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EDITORIAL

POKING FUN AT JOHNSON.

By DANIEL DE LEON

EASTERN papers and capitalist politicians have begun to take up Gov. {John Albert} Johnson's bugle call to the West to "shake off the shackles of the East."

These papers and politicians have gone into statistics on the matter—not the sort of statistics dished out by the Census manipulators, and which "think as the statist thinks," but statistics that the Gov. can not choose but admit are true.

They have proved by statistics that the laws passed "in the interest of the East," and by means of which the West is kept in the shackles aforementioned, are passed with, and cannot be passed without, the aid of Senators and Representatives from the very West that is to be unshackled. The statisticians in this instance are peculiarly and particularly wicked, in that they are excruciatingly accurate in details. They leave nothing to inference. They show with figures and names that these same West-shackling laws are enacted by a majority of Westerners, and, with the single exception of the two Cleveland and the one and two-thirds Roosevelt administrations, were given their exequators by Western Presidents.

All of this must cause the cold steel to enter the entrails of Gov. Johnson's fantasy.

If the laws that are being enacted shackle the West to the East, the conclusion can not be escaped but that the bulk of the Western representation in the Federal legislature and executive offices are bought like so many heads of cattle by the small Eastern minority. This is true; but hardly the truth that the aspirant for the Democratic Presidential nomination, who now is holding down the gubernatorial chair in the State of Minnesota, can have figured upon.

Gov. Johnson is in the plight of the billiard bungler who tries for a carom and pockets his own ball. The call to the West to throw off the shackles of the East,

meant to place the West in the light of a paladin of civic purity, has but one practical effect. It has called attention to the fact that the Western representatives of capitalist society are a corrupt lot; secondly, that the Eastern representatives are equally corrupt, they being the corruptors; and, thirdly, that the whole bunch of capitalist politicians, West and East, is an ulcer on the face of the land.

Socialism, which is not affected by the mystification of East or West, North or South, has long ago set up the thesis of the third conclusion; nailed the same to the National church door; and proved it to all comers.

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

Uploaded by Donna Bills, October 2010

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