

BIOGRAPHICAL  
DICTIONARY  
OF THE  
AMERICAN  
LEFT

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EDITED BY  
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Now an extremely wealthy man, Wayland invested his money in a new publication he founded, the *Coming Nation*, which was an almost immediate success. Its circulation was in the thousands, and it earned a substantial profit for its sole owner—Julius Wayland. The socialism of the *Coming Nation* was a simplistic compound of quasi-Marxism and Populism. It blamed the nation's economic inequities on the bankers, stockbrokers, speculators, and foreign investors, especially the Rothschilds. It called for the socialization of all means of production and distribution as the solution for all economic problems. In mid-1894 Wayland and the staff of the *Coming Nation* formed a cooperative community in Tennessee called the Ruskin Colony. The community soon became a warring camp, and in July 1895 Wayland—who had financed the entire operation—withdrawed from Ruskin. He lost a considerable sum of money on the Ruskin Colony.

From Tennessee, Wayland moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where he started a new newspaper, *Appeal to Reason*, in 1895. *Appeal* met with considerable resistance from Socialists and anti-Socialists alike. To save money, he moved *Appeal* to a small Kansas city, Girard, where costs were considerably lower. He also inaugurated a competition for subscriptions and organized an army of subscription salespeople. By the end of 1900 the circulation of *Appeal* rose to more than 100,000. One issue during the first campaign of Eugene V. Debs (q.v.) for President in 1900 reached a circulation of almost one million.

The *Appeal* grew steadily thereafter, and Wayland became a major force in the growth of American socialism. Although he had abandoned the People's Party after it nominated William Jennings Bryan for President in 1896—he favored Debs, and voted for Charles H. Matchett and Matthew Maguire, the Socialist Labor candidates of that year—his philosophy was basically more Populist than Socialist. Moreover, his primary appeal was in the Prairie and Mountain States, where Populism had been most powerful. Nor was his support of the Socialist Labor Party candidates an endorsement of the party itself or of its leadership. In fact, Wayland and Daniel DeLeon (q.v.) had little but contempt for each other. From 1899 onward Wayland supported the Socialist Party, which he joined in 1901, but he refused to make *Appeal* a party organ.

Although Wayland favored labor unions, he had little use for the political policies of most labor leaders. He accused them of being political "scabs" for voting in favor of non-Socialist, "capitalist" candidates. He was especially critical of American Federation of Labor President Samuel Gompers for his policy of supporting "labor's friends and opposing its enemies" in the two old parties.

As Socialist and reform power grew in the United States, *Appeal* grew in strength. In 1902 Wayland turned the actual editorial control over to Fred D. Warren, a Socialist journalist from Schenectady, New York. By 1910 the circulation reached 500,000.

Shortly after the 1912 election, Wayland committed suicide for unknown reasons.

SOURCES: Howard H. Quint, "Julius A. Wayland, Pioneer Socialist Propagandist," *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, vol. XXXV (March 1949) Algie M. Simons, "J. A. Wayland, Propagandist," *Metropolitan Magazine* 32 (January 1913); Fred Warren Papers in Indiana University Library, Bloomington, Indiana.

BERNARD K. JOHNPOLL

**WEINER, WILLIAM (1893–1954).** Robert William Weiner, also known as William Weiner, was a top financial functionary of the American Communist Party for over twenty years. Born Welwel Warszower in Radanjenko, Russia, on September 5, 1893, Weiner arrived in Philadelphia as a 21-year-old immigrant on March 27, 1914, aboard the SS *Haverford*. In 1917, using the Weiner surname for the first time, he registered as a Russian alien to avoid the military draft. After working a series of jobs in Pittsburgh, Detroit, and Chicago and becoming a member of the Young People's Socialist League, Weiner moved to New York in the early 1920s, joined the American Communist Party, and became assistant labor editor of the Jewish daily newspaper, the *Freiheit*.

By 1927–1928 Weiner had become a Party section organizer in New York, and in late 1933 he was named the Party's financial secretary. During that decade he also served as president of the International Workers Order, as chairman of the Executive Committee of the Jewish People's Committee (initially the Jewish Committee Against Fascism and Anti-Semitism), and by 1938 was a vice-president of World Tourists, Inc., and a member of the Communist Party's National Committee.

Called before the Dies Committee investigating Communism in September 1939, Weiner acknowledged no use of other names and gave his birthdate and birthplace as September 5, 1896, in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Less than three months later, on December 4, Weiner was indicted on one count of passport fraud for having falsely asserted both U.S. citizenship and that Atlantic City birth so as to obtain an American passport in 1936. At his February 1940 trial, prosecutors documented Weiner's recurrent use of alternate identities—he had traveled to Europe as Warszower in 1932—and a sloppy attempt to forge Atlantic City birth records. Weiner's defense called no witnesses and contended that he had been confused about the circumstances of his birth until the early 1930s. Convicted, Weiner was handed the maximum two year sentence, only to succeed eventually in having it suspended due to a life-threatening heart ailment.

Although Weiner testified in 1939 that the Party received no foreign financial support, and although both his financial assignment and Party membership ostensibly ended after his 1940 conviction, he served continuously from 1933 until his death on February 20, 1954, as the Party's top financial operative, with special responsibility for handling both crucial contributions from domestic "angels" and annual subsidies secretly provided by the Soviet Union. Married, with one daughter, Weiner's expensive suits and wide-ranging travels belied his supposedly poorly paid Party posts and instead reflected the habits of a successful financier whose low-visibility skills—especially the productive investment of

Party funds in capitalist businesses run by sympathetic friends—provided the American Party with solid financial management throughout its two peak decades of life.

SOURCES: Claire Neikind, "U.S. Communism: Its Underground Plans and Its Secret Business Empire," *The Reporter* 4 (January 23, 1951); *Warszower v. United States*, 113 F.2d 100 (1940), 312 U.S. 342 (1941); Testimony of Robert William Weiner, in U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Special Committee on Un-American Activities, *Investigation of Un-American Propaganda Activities in the United States—Hearings*, Vol. 7, pp. 4747–4810.

DAVID J. GARROW

**WEINSTOCK, LOUIS (b.1903).** Louis Weinstock was an important leader of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators, and Paperhangers, and a prominent member of the Communist Party. He was born on May 14, 1903, in Satoraljauhely Hungary, the son of a Jewish painter and decorator. He came to the United States in 1924, just shy of his twenty-first birthday. Settling in New York, Weinstock worked as a painter by day and studied at night; he also joined the Communist Party. In 1926 he married, and in 1930 he became a naturalized U.S. citizen.

Weinstock belonged to the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers (an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor [AFL]), where his radical views sometimes led to trouble with the union hierarchy. During the Depression he directed the Communist Party's push for unemployment compensation, chairing the Trade Union Committee for Unemployment Insurance and Relief, which attempted to gather AFL support for a Communist-written measure. Weinstock served a lengthy term as secretary-treasurer of the New York District Council of Painters during the 1930s and 1940s, teaching in his free time at the Workers School. In 1947, however, he was defeated for reelection, and in 1950 he was expelled altogether from the union for "disruptive activities."

Weinstock visited Hungary in 1949, returning with information from a purge trial that led to the highly publicized expulsion from the Communist Party of John Lautner on unfounded suspicions that he was an American agent. Lautner's anger at his treatment did turn him into a government witness.

In 1951 Weinstock became one of the second wave of Smith Act victims. He was charged with conspiring to teach and advocate the overthrow of the government. He was convicted and jailed, while denaturalization proceedings were begun against him. After his release, the government called him before Congressional committees as an unfriendly witness.

As a native of Hungary, Weinstock was one of the Communist Party's experts on Eastern European affairs. During the Party crisis of 1956–1957 he stood firmly behind the Soviet Union's actions against Hungary and supported William Foster (q.v.) in the inner-party fight. Weinstock taught at Party-affiliated schools during the 1950s, but he retired to California. He has today turned his attention

toward the rights of elderly Americans, working with the National Council of Senior Citizens.

JUDY KUTULAS

**WEINSTONE, WILLIAM (1897–1985).** William Weinstone headed the Communist Party's New York district for nearly a decade, served on the Politburo, and challenged Earl Browder (q.v.) for Party leadership. He was born on December 15, 1897, in Vilna, Lithuania. His father, a Jew, was a carpenter. Weinstone joined the Socialist Party at age 16 and continued his political activities at the City College of New York, where he was first secretary and then president of the school's chapter of the Intercollegiate Socialist Society, succeeding Jay Lovestone (q.v.) in the latter post.

Weinstone was a charter member of the Communist movement in 1919 and almost immediately sprang into its upper echelons. During the underground period he used the pseudonym "Randolph." First elected to the Central Committee in 1921, he was briefly national secretary in 1921–1922, but he spent most of the decade as the Party's New York district organizer, interrupted by stints with the International Workers Aid and postings in Moscow. Aligned with the Charles Ruthenberg (q.v.) faction in the Communist Party, Weinstone nonetheless negotiated an agreement with the Cannon (q.v.)–Foster (q.v.) group, which supported him for general secretary after Ruthenberg's death in 1927. When this maneuver failed, Weinstone made his peace with Jay Lovestone, earning the derisive nickname "Wobbly" for his indecisiveness.

After the Comintern's ouster of Lovestone in 1929, Weinstone was once again a contender for Party leadership, serving on a four-man secretariat. Late in the year he became the Party's representative to the Comintern. When he returned to the United States late in 1931, he challenged Earl Browder for control of the Party, criticizing Communist tactics toward the Bonus Marchers. The Comintern supported Browder, and Weinstone returned to Moscow. Early in 1934 he was assigned to Detroit as district organizer, and he helped establish the Party's foothold in the United Auto Workers.

Weinstone's Party career derailed in 1938. Believing that his support for wildcat auto strikes endangered the Communists' alliance with John L. Lewis' Congress of Industrial Organizations, Browder criticized Weinstone's stewardship of the Michigan Party. On one trip to Moscow, Browder and William Foster debated the Weinstone issue before the Comintern. It supported Browder once again, and in mid-1938 Weinstone was quietly transferred into less prestigious and important Party educational work, where he spent most of the remainder of his life. He was convicted in a New York Smith Act trial in 1951 and sentenced to two years in prison. Weinstone remained active on the Party's Historical Commission into the early 1980s. He died in 1985.

SOURCES: Theodore Draper, *American Communism and Soviet Russia* (1960); Harvey Klehr, *The Heyday of American Communism* (1984).

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