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EDITORIAL

## BERGER'S OPPORTUNITY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE *Daily People* is not anxious—by allowing more time to elapse between the more than suspicious methods adopted in the extradition of John J. McNamara and the failure of Victor L. Berger to take the proper steps in the matter on the floor of the House of Representatives—to score one more miss on the part of Berger. If Berger does not himself know, then he, and if not he, the Cause of Socialism, which, in the public eye, he represents in the parliament of America, is entitled to the help of suggestions.

Representative Frank Buchanan, a former president of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, of which McNamara is now the Secretary-Treasurer, is screaming, whining and denouncing in “interviews with reporters.” That sort of conduct fits the man. The Craft Union officer, with his theory of “the brotherhood of Capital and Labor,” confirmed, moreover, in Buchanan’s instance by his election to Congress on a capitalist ticket and platform, may well feel like a duck in thunder, and conduct himself as such, in the presence of the treatment that his “brother” Capital has just bestowed on its supposed “brother” Labor. It “fits the case” for the Craft Union leader to lament one moment and lampoon the next; and to mix lampoon with lamentation.

Not so the Socialist. No laments or lampoons for him.

Again and again the order of regular business in Congress has been suspended, or interrupted, by the presentation of issues, suddenly arisen, and demanding the right of way. There is ample provision for that in the “rules” of the House. Even if not, there is ample opportunity to make the provision.

The occasion calls for something more than the “introduction of a resolution” to investigate, and which will slumber its life peacefully away in some pigeon-hole of the respective committee.

The occasion emphatically calls for something else than orations, pronounced to reporters, orations which the orator may repudiate, and which are left to the tender mercies of these gatherers of "yellow" matter, and the blue pencil of their employers.

If questions affecting illegal "rebate" in the transportation of pig-iron over Inter-State Railroads can set the blood of a Representative boiling to the point of his raising the issue, on the spot, on the floor of the House, and insist upon being heard, then surely the more than suspicious transportation of a human being over Inter-State Roads, and that human being an officer of workingmen, should set the blood boiling at still higher temperature through the veins of a Socialist Representative; should move him, with still greater determination and deliberateness, to cause his voice to be heard on the floor of the House itself, speedily, if not immediately, and thus promptly and officially reach the ear of the people from the high post to which he was elected.

The *Daily People* has waited three times twenty-four in the hope to see Berger seize the opportunity. It is "at the flood." Seize it!

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