

The People.

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HENRY KUHN, NAT'L SEC'Y, S.L.P.

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SECOND EDITORIAL

FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.

By DANIEL DE LEON

As a matter of course, the comrades and friends at large will be interested in knowing the course of events since the decision, reported in last week's issue, whereby, upon application of the Volkszeitung Corporation, Mr. Justice TRUAX sentenced, on March 19, four members of the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Labor Party to pay \$250, or be imprisoned for alleged "contempt of Court."

Court decisions do not enter into effect until an order is signed. The order was signed on March 23, and upon the application of BENJAMIN PATTERSON, ESQ., the attorney for our comrades, the order allows our comrades thirty days within which to pay, or be imprisoned.

This stay of thirty days did not suit the Volkszeitung Corporation, and it suited them less when on Thursday, March 22, a day before the order was signed, they saw last week's issue of THE PEOPLE. In their Timbooctoo denseness they had imagined that a sentence for contempt against Party officers, sued in their individual capacity, was a sentence against the Party itself, which, for reasons best known to the plaintiff, has not been sued at all. When, despite these imaginings, THE PEOPLE appeared, as it has appeared right along, and as it will continue to appear, the gentlemen were blind with rage; and thereupon they tried some more police-spy business of the continental European style with which they are familiar. They flew to Court with new papers, and new motions, quoting the article in THE PEOPLE entitled "Tammany Hall Impotently Fighting the DAILY PEOPLE:" claiming that such language against the "Honorable Court" was an "aggravation of the contempt;" and falsely alleging that said article was published by the comrades against whom the decision was rendered; and they went about crying "vengeance" for the "crime committed against the Honorable Court by said article;"—all evidently intended to irritate the Court, and lead it into some more blunders.

The comrades of the N.E.C. who are under sentence (Kuhn, Sanial, Kinneally and Murphy; the other four were not served) have appealed the case. The appeal cannot be heard in time before the expiration of the thirty days' preliminary stay. Consequently, a motion is now in progress for a stay pending the appeal. If the motion is granted, as in decency it should, then everything remains in *statu quo* until the appeal is decided; the comrades involved remaining at large in the meantime, and no fines paid. If, on the contrary, the motion is denied, why, then, while the appeal is taking its course, and after the expiration of the thirty days' stay, our comrades will have to submit to imprisonment, as they will cheerfully do. They are poor men, and have no money to pay; moreover, even if the Party were to pay the fine for them, under appeal, such a course would simply place into the hands of Tammany Hall the power to bankrupt the Party and all its members: The aggregate wrongful fine of \$1,000 could be repeated indefinitely, because the same alleged "Contempt of Court," the issuing of THE PEOPLE, will continue: It is not in the power of these comrades, either in their individual or official capacity, it is in the power of the Party alone to smash the Party's national organ. With this rough sketch of the situation our comrades and friends will be able to follow intelligently the course of events.

At any rate THE PEOPLE, which, owing to all these Court complications, has, since the issuing of the injunction order, been published under the direct supervision of the Party, will continue to appear unterrified by bluster, unaffected by intrigue, knowing its, together with the Party's, rights, and determined to maintain them.

As stated several moons ago, the Party's national organ preserves its colors, snatched from the claws of a canaille that tried to filch them from the Party; and, as these colors flutter on the breeze, they slap alternately each cheek of the widespread reactionist conspiracy that sought and failed to run the Socialist Movement of America into the ground.

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