

Fitzpatrick and Nockels Do not Deserve Support of Workers in Election

Statement on the Elections in the Chicago Federation of Labor, by the Workers Party and the Trade Union Educational League.

SUNDAY, Sept. 21, elections take place for officers of the Chicago Federation of Labor for the ensuing term. John Fitzpatrick, Ed Nockels and Oscar Nelson have been renominated for the offices of President, Secretary and Vice-President, respectively.

This is another instance in the trade union movement where leaders are seeking re-election on a record of complete lack of leadership.

The late records of Fitzpatrick and Nockels, which in every instance have been pointed to by the Workers Party and the Trade Union Educational League, show their miserable failures when they were called upon to fight squarely for the progressive measures demanded by the development of the labor movement and which they professed to stand for. The record of Oscar Nelson has been one of a persistent reactionary attitude and opposition to such progressive measures actually required by the labor movement.

At the crucial point, when Samuel Gompers launched his vicious attack upon the demands for amalgamation raised by labor everywhere and particularly by the delegates to the Chicago Federation of Labor representing their affiliated unions, Fitzpatrick and Nockels completely deserted the fight to get some action on this proposal by the American Federation of Labor. A proposal to which they had both given lip service.

The Farmer-Labor Party, established by a referendum vote of the unions affiliated to the Chicago Federation of Labor, was slowly knifed by Fitzpatrick and Nockels thru their utter failure to maintain the right of the unions to engage in such activities in face of the Gompers opposition and to give militant leadership to unify this movement on a national scale. Moreover, while the Farmer-Labor Party, established by the unions, was still in existence Fitzpatrick, Nockels and Oscar Nelson gave their endorsement to the candidates for Circuit Court Judges nominated on the two old capitalist tickets, many of them having injunctions against labor to their record; this despite the fact that candidates, members of labor unions, had been nominated for the bench.

At a time when injunctions against the Chicago labor unions in their struggle for better conditions have been handed down wholesale, Fitzpatrick, Nockels and Oscar Nelson have failed miserably to lead a militant fight against this usurpation of power by the courts.

Now, finally, Fitzpatrick and Nockels have completed the surrender to Gompers and given up their last pretense of fighting for independent political action by labor. They, as well as Oscar Nelson, who, further, still supports the Democratic Capitalist party, have given their endorsement to the Gompers "non-partisan" policy and to the candidates of the small bankers and independent manufacturers, LaFollette and Wheeler. They have even given their endorsement to such an outstanding reactionary as Governor Small who is still running on the program of the Republican Party which has nothing but scorn for labor.

These candidates for office in the Chicago Federation of Labor for the ensuing term can no more command the respect of militant, progressive workers.

WORKERS PARTY, LOCAL CHICAGO,

Martin Abern, Secretary.

TRADE UNION EDUCATIONAL LEAGUE, LOCAL CHICAGO,

Walt Carmon, Secretary.