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EDITORIAL

## FOOT-IN-THE-MOUTHISM.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**I**N the report of the interview with Victor L. Berger published by the Milwaukee *Journal* of the 6th of last April, and published by the *Journal* in quotation marks, there occurs this statement:

“In their sentence Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison just got a dose of their medicine.”

\* \* \*

Now turn to the report of the Toronto, Ont., 1909 convention of the A.F. of L. where the matter of the sentence Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison came up for consideration.

On page 324 will be found the closing paragraph of the report of the Committee on Gompers's report. The passage expresses the hope that the appeal of Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison to the higher judicial tribunal may be allowed by the lower court; but that, should the appeal be denied, “and Brothers Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison be compelled to serve the sentence imposed upon them we recommend that the salaries of Brothers Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison be continued, and that Vice-President Mitchell be compensated at the same rate as if he were in attendance at meetings of the Executive Council.”

A motion to adopt the report having been made and seconded, and an amendment having been moved that Mitchell be paid the same salary as Gompers, an amendment to the amendment was moved and seconded that “as the three men are going in for the same cause, that they all receive the same salary as the President of the American Federation of Labor.”

The motion as amended having been carried, Delegate Tracy (T.F.) rose and said:

“I suggest that this be the expression of the Convention. Let it not be said hereafter that it is the expression of only a part of this Convention. I suggest that we take a rising vote to express the sentiment of organized labor of America on this question.”

Thereupon follows this entry:

“The motion to adopt the report of the committee, as amended, was carried by a unanimous rising vote.”

Page 11 enters as a delegate to the convention Victor L. Berger from the Wisconsin State Federation.

Page 323 gives the names of the absentees on the eleventh day, afternoon session, of the convention, the session which began with the report of the committee above set forth, and which carried the report in its amended form “by a unanimous rising vote.” The name of delegate Victor L. Berger is not among the list of the absentees.

\* \* \*

Now return to Mr. Berger’s statement given in quotation marks in his interview in the *Milwaukee Journal*.

\* \* \*

And then take a step back and take a comprehensive view of the two pictures. The composite picture then presented is what comes of the politician’s lack of convictions, of the foot-in-the-mouth consequences of the fishery for votes.

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