

EDITORIAL

SENATOR RAYNER'S SPEECH.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE speech delivered in the Federal Senate on the 13th of April by the senior Senator from Maryland, Isidor Rayner, and published shortly ago in these columns with the urgent recommendation that it be carefully read, is something vastly superior to the exposition of the diplomatic principle of the United States known as the "Monroe Doctrine."

Valuable, as a matter of general and historic information tho' the correct understanding of the "Monroe Doctrine" is, that was not the gist of the Senator's speech. Whether Senator Rayner was fully, or at all, aware of the significance of his words, their chief value lies in the picture that he unfolded. That picture is the contrast between the Age of Monroe, and the Age of Roosevelt.

The doctrine uttered by Monroe was no swaggerer's doctrine. It was not a doctrine that could come from, or be used by, autocracy. Indeed, it was a doctrine against autocracy. Least of all was it a doctrine that openly shelved Congress and substituted the Stock Exchange for it. Monroe's doctrine was a dignified national pronouncement, placed upon a high plane. That pronouncement typified the Age of Monroe.

The doctrine uttered by Roosevelt, and put by him into practice in the instance of Santo Domingo, openly shelved Congress and substituted the Stock Exchange for it—if a foreign power insisted in collecting with armed force the financial liabilities of a Latin American country to its citizens, the United States was to take possession of that country, act as a receiver, collect the debt and distribute it among the creditors. Thus the pronouncedly pirate elements, whose robbers' cave is the international Stock Exchange, was raised to "legislative" dignity, with the Executive as the Autocrat, whom to propitiate and whose sword to enlist in their behalf. Needless to say, such conditions breed not the Pericles but the Domitians—not the

cultured but the brutish Headship.

The Age Monroean presents the Ruling Class still affected by the loftiness of the revolutionary illusions that had just guided it to independence. The Age Rooseveltian presents the same Ruling Class a hundred years later, disillusioned, sordid, coarse, bullyish—with here and there a Rayner living in the Past and not understanding the Present.

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