

SOCIALIST-LABOR PARTY STANDS WITH SOCIALISTS IN CLEVELAND AGAINST UNITED LABOR TICKET

By I. AMTER

CLEVELAND, Aug. 30.—Several weeks ago the Workers (Communist) Party, district executive committee of District 6, sent a letter to the socialist party and the socialist labor party, offering to form a united front with them in the coming election campaign. The Workers (Communist) Party offered to withdraw its candidates provided either or both of the other parties would call a conference with the Workers (Communist) Party, inviting trade unions, fraternal lodges and all working class organizations, in order to put up a united labor ticket. Candidates would be put up by the conference, a program and platform adopted, etc.

The socialist party, true to its colors in this district—colors that it has be-smudged and soiled since the days of the leadership of Comrade Ruthenberg and the left wing—did not answer. That is in keeping with its acts in recent times, especially during the days of the anthracite miners' strike when it went to the Cleveland Federation of Labor and thence to the safety director of the city who forbade a tag day permission for which they had not yet asked.

But no more is to be expected of the socialist party—which thereby is guilty of preventing the workers from giving their support to one set of workingclass candidates. (Two of the candidates nominated by the socialist party at its state convention a few months ago, have refused to run.)

The socialist party, however, after consideration lasting 18 days, bestirred itself to answer the communication of the Workers (Communist) Party.

The socialist labor party committee declares, "a united front is impossible except it be a united front with its back toward the enemy."

Thus talks a party that has the nerve to forget its war record—if the Communists and the workers of this country generally will not forget it! This is the attitude of a party which during the world war prated about its patriotism, its legalism, and whose representative at the Second Congress of the Comintern acted as a spy against the Communists! Back to the enemy! How is the socialist labor party fighting the enemy, the capitalist class today? Does it uphold any of the policies for which Daniel de Leon stood? All it can do is reprint some of the editorials that famous thinker wrote, copy them parrot-like, and advocate policies today that De Leon would repudiate.

The writer will not forget that last year at a street corner meeting in New York City opposite the headquar-

ters of the Workers (Communist) Party on 14th street, when heckled by workers in his audience, the socialist labor party speaker shouted loudly for the police! Oh, ho, with its back toward the enemy—but getting the support of the police against the crowd of workers!

Where is the socialist labor party fighting the enemy? Where is the W. I. I. U.? It has gone out of existence, just as the socialist labor party is going today.

The socialist labor party bewails the fact that "confusion exists among the workers of this land" and that the Workers (Communist) Party is the "most pronounced part of that confusion," and therefore the socialist labor party will not commit "treason to an unfortunate working class" by "fusing" with the Workers (Communist) Party!

The socialist labor party is so slow in thought that it cannot understand the difference between a united front and "fusion." Have no fear, dear socialist labor partyites, we want no fusion with you, the intransigent "leaders." We know where you stand, but we will win to our side the workers in your ranks that still have some revolutionary vigor and will.

But as for you, smug, self-appointed leaders, we can only say that you belong in the same category as the socialist party. Everywhere that the workers have been in struggle, your voice is not raised. You have given them no helping hand. Only those in your ranks have united with the rest of the class conscious and progressive workers who have sent you to hell and formed a united front with those "confused" Communists and the other workers who want policy and action.

The socialist party and the socialist labor party have struggled against the unity of the working class of Cleveland in the coming elections. The workers will treat them accordingly.