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EDITORIAL

“HOUSE CLEANING.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

FROM Washington comes the news that the new broom of the Democratic party is to be kept a-going all summer, and that official Washington is to be turned topsy-turvy by a political house cleaning of enormous proportions.

And great is the joy thereat of the organs of the party that long experience has pictured as a long-eared donkey, either stubbornly balking, or kicking up its heels.

The present posture of the Democratic shouters is the posture of the donkey, which, if he can be at all supposed to reflect over the periodical apparition of the sun and the moon, believes, every time the sun or the moon rises, that the rising is for always. The Democratic shouters know no better than to believe the Democratic part is in “for good.”

In the very dust and vermin that the Democratic party finds the National House full of, it should read, had it eyes to see, the certainty of itself replacing the present vermin and dirt with an equal amount of some fresh dittos, and that the process of replenishment will start even before the present house cleaning is ended. Whereupon another new broom will be needed, will be fought for, and is certain to prevail to the discomfort of the Democrats, who will in turn be swept out, along with their supply of dirt and vermin that they furnished the National House with.

If the house-cleaning process did no worse, one might rest satisfied with the knowledge that, periodically, however irregular or long the periods, the National House will be clean, and, while clean, one might enjoy life. It is, however, quite otherwise.

The house cleaning that the alternate Republican and Democratic brooms perform is of the nature of sweeping the dust into corners. The dust and vermin is not really thrown out. It is thrown out of sight. Obviously, the space that the vermin and dust is swept into must become fuller and fuller, must encroach more and more

into the open and visible space of the National House, until there is no more standing room, and the accumulated dust and vermin become too compact for “sweeping.”

And then?

The Republican and the Democratic new broom alternately “house cleaning” have their prototypes in the man who was sentenced to drown, and was given a cup with which to bail out the water that flowed in from all sides.

Thus bourgeois political government is self-sentenced to torture. It calls the torture “house cleaning.”

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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slpns@slp.org