

The Communists Constitute Only Force That Will Fight Militantly for The Working Class

By ARNE SWABECK

The militant progressivism by which the Chicago Federation of Labor, thru its official spokesmen, formerly gained a leading position in the American labor movement, has been repudiated. One step backward has followed another until these spokesmen have come put in open support of black reaction.

The principle of amalgamation, once accepted with an overwhelming majority vote by the Chicago Federation of Labor, has been repudiated. It has refused to stand by its once adopted Labor Party policy. And now the Labor Committee on Injunctions, headed by John Fitzpatrick and appointed by him, at the instigation of Samuel Gompers, puts its official stamp of approval on the Gompers' political policy of "rewarding friends and punishing enemies." It endorses 21 judicial candidates selected from among the tools of the bosses on the democratic and republican tickets. The very policy which has many times in the past been declared obsolete by Fitzpatrick.

Thus a long journey has been com-

pleted in a short span of time. From an advanced position of lofty principles, leading the struggle toward a higher level for labor, Fitzpatrick and his "progressive" friends have come down to the ugly reality of spinning the first threads of an alliance with the arch reactionaries in support of the henchmen of capitalism. The lofty principles were hollow. The militant progressivism was only a bright tint which wore off at the first touch of the dead hand of Sam Gompers. The struggle for a united front of labor has been supplanted with open support of the representatives of labor's bitter enemies, the capitalist judges.

When last year, in March, the Chicago Federation of Labor thru a resolution, proposed by the Communists, endorsed the principle of amalgamation, it gave new life and new hope to the labor movement. It was looked to for leadership out of the present mire of craft conflicts. This action gave tremendous stimulus to the then already growing sentiment. It made a powerful national campaign possible, every day gaining in momentum and crystallizing into more definite expression. Today 12 International Union conventions, 16 State Federation convention and 3,777

locals of the sixteen standard Railroad Unions have endorsed amalgamation. But today Fitzpatrick and his "progressive" friends find that they did not want amalgamation, because it represents a mighty surge toward a united front of labor. Because it means not only a mere change in the present form of organization. It means more efficient methods of struggle against the bosses, and with that the elimination of the present reactionary leadership.

Four years ago the Chicago Federation of Labor, under the leadership of Fitzpatrick and by referendum vote of its affiliated local unions, decided to take the initiative to form a Labor Party. It was a direct challenge to the obsolete Gompers' political policy. It lighted a spark of rebellion which further expanded when this year the Farmer-Labor Party joined in with the Workers Party in the campaign for a united Labor Party. The calling of the July 3rd conference, altho the Farmer-Labor Party refused to go along in the deliberations of this conference, gave a tremendous impetus to this campaign. It gave it national significance. It became a powerful expression of the rank and file sentiment crystallized into a united demand for

united independent political action by the workers. The Farmer-Labor Party went ahead on top of the mighty waves because it had adopted the slogans of the united front put forward by the Communists. But at the crucial moment it did not stand the test. The outstanding spokesman for the Farmer-Labor Party, John Fitzpatrick and his "progressive" friends found that they did not want a united front Labor Party. They repudiated the principle upon which their own party was built. They have since refused to fight for the Labor Party idea, and now the betrayal has been completed with the endorsement of the capitalist judicial candidates.

This endorsement has been made under the plea of trying to defeat the two notorious Injunction Judges, Dennis E. Sullivan and Jesse Holdom, when as a matter of fact some of the endorsed candidates have a record of being as bitter enemies of labor as the two aforementioned. Indeed, past experience has proven conclusively that no matter how good the promises; no matter what endorsements and faith may be placed upon the candidates on the capitalist tickets, they will always be willing to do the bidding of the masters. They will issue new injunctions at their request

because they are bought and paid for by dominant capitalism. Yet some of those who administered the endorsement, in the past, professed to stand for independent political action by the workers, which has now been sacrificed.

Labor candidates were in the field. The Socialist Party ticket at least stands in opposition to the capitalist parties. Many of its candidates are members of organized labor, some are delegates to the Chicago Federation of Labor; but none of them were endorsed by the Labor Committee on Injunctions. True, the official leadership of the Socialist Party has time and again manipulated its power of leadership to defeat the best interests of the rank and file and support the reactionary Gompers machine. The whole Daily Forward crew have become the messenger boys of Samuel Gompers in his red baiting campaign and gone to the extent of disrupting the unions by expulsions of militant workers. It has refused to fight militantly even for the daily needs of the workers, and as pointed out in the statement on this election issued by the Workers Party, Local Chicago, its program and tactics cannot lead to the emancipation of the workers from the rule of the bosses. The So-

cialist Party has refused to fight alongside of the only true workers' republic in the world—the Russian Soviet Republic. It carries a great deal of the responsibility for the present political division of the workers thru its refusal to join in a united front of labor for independent political action, and with it the responsibility for the fact that there is no united labor ticket in the field in this election. Some of its own candidates at the last Chicago Federation of Labor meeting made a miserable apology for the fact that the party had dared to put up an independent ticket in opposition to the official Gompers policy. Nevertheless the endorsement of candidates on the capitalist judicial ticket has thrown the principle of united action by labor into discard.

It is precisely for this reason that the Workers Party, Local Chicago, called upon the workers of Cook County to vote the Socialist ticket in this election—to uphold the principle and continue the struggle for a united front of labor; to emphasize the need of labor voting for labor candidates in opposition to those of the bosses. Such united front would by no means be an electoral combination for the pursuit of certain par-

liamentary aims. It is a call for united struggle in defense of the elementary and vital interests of the working class against the bosses. In this case particularly the right to organize trade unions and to strike for better working conditions were at stake. Every such united struggle, even in an election campaign, is a source of revolutionary education as revolutionary training. It helps to convince the workers of the need of united action as a class and solidify the ranks. Such united action will weed out the treacherous opportunistic elements with the reactionary leaders, and it will furthermore convince the workers of the inevitability of revolution and the importance of Communism.

The Workers Party has thus shown that it is the only force in the labor movement which sincerely fights for a united front of labor, and the only party which fights for the interests of the proletariat as a whole; which simultaneously it preserves an independent line of action. This is precisely what will make possible the building up of an independent power by the Workers Party, because the Communists are the only force which will fight militantly for the economic and political needs of the workers.