

# Demand Oscar Nelson Raise His Voice Against Thugs

**A**N open letter from the Chicago Executive Committee of the Workers Party, makes the sharp demand on Alderman Oscar Nelson, vice-president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, and paid attorney for the striking garment workers, that he raise his voice in the city council against the police brutalities and the violence by private thugs which is running rampant in the strike zone.

The letter, which is signed by Arne Swabeck, District Organizer for the Workers Party, and delegate to the Chicago Federation of Labor from the Painters' Union, demands to know why he has allowed these criminal actions go unchallenged so far and insists that he take immediate action. The Letter, which is dated March 24, follows:

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Alderman Oscar Nelson,  
179 W. Washington Street,  
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Sir and Brother:—Speaking for those workers who are members of the Workers Party, and voicing the sentiments of the militant trade unionists of Chicago, we believe that the situation which has developed during the period of the strike of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union against the unfair garment manufacturers, demands certain actions on your part, as a member of the City Council, but principally as an officer of the local labor movement.

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## DEMAND NELSON ACT.

You are aware, as well as the whole Chicago labor movement is aware, of the fact that the police force which is assigned to "keep order" in the strike zone are grossly partial in this strike situation, showing every possible ambition to protect the scabs and harrass, insult and mistreat the striking workers who may appear in that territory, while nothing is being done by the city authorities to change this situation. You are aware of the fact that striking girls have been brutally manhandled by these assigned police as well as by thugs, while little or nothing has been done to change this situation and bring those who are guilty to justice. You are aware of the fact that private gunmen, hired by the bosses, are assuming the authority to rule the streets within the strike zone, molesting not only striking workers but innocent bystanders as well. We want to know why nothing has been done on your part to stop this disgrace.

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## NELSON MUST RAISE VOICE.

The District Executive Committee of the Workers Party, District Chicago, therefore demands that you bring these matters to the attention of the Chicago City Council, and demand from it:

First, that policemen, assigned to uphold "law and order" in the strike zone, actually do so and give the same protection to the striking garment workers as to anybody else;

Second, that proper action be taken toward punishing those policemen who have violated their oath of duty and been instrumental in beating up and mistreating striking workers;

Third, that all private gunmen and sluggers, the so-called guards, hired by the clothing manufacturers, be ordered removed from the streets, and that striking workers be deputized to keep order in the strike zone.

Fraternally yours.

ARNE SWABECK,  
District Organizer, Workers Party, Chicago.

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Many trade unionists of Chicago are demanding that Nelson use his seat in the City Council for the strikers whose rights are being violated and whose lives are endangered by police thugs—paid by the city. A "labor representative," they insist should give the workers some of the support that he is now giving his friend, the Fire Commissioner, who is accused of graft and inefficiency.