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DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {182}

By DANIEL DE LEON

UNCLE SAM—From what you say about the old parties, I judge that you did not vote for either.

BROTHER JONATHAN—Neither I did.

U.S.—Then you voted for the Socialist Labor party.

B.J. (testily)—No, sir.

U.S.—Why not?

B.J.—Because I have no guarantee that they would not sell me out, just as the Republicans and Democrats have done regularly.

U.S.—You haven't?

B.J.—No. Have you any guarantee that, if elected, the Socialists will not be bribed as the Republicans and Democrats are, and sell us out?

U.S.—Oh, I see.

B.J.—You agree with me?

U.S.—No. I don't know of any Republican or Democratic politician who was ever bribed—

B.J.—What, you don't?

U.S.—No, I don't know of a single Democratic or Republican politician who was ever bribed, and thereupon sold out to the working class.

B.J.—To the working class?

U.S.—Yes. Only such selling out as is in favor of the working class is worth considering.



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

B.J.—I don't know either of any of them who has ever sold out to the working class.

U.S.—And that is the only point to consider. They may be bribed among themselves and may sell out to one another, but they never sell out to the working class. They are unbribable in that respect.

B.J.—Guess that's so.

U.S.—Consequently, for the same reason that they don't, the Socialists won't. The Democrats and Republicans represent the capitalist class, and never sell out that class; the Socialists represent the working class, and they won't sell out that class. That is my guarantee. Do you want any better?

B.J.—No. But is that all?

U.S.—I have another guarantee. By the constitution of the Socialist Labor party, no candidate can run for office unless he places his resignation into the hands of his organization. The moment his conduct is not approved he can be yanked out of office. Do you want more guarantee than that?

B.J.—No. That's complete.

U.S.—With the old parties, once elected, the official is boss. With us he remains our servant.

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

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