

Seattle Wash June 7 1899

Henry Kuhn

Dear Comrade

We have a question before us that needs to be answered right.

It is close to the border-land of that worst of fakes "State Socialism".

The Street Car lines of this City are owned by several private companies with charters to run a number of years. A Boston syndicate proposes to buy and consolidate the lines, provided they be granted a Charter for 40 years. A citizens committee of 100 are circulating petitions to City Council requesting <sup>them</sup> to submit a proposition to the people to have city buy the roads and run them. The matter stands this way. It is

to be a choice between a 40 year franchise to a private company and municipal ownership "à la Glasgow". Of course both are vicious, rotten, and there would seem to be no choice for an D.R.P. man, but this further fact crops up, to wit, in 5 years the Socialist propose to have control of the City Council. Now with a 40 year contract with a private corporation the U.S. Supreme Court and Law of Contract would be a bar to any action by us. On the other hand if the Street Car lines are owned by the City when we capture the Council we can carry out the D.R.P. program Reduce fair to work - employees elect their own, superior officers, stop the income of the service from being

used by middle class to dodge  
Taxation -

It is simply a question  
of choice between two rotten  
plans, but one of the plans  
has a door out of it, while  
the other has not.

The question (if it comes up) will  
be decided at a Special Election,  
~~and no person is to be voted~~  
for. ~~only the~~

Now what is our duty - Is  
this a case of the "Devil tempting  
Christ" Are we in danger of  
getting tar on our fingers if  
we play with this stick, or will  
it be a case of looking ahead  
to a good we can wrest from  
the unwilling grasp of our Enemy.

Let me have an answer as soon as  
you.  
Fraternally T. J. Dean