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EDITORIAL

## FOR BREEDING SPIES.

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**A**DVANCE copies of planks to be proposed to the Democratic national convention are cropping up. One of these is entitled "For Control of Corporations." The proper title would be "For Breeding Spies."

The plank proposes that a corporation doing interstate business shall take out a Federal license before it shall be permitted to control 25 per cent. of the product in which it deals, and that no corporation shall be allowed to control more than 50 per cent. of the total amount of any product consumed in the United States.

Considering how ready Democratic capitalists, the same, for that matter, as their Republican compeers, are to demand of the Socialists, How are you going to do it? one should expect from these gentlemen that they should be foremost to explain how their own plans are to be carried out. The Democratic proposers of the plan in question are suspiciously silent upon the how.

Well they may.

When that which should be a public concern is left to private hands then evil is bred, and its checking, if it can at all be checked, requires the aid of spies.

The production of the goods that a nation needs to live upon is as much a matter of direct national concern as is the Post Office, or the Fire Departments. Even the Post Office and the Fire Departments require the spy-system to-day, notwithstanding that the people have the theoretic power to administer them. In the instance of the production of the necessaries of life, even this theoretic popular right of administration is denied by capitalism. In such a case nothing short of a big crop of spies will be required to discover when a corporation's books are not falsified, and that way to discover whether its output is not above the 25 or 50 per cent.

The remedy would be worse than the disease.

The contrast between the Republican party and the Democratic lies in this:

The Republican party would corrupt the people from above. It would leave the corporations to do as they please, and their officers would seek to keep the saddle by dint of corrupting their subalterns.

The Democratic party would corrupt the people from below. It would breed rafts of spies as means to bleed the corporation magnates, and in that way “distribute wealth.”

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

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