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EDITORIAL

## A PARTY OF “NO COMPROMISE.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

**A**nother act has been played in the great drama of the Social Democratic party, and its shuffling and double dealings are more noticeable than ever. In Ohio, where the Republicans and Democrats are neck and neck in the fight, the Social Democrats have been used by the Republicans for the purpose of serving as a breakwater. The Populists had at first been considered, but it was found that they were insufficient. Then through the instrumentality of the Populists, the Social Democrats were drawn into the work, and were it not for a slight complication on the financial question all would have been well. This was not a matter of free silver or sound money, but it centered on the delicate question of remuneration in advance for services.

A young man named Klein was the first victim of a refusal to give money to the Social Democratic party. He did much campaigning, and he succeeded in putting up tickets where they would be of most use to the Republicans. Then the gentleman who handled the money for chairman Dick refused either to give Mr. Klein a new suit of clothes, or to give him enough money to repair the old ones. It was plainly evident that the treasurer was not coming their way, nor was any appreciable money graft. Klein summoned all his socialist loyalty to the fore, and refused to have anything to do with any capitalist party that did not pay cash in advance. He saw that the enemies of his class had attempted to use him, and would not pay him anyway. Then the branches of his party resolutely on the subject, and the Social Democratic party became a party of no compromise.

Before this conclusion had been reached, the work of the Republicans, through the instrumentality of the Populists and Social Democrats had been accomplished. Debs had been brought on for several meetings, and from documents and letters published in the Cincinnati *Enquirer* it comes to light that one Steinberger, the hired man of chairman Dick, footed the bills. THE MEETINGS WERE ARRANGED AT HIS BEHEST, AND UNDER HIS DIRECTIONS, AND THE FORMER DATES

MADE FOR DEBS WERE CANCELLED IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT COME INTO OHIO AND FORWARD THE WORK OF THE GREAT WORKING CLASS PARTY, THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, owned and controlled by the Hannas, the Goulds, and other firm friends of the working class.

More and still more interesting facts are given, and proved from documents in the *Enquirer*. The campaign in the State centers on the hope that a skirmish line can be thrown out by the Republicans, and that skirmish line is the Social Democratic party. It is not because they are duped alone. They are paid for being duped. They rebelled, it is true, but the thoughts of rebellion did not come until payment stopped. Payment did not stop until tickets were up, until Debs had finished his tour, and until it became plainly evident that there was no more for the Republicans to gain.

It is true the Social Democrats were "seduced," but the seduction was the same as that of a drab on a street corner. All burning words were unavailing. It is only the money that can whisper the winning words of endearment. The Social Democrats tried to balk the Socialist Labor Party. They failed. Now, they are at the command of those who can pay the price. Their charms are at all men's service, but their blandishments are as foul as they are cheap.

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