

The Kept Government of the United States

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THE Teapot Dome oil scandal began as a modest case of individual corruption. It has grown and today it looms up as the most frightful exposure of the whole government of our country. What until now only the Communists denounced clearly and boldly—that the “most democratic government of the world” is only the rule of finance capital—has become now a common possession of millions and millions of the common people. Masses learn political wisdom, not thru text books, but thru experience. The Teapot Dome oil shame is the greatest mass experience imaginable on the essence, system and methods of American democracy. The shrapnel of the Teapot Dome oil scandal has cut a horrible wound in the body of the United States governmental system, has ripped open its abdomen, has torn out its intestines, has covered it with its own tainted blood and excretion. It stinks. The odor nauseates not only the 110,000,000 people of the United States, but it spreads from Alaska to Mexico, it fills the entire Western Hemisphere. Karl Marx said once of young capitalism that capital was born with blood and dirt sweating out of all its pores from head to toe. We can say of aged capitalism turned into imperialism that its loathsome body is sweating blood and dirt and oil out of all its pores from head to toe.

The capitalist press speaks of individual kept politicians and government officials, but it is silent on the fundamental truth. It is not a case of kept persons, but of a kept government.

Everybody and everything is involved in the Teapot Dome oil shame. The Republican Party as well as the Democratic. The Harding administration as well as the Wilson and Coolidge administration. All “leaders” of the nation are guilty. With combined forces they did their utmost to hand over the treasures of the nation, worth hundreds of millions, into the hands of the oil magnates. They are all patriots; but all—Republicans and Democrats vying with one another—have broken the Constitution, have destroyed the laws, to give the gigantic oil fields of the United States navy into the hands of the Sinclairs, the Dohenys, into the hands of the Standard Oil. They made the nation poorer by hundreds of millions. They have well-nigh destroyed the power of resistance of the navy in case of war, and at the same time they have stirred up dangers of war and intervention in Mexico in order to defend the oil interests of the same Dohenys and Sinclairs.

Who of all the powerful ones of the White House and capital is not guilty?

President Harding knew that the government has no right

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to give the naval oil fields into the hands of private capitalists, but he tolerated this dirty business.

Denby, Secretary of the Navy of Harding's and Coolidge's cabinet, signed the order which transferred the valuable oil reserves from the Navy Department to the Interior Department in spite of the opposition of all navy officers. Fall, Secretary of the Interior of the Harding administration, signed the leases which gave the naval oil fields to the oil magnates Sinclair and Doheny.

The investigation up to now has not shown whether Secretary of the Navy Denby and Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt have or have not received money from the oil magnates, but it is clear that the brother of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Archie Roosevelt, was a paid employe of the oil magnate Sinclair. And the investigation has shown clearly that Senator Fall, former Secretary of the Interior, received from Doheny \$100,000 and other big sums from Sinclair. Doheny was forced to say in his testimony that he gave the money to Fall not only out of old friendship but out of gratitude for valuable services with the government rendered him by Fall.

Daugherty, Attorney-General in Harding's and Coolidge's cabinet, knew everything about the shameful corruption, the dissipation of national wealth and the weakening of the navy, but he was so occupied with the prosecution of Communists that he did not prosecute the guilty oil magnates and cabinet ministers.

Who is not guilty in the Coolidge administration, and who dares to say that Coolidge himself is not guilty? Who is so naive as to believe that it was only by chance that the cunning, calculating Coolidge selected Silas H. Strawn and T. W. Gregory as his counsel to prosecute impartially those guilty in the oil corruption? And who believes that Coolidge did not know that Gregory, former Attorney-General of the United States, has been in the employ of the source of corruption itself, the Doheny corporation, and that Silas Strawn is counsel for the Texas Oil Company?

Who of the whole Coolidge administration is innocent?

Who of the Harding administration is innocent?

And who of the Wilson administration was not corrupt?

Can it be simply chance that Doheny the oil magnate in his testimony was forced to admit that almost all the members of the Wilson cabinet were also employes of his oil corporation?

Secretary of the Interior Lane of the Wilson cabinet was Doheny's personal assistant in the dirt and oil business. Doheny hired him for \$50,000 a year and Doheny stated: "I made the agreement with him before he left office as Secretary of the Interior."

J. J. Cotter, assistant to Secretary Lane, also became a hireling of Doheny. He is now vice-president of Doheny's corporation.

Lindley M. Garrison, Wilson's Secretary of War, is the employe of a big banking firm which is the property of Doheny.

George Creel, head of President Wilson's Bureau of Propaganda, got money from Doheny to "propagandize" Secretary of the Navy Daniels to grant to Doheny the Teapot Dome lease. But Daniels could not be bought because—as Doheny stated—Daniels was an advocate of the interests of the competing Standard Oil Company.

And the most outstanding figure, McAdoo, former Secretary of the Treasury, son-in-law of the late Ex-President Wilson, the present "progressive" presidential candidate of the Democratic Party? Doheny testified that he retained him for five years and paid him \$250,000; and the oil magnate stated that he paid McAdoo this immense sum in order that he represent his oil interests in the Washington cabinet, especially to win the support of the government for his capitalist interests against Mexico. And we should not forget that this happened shortly after McAdoo left the office of Secretary of the Treasury, but retained his other office of being son-in-law of Woodrow Wilson. And we should not forget that all this happened during the time that President Wilson had unlimited dictatorial power over the nation and was the uncrowned monarch of the United States.

The whole cabinet of Wilson later simply became the cabinet of Doheny. But that is only the appearance. The reality is that Wilson's cabinet even earlier, before it became Wilson's cabinet—was Doheny's cabinet. Who dares to deny that the cabinet of Harding and Coolidge is anything but the cabinet of Doheny, Sinclair, Rockefeller, Gary and J. P. Morgan? All of these cabinets carry on the affairs of the government in behalf of the big capitalists, make peace or declare war in the interest of the magnates of finance capital. A few months ago cable dispatches reported that Sinclair received a proposal to become king of Albania. But he would have been a fool to accept this proposal when he can be the real king of such a mighty country as the United States. Doheny has a private car and he named it "Patriot." That is an appropriate symbol. Doheny and the other big robbers ride in the private car "Patriotism" rough-shod over the whole nation, and they defraud and rule 110,000,000 people in the name of nationalism and jingoism.

Not only individuals are guilty, but the whole system is guilty. The government of the United States is a kept government. It is the mistress of big capital.

The Senate is investigating today the oil corruption—but the Republican and Democratic Parties which form Congress are born of the same money which they pretend to investigate today.

Coolidge is investigating the oil corruption—but who does not know that Coolidge and Harding and Wilson and every president was elected by the same money which Coolidge finds is stinking today?

The capitalist press in the whole country is howling today against the corruption—but the truth is that the kept press is worthy of the kept government, that it is financed by the same government as are all the great statesmen, leaders, presidents and secretaries of the nation.

The masses of workers and farmers must know that every administration of the United States was and is the government of the capitalists. Not only because the individual members of the various cabinets were bought up by individual capitalists, but because the whole government system is nothing but the political rule of the capitalist system. Our task is to utilize the dramatic effect of the gigantic scandal for a giant campaign, so that every worker and exploited farmer shall understand this simple and great truth. And our slogan in this campaign for which we must mobilize all the forces of our Party and the whole working class must be:

"The Republican and Democratic Parties are corrupt, and they ruin the nation because they are the parties of the capitalists."

"Only an independent party of workers and exploited farmers can protect the interests of the laboring masses, can purify the nation of its capitalist corruption, and can prevent wars, conducted for the interests of finance capital."

"Down with the kept government of the capitalist parties! Long live the workers' and farmers' government!"