

Fred:  
I rewrite this.

Murk



## "Napolens at Waterloo"

The following people were present at a meeting on June 28, 1952 at the Hotel President called by Oliver Lee, Secretary. Mr. and Mrs. Harold King, Mr. and Mrs. Anton Green, Mr. Dwight Anderson, Ivo Hunt, Leo Paulson, Martin Roisen, Chris Sorenson, Ross Stevenson, Clyde Bonnett, Paul Schwitters, Leonard Hoffman, Bob Hoffman, Oliver Lee, Rex Austin, Vernon Paulson (we think) and one other person.

The following card was recently sent out: "Iowa Farmer's Union folks will meet at the Hotel President Waterloo Iowa. Sat. June 28 afternoon. Open meeting Oliver Lee, Lawler, Iowa"

All of the previous meetings held by this group have been secret. Consequently, as soon as some of the Farmers Union members received a card saying this was an "open meeting", several decided to go.

At the meeting in the Hotel President Oliver Lee who sent out the cards walked to the front of the room and said that he was Secretary of the Group and that Leo Paulson was Chairman. He announced that due to the fact that Leo Paulson had not been to the last meeting a temporary chairman was chosen but that Leo Paulson had been elected to act as chairman until "there was a change in the Iowa Farmers Union". Leo Paulson took charge of the meeting and asked that minutes of the last meeting be read whereupon Ivo Hunt interrupted to make a motion to the effect that there were representatives of the State Farmers Union office who were present and that they should state their case and be asked to leave the meeting.

*The motion carried without a dissenting vote*  
After considerable silence Merle Hansen arose and said that the only one there that could be considered as a representative of the State Office was evidently himself as he was employed by the State organization. Hansen said he did not come to the meeting to state any case and read the above card which said that this was an "open meeting!" He said "this is your meeting, you sent out cards that it was an "open meeting", now you vote that it is not an open meeting. Make up your mind, I just came here to listen."



Mr. Hunt then compared their action of voting to exclude certain members of the Farmers Union to the 1950 convention when the Iowa Farmers Union voted to go into executive session and exclude the press. (which, by the way had been done before in Iowa Farmers Union conventions)

The Iowa Union Farmer is shocked that such a comparison could be considered by anyone, particularly Ivo Hunt. Mr. Hunt at a meeting in Fairfield on June 15, 1952 when asked what he thought ought to be compromised about the Iowa Farmers Union program gave a long explanation of how liberal he was. That a neighbor had said to him "Ivo, you are so damned broad minded that you don't stand for anything". Then Mr. Hunt went on to explain that there was one thing he would not compromise on and that was democracy. Mr. Hunt said "I don't favor 100% of parity", that "fixed parity is worse than flexible" and that "taxpayers would not stand for keeping little farmers on farms. They could sell out to neighbors and ~~not~~ go to town and get jobs making television sets". However, at the Fairfield meeting Mr. Hunt said he would not compromise with democracy. But the Iowa Union Farmer is afraid that Ivo Hunt is not the first person in the world who evolved the "compromise" theory. Judas started the ball rolling 2000 years ago and as J. P. Hansen said at the 1950 convention "The pages of history are literally strewn with the great and near great who have sold their ~~souls~~ souls for thirty pieces of tarnished silver". Last week Mr. Hunt was going to forget about parity and let the little farmers go but stand firm for "democracy". This week the "compromise theory" brought him around to also scuttling "democracy". Now the theory might not be bad but just where, Mr. Hunt, do you start and stop compromising. It is one thing for ~~the~~ an organization such as the Iowa Farmers Union to exclude the press. Many organization do that at their conventions. The Iowa Farmers Union has on more than one occasion. But it is an entirely different thing for NON-MEMBERS OF THE FARMERS UNION to call a meeting in the name of the Farmers Union and vote to exclude Farmers Union members from the meeting.



~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Especially, when it involves members of 30 years standing. This, of course, might be excuseable from a new member with little experience but when the motion comes from a member of the State Board who considers himself an authority on the constitution and by-laws and occupies most of the time in board meetings explaining <sup>in</sup> to other members of the board the proper interpretation of almost every issue--then THAT is another thing.

Mr. Hunt also explained that one of the reasons ~~was~~ that he wanted the meeting to exclude certain members is because Fred Stover did not believe in compromise and neither did Merle Hansen, according to Mr. King of Henry County. Mr. Hunt explained that compromise was the essence of democracy.

Lee Harthan, Vice President of the Iowa Farmers Union then took the floor and said "one thing I believe in very strongly is that we cannot compromise the basic principles of the Farmers Union. One of the most fundamental principles of the Farmers Union as long as I can remember is democracy in the organization. By passing this motion to exclude certain members you most certainly have compromised one of the most basic principles of the Farmers Union." Then MR. ~~THE~~ HARTHAN WALKED OUT OF THE MEETING.

Charlie Shearn of Morrison, Iowa then asked for the floor. Oliver Lee and Ross Stenenson (not members of the Farmers Union) thought Mr. Shearn was going to say something in their behalf and was greeted warmly and urged to go to the front of the room which Mr. Shearn did.

Mr. Shearn related the early history of the Farmers Union and how there were many differences of opinion and talked of the "Milo Reno" days. He also told of how the insurance had wrecked the Iowa Farmers Union. This was greeted warmly by everyone. However, as Mr. Shearn proceeded to tell about his experiences at the Dallas convention of the National Farmers Union and his disapproval of Jim Pattons lack of a peace program and weakness of parity, ~~the applause~~ the applause ~~was~~ came from only three in the room instead of everyone as at first. Mr. Shearn compared the National Insurance to the state insurance program of a few years back



when the paternal was completely controlled by the insurance company.

This was apparently just an "open meeting" for "closed minds" for as soon as the group found out that Mr. Shearn did not share their prejudices he was not welcome.

After a time Leo Paulson, the Chairman, arose and said he was getting mighty tired of this bickering and that as chairman he was going to ask that the intent of the motion early made by Ivo Hunt be carried out and that the four in the back of the room be asked to leave--meaning Charlie Shearn, Mr. Albert Untiedt, Mrs. Edna Untiedt and Merle Hansen.

It should be pointed out that two of the main participants in the meeting, Ross Stevenson and Oliver Lee (who is acting as secretary) are NOT even members of the Iowa Farmers Union. There were others who were not members also.

NOTE: I am sending this to Lee, Charlie, Mr. and Mrs. Untiedt, Betty (to check on who are members). I want each one of you to go over it very carefully and correct anything which is not accurate and true. (don't be afraid of hurting my feelings). Also add anything that you want to it and mail it back to me. We don't know yet just what we will do with it. Perhaps we will put in the IUF or maybe make a sepcial pamphlet out of it. It is a little roughk for the IUF, I suppose. Please do go over it carefully and return it to me at the office.

Fraternally,

Merle