Sect. Class and Politics

Material Interests Will Trump Religious Ideas Almost Every Time

November 26, 2007

Dear Conradine,

Enclosed is the proprietor of a New Age/Wicca bookstore told me that “social- ialism is the new religion.” I don’t think I’ll give her my business anymore.

Apologies she was a Wiccan as well as a Republican. To me this seems contradict- ory. If the Republican Party had been commanded by the religious- right? If this person had stopped thinking about the Party being in cahoots with the right-wing Christianity—clearly a contradiction with her Wiccan beliefs. She cited Russia as the main paradigm of socialism, how trite and tired is that contention.

Anyhow, her ignorant remarks about socialism get me down. Would you please help me lift my spirits?

Frankly yours,

BART WONG
Member-at-Large, Wis.

December 4, 2007

Dear Conradine Jensen:

Although I can’t provide me with many details about your conversation with the woman, or how socialism happened to come into it, he had no problem coming to the conclu- sion that she believed socialism may have less to do with her religious views than with her political beliefs. After all, if she really believes in “the religion of the right” has within the Republican Party and that her religious traditions are more alien to her than those in the Democratic Party or the Greens, or the Libertarians, then the reason is a sheer, in spite of all evidence shows, wretched spectacle. Where, her religious views would be more readily accepted, is that her reli- gious views are less important to her than religious material as a “business person.” Every time she’s asked to give her opinion, her ideas about socialism probably change by the day. I would say it poses to her interests as a petty bour- geois woman. It is clear that the Church of England may apply to an individual as much as to an institution: “In the case of religious freedom in Church of England, free scientific inquiry meets not merely with approval but with a sort of official sanction. The peculiar nature of the mate- rial it deals with, sumo as foes into the field of the battle most violent, mean and malignant passions of the human heart the most unmeaning interest. The English established Church, e.g., will more readily pardon an attack on 38 of its subscriptions than on 12/8 of its in- come. Nowadays atheism itself is culpe- lous, as compared with criticism of ex- isting political relations.”

Abraham Lincoln had something simi- lar in mind as well: “The property influences his [the property owner’s] mind. The dissident min- ister of Unitarianism about one with of the Established Church was always said to be right, but not to see it.” He opened the Bible and pointed him to a passage, but the orthodox minister regarded as unimportant, and showed him a single word—“Can you see that”’.”

The context, of course, is that if you don’t see it, then you don’t see it, as it is through two billions of dollars, and that is a pretty thick coating.”

You see, then, that similar occurrences and observations are not so unusual and have been noticed and commented on many times in the past. Material inter- ests will trump religious ideas almost every time.

Fraternally yours,

ROBERT BILLS
National Secretary

GLOBAL WARMING

Why U.S. Won’t Define It

December 19, 2007

The invective aimed at U.S. Global Warming administra- tion, and for that matter Cong- ress, is futile. The imperatives that govern the conduct of our present govern- ment come from the capitalist sys- tem. Yes, I’m sorry to say, it is in a system and systems have compelling modes of operation that are beyond the means of individual politicians, experts, or even bovines to change. They are con- nected to the logic of the system.

Profit, the name of the game and that curiously intimate is motivation tied to the system of commodity production and the exploitation of wage labor. Because workers have no say over the worker’s share, what they produce, they cannot buy back the enormous amounts of commodities produced for an uncertain market that must always expand under the capitalist system.

What is required is a system of produc- tion for use and not for profit that is owned and controlled by the world’s working class. We can start in the U.S. by supporting the Socialist Labor Party’s program for a free society that will benefit both Tweedle Dem and Tweedle Rep. Support them, the whole socialist democracy the one means to get control of the global envi- ronment. All else is futile.

—Posted by B. Boettisch

SUGGESTS COMPACT DISK ON SOCIALISM

Has anyone ever considered having a CD on socialism produced? It could be an excellent fund raiser for a few cents each. The content would certainly have to be easily digestible and perhaps catchy. It should adhere to that “old stuff,” as most people call it. In addition, it would have to address the failings of socialist ideas to present them as the cost may be far too intimidating.

DONNA MEYER
Member-at-Large, Wis.

Producing a CD on socialism has been considered a number of times. The Na- tional Secretary brought up the subject at the 2001 National Convention, which subsequently adopted a motion sup- porting the idea but recognized the finite human resources at national headquar- ters to implement the project. At its 2003 Session, the NARC adopted the following motion: “Be it resolved that the National Office be authorized to pro- duce and distribute an SLP website CD whenever it feels the resources to do so.”

Circumstances have not yet allowed even the National Office to pursue the idea. In the meantime, however, many work- ing people have their own resources to create such a CD, rip and “burn” them onto a CD.

SIU PROGRAM

SLP Member Urges Internet Discussion On Its Potential

December 20, 2007

With the U.S. working-class living standard in decline, endless war, work- ers displaced from homes by capitalist banking vultures and the big oil board- room sitting in the White House, I be- lief one important subject is missing on the SLP website. It would seem prudent while capitalism’s leftovers miserably struggle, if only to show them a single word—“Can you see that.”

The context, of course, is that if you don’t see it, then you don’t see it, as it is through two billions of dollars, and that is a pretty thick coating.”

You see, then, that similar occurrences and observations are not so unusual and have been noticed and commented on many times in the past. Material inter- ests will trump religious ideas almost every time.

—Posted by B. Boettisch

STUDY, THINK ACT!

Many Historic and Current Books Available at www.slp.org

VENEZUELA

Establishes Daniel León Foundation for Socialist Studies

January 28, 2008

Comrade Robert Blades, M.R.P. “Giovanni Cereceau” and I work for the Daniel León Foundation for Socialist Studies, in Venezuela. We are the leaders of the 76th International Congress of Marxism, which takes place from the 24th of December through to the 26th of December, where the translation of some of his major works into Spanish, to be published during 2008. I would appreciate any help you could give us in letting our people know about this great revolutionary.

Thank you for any help you can provide.

Yours,

GUILLERMO CERCEAU
Foundation for a Socialist Daniel León Venezuela

January 28, 2008

Dear Mr. Cereceau,

Thank you for the email you sent this morning, which I read with considerable interest. I would be pleased to collaborate with you on the life and works of Daniel León to the attention of Venezuelan or any other country of Latin America. I would like to inform you that I am not a sworn official of any official institution of the León’s life and works, of your foundation and I am very interested to see what is out there in such an undertaking. I would like to know before I make any commit- ment, what do you imagine is the concept and more about what you believe I could do.

Please forgive me if I seem somewhat skeptical about all this, but I have received numerous other invitations in the past that have led to results that caused me to wish I had been less cooperative than expected.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT BILLS
National Secretary

Socialist Labor Party of America

February 11, 2008

Dear Mr. Bills,

Please allow me to apologize for not answering before, I have been out of the country and have kept you up to date of my mail and I thank you for an- swering. I would like to make you my ap- ology to be able to answer to you. It makes my need to apologize stronger.

I understand your concerns, given the political climate in the country, the Vice-Minister of Labor, in the or- ganizing commission for the Daniel León Foundation for the Socialist Educa- tion of the Working Class. As it does not yet have a legal foundation on the socialist academic studies about Daniel León. However, we believe that someone who has access to resources of state (including the Vice- Minister, with the official letterhead of the Ministry of Labor) would satisfy your legitimate concerns.

What would we expect from you? Well, in principle, help with selecting the most important works, maybe helping us to work on some of these books for those works to be properly understood.

We have on staff two professional histo- rians, that we have included in the academic studies about Daniel León. However, we believe that someone who has access to resources of state (including the Vice- Minister, with the official letterhead of the Ministry of Labor) would satisfy your legitimate concerns.

Being a working class institution, with help from the government, we do not have the resources of the state, and we count on militant solidarity to do our job. We work on projects, that you (if you decide to help us) any thing but ad- vice and guidance on selecting docu- ments to translate. Of course, if you would like to collaborate with some ex- on any other form, we would be so pleased.

(Continued on page 2)
The Socialist Labor Party, De Leon's party, is facing the verge of abandoning its present headquarters, its most valuable asset: the Presidential Election, The People. (This is not a "pith" for financial support from oil-rich Venezu-

ela. It is just a fact: Most of my time and that of my fellow worker has neces-
sarily been devoted to preparing our for-
tress for the Wisconsin State Historical Society, where most SLP files and records have been de-
deposit for the past 101 years, and in trackin
down a possible home for the original bound copies of The People, Weekly People and Daily,
cluding original volumes of the papers edited by De Leon himself. Apart from that, there are thousands of photographs and books, numerous pieces of original art, a stock of litter and tons of what might best be described as trash or junk to wade through for disposal. That said, I hope you will better understand why I have taken so long to respond to what you wrote on February 11. In spite of our present wors, however, we have every intention of requegrue and making an all-out effort to get the SLP back on its feet as quickly as we can after working our way out of our present predicament. We are confident that we will suc-
ceed at that, and that I will then be in a better position for making myself available to you for the expressions of your understandable mark. Indeed, given what you have explained the necessity and cooperation I could offer, our problems should not pose any obstacle, though these conditions may be similar to the one I am apologizing for here.

The possible letter you mention from the Vice-Minister, and perhaps a copy of the legislation you mention would be valuable to me. I would be grateful for receiving them. (Regardless of what else might be el Operanto, we will be keen eager to read the post office mailings address inadequately. I will app

it at the end of this. ) What\mack be a matter of great help and use, how-
ever, are the academic papers you men-
tioned, particularly if they have been trans-
lated into English, though that is not necessary. They would provide me with some insight into the knowledge, background and frame of mind, so to speak, of the scholars working with you. Those papers would help me get a feel for the authors, as we say. Would it be possible to have copies mailed to us?

At any rate, this is a particularly valuable and complete exchange. I hope that my explanation for the delay is sufficient for your patience.

Sincerely yours,
Robert Bills
National Secretary
Socialist Labor Party of America

CAPITALISM MEANS EXPLOITATION OF WAGE LABOR

December 27, 2007

Dear Mr. B. . .

Please thank you very much for your letter of December 20, the portion of our party's press and financial situation.

Also, I am lowly but interestingly read-

ing Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army, by Jer-

niew Siccilli. It is a bit about the: the righ-

twing, religions, politics, economies, and a private mili-

tary-police potential beyond that of the Fin-Tinkers of 100 and more years ago.

We need contributions to continue our humble work for the working class.

Protestant,
ROK Y. NELSON
Member-at-Large, Mass.

A SCARY BOOK

And a Contribution

November 18, 2007

Dear Comrades,

Please thank you for my letter of November 14, in the portion of our party's press and financial situation.

I am lowly but interestingly reading Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army, by Jer-

niew Siccilli. It is a bit about the: the righ-
twing, religions, politics, economies, and a private mili-
tary-police potential beyond that of the Fin-Tinkers of 100 and more years ago.

We need contributions to continue our humble work for the working class.

Protestant,
ROK Y. NELSON
Member-at-Large, Mass.

EXPLORE THE SLP'S WEBSITE

WWW.SLP.ORG

WHAT IS SOCIALISM?

SOCIALISM is the collective ownership by all the people of the factories, mills, mines, railroads, land and all other in-

herent resources. This collective ownership means production to satisfy human needs, not to become a profit machine or to 

sell one who sports wealth and sale profit. SOCIALISM means direct control and management of the indus-

tries and public services, and the distribution of wealth through a democratic government based on the people's nationwide economic organization.

Under socialism, all authority will originate from and be securely held by the national councils of the various regions or city and towns and thereby to a central government representing all the industries and services. This ALL-

INDUSTRIAL CONGRESS will plan and coordinate production in all areas of the country. All plans that are made will be subject to public scrutiny and approval. They will be subject to removal at any time by a majority of those who elected them to decide it is necessary.

Such a system would make possible the full development of human capacities and will be a society based on the most primary freedom—ECONOMIC FREEDOM. Freedom to produce, to sell, to buy, to dispose of one's property, to work or not to work, to accept or reject a job, to work in one's own way and to be accountable for one's performance. Such freedom is characteristic of a socialist society. It is the only true freedom.

The Socialist Labor Party is based on the Social Democratic traditions of the Bund, which was an organization of Jewish workers and intellectuals in Russia. The Bund was founded in 1895 and dissolved in 1917 by the ruling Bolshevik regime. The Bund's main goals were to organize Jewish workers into trade unions and to promote the rights of the working class and the poor. The Bund was known for its strong opposition to Russian nationalism and its support for international solidarity among workers. The Bund also played a key role in the development of the socialist movement in Russia and contributed significantly to the establishment of the Soviet Union. The Socialist Labor Party is the successor organization of the Bund and continues to promote the same goals today. The Socialist Labor Party is a national organization with chapters in several U.S. cities, including New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles. The party is committed to the principles of socialism and seeks to build a society based on democratic control and democratic participation. The party's main goal is to promote the development of a socialist society in which all people have equal access to resources and are free to determine their own destiny. The Socialist Labor Party seeks to build a society in which the means of production are owned and controlled by the people, and in which the rights and liberties of all individuals are protected. The party believes that socialism is the only way to achieve true democracy and equality, and that it is a necessary step towards creating a better world for all. The Socialist Labor Party is committed to working for a world in which everyone has access to the resources they need to live a fulfilling life, and in which decisions about the future are made by the people themselves. The party seeks to build a strong movement of workers and activists who can work together to create a socialist society. The Socialist Labor Party is a member of the World Socialist Movement, a global network of socialist organizations that work together to build a worldwide socialist movement. The Socialist Labor Party is committed to the principles of democracy, solidarity, and internationalism, and seeks to build a society that is just, equitable, and free from poverty and inequality.