

THE ORGANIZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY USA NATIONAL OFFICE

SEPT/ OCT 2009

Join the Socialist Party in Pittsburgh for the G-20 Protests Sept 19-25, 2009



The Socialist Party has endorsed and will organize for the actions around the G-20 meeting in Pittsburgh, PA.

People's Summit – Sept. 19, 21-22 A partnership of educators and social justice groups is organizing

a People's Summit to discuss global problems and seek solutions that are informed by the basic principles of genuine democracy and human dignity. This will bring together informed speakers and panels to discuss problems we face and possible solutions, also providing interactive workshop discussions.

Info: <http://www.peoplesummit.com>

Mass March on the G-20 – Friday, Sept. 25: **Money for human needs, not for war!** Gather at 12 noon, march to the City County Building downtown A peaceful, legal march is being sponsored by the Thomas Merton Center, an umbrella organization that supports a wide variety of peace and justice member projects in Pittsburgh.

Info: <http://www.pittsburghendthewar.org/>

If you are going to Pittsburgh, please drop us an e-mail at natsec@socialistparty-usa.org so we can connect your with other SPers there.



SOCIALIST PARTY USA

October 9-11, 2009

Gateway Hilton, Newark, NJ

www.socialistparty-usa.org/convention/

All Out for Rosie Jiménez Day

On October 3rd Demand the Repeal of the Hyde Amendment! Defend Abortion Access!

by the Women's Commission, Socialist Party USA

On October 3, 1977, Rosie Jiménez, from McAllen, Texas-- a low-income 27 year old mother of a 5 year old daughter-- died from complications arising from an unsafe abortion.

Rosie Jiménez was the first known victim of the Hyde Amendment. This piece of legislation, passed in 1976, allows for federally funded abortions under Medicaid only in cases of rape, incest, or if the woman's life is in danger. Ms. Jiménez's death came only weeks after this statute, the first direct assault on the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision of 1973, took effect.

From 1992 to 2002, national protests took place on October 3rd in memory of Rosie Jiménez and to call for the repeal of the Hyde Amendment. It's time we revived this National Day of Action. Let's make sure that a radical voice for reproductive rights continues to be heard: a voice that places abortion in the context of human rights, socialized health care, social and economic justice, and independent political action.

So this October 3rd, Rosie Jiménez Day, speak out in her memory.

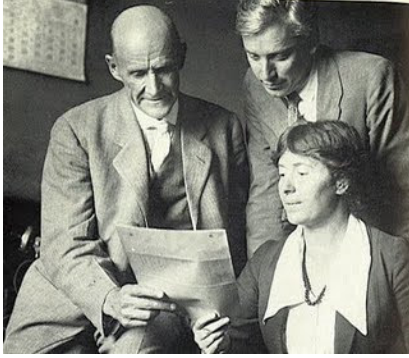
Demand an end to restrictive state laws, to the wholly inadequate number of abortion facilities and providers, and to discrimination against young, low-income, and immigrant women, and women of color. Honor our allies-- like doctors David Gunn, George Patterson, John Britton, Barnett Slepian, and George Tiller; clinic employees Shannon Lowney and Lee Ann Nichols; and security personnel James Barrett and Robert Sanderson-- who risk, even sacrifice, their lives for abortion rights.

Organize and hit the streets to demand abortion access for all women, and protection for abortion clinics and providers. Only our grassroots efforts will bring about the repeal of the Hyde Amendment, guarantee our right to reproductive freedom and to healthcare justice and equity, and stop all forms of violence against women.

The Organizer is the newsletter of the Socialist Party USA National Office. Subscriptions are free to members and sustainers. For bulk copies contact the SPUSA National Office at 339 Lafayette St. #303 New York, NY 10012. The Editor is Greg Pason, National Secretary.

Commemorating The Espionage Act Trial of Eugene Debs Sept. 9 -12 1918

text from Wikipedia



On June 16, 1918, Debs made a speech in Canton, Ohio in opposition to World War I urging resistance to the military drafts of World War I. During the Palmer Raids, part of the First Red Scare in which people who were suspected of being radical leftists were arrested under fear that

Debs was arrested for violating the Espionage Act of 1917. The period was characterized by supporters of communism and socialism being arrested and detained under suspicion of sedition. Deb's speeches against the Wilson administration and the war earned the undying enmity of President Woodrow Wilson, who later called Debs a "traitor to his country."

Debs was convicted and sentenced to serve ten years in prison. He was also disenfranchised for life. Debs presented what has been called his best-remembered statement at his sentencing hearing:

"Your Honor, years ago I recognized my kinship with all living beings, and I made up my mind that I was not one bit better than the meanest on earth. I said then, and I say now, that while there is a lower class, I am in it, and while there is a criminal element I am of it, and while there is a soul in prison, I am not free."

Debs appealed his conviction to the Supreme Court. In its ruling on Debs v. United States, the court examined several statements Debs had made regarding World War I and Socialism. While Debs had carefully guarded his speeches in an attempt to comply with the Espionage Act, the Court found he still had the intention and effect of obstructing the draft and recruitment for the war. Among other things, the Court cited Debs's praise for those imprisoned for obstructing the draft. Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. stated in his opinion that little attention was needed since Debs' case was essentially the same as that of Schenck v. United States, in which the Court had upheld a similar conviction.

Debs went to prison on April 13, 1919. In protest of his jailing, Charles Ruthenberg led a parade of unionists, socialists, anarchists and communists to march on May 1 (May Day) 1919, in Cleveland, Ohio. The event quickly broke into the

violent May Day Riots of 1919. Debs ran for president in the 1920 election while in prison in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary. He received 913,664 write-in votes (3.4%) the highest number of votes for a Socialist Party presidential candidate in the U.S. and slightly more than he had won in 1912, when he obtained 2.2% of the vote. This stint in prison also inspired Debs to write a series of columns deeply critical of the prison system, which appeared in sanitized form in the Bell Syndicate and was collected into his only book, Walls and Bars, with several added chapters. However, Debs died before the book's completion, and it was published posthumously.

Learning of Deb's ill health, Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer prepared a clemency petition on Debs's behalf for a presidential pardon in order to free Debs from prison, feeling it would damage the administration if he died in custody. Upon being given the petition, President Wilson replied "Never!" and wrote 'Denied' across it.

On December 25, 1921, Republican President Warren G. Harding commuted Debs' sentence to time served.

Order copies of Debs' Canton speech from the SPUSA National Office. \$2 each (booklet form). Send check/money order to SPUSA 339 Lafayette St. #303 NY, NY 10012

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Get a BIG box of lit. from the N.O. For a contribution of \$25 to \$7550 we can send you a box of literature and magazines. Send your check or money order to: SPUSA 339 Lafayette St. #303 NY, NY 10012. Send us a note that your contribution is for literature.

Socialist Party Campaign Clearinghouse
www.vote-socialist.org

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c/o Socialist Party USA
339 Lafayette St. #303
New York, NY 10012