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## Unhappy Letter-Carrier.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**he letter carriers are truly to be pitied. For years, the lure of “something NOW,” has led them by the nose, in the tow of some scheming capitalist politician or other, and with the assistance of some scoundrel labor leader or other. But all that they got “now,” was promises: for years they have been fed on that. And they seem to like it.

But that has happened which was bound to happen. “Retrenchment,” “economies” is the cry of the capitalist in the shop, and is likewise his cry in the Government that he controls. But “economies” in the shop mean a reduced total wage; accordingly, “economies” in the Government means ditto, ditto—and for all around identical purposes.

No capitalist, when, to the tune of “economy,” he reduces the wages of his employés, carries or thinks of carrying the theory of economy into his own expenses. Nothing of the sort. On the contrary. The cry of “economy” always means “squeeze the workers in order that I may have more to lavish upon myself, thereby seem richer, and thereby increase my credit.”

Ditto, ditto, in the Government. “Economy” in the wage paid the Government employés means, accordingly, a lower wage for the wage-slave and larger sums for the railroad and other magnates who plunder the Government.

Just now a savage retrenchment is threatened in the P.O. As a matter of course, it affects the workers only. Have the letter carriers learned anything? It seems not.

This conclusion is justified by the fact that they allow a Quigg and such other misleaders to again stuff them full with promises, instead of their kicking the swindlers heels over head out of their meeting, and declaring that they are through with playing the rôle of geese to be stuffed.

The proletariat has nothing to hope for except from its own political party.

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