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EDITORIAL

## HOW ABOUT SUBWAY “DAGOS?”

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE Socialist Labor Party has repeatedly exposed the fraudulent character of the “labor leader.” It has made clear that the function of the “labor leader” is to perpetuate and not end the exploitation of the working class. It has shown in fewer words that the “labor leader” is the labor lieutenant of the capitalist class, ready to obey its orders and prosecute its campaigns against working class emancipation.

Current events have piled fact on fact in support of the correctness of the position of the Socialist Labor Party. Just now current events in this the greatest center of the greatest capitalist country in the world are adding more indisputable evidence to this mountainous accumulation of proof.

There is a strike raging on the subway. The Italians engaged in the dangerous work of excavation want more wages. Do we see the “labor leaders”—the Pallases, the Archibalds, et al.—rushing to their support? Do we see them augmenting the advantageous position of the excavators by fraternal assistance, and otherwise adding to the determination of the strikers? Not at all! We see them hastening to bring about the strikers’ defeat; we see them manoeuvring to break down that determination.

We see these “labor leaders,” acting upon the letters received from Contractor McDonald, endeavoring to persuade the strikers to return to work “pending arbitration.” We see these “labor leaders,” when the men insisted on settlement first and return after, stating that they did not care to be tricked as the miners had been—we see these “labor leaders” inoculating the strikers’ officers with the views of capitalism for whose injection they receive their pay. Failing in this, we next witness these “labor leaders,” in their desperation, ordering the return to work of the affiliated trades, and otherwise aiding the capitalist press and police in a vain endeavor to introduce scab labor and stampede the strikers back to work! Is there any doubt as to whose “lieutenants” these “labor

leaders” of pure and simple unionism are?

Thus is the S.L.P. position proved once more. The “labor leader” is a capitalist hireling. He battens on the betrayal of the working class. To this he owes his prestige and power. Without it he would be the insignificant nincompoop that he really is.

All thanks to the “dagos” for the lesson they have taught the working class. Credit is due them for their correct working class instincts. When in the future the “labor leader” shall again boast of “what he has done for labor,” thanks to the bona fide working class action of these “dago” strikers, the working class can promptly make these boasters shut up by asking:

“How about the subway “dagos?”

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