

General

Honorable Chair and Fellow Delegates,

Imagine, if you will, being asked to draft an insightful speech, pour your heart and intellect into it, only for it to be presented under my name, Eugene V. Debs. Unfair, isn't it? Yet, this is the stark reality in our society, where laborers toil tirelessly, only for the fruits of their labor to be credited to others. It is this glaring injustice that steers us towards the necessity of a socialist society.

My commitment began with the founding of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and later the American Railway Union, one of the largest of its time. These efforts were not just to improve worker conditions but to spark a broader movement for social and economic reform. Today, I propose a new chapter in this endeavor: the formation of the United Socialist Workers of America. This unified entity will combine the strengths of existing organizations to amplify the bargaining power of all workers, creating an even stronger force for change.

In line with this, we will establish a Living Wage Board, tasked with ensuring fair compensation that reflects the dignity of every worker's labor. This board will set standards for wages that enable a dignified life, beyond mere subsistence.

Additionally, we will nationalize key industries, redirecting wealth from the hands of a few to the many. This will ensure that the workers, the true backbone of our industry, are the primary beneficiaries of their labor. A People's Oversight Committee will also be established to combat corruption, ensuring our government acts for the people, by the people.

Through the United Socialist Workers of America and these transformative measures, we aim to build a society where every worker is valued and where justice, equality, and shared prosperity are realities for all.

Thank you, and I now yield my time to the chair.

Labor Relations

Honorable Chair and Fellow Delegates,

"Imagine a world where the orchestra plays tirelessly, yet only the conductor is applauded." This analogy mirrors the state of labor relations in our Gilded Age. Workers, the true orchestrators of our industry and economy, are often unseen and unheard in the grand symphony of progress. It's time to change the score and give recognition where it's due.

We must advocate for stronger union rights, enabling workers to negotiate collectively for fair wages and conditions. The introduction of a nationwide mandate for a living wage is essential, ensuring that no worker is left to toil for a pittance. Moreover, the establishment of federal labor protection laws will safeguard workers from exploitation and unsafe working conditions.

Let us orchestrate a movement where the laborer's rights are harmonized with the demands of progress, creating a symphony that plays to the tune of fairness and equity for all.

Thank you, and I now yield my time to the chair.

Economic Growth

Honorable Chair and Fellow Delegates,

Consider the steam engine: a symbol of progress, yet it is only as strong as the coal that fuels it. This represents our nation's economic growth during the Gilded Age. Impressive in its scale, yet dependent on the countless, often nameless workers who powered it. It's time we recalibrate our approach to economic growth, ensuring it benefits not just the few, but every citizen.

We must shift from an economy that idolizes unchecked industrial expansion to one that values sustainable growth and equitable wealth distribution. Initiatives like progressive taxation and support for small businesses and local enterprises are crucial. We'll champion policies that not only foster economic growth but also ensure that this growth translates into tangible improvements in the lives of all citizens, not just the industrial magnates.

Let us build an economy that resembles a well-tuned orchestra, where every instrument plays a vital role, and the harmony benefits all.

Thank you, and I now yield my time to the chair.

Government Corruption

Honorable Chair and Fellow Delegates,

Imagine a game where the rules are hidden and constantly changing - welcome to the politics of the Gilded Age. Our government, intended to be of the people, by the people, and for the people, has become a playground for the corrupt and powerful. It's time we cleanse and reclaim our political system.

We must institute rigorous anti-corruption measures, including transparency laws, strict campaign finance reforms, and a robust system of checks and balances. A merit-based civil service will replace the spoils system, ensuring that public servants are chosen for their abilities, not their connections. By doing so, we can restore faith in our government and ensure it truly serves the public interest.

Let's transform our government into a beacon of integrity and efficiency, reflective of the democratic ideals it was founded upon.

Thank you, and I now yield my time to the chair.