

EDITORIAL

IS HILLQUIT A REPUBLICAN DECOY?

By DANIEL DE LEON

EVEN the private business letters of the Archbolds with the Forakers, Aldridges and Silbeys come to light—eventually, if not sooner. In politics it is impossible to keep deals secret. They crop up and out. Can not help it. Facts are cropping out that point to but one conclusion—the decoy duckship of Mr. Morris Hillquit in the Ninth Congressional District in the interest of the Republican party.

Already *The People* quoted and even reproduced in full the “puff” given to Mr. Hillquit’s candidature by the *Evening Post* on October 1, followed by a still more remarkable “puff” on October 13. On the 19th of this month the *Times* came out with a similar “puff,” over a column long.

The *Post* and the *Times* are both Taft Republican publications; what is more, the *Post* has earned the reputation of a “rifle diet to the workingmen” paper, while the *Times* is notably a foe to the revolutionary aspirations of the Russian people.

What does it mean when two such papers pick out a candidate who sails under Socialist colors, and “puff” him the way patent medicines are puffed? What does it mean when two such papers falsify last election returns and argue extensively and enthusiastically to make it appear that the “Socialist” candidate of their “puff” is going to be elected?

However ignorant these papers may be, they know certain things. Among the things they know is that all talk of Mr. Hillquit’s election is moonshine. They know that the gentleman’s disreputable Immigration record has created such widespread disgust in the District that he can not possibly even hold his last poll, let alone increase it.—What do their “puffs” mean?

Of course, no Socialist can be held responsible for what a capitalist paper may say of him. But, what honest Socialists do in such a case is to quickly examine

themselves; find the “virtue” that causes them to be “puffed”; cut out the rotten spot; and repudiate the “puff.”

Just the contrary is the conduct of Mr. Hillquit and his campaigners. They are dancing on their heads like demented demijohns—proud of the “puffs” he is receiving—proud of the insult.

What does that mean?

What other conclusion do the facts warrant but that Mr. Hillquit is the willing Republican decoy duck in the District?

What other conclusion but that the Taft Republicans consider the gentleman just the tool, fit and nasty enough, whereby to try and promote Republican chances in the District, and whereby to seek to prevent attention from being drawn to the Socialist Labor Party, whom alone they fear?

What other conclusion but that Mr. Hillquit—after having broken his word with the International Congress on the important subject of Immigration—after having betrayed the cause of the International Solidarity of Labor—has found his level as a Republican decoy duck—and is pin-head enough to enjoy the cheap, ephemeral notoriety that his decoy-duckship bestows upon him.

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