
Letter to George P. Garrison in Chadron, Nebraska from Eugene V. Debs in Terre Haute, Indiana, Aug. 6, 1896

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Omaha, Aug. 16 [1896].— A special to the [Omaha *Daily*] *Bee* says Eugene V. Debs has written, under date of August 6, a letter to George P. Garrison, of Chadron, Neb., setting forth his views on silver and fusion between Democrats and Populists. Mr. Debs states his attitude clearly. He says, referring to the fusion and the present condition of the national tickets:

Without the support of the Populists, the Democratic Party could not win. The Populists, animated by patriotism, accorded first honors to the Democratic nominee and the Democrats if they are animated by similar motives will now accord the Populists second place by placing Mr. Watson on the ticket with Mr. Bryan.

Mr. Sewall can well afford to step aside to effect this union of the two great forces and insured the election of the people's candidates. Such action on the part of Mr. Sewall would make him a far greater man than Vice-President. Failing to accord the People's Party such recognition by giving them a place on the national ticket there will be dissatisfaction which may culminate in open revolt, especially in the Southern states, where Populists have suffered all sorts of indignities at the hands of the bourbon Democracy. And this may cost Mr. Bryan his election and put McKinley and gold-bugism in power.

For the mere offices, we care nothing, for we scorn spoils in any form. But for the principle involved we care and have a right to care much. There is a vast difference between Mr. Bryan and

the Democratic Party. If the later's only ambition is to swallow the People's Party, so as to place them in power and get possession of the offices, their design will and should be thwarted. I would rather see McKinley elected than have another Democratic administration.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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