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DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {229}

By DANIEL DE LEON

U NCLE SAM—This capitalist inequality—
BROTHER JONATHAN—A truce
with your utopian notion of abolishing
inequalities.

U.S.—You call that utopian?

B.J.—Yes, everything is utopian that is
unnatural.

U.S.—Say, it is.

B.J.—And so is the idea of equality. One man is
stout and one man is lean, one is tall and one is thin,
one is clever and one is foolish. Inequalities have
existed, inequalities exist, inequalities will ever exist.

It is natural, hence it is foolish to want equality.

U.S.—How many pounds do you weigh?

B.J.—350.

U.S.—And I weigh only 155; we are unequal, ain't we?

B.J.—Yes.

U.S.—Is that a reason for you to have 2 1/2 votes more than I?

B.J.'s jaw drops.

U.S.—Are our laws utopian because they give each of us one vote, although you
weigh more than twice my weight?

B.J. continues to look knocked out.

U.S.—And that is all there is of “utopianism” in Socialism. The natural inequalities
in man are no reason for the subjugation of one by the other. Our system of voting



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

establishes that. If two men run a race and the swiftest wins, that is no reason why the other should be burned with hot irons. That is what capitalism does. Our theory of the suffrage deprives it of all arguments. It is established that he who does not own the tools of production is “burnt with hot irons” by him who does. The “utopianism” of Socialism consists in giving both the same economic chance that they have politically. They did not always have political equality; this had to be wrenched from the political tyrant. So now will economic inequality have to be wrenched from the economic tyrant. The same class of people who opposed universal suffrage now oppose the universal right to life—and with the same arguments.

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