

Telegram Accepting the 1912 Nomination for President of the United States (May 18, 1912)

James W. Reilly, secretary
Socialist Party in national convention assembled,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Greetings:—

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of notification and to advise you and through you the delegates of the Socialist Party in national convention assembled, that I accept the nomination for president of the United States tendered to me with the deepest sense of the confidence it implies and the responsibility it imposes.¹ Having sought in every way that seemed proper to have the nomination tendered to some other comrade, of whom there are so many well qualified, I feel all the greater my obligation to yield obedience to the collective will of my comrades in convention assembled and to serve the party to the full extent of my power.

Allow me to congratulate the convention heartily upon the efficient manner in which the delegates performed their arduous labors and the splendid success of their deliberations. Also upon the unity, harmony, and enthusiasm which the convention has inspired in the party at large.

The convention this year marks a new and brilliant era in the working class movement. All things are combining to make this our year. It is written in our stars that socialism is to be the only issue in the coming campaign. Let us all unite and strive will all our energies to make this campaign forever memorable in the annals of the international movement.

With hearty greetings to the convention and deepest thanks to each and every delegate, and with sincere congratulations upon the nomination of Comrade Seidel for vice president, I remain, most faithfully,

Your comrade and fellow-worker,

Eugene V. Debs.

Published as “Debs’ Acceptance” in *Appeal to Reason*, whole no. 860 (May 25, 1912), p. 1.

¹ Throughout his life Debs was a very sporadic participant at party conventions. He missed the 1912 gathering in Indianapolis entirely. Debs was in Girard, Kansas at the time, working at the *Appeal to Reason*, although there does not seem to have been any urgent need for him there, nor any physical or scheduling reason for him not to have attended. James Reilly’s notification cable, sent at the direction of the convention on the afternoon of the gathering’s penultimate day, was originally dispatched to Debs in Terre Haute before being forwarded to Girard, indicating that party officials were themselves unaware of Debs’s precise location. This telegram of acceptance does not appear in the stenographic minutes of the Indianapolis convention and was likely received after the assembly adjourned *sine die* on the afternoon of May 18.