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DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {219}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN—You Socialists are a lot of hypocrites. You don't mean what you say.

UNCLE SAM—That's coming it strong.

B.J.—And I'll prove it to you.

U.S.—Go ahead.

B.J.—If you had \$100,000, would you give it away to the workingmen?

U.S.—If I did you would think I was sincere?

B.J.—Yes; then I would. Would you give it away?

U.S.—No, sir, I would not; and what is more, I would invest it just as any other capitalist.

B.J.—There you have it! Do you call that to be a Socialist?

U.S.—With people like you it is almost useless to explain Socialism. I shall, however, throw my pearl before swine. Socialism is not a charity or benevolent scheme. It is a Social theory, based on the economic fact, that, if a man does not own the tool he needs to work with, he is the slave of that other; that, owing to the private ownership of the machinery of production, the idle live without work, while the industrious toil in increasing misery. From these facts Socialism draws the conclusion that the working-class must take possession of the government and legislate the national instruments of production into their own collective hands. That's Socialism.

Now, if I were to distribute my \$100,000 among workingmen, would I bring them or myself nearer to Socialism?



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

B.J. remains silent.

U.S.—Answer, noodle!

B.J.—What would you do then?

U.S.—I would use that money to educate the workers in economics. That would be the best use it could be put to. Now, don't go about talking as though you knew Socialism, and out of your well trained ignorance draw invectives against us.

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