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EDITORIAL

WERNER'S UNDELIVERED ANSWER.

By DANIEL DE LEON

AT the meeting, which, according to the *New Yorker Volkszeitung* of the 11th of this month, was held at the Philadelphia Labor Lyceum, the headquarters of the Socialist party of that city, on the 7th of the month, and which was called by a Committee of the German Branch of the S.P., summoning the German members to consider “the treason upon the working class” that was being perpetrated by the German S.P. paper, the Philadelphia *Tageblatt*, which takes money from capitalist political parties to boom them, and otherwise, as frequently demonstrated in these columns, habitually sells out the interests of the workers for cash;—at that meeting, while the indictment was being drawn up against him by the leading speaker, the Editor Louis Werner, was seen turning over the pages of the speech which he had prepared in answer; when, however, the accusers were through, Werner stowed the manuscript away in his coat pocket; answered with a few words; and sat down again with a broad look of cynicism on his face.

Translated into English, this is the answer that Editor Werner had meant to deliver:

“It is true (Ja, es ist wahr) that I took \$5,000 from the capitalist parties during the late campaign to publish their own booms (Reclame). It is true that I have done so in all previous campaigns, whenever I had a chance (Wo ich nur konnte). It is true that during the recent general strike in this city I had articles poking fun (lustig gemacht) at the strikers, and that the articles were paid for by the Traction Company in cash (mit bares Geld). It is true that all that injures the working class and Socialism. What of it! Why this mudslinging? (Schimpferei.)

“What’s the matter with all of you, anyhow? (Was ist auf einmal mit Euch los?) Have you turned De Leonites!

“No. It can not be. The impossiblism of the De Leonites appears clearest in their

tackling not one of us at a time, but all at once (Alle zusammen).

“They attack me. ’Tis true; but they also attack the Appeal to Reason for its fraudulent Florida and other land offers, and for its other manifold catch-penny schemes, down to its Shoaf deviltry (Schweinerei).

“They also attack the Chicago Socialist for its get-rich-quick advertisements and advertisements for scabs.

“They also attack our Yiddish S.P. paper, the New York Vorwaerts, for taking cash to play fast and loose (Schindluderei treiben) with Socialism.

“They also attack the New York Call for allowing its editorial policy to be controlled by the New York Traction.

“They also attack our Ashtabula, O., Socialist for praisefully publishing the picture of the Republican candidate Dunlavy.

“Haven’t they attacked our Comrade (Genosse) G.A. Hoehn these many years for doing just what I do? and, more recently, for the manner in which his two St. Louis papers upheld the double fusion with the St. Louis Democrats and Republicans? and haven’t they driven him almost crazy? (aus seinem Haeuschen.)

“They also attack the New Yorker Volkszeitung—and how they attack it! They fall upon it (fallen ueber sie her) like a pile of bricks with a shower of proofs of its selling out the working class (Arbeiterschaft) no less than I.

“Why, the De Leonite is a man (ein ganzer Kerl); they have their fingers in the hair of us all (unserer ganzen Sippschaft). But you—you lunkheads (Einfalspinseln)—you single me out and have not a word of condemnation for the others; and you profit by their acts in silence. Did you never read in the Daily People that we of the S.P. Officialdom-and-Press must hang together; or we shall hang separately? And it is true. What do you mean by trying to hang only me? Won’t you swing, too (auch daneben)?

“I pity you! Why, look around at this very building (Lokal). The Philadelphia headquarters of our S.P. Could we have these spacious quarters if the Breweries did not support us? Are the Brewery bosses any better than other capitalists? Do you want us to run the S.P. for our health (aus Spass)? You disgust me (Ihr ekelt mich).”

When Editor Werner was asked at his office why he did not deliver this speech, he answered contemp-too-ously: “These fellows are not worth my powder” (“Die Kerle kommen mir zu dumm vor”).

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