

RADICALISM IN THE U.S.

By Senator Clayton R. Lusk

Radicalism, as it is now commonly called in this country, is the movement to destroy our system of government and to establish in its place a so-called industrial democracy. The nature, purpose and extent of this movement are little understood by the American people. Injustice and abuses always have and always will prevail, to some extent, under any system of government. The turning of the industries of a nation from peace to war, and back from war to peace necessarily upsets industrial conditions,

interferes with the natural laws of property and demand, and changes the existing relation of wages to the cost of living, thereby inevitably working hardships on many. These conditions are highly favorable for discrimination and profiteering, and people are looking, as they should, for such governmental regulation and control as will protect them from these abuses. Radicalism has been masquerading as a reform movement. Fortunately, we no longer need rely upon the plausible statements of its exponents. The sole purpose of the radical movement in this country is to overthrow existing representative government and to establish in its place a so-called social democracy. This is to be accomplished by force, violence and unlawful means. Property owners are to be excluded from all participation in the new system of government. Their property is to be confiscated. This includes not only the property of the so-called rich, but also the property of the bourgeoisie. The life savings of the husband and wife, who by years of toil and economy, have accumulated a farm, stock and tools, or who have gone into the city, or village and accumulated a small amount of property, are to be taken from them. The church teaches that we shall not steal and that we shall not covet, and that men and women are entitled to the fruits of their toils. As this conflicts with the industrial and economic theories of the radicals, they bitterly attack the church. In the headquarters of the radical organizations in different parts of the state raided by Joint Legislative Committees were found large quantities of books and pamphlets on sale, and in the form of circulating libraries, denouncing religion and the

church. The following quotations from "Love, the strongest and deepest of all emotions," a pamphlet published in May 1919, by the "Social-hope, of joy; of all-ecstasy, love, the States and have no... of all conventions; coming... Brooklyn, N. Y., and seized by the love, the freest and most powerful are citizens have renounced... committee in one of the radical head-moulder of all human destiny; how can... be synon- their allegiance to the... and Socialist State of which... in the devil is a confusion in the mind Church-begotten weed, marriage?"... of the workers. One of the instruments For years the parlor Socialist has... for the obscuring of the consciousness been misrepresenting the attitude... of these traitors to carry on their... of the people is the belief in God and the Radicals toward the State, the... of the devil, in good and evil spirits, an-church and the home. /Their real atti- government by force and violence... gels, saints, etc., in short-religion. tude towards these institutions can... insist upon interfering with the... The masses of the people have become longer be in doubt. It is fully ex- of officials familiar with these... accustomed to believe in these things, posed by the tons of books, pamphlets, ditions, in their efforts to protect... and yet, if we approach these beliefs and documents seized in the headquar- government and institutions, is by... sensibly, and come to understand where ters of these organizations, many of my comprehensions. The recent Socialist trial at Albany... religion comes from, and why religion which have been read into evidence... receives such warm support from the during the hearing of the committee. is an illustration of the hysteria... bourgeois gentlemen, we shall clearly We live under a government of uni- those who are so much concerned about... understand that the function of relig-vernal manhood and womanhood suf- the "rights" of the Revolutionists... at present is to act as a poison with frage in which the majority rule. What- this country, and are so little concerned... which the minds of the people have ever changes the majority of our peo- about this tremendous movement... been and continue to be corrupted." ple see fit to accomplish in our sys- destroy our system of government... At page 136 it says, "Another pois- tems of government may be brought These Socialists are charged with be- on of this type is opium. Those who lawfully and without violence. Noing elected as representatives of an or- ganization, the purpose of which was... have smoked it behold all sorts of one has ever questioned the right of ganization, the purpose of which was... lovely visions, are at once transported any organization or individual to ad- to destroy our government by violence... to paradise. But the use of opium re- vocate the adoption of Socialism, or... and unlawful means; and with having... suits later in a complete undermining any other system of government, no- personally subscribed to and advocated... of the health, and the user gradually matter how radical, provided it was to these principles. If, during the Civil... becomes a complete idiot. It is simi- be brought about by a majority vote. War, a man had been elected to Con- ar with religion." Advocacy of the destruction of our

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of the Confederates cause, would he have been permitted to sit in Congress and hamper the government in its efforts for self-preservation? If, during the war with Germany, a man had been elected to Congress on a platform advocating the success of Germany in its war against the United States, would he have been permitted to sit in Congress and hamper the government in its prosecution of the war? During the trial of the Socialists, it was admitted that the Socialist party of America, to whose manifestos, and program the members in question had subscribed, had, in their party manifesto, unanimously adopted at Chicago, in September last, advocated the forming of organizations of working classes for the purpose of establishing the Socialist system of government in this country by industrial action. It was admitted that industrial action included the general strike. It was admitted, as demonstrated, recently in Winnipeg and Seattle that the object of the general strike was to stop by force and violence the distribution of food, fuel and the necessities of life and to accomplish the violent and forcible change of government by taking it out of the hands of the authorities, duly elected by a majority of the people and placing it in the hands of a strike committee representing these so-called industrial organizations. This is no sane change in government by lawful methods. It is revolution. It is to be accomplished by force and violence and unlawful means. The difference in this proposed method and the proposed method of the Revolutionists was would first seize the guns, rifles and munitions contained in the different armories and directly attack the government officials in a differentiated as a private matter—a question of individual conscience. It is with this once only as to which form of violence was adopted by a majority of one. If a Committee have been concerned. There exist throughout the State of New York today a large number of revolutionary organizations. They are divisible into two classes. The first class comprises those organizations of men and women who believe in and advocate the overthrow of established government by the seizure of the guns, rifles and munitions contained in the different armories, and a direct attack upon the duly elected government officials. The class is comparatively small in number. The second class comprises those organizations which believe in and advocate the overthrow of established government and the confiscation of property by industrial action. When sufficiently organized, they propose to put on a general strike which will stop the transportation and distribution of food, fuel and the necessities of life, and supplement this action by such force as is necessary to accomplish the revolution. Some of these organizations masquerade as political parties. They, however, openly advocate in their constitutions, platforms and manifestos, the forming class organizations which are to accomplish the so-called political parties revolutionary aims by the general public sentiment and side their higher political honors. The time has come for men in positions of leadership to stand up and tell the truth and let the people the facts irrespective of effect upon their political fortunes.

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