EUGENE DEBS – BEGINNINGS

- Joined Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen in 1875
- Local city clerk from 1879 to 1883
- Served two terms in the Indiana General Assembly starting from 1885
ARU AND THE PULLMAN STRIKE

- Debs formed the American Railway Union in 1892
- He was a leading figure in the 1894 Pullman Strike
- Imprisoned for his role in it
- Became a Socialist through his readings in jail.
SOCIALIST LEADER

- Debs ran for president in every election from 1900 to 1912
  - Improved on his vote total every time in those elections
  - The party grew impressively despite tensions within it and outside obstacles
PRISON AND THE 1920 CAMPAIGN

- On June 16, 1918 Debs gave a famous speech denouncing the government’s treatment of opponents of America’s involvement in WWI.
- Was then charged with, found guilty of violating the Espionage Act, sentenced to 10 years.
- Was nominated for president by his party in 1920.
- He came close to his 1912 high of total votes taken despite being in prison during campaign.
- But party fell apart due to internal struggles and 1st Red Scare.
- President Harding had Debs released from prison in late 1921.
LEGACY

-Socialists were the first political party demanding women’s suffrage, child labor laws, an old-age pension, all things Americans take for granted today.
-Socialists deserve recognition for these things
SOURCES OF PICTURES

http://debsfoundation.org/Site/Photo_Gallery_of_the_Eugene_V._Debs_Foundation.html#5
http://debsfoundation.org/Site/Photo_Gallery_of_the_Eugene_V._Debs_Foundation.html#28
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