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EDITORIAL

## “EXPRESSIO UNIUS,” ETC.

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**B**ORN of vast and profound experience is the maxim that has come down to our times in the Latin tongue:—“Expressio unius, suppressio alterius” (to express one thing is to suppress the other thing).

The tune to which resolutions by the bushel are being adopted by the Socialist party is the tune for the liberation of Fred D. Warren of the *Appeal to Reason*.

None more emphatically than the Socialist Labor Party man will pronounce Warren’s conviction a piece of injustice; consequently, none more emphatically would demand his liberation. For that very reason none more emphatically than the S.L.P. spurns a move that, by “expressing” Warren only, “suppresses” Preston.

The fact of suffering injustice levels the sufferers, in the sense that all are entitled to redress; that all touch a chord to which good sense and conscience must respond. Injustice smote Preston; so it did Warren. It matters not that the act for which Warren suffers was an act in pursuit of abstract order, while the act for which Preston suffers was an act in pursuit of concrete rights; it matters not that the injustice that smote Warren overtook him in the endeavor to bring retribution down upon the head of a capitalist politician for a crime committed upon another ditto, while the injustice that smote Preston overtook him in the endeavor to assert the rights of the Working Class; it matters not that the injustice Warren suffers was incurred for meddling in a feud between bourgeois, while the injustice Preston suffers was incurred for standing on the firing line in the class struggle between the Exploiter and the Exploited. All this matters not—in so far as the fact of injustice is concerned. While distinction may be made, while distinction should be made, as to the relative value to the Socialist Movement of the act that Warren and the act that Preston suffers for, unquestionably giving the palm of merit to Preston, one and the other is a victim of capitalist misrule.

To “express” Warren only and “suppress” Preston is to do injustice while clamoring for justice. It is to do worse. It is to throw upon the injustice, under which Preston pines, the mantle of approval that silence implies—an approval in this instance, that lays the axe to the very root of the Socialist or Labor Movement.

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