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EDITORIAL

ON TO THE DICTATORSHIP!

By DANIEL DE LEON

GOV. HUGHES calls a special session of the Legislature of this State for the purpose of passing a law which he thinks should be passed, and which the regular session of the same Legislature rejected.

The issuing of such a call might not be cause for wonder. Chiefs may, and do, at times, slop over. The remarkable circumstance is that the call is applauded by some, and that even those who condemn it, condemn it, not upon principle, but upon the ground that the specific legislation demanded by the Governor, the Direct Nomination System, is undesirable.

The theory of the Government set up by the American Revolution was one of checks and balances. That theory served as the mold for all the State Constitutions. According thereto, the Government consists of three co-ordinate departments—the Legislature, to enact the laws; the Executive, to carry them out; the Judicial to interpret them. Each of these Departments attended to its own business. The Executive could and was authorized to suggest legislation, and it could and was authorized to veto the same. Nevertheless its veto is qualified. That the Executive can be overruled by the proper legislative majority is evidence enough that the Executive's authority to suggest was not an authority to dictate legislation.

This notwithstanding, we have latterly seen Presidents holding legislative seances at the White House, and thereby exercising direct legislative functions. We have latterly seen these Presidents go even further, and virtually constitute themselves into a legislative chamber of One. Finally we see the Governor of the Empire State ordering the enactment of a law, and, the Legislature having refused obedience, calling them in extraordinary session to do his bidding;—and we see all this *without a note of protest*.

Besides the economic conditions to warrant the phenomenon, it requires two

things for the dictatorship—the Dictator and the dumb Dictatores. The latter seem to be there; the former is taking shape. And yet bourgeois pundits are learnedly explaining the necessity of the dual Legislative Chamber System. They had better try and save their own precious Legislatures. Close behind the bourgeois Dictator comes the Dictatorship of the Proletariat.

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