supplying of human needs and not the making of profits.

We aim to replace the present capitalist system, with its inherent injustice and inhumanity, by a social order from which the domination and exploitation of one class by another will be eliminated, in which economic planning will supersede unregulated private enterprise and competition, and in which genuine democratic self-government, based upon economic equality will be possible. The present order is marked by glaring inequalities of wealth and opportunity, by chaotic waste and instability; and in an age of plenty it condemns the great mass of the people to poverty and insecurity. Power has become more and more concentrated into the hands of a small irresponsible minority of financiers and industrialists and to their predatory interests, the majority are habitually sacrificed. When private profit is the main stimulus to economic effort, our society oscillates between periods of feverish prosperity in which the main benefits go to speculators and profiteers, and of catastrophic depression, in which the common man’s normal state of insecurity and hardship is accentuated. We believe that these evils can be removed only in a planned and socialized economy in which our natural resources and the principal means of production and distribution are owned, controlled, and operated by the people.

Two world wars in a generation and depression since 1929 (except for the war period) have caused people to ask for a change. Since 1929, when the capitalist system landed on its deathbed, it has been kept alive only through blood transfusions of government spending, first for WPA, and then for war. Now we see the threat of another depression which will come as soon as wartime savings have been gobbled up by the greedy profit system.

The old system has outlived it usefulness. Its inability or unwillingness to provide adequate housing, adequate medical care, and steady full production and full employment during peacetime, condemn it to oblivion. As an example of the stupidity of the present system, we cite the burning at Okinawa, of new fur-lined leather jackets which our soldiers would have gladly taken to use, and the officers in charge telling our boys that is was necessary to burn them to create jobs when they got back home.
That the system will be replaced is certain. Whether by democratic socialism, or a Fascist or communist dictatorship, depends on the relative number of people who are willing to work for their objective. We plead with all lovers of democracy to join and support our movement before it is too late. We seek a proper organization of our economic resources such as will make possible a much greater degree of leisure and a much richer individual life for every citizen.

This social and economic transformation can be brought about by political action through the election of a government inspired by the ideal of a cooperative commonwealth, and supported by a majority of the people. We do not believe in change by violence. We consider that both the old parties are the instruments of capitalist interests and cannot serve as the agents of social reconstruction, and that whatever the superficial differences between them, they are bound to carry on government in accordance with the dictates of big business interests who finance them. The Socialist Party aims at political power in order to put an end to this capitalist domination of our political life. It is a democratic movement of people from farm, labor, cooperative, professional, and small business groups, financed by its own members and seeking to achieve its ends solely by constitutional methods. It appeals for support to all who believe that the time has come for a reconstruction of our economic and political institutions and who are willing to work together for the carrying out of our program.

Atomic Age

The development of atomic bombs means that mankind must choose Socialism, slavery, or suicide. Atomic energy can help to emancipate mankind if the common people will organize and demand a world free from war and exploitation or it can mean our destruction. The people must take the reins of government from those who seek profit or power out of war and dedicate themselves to building a genuine united nations of the world. War must be abolished. World disarmament must begin immediately.

Basis for Peace

We must learn from the experience of the two world wars that a lasting peace must be built upon a fundamental, just and stable economy in all nations. We must eliminate rising rivalries and jealousies of nations, each intent upon gaining profits or selfish advantages or regaining control over oppressed colonies. The peace will be barren unless the nations seek in a cooperative spirit to unite the anti-totalitarian forces of Europe in rebuilding a ruined economy. We must not imagine that it is our job to rule or police the world. We must be willing to seek out, in each country, the
fundamentally decent people who carried on the underground fight against the evils of war, racism, totalitarianism, and terror. We must let them know that we are willing to become a cooperative member of the family of nations, that we will not try to restore ancient privileges and monarchies. We must help to reorganize the United Nations organization so that it will be a world brotherhood instead of a jarring discord ruled by the Big Three. We emphatically condemn the practice of having leaders of governments make secret treaties and demand that present treaties be published.

**COMPREHENSIVE OBJECTIVES**

**Planning**

We favor the establishment of a democratically planned, socialized economic system, in order to make possible the most efficient development of our resources and the most equitable distribution of our income. The first step will be the setting up of a Planning Commission consisting of socially-minded economists, engineers, and statisticians, assisted by an appropriate technical staff and an advisory staff of representatives of labor, farmers, and cooperators. The job of this commission will be to plan for the production, distribution, and exchange of those goods and services necessary to the efficient functioning of the economy; to coordinate the activities of the socialized industries; to provide for a satisfactory balance between the producing and consuming power; and to carry on research for the purpose of helping the commission. It is certain that in every industrial country some form of planning will replace the disintegrating capitalist system. We insist that the planning shall be done, not by a small group of magnates in their own interests, but by public servants acting in the public interest and responsible to the people as a whole.

**Freedom**

Despite our lip service to freedom, equality, and democracy in America, basic rights have been denied, racial, religious, and political minorities have been discriminated against and persecuted, and repressive laws such as the Hatch Act used to deny political freedom.

We insist that no person shall be discriminated against because of race, creed, color, or sex. We hold that religious worship must in no way be abridged or denied. Workers must be guaranteed freedom to work at the job of their choice and we are confident that through improved working conditions and good wages, even menial, unskilled jobs will attract enough workers to keep our economy functioning efficiently.

Full civil liberties must be the inherent right of every citizen. Government and civil employees must not fear for their jobs because of their political beliefs.
Money and Finance

Banking, currency, credit, and insurance must be socialized to make possible effective planning for an abundant life. Planning will be of little use unless the public authority has power to implement the plans. This means the control of finance and of those vital industries and services which, if they remain in private hands, can be used to thwart or corrupt the will of the public authority. The power to create money and credit and to regulate the value thereof should rest with the government. A National Investment Board would be set up to work with the socialized banking system to direct unused surpluses for socially desirable production. If President Roosevelt had been truly progressive rather than interested in preserving the capitalist system, he would have urged taking over the banking system in 1933, instead of bailing it out.

Social Ownership

We propose the socialization of transportation, communication, electric power, and those industries in which exploitation is rampant. Only under a system of public ownership and operation will the full benefits accruing from centralized control and mass production be passed on to the consuming public. Minerals, coal and oil, and other natural resources must be brought under social ownership and operation in order to eliminate the exploitation, waste, and financial malpractices now in existence.

In restoring to the community its natural resources and in taking over some industrial enterprises, we do not propose a policy of confiscation. The legal power of eminent domain shall be extensively employed in acquiring resources and facilities that should belong to the people. We desire to make the transition to a cooperative commonwealth as stable and equitable as possible. We recognize the need for compensation in the case of individuals and institutions which must receive adequate maintenance during the transitional period. The welfare of the community must take supremacy over the claims for private wealth.

The principle of the public corporation must be extended to more of our economy. The management of these industries will be vested in a board representing consumers, labor, technicians, and the public, and chosen for their competence in the particular industry. Workers in these public industries must be free to organize in trade unions and must be given the right to participate in the management of the industry.

Agriculture

A program for security on the farm must include security of tenure; insurance against unavoidable crop failure; encouragement of producers and consumers cooperatives; assistance in the develop-
ment of a processing, warehousing, and marketing program; and the
maintenance of an equitable relationship between prices of agri-
cultural products and those of other commodities and services.

Farmers themselves shall democratically reach decisions on agri-
cultural practices. We reject the concept of compulsory collectiviza-
tion. All farmers who prefer family-type farming shall have the right
to so make their living. Farmers who prefer voluntary cooperative
farms, in order to have the advantages of community life and
large scale production shall also receive state aid and assistance in
the formative years.

Only when a farmer expands his operations to a point where he
attempts to make a profit out of other people's labor, shall society
have anything to say about wages, hours, and working conditions.
If farmers are ever to enjoy the fruits of their labor they must em-
ploy both cooperative associations and the constitutional powers of
government to establish a just and orderly marketing system. An
alternative must be provided to the virtual monopolies that have
grown up in the dairy, grain, and meat processing industries, if
farmers are to get a fair return for their efforts.

The Wisconsin dairy industry is being gobbled up by National
Dairy and Bordens. Local home-owned cheese factories and cream-
eries are rapidly becoming a thing of the past. The Wisconsin farmer
is doomed unless he can regain control of his product until it reaches
consumer outlets. As an immediate step we propose the establish-
ment of cooperative dairy product processing and warehousing
facilities and meat packing plants, made possible by government
loans, for those farmers who are "fed up" with having to sell to
the monopoly interests. This program can be expanded and extend-
ed as the demand grows. Cooperative farm machinery manufacturing
plants can be another mechanism for improving the farmer's posi-
tion.

Another alternative to monopoly control is the establishment of
state warehouses to hold the farmers' grain, cheese, and butter (with
partial advance payment) until a ready market can be found.

We deplore the fact that war profits have enabled industrialists
and other persons who are not farmers to purchase valuable lands
in the state. The increase in farm tenancy is a menace to stable
agriculture and the principle of "occupancy and use" must restore
the land to those who farm it. It is absurd for farmers to vote for
the old capitalist parties which do the bidding of monopolies and in-
trenched wealth and are controlled by the very interests that have
been gouging the farmers for years.

A Labor Code

One of the objectives of a Socialist government shall be to secure
for the worker, maximum income and leisure; insurance covering
illness, accident, old age, and unemployment; freedom to join unions
of his choice; and effective participation in the management of his industry or profession.

The spectre of depression, unemployment, and breadlines still haunts every worker even though technological developments have made possible a high standard of living for every one. It is absurd to have idle factories and idle men just because the "profit" system ceases to function. We can organize our resources to make possible progressive reduction of hours of work and a constantly rising standard of living for every one who is willing to work. A labor code must be developed which will establish adequate protection for workers, a high minimum wage, equal reward and equal opportunity for advancement regardless of sex, and a comprehensive social insurance program. In order to achieve real economic security, it is not enough to organize as producers to get better pay for our work. We must also organize and support the consumer cooperative movement in order that our hard-earned dollars may provide us with more and better goods.

With the hard-won rights of labor threatened by the profit system through the Republican and Democratic parties, those labor leaders who try to herd their followers into the camps of either of the two old parties are betraying the real interests of workers. Labor must quit "scabbing" on election day by voting for the capitalist parties, and help build a democratic political movement dedicated to cooperation instead of competition, and to production for use instead of private profit.

Cooperatives

We consider the cooperative movement, both producer and consumer, an integral part of building social ownership and shall work for its expansion and extension into as many fields as practical. Cooperative enterprises should be assisted by the state through appropriate legislation and through the provision of adequate credit facilities. The time has come when more of our cooperators must take an active part in politics as citizens of a democracy. It is illogical to be a cooperator and yet vote for the parties of a competitive private profit system. We pledge our support to the cooperative movement in its struggle to defend itself from the attacks of N.T.E.A., the National Tax Equality Association, which is nothing but a cloaked drive by big business to destroy the cooperative movement.

Health Services

The progress of science and technical skills makes health more and more of a public responsibility. We must develop a more adequate and helpful program of medical care with emphasis on prevention of disease and health education. Since sickness cannot be predicted any
more than fires or accidents can be, a program of health insurance is not only sensible but necessary. We encourage the organization of voluntary, cooperative health, hospital, and dental associations, which, when state or national health programs are inaugurated, might well be dovetailed into the services and clinics provided.

We favor the state-wide organization and financing of maternal and child health clinics and centers, free dental care for all school children, and the expansion of the county nurse program.

**Education**

Enlightened, intelligent citizens are needed for the building and extension of democratic rights and institutions. Our schools must offer improvement both in the quantity and quality of education. People must be taught how to think, not what to think, and teachers must be free to express their beliefs without fear of losing their jobs.

Our youth need education for useful roles in a changing complex world society. To this end, the school can be made into a vital instrument in the community, offering vocational instruction, citizenship training, public forums and discussion, and serving as a community center for wholesome recreation, and as a clinic in the improvement of human relations.

The state has an obligation to its future citizens which can be better discharged by aid to schools, particularly in rural areas, permitting better wages to teachers, better teaching equipment, noon lunches, and cultural opportunities. Teachers are entitled to full citizenship rights, to adequate tenure, freedom of speech, and the right to organize. Our state law requiring the teaching of cooperative studies must be enforced.

The board of regents of our university as now exists, is made up almost entirely of corporation lawyers and representatives of business interests. Agriculture, labor, industry, and the professions must be included on a representative board of regents, if the best interests of all our citizens are to be served by our university.

Educational institutions must be made more accessible to more of our population, and to that end, junior colleges established in the more densely populated areas of the state.

**Taxation and Public Finance**

Our taxation policy must be designed not only to raise public revenue, but also to lessen the glaring inequalities of income and provide funds for social services and the socialization of industry, and the cessation of the debt-creating system of public finance.

In the type of economy that we envisage, the need for taxation, as we understand it, will have largely disappeared. It will nevertheless be essential during the transition period, to use the taxing
powers, along with other methods proposed elsewhere, as a means of providing for the socialization of industry and for extending the benefits of increased social services.

We propose the extension of income, corporation and inheritance taxes, steeply graduated according to ability to pay, the reduction of the burden of property taxes and the elimination of sales taxes on necessities of life.

Social Security

The Socialist Party was the first advocate of social security legislation including old age pensions, unemployment insurance, and workmen’s compensation, and we urge its extension to include domestic workers, farm laborers, self-employed artisans and small merchants. We favor higher pension rates, based on costs of living, and optional retirement at sixty.

State Institutions

The standards of care must be raised in our institutions for the deaf, feeble-minded, criminal and insane to keep up-to-date with the latest discoveries in scientific treatment. The physical facilities must be improved, the institutions must be adequately staffed, and the personnel employed should be intelligent and understand the nature of the problems with which they are dealing.

Conservation

Wisconsin needs a comprehensive program for the conservation of its soil, water sources, forests, and wild life. We urge the extension of the soil conservation program begun by the government, with a program of benefits to those who cooperate. We urge the extensive and rapid organization of forested areas by the state, and the development of state-owned forest products industries. Forests are a natural resource that must not be exploited for private profit.

We favor the creation of a public authority to own, control, and develop the water power of the state for the good of the total community along the pattern of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

PROPOSALS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. Housing. The creation of a Public Housing Authority with the power to loan money to municipal and cooperative housing projects and to enter into the manufacturing of cement blocks and other building material to supply local building projects. It is absurd to have a housing shortage just because private enterprise and real estate interests under the profit system are not doing their job.
2. Veterans' Aid. We shall make every effort to provide decent hospitalization and medical care for those veterans who need help, and supplementary assistance to the educational feature of the G.I. Bill of Rights, if inflation makes the federal grants inadequate. Beyond that the greatest real service to veterans will be the building of a world in which their children will not have to go through the hell they endured; and the creation of an economic system which can provide decent jobs and economic security for every one.

3. Price Control. Although we have vigorously supported price control as a necessary tool to check inflation, under capitalism, we realize that the greedy profit system makes effective price control in peacetime very unlikely. We favor a strict, but fair, program of rent control until the housing shortage has been solved.

4. War Plants and Surplus Material. As one step in the socialization of our economy, we demand that the war plants, built with taxpayers' money, be retained and plants already sold be taken back, and operated either by the state, municipalities, or cooperatives for the production of consumer goods, or for the care of some of our wards of the state. A committee appointed by the Governor, composed of people from labor, agriculture, and consumers groups, shall decide how the facilities of Badger Ordnance Works can best be utilized for the public good.

Excess war materials should not be permitted to fall into the hands of profiteers in the course of their disposal. All usable materials should be salvaged. Excess food and clothing should be given to needy people in war-torn areas. The urge to destroy, and waste materials on which a profit has already been made, is all too prevalent under capitalism—since capitalism must maintain an artificial scarcity or monopoly, in order to make profits. We demand the punishment of those who destroy excess materials and property as a means of protecting the market.

5. Public and Industria Safety. The casualties in traffic accidents and industry present problems which must be met by a campaign of enforcement of our safety laws, with the enactment of further legislation where present laws prove inadequate. We propose the establishment of speed limits on many of our highways and the imposition of heavier penalties on intoxicated drivers.

The Industrial Commission and the State Highway Department shall be charged with getting pertinent information on the problems of safety, to the people.

6. St. Lawrence Waterway. We favor the early completion of the St. Lawrence waterway to aid the commerce and industry of our state.

7. F.E.P.C. We support the establishment of a State Fair Employment Practices Commission to protect the rights of minorities under our democracy.

8. Better Roads. Our State Highway Department must make an over-all plan to improve the highways of the state at a faster rate;
to hard-surface county and town roads; and to change or improve hazardous intersections and grade crossings. Because of the special hazard of 3-lane highways, we favor changing them to 2-lane highways or widening them to 4 lanes.

9. Cement Plant. In the 1932 state platform we warned against the domination of the state by the cement trust. We feel that the Portland Cement Association exerts too much influence on our state government. The best way to combat this situation is to set up state-owned cement and asphalt plants to supply materials for highway construction.

10. Unicameral Legislature. We favor a constitutional amendment establishing a one-chamber legislature to replace the cumbersome two-chambered system which now obstructs popular and effective legislation.

11. Repeal of State "Hatch Act" which denies the rights of citizenship to employees of the state.

12. Crop Insurance. We urge the establishment of a State Crop Insurance Department under the Department of Agriculture and Markets with the power to plan for a comprehensive insurance program.

13. Government Control of Hard Liquors. We propose government ownership and social control of the production, distribution, and sale of hard liquors, as a curb on the growing evil of alcoholism.

14. County and City Government. We favor such statutory and constitutional changes as would provide for the reorganization and improved efficiency of county government, including a constitutional amendment calling for the filling of county and city administrative offices by civil service examinations. All policy-making offices shall remain elective and those which are not, should be made elective offices.

15. School Aid. We favor increased and more equitably distributed state aid for education and the reorganization of school districts.

16. Public Welfare. We favor adequate appropriations for public welfare; better institutions and trained personnel; increased pension rates based on cost of living; the extension of social security to include those not now covered; and the abolition of the lien law.

17. Reapportionment. We favor the reapportionment of the state legislative districts on the basis of the latest census. We were the first to call for this reapportionment in 1941.

18. U. S. Constitutional Convention. We shall initiate and support in the Wisconsin Legislature, a petition to Congress to call a new United States Constitutional Convention under Article V for the purpose of overhauling our diplomatic machinery and giving the people a more direct voice in world affairs.

19. Proposals for World Peace. Our senatorial and congressional candidates shall work against the enactment of permanent peacetime conscription, and for the calling of a world-wide conference for
progressive disarmament. For additional specific steps to remove causes of war, we favor international control of scarce raw materials equally accessible to all peoples; we favor open sea lanes to facilitate trade between peoples; and we favor elimination of barriers to trade which have enriched privileged classes.

20. **Free Dental Care for School Children.** As an immediate step in the direction of adequate health care, we propose a program of free dental care for our school children.

21. **Government Research on Polio, Cancer, Malaria, etc.** We favor an all-out research program on the part of state and federal agencies to stamp out polio, cancer, malaria, and other diseases about which little is known today.

22. **Venereal Disease Eradication.** We urge a vigorous campaign to wipe out venereal diseases.

23. **Local Income Taxes.** We favor legislation which will permit local governments to levy income taxes in order to make possible a reduction in the burden of real estate taxes.

24. **Workmen's Compensation.** We favor improvements in the Workmen's Compensation Law.

25. **Oppose Restrictions on Co-ops.** We shall oppose any movement to restrict or hamper, by law or regulation, the organization and continued operation of legitimate cooperative associations.

26. **Cost of Living to Pensioners.** We favor a cost of living adjustment to pensioners to compensate for the rising cost of living.

27. **Corrupt Practices.** We insist on a strict enforcement of our corrupt practices act and the placing of definite limitations on the amounts of money that can be spent in running for any office.

**FRATERNAL GREETINGS**

We extend our greetings to the genuine socialists of all countries. The growth of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation in Canada gives new hope for an alternative to the totalitarian trend in some other parts of the world. All peoples are entitled to self-government. Imperialism must be eliminated.

We congratulate our comrades in our neighbor country, Canada, who in the two years since the C.C.F. swept the province have already done a magnificent job in the building of democratic socialism.
STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

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