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EDITORIAL

## OPEN LETTER TO “HEALTH HOME.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

**G**ENTLEMEN:

In declining the assistance which you request for what it pleases you to call the “Children’s Aid Society,” we desire to sum up our reasons, and also our objections to your organization:

You say this is to be “the 55th season” of your organization, and that you start with “enlarged facilities for the summer charity work.” You started in to soothe an evil, you have been 55 seasons at work, you have now enlarged facilities and yet the evil has grown faster by far than your facilities to soothe it. It may not matter how small the facilities be to meet an evil at the start, provided that, from season to season, the facilities gain upon the evil. If, however, despite increased facilities, the evil grows ever greater, then it must follow that the facilities can not cope with the evil. Such facilities thereby prove themselves cast in a wrong mold. To contribute to such “facilities” is, to say the least, throwing money away.

Your figures, supplemented by those of the Census on the matter, prove that pauperism among parents, thereby yielding an ever larger crop of pauper children, is on the increase in the land. A ship that leaks may be kept afloat by bailing. If, however, the water that pours in pours in in volumes larger than the water that is bailed out, then it is not only insanity, it may be criminal, despite “improved bailing facilities,” to stick to the bailing process. Good sense would dictate dropping the bailing, quit “improving” incompetent “facilities,” and take to the lifeboats. Such a ship is hopelessly doomed. That is the state of things with your charity “bailing” and with the ship—Capitalist Society—which the bailing is intended to keep afloat.

There is even worse than that. The case of the “Charities” has become so widely understood, it is so extensively seen through, that the saying has become common: “Charities are for the officers who run them.” Another saying is: “Charities are

intended to furnish broiled chickens to the officers and mush to the children of paupers." Other sayings could be cited. The above two will do. Ninety per cent. of the "increased facilities" go to lining the stomachs of the officials. Quite possible these officials realize the hopelessness of the task of attempting to sweep the advancing waves of pauperism from the backyard of Capitalist Society with the broom of Mrs. Malaprop, and that, enlightened upon that subject, they have concluded it is best to appropriate the facilities to themselves.

The Socialist Labor Party cares neither to spend bootless efforts in bailing a sinking ship, nor to promote the hypocrisy of capitalist "charity." All the funds, all the time, all the efforts the Party can command are bestowed upon sinking the water logged ship of Capitalism soon as possibly. That is the only way to stop the crop of pauper children and "little mothers" "overburdened with the care of their kin." "Charity" will then be superfluous. The social system that needs "Charity" is beyond the reach of charity.

—ED. THE PEOPLE.

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