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EDITORIAL

## ANSWER, MAMIE!

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE *Cleveland Citizen* contributes the following observations to the discussion now going on in the so-called Socialist party on the subject of fusion with a Union Labor party:

“A great deal of criticism has been leveled at California Socialists because in San Francisco, Los Angeles and one or two other places they acted with the Union Labor party in municipal campaigns, or at least did not place a ticket in the field, the understanding being that the Union Laborites would in turn support the Socialist state ticket. The Laborites, it is claimed, did not keep their part of the agreement to any large extent, and it appears that the Socialists of that State are being ‘roasted’ upon the presumption that they did not keep up with the balance of the country in gains made, whereas if the increase had been much larger the criticism would have been proportionately less. The fact is that thousands of Socialist party votes were thrown out by the election officers upon the technical objection that voters had carelessly marked opposite the words, ‘no nomination.’ In Los Angeles alone 2000 such votes were declared invalid and about 1000 were counted, and it is estimated that fully 30,000 Socialist party votes were thrown out in the State because the blank space had been marked. None of the faultfinders, so far as we are able to learn, have mentioned this important fact, and if the California Socialists had had their votes counted they would probably stand at the head of the list of States instead of sixth in percentage of votes cast. Whether the Californians made a mistake in cooperating (it was not fusion) with the Laborites remains to be seen, and those who are not conversant with the local situation and the actual results in that State ought to withhold judgment for the time being. The Californians can be trusted and if they made an error they will rectify it. They were confronted by peculiar conditions.”

In order to appreciate the full value of this contribution to that important discussion, the deep significance of which has been explained in our issue of the 17th (*Weekly* of the 27th) in an article “Light Turned On,” the following facts must be kept in mind:

1. The editor of the *Cleveland Citizen* is one Mamie Hayes;
2. Mamie is a shining light in the so-called Socialist party;
3. Mamie was one of the delegates to the A.F. of L.;
4. Mamie, at that convention, was the leading advocate of the adoption of the “Socialist Resolutions”; but despite her eloquence the resolutions failed;
5. Mamie then turned around and supported President Gompers, the one opponent of the resolutions who actually slandered both Socialism and the Socialists; and
6. Mamie thereupon is herself elected by the labor skates of the convention to go on the annual junketing trip to Europe as “Fraternal Delegate” to the Trades Union Congress.

The serious man will not allow the sliminess of a Mamie to interfere with his observations. As an anatomist, bent on ascertaining the shape and size of a muscle, will cut and cast off fatty accidents, so will the serious man disregard in social questions the extraneous matters that push themselves before his vision. THE question, THE issue is:

Shall the economic organization (Trades Union) dominate the political organization?

Or,

Shall the political organization dominate the economic?

Mamie wabbles. It is not given to her to stand straight. But in her very wobble there is a lesson, which read by the light of the six candles lighted above, can not but be appreciated.

The so-called Socialist party is builded on the theory that the Trades Union must dominate the political movement. Let it wobble as it may, its bona fide California expression holds up the issue clear, and thus joins issue clearly with the Socialist Labor Party which maintains:

The political organization of Labor must dominate the economic; if it does not, the whole Labor Movement is inevitably drawn into the swirl of the inevitably petty, and resultingly conflicting, and finally corrupt conceptions of economic interests, unbridled by political sense.

Whatever organization a man, active in the Political Movement of Labor is in, has its fingers in that Political Movement. If the Political Movement has not supreme

control, it can not choose but be controlled by the interests thus squirted into it. A Socialist party dominated by bodies, that, in turn and through their officers, are dominated by capitalists, is no Socialist party at all. It is a Mamie Party, in short a snare and a delusion.

Is not this so, Mamie?

But Mamie crawls under the bedclothes, and mutters:

“That fellow got me down fine.”

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

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