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# Our Policies vs. Our Principles

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The great principles that men have struggled for in all ages have, too often, been obscured by bitter personalities and petty factional skirmishes in the fierceness of the struggle.

As the manifestations of our modern class struggle become fiercer, and the approach of the army of our enemy so close, we can be sure that the day of the real battle has dawned. There seems to be a tendency on the part of our army to divide our forces into squadrons, arrayed one against the other.

If one should ask us, "What is the Socialist Party?" we should answer immediately, "It is the army — the political organization — to be used as the means toward gaining Socialism for the workers of America; the drilled and disciplined army that will overthrow Capitalism and inaugurate the Socialist republic."

Yet many of us seem to look upon the party as the ultimate end we are striving for, and not the means to that end.

Witness the struggle now going on in Ohio between the forces of Capitalism and the great, useful, producing class to gain control of the machinery of government and judicial power out of the hands of the "owning" or Master Class and place it in the hands of the people.

Here we have a tremendous opportunity, if our side wins, to put one of our fundamental principles into force, viz., Direct Legislation.

What are we going to do about it? Shall we let our old-time "policies," inaugurated when the Socialist Party was merely a theoretical propaganda party, stand in the way of fulfilling our principles?

Shall we stand by and let others — raw recruits in the class war — general all the strategies of the fierce battle before us? Or shall we line up at the head of the column, directing and planning the maneuvers of the campaign?

The capitalist forces have had no hesitancy in boasting of their unlimited ammunition, "barrels of money," and they're going to "spend it like water," they say, to defeat direct legislation. In the light of their union of all "persons, partnerships, and corporations doing a profitable business in Ohio," who want to go on fleecing the people without, as they say, "being

compelled to evade the provisions of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.” Does it not seem imperative that all the advocates of direct legislation should line up together, not in theory, but in actual, practical, political warfare for a constitution that will not stand for the legal exploitation of the people by the great business interests of the state?

Surely no compromise of principle would be involved in such a lining up of forces; on the contrary, we are now, in Ohio, as a vigorous political party, in a position to dominate and direct the battle by reason of our long years of experience as pioneers in the strife for a government of the people, for the people, and by the people.

If we are brave enough to know the truth, to practice what we preach, we shall some day be free of this old government of the trust, by the trust, and for the trust. It will take us all together — Socialists, Progressives, Unions, Single Taxers — to win out for a chance to have a constitution that will give us the machine wherewith to construct the Socialist republic.

This is a skirmish for a tremendously advantageous citadel. Then, forward march! Face to the foe! No backward looks!

“New occasions teach new duties  
Time makes ancient good uncouth;  
We must upward still and onward,  
Who would keep abreast of Truth.”

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

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