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EDITORIAL

## FANATICISM!

By DANIEL DE LEON

**A** NEW cry is springing upon the breezes raised by the Labor Movement—“Fanaticism!”

Does a politician, sailing under the colors of Socialism, dicker and deal with capitalist politicians, whom he denounces on the stump as the political agents of the labor-skinning capitalists, and does the Socialist Labor Party thereupon ask, What is the difference between you and the capitalist political opponent of the politician with whom you dicker and deal?—“Fanaticism!” is the answer howled back.

Does a “labor paper” go divvy with a Union officer who embezzles Union funds, and does the S.L.P. denounce the act as criminal?—“Fanaticism!” is the all-sufficient answer given.

Does a labor paper take lying advertisements from capitalist concerns, and in return for such kindness hush up the malfeasances of such concern, and does the S.L.P. point the finger of scorn at such a practice?—“Fanaticism!” is answered as a settler.

Does a presumed Socialist declare that the middle class must emancipate the proletariat, and does the S.L.P. refute the declaration with historic facts and cogent reasoning?—“Fanaticism!” is the argumentative answer.

Does a would-be President of a revolutionary economic organization proclaim that industrialism is a beautiful idea but 1,000 years ahead of the times, and does the S.L.P. ask the gentleman, If you think so how can you remain the head of an organization that you do not believe in?—“Fanaticism!” is the brilliant response.

Does a pretended Marxist advance the theory that one should not bother with the Unions, the Unions are played out and are playing out more and more, the only thing to do is to vote the Socialist party ticket, capture the political government and

legislate the Revolution into being, and does the S.L.P. quote Marx twice—once to the effect that only the economic organization can give birth to the true party of Labor, and then to the effect that the Revolution can not be the result of legislative decree, and does the S.L.P. say to the alleged Marxist, you err, Sir; you err?—“Fanaticism!” is the thundering rejoinder.

Does the S.L.P. insist that the proper policy for a Socialist paper to pursue is to teach Socialism, and not to seek to tickle people under the fifth rib?—“Fanaticism!” comes back from the camp of journalistic speculators and would-be speculators on the Labor Movement.

And so forth and so on.

More strength to the Fanatics! Let the stream of Fanaticism broaden and deepen! The country will soon need them and it.

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

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