

EDITORIAL

BORE FROM WITHOUT!

By DANIEL DE LEON

THIS year's convention of the A.F. of L. having come, and also passed into history, the question now comes, Is there any one lesson that the convention's transactions jointly combine to impart—any one principle that the transactions jointly combine to illumine—any one slogan that the transactions jointly combine to urge?

Yes. The lesson that, jointly, is taught; the principle that, jointly, is illumined; the slogan that, jointly, is urged, is:—

“Bore from without—with might and main, bore from without!”

There was not one debate that took place, except upon matters wholly routinal, but betrayed its being conducted by men who felt they had upon them the unbreakable eye of the Socialist Labor Party; and who felt driven by the flaming sword wherewith the S.L.P. has, undeterred, chastised, and continues to chastise Indolence, arrogant Ignorance, and Treason to the Working Class.

True, the debates were farcical. True, the net results, as far as action was concerned, were nil. Nevertheless, the fact of the convention's feeling compelled to take up and handle subjects that were one time superciliously pooh-poohed—that fact is a homage to the power of “Boring from Without”; and the homage is rendered all the more signal by the padding that several Socialist party papers, conspicuously the *Call* of this city, found it necessary to submit speeches and resolutions to. By reporting speeches with thrilling passages that were not delivered; by reporting staunch resolutions that were not presented; by thus resorting to falsification in order to give a color to the effectiveness of “boring from within,” the homage actually rendered inside the convention to “Boring from Without” was underscored outside.

Bore from without! It is the modern expression of a time-honored practice. While boring from within is useful and necessary, it ever has been, not the cause of

internal transformation, but the accompaniment of the lash, that, wielded by arms that are free, cracks from without. It is to the tune of such cracks that the revolutionary dancing within has ever been started, and has ever been kept up until the hour when, in the ripeness of Time, the walls of the Jerichos have crumbled and tumbled to make a passage for the Conqueror Progress.

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