

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 6, NO. 151.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1905.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## CUMULATIVE EVIDENCE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE A.F. of L. Convention has done its duty: It has furnished evidence to expose its capitalist-agency soul. In the address on *The Preamble of the Industrial Workers of the World* this passage occurs:

“Who of you has not witnessed the sight of a labor-leader jumping up at a craft Union meeting, as if a torpedo had exploded under his seat, every time the economics or sociology of Labor was expounded? The sight is common. Whatever the subject that presents itself to a Union, it cannot choose but be handled from one of two view-points—either from the view-point of capitalism, or from the view-point of Labor, that is, Socialist economics. Impassive, complacently smiling, perhaps even blissfully snoring, the labor-fakir will sit in his seat, so long as the discussion is carried on along capitalist lines. But let the first word be uttered that has the ring of Socialist, that is, Labor economics, and you will notice a sudden transformation. Like a faithful watch-dog of capitalism, the fakir will snarl, jump up and bark. I have more than once tested the thing at the meetings of craft Unions with which I happened to be connected. I would join a discussion that was in progress, peacefully in progress, the fakir looking on unconcernedly—discussions on immigration, discussions on boycotts, discussions on wages, discussions on tenements, discussions on the liquor traffic, etc., etc. I would carefully avoid the word ‘politics’; deliberately would I avoid it. Neither the word ‘politics,’ let alone the name ‘Socialist Labor Party,’ would drop from my lips. They were as words tabooed, and alien to me while I spoke. But lo, no sooner did I deploy my argument so as to bring out the Labor, which is the Socialist, view-point of the subject, than up would jump the watch-dog of capitalism with the protest: ‘No politics in the Union!’”

The Pittsburg convention of the A.F. of L. contributed cumulative evidence to the above indictment. Every imaginable subject had been debated—always, of course, from the capitalist view-point, and the debate was allowed to proceed uninterrupted. But lo, on the eleventh day an innocent delegate from Scranton

began to discuss a resolution that was before the house. Others had spoken, and, so long as the discussion presented nothing but capitalist views, things ran on smoothly. When, however, the Scranton man took the floor with the Socialist side of the question, he was promptly “knocked down” by the chairman, who claimed his “time was up.” As if this were not enough cumulative evidence, and as if the convention realized that its real mission would not be fulfilled were it to adjourn without furnishing one more nail to its own coffin, by furnishing fresh proof of the above passage from the address on *The Preamble of the I.W.W.*, Delegate Mahon of the street car men promptly rose to the “point of order” that the subject was “political in its character” and therefore “out of order,” whereupon the chair ruled the point of order well taken, and the subject was squelched.

Unionism is the nursery of class-conscious Labor. The organization that turns itself into a clinic to inoculate the workingman with capitalist virus is an out-post not of Labor but of Capitalism.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded January 2009

[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)