



CALIFORNIA STATE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY
EDEL HECHT, SECRETARY,
115 Turk Street.

5-25

San Francisco, October 6, 1897.
Mr. Henry Kuhn,
Dear Comrade:

Enclosed
please find money order for \$5.25, for
which please send 100 blue stamps for
State Ex Com and 25 ct. to receipt the enclosed bill.

In your last letter of the 14th ult. you say, "I have
some apprehension that the very men who are opposed to the
City Central Committee are the ones who have stopped paying
dues etc. If the C. C. C. makes this point it does not do so honestly.
At the time (last January) when the general Party meeting decided
to ask the C. C. C. to adjourn, Com. Oliver Everett stood at the
door (as fin. secy. of C. C. C.) to see that no one was admitted who
did not show a paid up membership card. It was a very

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Party meeting (unusually so) and it was the expressed wish of these
good standing members that the C. C. C. refused to buy. Of course
when the C. C. C. threw down the gauntlet the various under parties
Propaganda Branches (save the American Pr.) refused to buy
stamps with the object of cutting off their revenue.

Since I wrote you last, I saw report in the matter of reorgan-
ization, that all the Branches in this city appointed a com. of
three to proceed in the matter of drafting a plan. At the eleventh
hour the American Pr. also elected a com. of three to act in
conjunction with the other com. This is to be considered as a back-
down on part of Am. Pr. (Com. Am. Pr. are Wilkins, Speed & W. J. ^{Martin})

This reorganization com. met, elected a sub. com. to submit a draft,
which it did (just as I had suggested) and resubmitted it to
com. of whole, where it was endorsed by the delegates from
the German, Liberty, Jewish and Columbian, all save Wilkins
and Speed of Am. Pr. who fought each proposition at first,
but were jeered at and finally quit voting altogether. During
the discussion of each proposition, Wilkins showed himself very
much like an ordinary fool. His idea was to raise funds
to carry the "primary election law" before the Supreme Court.
The state of our Party organization and the necessary provisions



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of the "Primary Election Law" can easily be reconciled with a little good will, and if we are to continue to have such a C. C. C. The said San Francisco, amended election law is verily a blessing.

The C. C. C. ~~and~~ ^{with} its five or six members would never be heard of were it not for the extraordinary, fanatical activity of a draft individual, Gus. ~~Parr~~ Braun who arranges street meetings.

The plan of reorganization approved of by the joint committee has now been referred to the various Branches, where it will, I am sure, be overwhelmingly approved. Another complication arises which the C. C. C. signs. There will be for the first time in the history of this city, an election for the choice of freeholders to frame a new city charter on Dec. 14 of this year. The Supreme Court has decided that the election must be held under the old laws that the provisions of the Primary Election Law do not go into effect until next year. The effect on the Party will be that as not enough enthusiasm can be aroused for such an election as to reorganize the Assembly

District organizations from which alone, the C. C. C. can receive orders, the C. C. C. will in desperation appeal to the Propaganda Branches, these will give the C. C. C. the reply courteous to look to the ~~non~~ non-existing Assembly District Branches if it wants help. The consequence will be that the Party will not poll the required 30% "at the last previous election" (as the law states) the consequence of this will be that we must petition again next year which in many respects is a blessing.

For general information I can report to you that I do not think Wilkins will last long here, he is one of these sanguine, enthusiastic, loquacious wind-bags who plunges into anything and thinks afterwards. I am not personally raising a finger against him as I think him harmless, inasmuch as he makes himself ridiculous for his above-named qualities and nothing kills a person as quickly as to make himself publicly ridiculous.

Wilkins is a Theosophist and occasionally breaks a lance for his faith, immediately ^{long} Strawn Hamilton who has the degree of Dr. of Laws and of Philosophy from the University of Virginia, and is by the way a wonderfully clear exponent of Hegel and all the other philosophers and is an atheist to the backbone who does not let an opportunity pass by to expose mystics as ignorant



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freaks, greatly to the embitterment and discomfort of ~~the~~ all mystics. All the lesser lights also like to take a fall out of poor Wilkins. So you can imagine that we have lively meetings.

Benham has published Watkins' Evolution of Industry. He has also written a book on the Paris Commune which he will shortly publish after that he will publish Frederick Engels' "Origin of the Family," which Hamilton, Austin Lewis and myself are translating. So you see a good deal of literature will come from S. F.

I agree entirely with what you say of sending out speakers. I only told you about it so you will be "posted." As such murmurings are heard and sometimes develop

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into something serious.

Yours fraternally,
Cecil Hunt.

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