

EDITORIAL

A WARNING TO “HEADLINE READERS.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

ABOUT six weeks ago, it will be remembered, a riot took place in Seattle. Some scatter-brained Bummery orators, together with some of their doubles from the ranks of the Socialist party, having denounced the American Flag, the Navy and everything in sight and out of sight in the unmeasured language peculiar to themselves, the small pot of the heads of several sailors in uniform who happened to be in the crowd soon got hot, whereupon the marines flew off the handle, led a mob to the headquarters of the Bummery and the S.P., and looted both places.

However reproachful the conduct of the Bummery and S.P. “orators,” that of the marines was worse. A naval board was ordered to investigate the affair, and the board having made its report, the Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels issued an order to the commander-in-chief of the Pacific reserve fleet looking to the punishment of the sailors “who engaged in the unlawful action in Seattle.” The Secretary’s order contains this passage:

“Men who wear the uniform are the protection of the republic. They are sworn to uphold the law, and to use force only when ordered to do so by those in authority. They must stand for the majesty of the law that forbids any resort of lawlessness, even under the most trying circumstances. The conduct of those sailors who took part in the destruction of property in Seattle is against the law of their country, as well as against naval regulations. Their conduct cannot be condoned, or go without punishment.”

More explicit the condemnation of the conduct of the riotous sailors can not be.

This notwithstanding, the Los Angeles *Times* of the 21 of last August publishes the order of the Secretary of the Navy under a 6-deck heading of which these are a few of the decks:

"Lesson in Seattle Is Justified."

"Daniels Says Insults to the Stars and Stripes
Had Become Intolerable."

"Intimates the Lawless Agitators Got
Just What Was Coming to Them."

A bold falsification has at least the merit of boldness. But such is the gangrene that is eating up the moral sense of most of the bourgeois daily press, the leading ones generally leading, that they have fallen into the methods of the mental degenerates who ever quote correctly, but surround the correct quotations with such false summaries that the unwary are taken in.

The headlines, with which the Los Angeles *Times* falsely introduces the order of Secretary of the Navy Daniels, and which the Los Angeles *Times* even surmounts with the word "Nemesis," are expected to be taken by "headline-readers" for a synopsis of the Secretary's order, to substitute in their minds the order itself, and thus to deceive and miseducate them, and push them on to the path of lawlessness—where they will suffer, while the Los Angeles *Times*, along with its fellow agents-provocateurs, will go free.

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