

# DAILY PEOPLE

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EDITORIAL

## OPEN LETTER TO JOHN F. O'BRIEN, SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, AND FRANCIS HENDRICKS, SUPERINTENDENT OF INSURANCE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**S**IRS:—

We hereby submit to you the following facts, and ask the following questions:

First—Mr. Jacob H. Schiff is a director of the Equitable Life Assurance Society;

Second—Mr. Jacob H. Schiff is a member of the firm of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., of this city;

Third—The said firm of Kuhn, Loeb & Co. sold in the course of last year to the said Equitable Life Assurance Society \$22,000,000 worth of railroad bonds, netting the firm about \$500,000;

Fourth—Section 36 of the Insurance Law of this State reads:

“No director or officer of any insurance corporation doing business in this State shall receive any money or valuable thing for negotiating, procuring or recommending any loan from any such corporation, or for selling or aiding in the sale of any stocks or securities to or by such corporation. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall forfeit his position as such director or officer and be disqualified from thereafter holding any such office in an insurance corporation”; and

Fifth—The said Jacob H. Schiff continues to hold office in the said Equitable Life Assurance Society.

These are all facts, not only of public notoriety, but subject to documentary verification. The matter falls within your province.—Why do you allow this violation of the law to continue?

Workingmen are hauled up before the tribunals of the State, and they are vindictively punished for the slightest even alleged violation of the statute.—Why is the millionaire law-breaker winked at?

We know that we are Socialists, and, consequently, frequently bracketed by the designing with criminals who should be exterminated with fire and sword. We shall not here enter into a discussion of such views. They are of no consequence to the matter in hand. As officers of the law you are aware that even convicted criminals are frequently put upon the witness-stand by the State to give State's evidence. We can, consequently, not be excluded. Moreover, the evidence in the case is all documentary, and easily accessible to you.—Why do you ignore it?

We, Socialists, consider capitalist society to be organized crime; note that, crime that is ORGANIZED. War, for instance, also is heinous and inhuman; for all that, there is a vast difference between unorganized war or brigandage, and organized warfare. Heinous though war is, even its patrons recognize the necessity of regulating it: even they punish desultory war, or desultory means, such as poisoned weapons and dum-dum balls. So with capitalist society: it also recognizes certain actions as similar to dum-dum balls, and enacts statutes against them. Such an act as Mr. Jacob H. Schiff is guilty of is in the nature of a dum-dum ball: capitalist society itself so feels it, and has enacted the statute above quoted.—Why do you allow Mr. Jacob H. Schiff to dum-dum ball society?

Sirs, your neglect of duty renders you “participes criminis”—surely a bad example for the very officials of Law and Order to set to the Working Class.—Why is this thus, and what is the reason of this business?

Yours, etc.,

EDITOR DAILY PEOPLE.

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