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EDITORIAL

“IT WILL SPLIT OUR PARTY!”

By DANIEL DE LEON

WHEN the element, that the revolutionary Trades Union traditions of Eugene V. Debs drew into the Socialist or Social Democratic party, press their party officers and the editors of their privately-owned papers with questions regarding the Industrial Workers of the World, the officers and editors thus pressed finally turn at bay. At first, they seek to dodge the charges made against the A.F. of L.; then they try to escape the conclusion that they act as palliators for A.F. of L. crime; then they try to befog the issue with misquotations from Marx; finally, when driven out of each of these successive ditches, they come into the open with the cry: “It will split our party!”

What does the confession mean that an organization of Labor grounded on the class struggle will split the Social Democratic party?

What does the confession mean that an organization of Labor, which makes war upon the Labor-Lieutenants of the Capitalist Class, will split the Social Democratic party?

What does the confession mean that an organization of Labor, which will prevent one Union from scabbing it upon another during the conflicts between employer and employees, will split the Social Democratic party?

What does the confession mean that an organization of Labor, which will emancipate the Working Class from the mental thralldom of the Civic Federation “labor editors”, will split the Social Democratic party?

What, in short, does that confession mean but that all the charges brought against the A.F. of L. are too true to be successfully denied, and that the Social Democratic party is the political reflex of and nothing but a political graft upon the said A.F. of L. scab-herding concern?

A brilliant passage in Marx’ *Eighteenth Brumaire* tells how the feudal lords of

England imagined that the subject of their enthusiasm was the British Crown and the Church of England, until the hour of their trial wrung from them the admission that what they really enthused for was GROUND RENT. The officers and editors of the privately-owned press of the so-called Socialist or Social Democratic party may have deceived themselves into the belief that their enthusiasm was for Socialism; the hour of their trial is now wringing from them the admission that what they really enthused for is the FLESH-POTS OF THE A.F. OF HELL.

The hare has been run from cover. The honest hunters of the rank and file of the Social Democratic party should now have no difficulty in taking aim at and bringing the game down.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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slpns@slp.org