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EDITORIAL

## “PUT A BEGGAR ON HORSEBACK,” ETC.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**O**NCE more, with apologies to the members of the Socialist party's Officialdom when on the war-path after one another's scalps—“this is not head-hunting.”

This is a circus in three acts.

Act I.—

Until a few months ago, under National Secretarial superintendence of Mr. J. Mahlon Barnes, the headquarters of the S.P.'s Officialdom was turned into a brothel, accentuated by the peculiar kind of graft which consists in borrowing money from confiding members, and meeting the demand for payment with the charge that the money was repaid, and that the claimant was an extortionist who wanted a second payment. When, due to these and many other and similar misdemeanors, the cry for an investigation went up from the S.P. rank-and-file, the S.P. Officialdom, Mr. Morris Hillquit leading, objected on the ground that it is none of the party's business “to act as inquisitor,” and to look into the “private affairs” of its members.

Act II.—

Subsequently, Mr. George Shoaf of the *Appeal to Reason* being exposed as a many-sided fraud and unclean customer, and Mr. Piet Vlag, of “co-operative celebrity being denounced of seriously improper dealings with Mr. Fred Warren in the Shoaf affair, the identical S.P. Officialdom, with the identical Mr. Morris Hillquit leading, who had resisted the investigation of a national officer in charge of the national headquarters, now moved to have Messrs. Warren, Vlag and Unterman—none of them a party officer, surely no national officers—summoned before the high tribunal of the aforementioned Officialdom for investigation.

Act III.—

Still more recently, the Charles H. Kerr & Co., an S.P. publishing concern, pri-

vately owned like the rest of them, having opened the columns of its monthly magazine to those of its party who did not see Socialism "in the lamps" of pure and simple politicianism, Mr. Robert Hunter of the aforementioned Officialdom, and himself a private issuer of publications for private profit, moved that the Charles H. Kerr & Co. be investigated by the National Committee.

S.P. Officialdom does not hate tyranny, it envies tyranny, and is anxious only to emulate the same. Put a beggar on horseback and he will ride the animal to death. Put the mental beggars of the S.P. Officialdom on the back of anything, and "give them rope," and they will assuredly make the proverbial exhibition of themselves.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
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