

EDITORIAL

MARX AND ENGELS “HOLY GHOSTERS.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

“**I**S Socialism Inconsistent with Christianity?” being the subject of a debate that took place at the Mohawk Theater in Schenectady on last May 15 between the Hon. Bird S. Coler, for the affirmative, and the Rev. George R. Lunn, Socialist party Mayor of Schenectady, for the negative, Mr. Coler quoted a large number of passages from Socialist sources in support of his side. Among the Socialist writers quoted by Mr. Coler, and quoted by name, were Marx and Engels.

When, reading the report of the debate, which the Schenectady *Union Star* of May 16th gives in full, one reaches the passages in which Mr. Coler cites Marx and Engels, one concludes that the gentleman has put his head “in chancery,” and one looks forward with delighted anticipation to the round of the Socialist party’s Mayor. One imagines he sees the S.P. Mayor take up the Marx-and-Engels passages; show their context; review the history of Churchianity; and pound the head, that had so incautiously placed itself at his mercy, with fact after fact, ancient and modern, that demolish the false pretense of Churchianity, that is, Politics in ambush behind Religion, to claim sanctity for itself.

Unhappy reader, especially if he be a Socialist! His expectations are destined to be dashed—cruelly so.

The S.P. Mayor first stated, generally and correctly enough, that {“} it is eminently unjust to judge an entire movement by individual cases or by single groups,” and he then cited Christianity as an illustration of what he meant, saying:

“To illustrate it [Christianity] would be manifestly unfair for me to use the pronouncements of the ‘Holy Ghost & Us Society’ or the teachings of the ‘Pentecostal Dancers.’”

This passage was used to cover up all the authorities that Mr. Coler had cited—Marx and Engels included.

The S.P. Mayor let Mr. Coler's head slip. And, in order himself to slip away from an argument that he was unequal to, he had to place the standing of Marx and Engels in the Socialist Movement at a par with the standing of the Holy Ghosters and Pentecostal Dancers in Christianity.

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