

Injunctions Are Not Weapons of 'Bad' Judges, But of the Whole Capitalist System

By ARNE SWARCK.

Twenty-one judges, ready to issue new injunctions in times of labor struggle, were elected from the two old capitalist tickets in the Chicago judicial contest. It was done with the active assistance of the Labor Committee on Injunctions, and even some of the candidates of the Socialist Party.

Naturally, such a line-up could only result in sure victory for the two notorious labor enemies, Dennis E. Sullivan and Jesse Holdom. These were the two particular candidates whom both the Labor Committee and the Socialist candidates pretended to want to defeat. It is but one more proof that the injunction system can only be defeated by making it a clear cut issue between the tools of the capitalist class and representatives of labor; a united working class ticket against the capitalist tickets.

Injunctions are not only weapons of certain judges, but an institution

which has become part and parcel of the capitalist system. As long as capitalism controls the political power it will prove an effective instrument in their hands to suppress the workers and maintain the system of exploitation. In this case it should be particularly evident.

The whole Democratic ticket was picked by the same committee which selected Dennis E. Sullivan, and the whole Republican ticket was picked by the same committee which selected Jesse Holdom. Those who supported these two particular candidates also supported the others and none of them would become disturbed over the fact that certain "labor leaders" favor some of their pickings in preference to others, no matter what the excuse.

Even General Dawes, of the Minute Men of the Constitution, could have spared all his excitement, their states were not seriously threatened. No, they were indorsed with certain changes, as a matter of expediency. One thing, however, they all fear, and that is a united labor opposition, and such united opposition would have

been a far more effective weapon for the two notorious wielders of the injunction weapon than the miserable attempt to distinguish between "good" and "bad" men amongst the agents of privilege.

The Socialist Party, in this election, remained true to its once chosen miserable role of cringing before the Gompers' bureaucracy by carrying favors from it thru support of its non-partisan political policy. While the Workers Party called upon the workers of Cook County to vote the Socialist ticket, as the only ticket which stood in opposition to those of the bosses, the Socialist Party was actively engaging in stultifying the principle of independent political action by the workers. It even repudiated what it declared to be its own program.

What did the Socialist Party mean by putting an independent ticket in the field? Two of its candidates, Barney Berlin, speaking in the Chicago Federation of Labor, and Ivar A. Anderson, speaking in the Painters' District Council, just previous to the election, tacitly endorsed the slate

of capitalist judges recommended by the Labor Committee on Injunctions. While they reserved the right for themselves to even vote the Socialist ticket they were willing to approve of the action of this committee and advise the workers to vote accordingly. It is but reasonable to assume that they spoke for the Socialist Party and thus again committed it to the bankrupt policy of Gompers. Instead of accepting a proposed united front of labor and help lead it onward to militant class action, against injunctions and the union smashing campaigns of the bosses, they sneaked up behind and threw a dagger into the back of the labor movement. This should be one more proof to the workers of America that they can never hope for leadership from the Socialist Party for independent political action of the workers. It has made a miserable caricature of its traditional independent political position. It should also constitute a serious warning to all honest workers within the Socialist Party, as to its true character.

The American workers generally

have not reached the point of recognizing the necessity of acting unitedly and independently even on election days. But the many disillusionings experienced from constantly shifting their favors from one to another of the capitalist parties, while suffering the same abuse from both, will soon become an effective teacher. They will then see the need of a united front of labor and it will be achieved despite the sabotage of the Socialist Party and the preposterous progressives. The position of the Workers Party is clear. It is the only force which sincerely fights for unity of labor and it will continue this fight.

Unity of labor in election campaigns, unity in the struggles for the everyday needs of the workers, independent action as a class, politically and economically, are the first elementary necessities. This will lay the basis and create the solidarity necessary for greater struggles and greater achievements. It is the road to the abolition of the rule of the bosses with their injunctions and oppressions, and the substitution of the workers' power.