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EDITORIAL

LOCAL YUMA.

By DANIEL DE LEON

LOCAL Yuma, Ariz., of the Socialist party published the other day in its party's national *Official Bulletin* the following:

“We the members of Local Yuma of the Socialist party of Arizona move to recall Comrade William D. Haywood as a member of the National Executive Committee on account of his advocacy of Direct Action and sabotage, as outlined in his Cooper Union speech and other speeches, the same being contrary to the principles of the International Socialist Movement.

“Comment: Sabotage or any other artifice of Direct Action would involve secrecy, stealth, and the committing of violent and unlawful acts by individuals or secret rings, would be an invitation for spies and agents provocateurs to flock to the Socialist party. Everything the Socialist party does must be done openly. Nothing can be gained by violence. Capitalist law is unjust, but to disregard it will bring punishment to the individual, and ruin to the organization which does so. Truth and education are principles of Socialism. Stealth and force lead to Anarchy.”

At first blush, the move of Local Yuma is unimpeachable. Socialism and Anarchy do not belong in the same boat. When the fullness of the facts in the case are considered, the move is not quite as immaculate as it looks.

That an Anarchist should wriggle himself into the National Executive Committee of a party that not only flies Socialist colors, but that expressly preaches, as does the S.P., the doctrine that the ballot is all-sufficient for the overthrow of capitalist society,—such a thing will surprise no one who is at all posted on the ways of the Anarchist. Anarchists do not always wait for the bricks of their crazy structure to fall over their ears before they seek shelter behind the skirts of Socialism. Anarchists have been seen active as Democrats and Republicans in politics. In France, only recently, an Anarchist has been seen in a bourgeois cabinet. It is the feature of Anarchists to be anarchist. Nothing strange that Haywood, as rampant an Anar-

chist as ever leaped from the jungle of capitalist conditions, should have managed to land himself into a pure and simple political Socialist N.E.C.

On the other hand, however natural it be for Socialists to refuse bed-fellowship with an Anarchist, it is not legitimate for a pure and simple politician party of Socialism to object to the Anarchist bed-fellow.

The overthrow of capitalist society implies the overthrow of the capitalist system of Political government. The Political system of government can be overthrown only by its legitimate child—the Industrial system of government. The Industrial system of government pre-supposes the integrally organized useful occupations of the land, that is, Unionism upon a broad basis. Accordingly, the overthrow of capitalism is predicated upon the duplex organization of the working class—one organization, the political party, in which and through which the proletariat preaches the Revolution in the open, in legal manner, and thereby organizes the constituencies of the future or Industrial government; and the other, the organization of the same workers, which, put together by them under the shield and protection of their own political party, is ready to assume the reins of government by assuming the administration of production; is, accordingly, ready to furnish the physical force that may be needed to achieve the Revolution.

It follows that a political party which is so dominated by the spirit of the bourgeois that Unionism repels it, hence, that neglects the organization of the revolutionary Union, can not choose but to invite disaster upon the proletariat. At the critical moment, the proletariat being unorganized, they will be driven to the wild deeds of Anarchy—driven in self defence, however futile the defence. Thus pure and simple political Socialism would at the end of the song recognize its affinity with Anarchy.

Local Yuma, S.P., surely means well. But to mean well only may do as much mischief in the end as to mean ill.

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