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# The Secret is Out

by Otto Branstetter

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People not familiar with the different phases of the radical movement, and many who are, have been puzzled to know the exact difference between the Workers Party and the Socialist Party. “Just what,” they inquire, “makes the Workers Party ‘red’ and ‘revolutionary’ and the Socialist Party ‘yellow’ and ‘reactionary’?”

They need wonder no longer. A letter from the red revolutionist, J. Louis Engdahl, to Eugene V. Debs makes the issue quite clear.† The Socialist Party is “yellow” because it has the respect and confidence of the working class to some extent and has associated in several instances with AF of L unions, the Farmer-Labor Party, and other groups to advance their mutual interests.

The Workers Party, on the other hand, is gory red and revolutionary because it is desperately determined to affiliate with the “yellow” Socialist Party and the “reactionary” AF of L unions, the “bourgeois” Single Tax Party,‡ and the “nationalist” Paole Zion in the formation of a labor party in spite of the fact that those organizations won’t have them.

And, according to J. Louis, the Socialist Party is responsible for the exclusion. Could anything be more treacherous and reactionary? Was there

ever such a base “betrayal” of the “revolution”? Certainly not! It is the crowing infamy of the Socialist Party and marks it for all time as an enemy of the working class and a supporter of the capitalist system.

The honest worker need no longer hesitate on the question. The matter is now perfectly clear. The aggregation of camouflaged communists and government agents known as the Workers Party is revolutionary because it wants to affiliate with the “yellow” Socialist Party. The Socialist Party is reactionary because it won’t let them. What a shame!

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Another decided difference has been brought to light by the testimony of Ruthenberg at the Bridgman trial. Ruthenberg quoted Lenin as saying that all talk of armed insurrection in the United States at present is “nonsensical.” That settles it.

The difference between a Socialist and a Communist is that the Socialist knew this all the time and said so — which made him “yellow”; the Communist didn’t know it until Lenin told him, which makes him “red.”

†- Branstetter is employing heavy sarcasm in calling the journalist Louis Engdahl a “red revolutionist,” Engdahl having for a number of years edited the official organs of the Socialist Party, *The American Socialist* and *The Eye Opener*.

‡- The phrase the “Single Tax Party” is a reference to the Committee of 48, a national liberal organization with roots in the Single Tax movement.

*Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport.*

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