
Letter to Adolph Germer in Chicago from Morris Hillquit at Saranac Lake, New York, August 9, 1919.

A document in the Morris Hillquit Papers, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison.
Microfilm edition, Reel 2, Document 897, Frames 792-793.

Mr. Adolph Germer
#4447 Irving Park Blvd.
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Adolph:—

Your snapshots in front of John Brown's grave are unusually successful, and Mrs. Hillquit has commissioned me to order a half a dozen reprints of the photograph representing your humble servant in front of the monumental rock.

I must confess I do not understand Stedman's objections to our plans of organizing the convention, and am inclined to believe that he does not clearly differentiate between the temporary organization and the permanent one, and the different methods by which the two must be accomplished. A Credential Committee will of course have to be elected, but elected by whom? Not by the persons who happen to present themselves with alleged credentials, for such persons are not delegates until they have been seated preliminarily or permanently. It is quite likely that at our emergency convention double delegations will appear from several states or localities, each contesting the credentials of the rival delegations. Shall they all be permitted to take a part in the election of the Credentials Committee? And if not, who

shall say which of them are entitled to vote on the Credentials Committee and who are not?

It was with this situation in view that our constitution provides for a temporary organization of the convention, consisting of delegates whose credentials are uncontested, and vesting the duty of making out the list of uncontested delegates in the Executive Secretary. Of course the list of the Executive Secretary is only tentative, and serves the sole purpose of creating a working, temporary organization. The delegates composing the temporary organization, upon the report of the Credentials Committee elected by them, have the power to unseat delegates admitted by the Executive Secretary, and to admit delegates not included in his list, but the first organization can only be constituted in the manner provided by the constitution.

I have not been able to do much work of late, but expect to take up the drafting of a tentative platform within a week or so.

With best wishes,

Faithfully yours,

[Morris Hillquit]

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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