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# Ex-Alderman Buck Joins Labor's New Party: Leaves Republican Fold with Statement Charging No Difference Between Old Political Groups.

Report published in *The New Majority* [Chicago], v. 1, no. 3 (Jan. 18, 1919), pg. 16.

*Former Alderman Robert M. Buck has issued a statement announcing his withdrawal from the Republican Party and his entry into the new Labor Party [of Cook County], as follows:*

Up to the present time I have never been affiliated with any other than the Republican Party, although mine has been an insurgent membership affiliated with a fighting minority.

I have long felt the uselessness of the struggle to make the Republican Party responsive to the first principles of democracy, but during the war and even more rapidly since the armistice was signed, the Republican leaders of the country have been and are hurtling the party further and further along the autocratic highway toward imperialistic enterprise to such an extent and with such brazen disregard of the principles for which we said we fought, that I find even the distant association of a common party name with these persons to be intolerable.

## **Neither Old Party Is Any Good.**

The Democratic Party is no better. It has temporary leadership by a forward looking man of conscience, intellect, and power, but he is so handicapped by the traditions, jealousies, and lack of sincerity of his fellow leaders that even a man of Woodrow Wilson's genius can not make the name of the Democratic Party anything other than a mockery.

The Socialist Party lost the esteem of red-blooded Americans by its action on the war. When forward looking citizens, even those who doubted the sincerity of the war leaders, supported the war with the determination to do everything in their power to make it a war for democracy, the Socialist Party officially turned its face against such an effort.

## **No Party Supported President.**

The President of the United States committed this nation to advanced and altruistic prin-

†- The Labor Party of Cook County was founded through the initiative of the Chicago Federation of Labor at a convention held in Chicago on Sunday, Dec. 29, 1918. Delegates were in attendance from 165 unions. The session approved a constitution and platform which had been prepared and printed in advance of the meeting, the former unanimously and the latter after a brief discussion of a few technical points. The keynote address to the founding convention was delivered by President of the Chicago Federation of Labor John Fitzpatrick, who along with the Federation's Secretary, E.N. Nockels, seems to have been the chief motivating force behind the organization. A new publication called *The New Majority* was established as an organ of the Chicago and the new Labor Party of Cook County, officers were elected, and a nominating convention set for Jan. 12, 1919, to name candidates for Mayor, City Clerk, and City Treasurer. This second meeting, not surprisingly, nominated President of the Chicago Federation of Labor John Fitzpatrick to head the new party's ticket in the April elections.

ciples by his utterances on the objects of the war. He encountered the opposition of all parties, including his own.

This brings sharply to view the fact that there is no difference of political or economic theory between the two main political parties of the United States. The Democrats' "tariff for revenue only" and the Republicans' "protective tariff" gravitated toward each other until they are about the same thing and are equally unsound.

We find no line up for and against state rights between the parties in the roll calls on such bills in Congress as equal suffrage and the prohibition amendment to the national constitution.

### **Workers vs. Exploiters is Lineup.**

The line of political cleavage in this country is nowhere properly placed except between the workers on the one hand, who have been swindled out of that which is theirs, and the exploiters of the workers on the other hand, who through all these years have constructed the devices of party and group and faction, with unsound and false doctrines and shibboleths to keep the workers divided.

Therefore I cast my lot politically with the Labor Party which has been organized to make this new line of cleavage and the effort of which must be to take from all the old parties the workers and unite them in a modern, truly democratic group, thus driving together the reactionaries of the other parties into one opposition party so that we may begin to decide our political questions on sound and fundamental issues instead of prestidigitator's sleight of hand.

*Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.*

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