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EDITORIAL

NAME THOSE GOVERNORS!

By DANIEL DE LEON

IF Gov. McDonald of Colorado spoke truthfully when he said: “The Governors of the various States, at a convention held several years ago, adopted rules which are much more stringent than the United States laws” upon extradition, then he has made a disclosure of first magnitude, and the people of this country are entitled to know the names of each and everyone of these Governors, accurately and specifically.

The Constitution of the United States provides expressly for a Legislature, for the manner of its election, for the qualification of its members, for the subjects upon which it may, for the subjects upon which it may not legislate, and for the manner of legislation. The Constitution has named the legislature Congress, it has provided that Congress shall consist of two Houses—Senate and House of Representatives—and it gives minute directions for the manner of their convening and adjourning. The Constitution also specifies that the signature of the Executive shall be requisite for a bill of Congress to become a law, it specifies the procedure for raising a bill to the force of a law over the Executive’s veto, and it also specifies other circumstances under which a bill may become a law without the Executive’s approval. Such, in short, are the Constitutional provisions, and obedient to them the laws have been enacted governing the extradition of persons from one State to another. The Constitution does not recognize any other national legislature, nor does it allow room for any source of legislation other than Congress.

If Governor McDonald of Colorado spoke truthfully, then what he did, together with “the Governors of the various States”, who met at a “convention” and there “adopted rules which are more stringent than the United States laws”, was to organize a legislature for which the Constitution of the United States allows no room. The adoption of “more stringent rules” than the laws of the United States

means the enactment of new laws. Such laws are in violation and subversive of the Constitution; such legislative assumption spells TREASON.

The Governor of Colorado says that his State, that means he, “is particular that these rules [enacted in defiance of the Constitution] be followed in all their details”, and he adds that “most of the Governors follow the same rules”. This additional statement amounts to an amplification of the treason implied in the extrajudicial legislature that these Governors have called together; it amounts to a declaration that, besides usurping the powers of Congress, these Governors have also usurped the powers of the President in the matter of signing bills.

Apart from the curious circumstance that the disclosure is here made of a super-Congress, consisting of super-Presidents, a sort of in-breeding arrangement by which “enactors of law” are simultaneously “executives”—apart from this truly singular circumstance, Gov. McDonald’s disclosure is grave enough to justify the demand, imperative and absolute, for the names, in full, of all the Governors, who participated in the said convention where the laws of the United States were amended, and who are executing those laws.

Name the traitors to the Federal Government!

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

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