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EDITORIAL

ROOSEVELT'S WARNING.

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PRESIDENT Roosevelt, in warning the capitalist class, that it is better to submit to government control, than court the drastic fury of the mob, offers a three-fold study in the intellectual bankruptcy and futility of modern bourgeois thought. First, the President practically admits by his arguments, that government control is a device to secure the safety of capitalism. Does he presume that, with the population aware of this fact, they will take government control for anything but a means to perpetuate their sufferings; and, so taking it, become reconciled to it? Second, the President, in voicing his warning, exhibits a failure to comprehend the fatalistic course that dominant classes are compelled to pursue, in order to preserve themselves. Their private interests demand ever greater entrenchment; so that the very warning against the peril that is alleged to confront them, drives them to ever greater excesses. The Russian bureaucracy, and the American slave-holding oligarchy before them, furnish abundant evidence as to the soundness of this contention. Thirdly, the President, in referring to a mob, insults, as does every defender of the dominant class, those who would end the tyranny of that class. There is no indication that the American populace, in its endeavor to throw off the capitalist yoke, will resort to disorder; on the contrary, there is every indication that all their attempts at peaceful revolution will be rendered null and void by the capitalist class. It is this class that counts out the Socialists, and the Georges, Hearsts and Adamases. It is they who debauch the highest legislative, executive and judicial functions of the state in their own class interests. To them, we owe the Moyer-Haywood outrages. To them can be traced the creation of a private army that menaces the working class—an army more ruthless than the Russian “bloody hundreds”—the army of Pinkerton thugs, Farley strike-breakers, and gougers of all descriptions that incite to riot and bloodshed; and execute the

infamous plans of a degenerated class. There is nothing to fear from “the mob”; but everything to fear from its oppressors—the capitalist class. They are the dogs-in-the-manger whose private interests compel them to stand in the way of human progress, via co-operative ownership and industrial democracy, i.e., Socialism! But all signs point to their speedy overthrow. And of these the President’s warning is the most portentous, because of its utter impotency and futility.

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

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