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EDITORIAL

AN OPEN LETTER TO E.F. ROBINS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

TO E.F. Robins.
New York.
Dear Sir,

Informed tho' this office is upon the magnitude of our people's slaughter, we must admit that your figures in your letter of last April 30, setting forth that out of the 1,500,000 annual deaths in the country, 42 per cent. are attributable to preventable causes, has given us a positive shock.

But the shock was shortlived. The very Senator, the Hon. Robert L. Owen of Oklahoma, who introduced the bill to establish a Government Health Service, which to support you ask our co-operation, a few days later, when answering the letters read in the Senate against the proposed Government Health Service proclaimed: "Men are as important as swine."

Senator Owen's maxim throws light upon his bill. The two together explain the gigantic mortality from preventable causes.

It seems to us that the person who considers men as important as swine, levels men to the swine status, and, by so doing betrays the motive of a bill upon which opinion might otherwise differ.

The health of swine is very important. Pork is a staple of consumption. Healthy swine means wholesome pork. The health, that people will endeavor to impart to swine, is imparted, not for the swine's sake, but for the sake of the pork that the swine is expected to become. Outside of that, man has no interest in swine, and would let them starve, or rot to death.

Senator Owen's maxim betrays the purpose of his Government Health Service. Men being as important as swine, it follows that men are not more important than swine, and that the measure of the swine's importance is the measure of man's. See-

ing that the importance of the swine's health has an eye solely to his pork's {sic} stage, the conclusion would seem unavoidable that the importance of men's health has an eye to their wage slave stage.

Of course, whatever the motive of him who would promote the health of the wage slaves—the vast majority of that 42 per cent. of the victims of death from preventable causes—such as man's activity should be encouraged. Yet, would you not agree with us that if the health of the wage slave is placed upon the same ground as the health of swine, the wage slaves run serious risk of being derailed by Senator Owen's bill, whereas if they organize themselves politically and economically in such manner as to emancipate themselves from parallelism with swine their efforts after health would be more likely to accrue to themselves than would their efforts via Senator Owen's Swine Route?

EDITOR DAILY PEOPLE.

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