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EDITORIAL

FIRST, BUECH; NOW THIEL.

By DANIEL DE LEON

WILLIAM F. Thiel, the candidate for District Attorney of the Social Democratic party in Milwaukee, and who was defeated by reason of his running a hundred votes or so behind his ticket, now hits back in the columns of the Milwaukee *Free Press*. Thiel declares, and his argument is irrefutable, that his party's machine, which he says the A.F. of L.-ite Berger runs, "knifed" him in favor of the successful capitalist candidate. Thiel adds that, in pursuit of their crooked policy, the leaders of the Social Democratic party in Milwaukee "take good care not to let any man into the party who might have his own independent ideas and who is not afraid to speak them." One can almost hear the sigh of freedom, long suppressed, that escapes from Thiel's breast when he now declares he would be "morally and intellectually dead" if he did not recognize and proclaim the capitalist corrupt practices that the Bergers resort to in order to exploit the movement for what there is in it for them.

Only two weeks ago it was Buech whose conduct threw light upon the Social Democracy, now it is Thiel. The difference is that, while Buech's procedure convicted him along with his organization, Thiel's action speaks guilty the organization only.

The Thiel revelations are kith and kin of the Buech action. Councilman Buech, true to the true nature of his party which aims to use workingman's votes in the interest of middle class wants, spent his time endeavoring to secure laws that should protect his saloonkeeping and such other petty bourgeois concerns from the tricks they practice upon another by passing worthless cheques. Thiel raises the curtain over the fact that the Social Democracy does not in all cases wait until it elects a candidate before it proceeds to do "business," as in the Buech instance. It occasionally does "business" before, by deals with capitalist parties, whereby, surely

not in “consideration of love and affection,” it “knives” a candidate of its own in the interest of some candidate of the parties against which it declaims as “oppressors of the working class.”

Where one sees the ears of a rat wiggling and the tail of a rat wriggling, one needs not see with his physical eyes what there is between the wiggling ears and the wriggling tail. One knows it can not be a cow, it must be a RAT. It was not necessary to await the Thiel revelations, nor yet the Buech actions{,} in order to be aware of the rat body concealed between the wiggling rat ears and the wriggling rat tail of the Socialist party. The Buech action, the Hilquit campaign in New York, and now the Thiel revelations, only afford detailed knowledge with regard to the scrawny body that was before quite clear to the mind’s eye.

As a true reflex of A.F. of L. craft Unionism, the Socialist party is a political abortion, producible of abortions only.

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