

"REWARDING FRIENDS, PUNISHING ENEMIES" POLICY AIDS THE UNION-HATING BOSSES; FORM LABOR PARTY!

By ARNE SWABECK.

By official endorsement the Chicago Federation of Labor has now placed itself in support of the Tribune-Crowe-Small candidate for the coming republican party primaries for United States senator from Illinois. It is a strange combination indeed.

The Tribune, the special mouthpiece of the big industrial corporations, edited by James Patten, the wheat gambler and McCormick, the king of the harvester trust, the one Chicago daily which is the most outspoken against labor; constantly vilifying and slandering the unions and the publicity agent of the notorious "citizens' committee." The State's Attorney Robert Crowe, who in company with Dudley Taylor takes upon himself to raid union headquarters, arrest union officials and union pickets, put them thru third degree methods and use the power of his office to attempt to destroy the unions. Len Small, the governor of Illinois convicted for a million dollar graft from public funds while holding the office of state treasurer, now presiding at the "steal" works in Springfield. The special candidate of this combination has obtained the official endorsement of the Chicago central labor body.

Candidate of Union Smashers.

While politics may make strange bedfellows what other results could be expected from a policy of "rewarding friends and punishing enemies" so ardently sponsored by the present trade union officials.

What is the difference between McKinley and Frank L. Smith, the two contending candidates in the coming republican party primaries? Both are members of the same party, controlled by the same labor-hating, strike-breaking and union-smashing corporations. Both are pledged to uphold the same platform and serve the same interests which are the mainstay of the exploitation and suppression of labor. To appear "good" or "bad" on minor issues at certain times does not change their hide or alter their fundamental policies. They are both tools of the republican party and of the capitalist system.

When the Chicago Federation of Labor still supported the modest efforts made toward independent political action by the workers many delegates would loudly proclaim their disgust with any attempt to make it a tail end to the two old capitalist parties and declare their adherence to the building of a labor party. Yet the federation has now by its last official action completely reverted to the old time worn political policy of the American Federation of Labor bureaucracy. This despite the many bitter experiences of so-called good capitalist politicians placed in office and continuing to use the government as an instrument of oppression of the workers.

Reward "Good" Men.

For instance, in 1922, the Chicago Labor Committee on Injunctions, created by Sam Gompers, made endorsements of a number of so-called "good" judges on the two old capitalist tickets, some of whom were elected and have since succeeded in establishing a black injunction record for themselves. The women's eight-hour bill has been constantly sabotaged by the so-called friends of labor in the Illinois state legislature. And surely none of them can be depended upon to oppose the proposed state constabulary bill whenever the big corporations get ready to use pressure to put it thru.

At the last republican party nomination convention Len Small heading the Illinois delegation helped to put over the strike-breaker Coolidge and "Hell'n Maria" Dawes. When Samuel Gompers appeared asking for consideration for a labor's bill of particulars to be inserted in the party's platform he was given a cold shoulder. Labor's demands, of course, were ignored. The republican party L. Smith, the state chairman of the republican party, despite any labor endorsement will remain loyal to his has no intention whatever to deviate from its distinct line of maintenance

of the capitalist dictatorship. Frank party platform.

Whether the United States government is dominated by the republican or democratic makes no difference whatever. It is an instrument of oppression of the workers directly aiming to break up the trade unions. In 1919, under the Wilson administration, the Anderson injunction was handed down against the miners on strike. In 1922, under the Harding administration, the coal operators were invited to open up their mines, during the strike with scab labor under government protection. The same year the infamous Daugherty injunction was issued against the striking railroad shopcrafts prohibiting any and all legitimate trade union activities. No protests were heard from the so-called labor friends amongst the capitalist politicians.

John H. Walker, in pleading for the endorsement of the Keeley Cure magnate of Dwight before the Chicago Federation of Labor, cited some interesting statistics on crimes which undoubtedly were correct. He stated that 47% of all individuals falling on the criminal road could be traced to the fact that their childhood had witnessed the loss of one or both parents and its resulting social neglect. The other 53% could be traced to heredity or "defective environments." Is this not a terrible indictment of the capitalist system and its rulers? If parents die society is not responsible for their children. Under the economic conditions of the system parents of working class families are mostly both compelled to work in factories to eke out a meager existence, the children, if not also in the fangs of dreadful factory slavery are left to care for themselves subject to the sensational, poisonous capitalist propaganda in their newspapers and movies.

Such are the conditions, the "defective environments," which are being upheld by the staunch supporters of the old capitalist parties be they Frank L. Smith or McKinley or anyone else. The policy of "rewarding friends and punishing enemies," amongst the agents of privilege, the so-called policy of political neutrality is in reality no neutrality but becomes outright support to the capitalist parties and thus support to the capitalist system regardless of "good" men and "bad" men.

Need Labor Party.

The class struggle presents a series of cold bitter facts which on so-called theory or policy of neutrality can change. And the only security for the workers, and the trade unionists in particular is to recognize their class position and act politically as a class protecting their class interests.

Despite the fact that the movement for a labor party has received temporary setbacks the policy to be pursued by the Chicago Federation of Labor should be as a first step to call a conference of all trade unions of the city for the purpose of discussing the possibility of uniting on a slate of labor candidates for the coming elections—candidates pledged to a labor platform and controlled by labor.

Laundries Challenge Unions.

SEATTLE—(FP)—Twenty-six laundry companies in Seattle have served notice that from now on they will operate open shop. This cancels the agreement with the unions which has been in existence nine years. The workers are considering strike action.

Send in that sub!