A national conference was called in Chicago, July 10th, at which William Z. Foster was named for president, and Ben Gitlow for vice-president. The National Committee of the Farmer-Labor party, on the same day, withdrew the candidacies of McDonald and Bouck, and adopted a declaration calling upon all adherents of the Farmer-Labor program to throw their support to the Workers Party. This statement was signed by Alex Howat, chair- man, A. C. Hathaway, secretary, Alfred Knutsen, Scott Willkins and Joseph Manley, members. Alice Daly, of South Dakota, declined to sign, and William Mahoney, the remaining member, had resigned.

Thus has the alignment taken place for the 1924 presidential election campaign. The issues are clear. William Z. Foster, the candidate of the Workers Party, running on the platform of the dictatorship of the working class against the dictatorship of the capitalist class in the campaign, Neither Mr. Gompers nor Mr. Morrison feel the slightest responsibility for the organization of the steel workers. They have not turned a hand over, either to help or to see that the campaign was conducted in a vigorous fashion. The same is true of nearly all of the Internationals involved.

Neither the A. F. of L. nor the Internationals have put any organizers in the field. They let the full burden of the campaign fall upon the steel fund. Not content with that, they have, notably the A. F. of L., been loading the only active part of the organization, funds with fossils altogether incompetent to act as organizers. At one time there were a dozen organizations in the field. These received $250 per month, with $7.00 per day expenses, or in other words $400 per month for full time organizers. At present, the campaign being an admitted failure, there are only four men in the field. Few exceptions the organizers engaged in the work have looked upon their jobs as sinecures and have acted accordingly.

The Money Wasted to Organize 200 Men

The campaign, such as it was, has been conducted chiefly in Chicago, Cleveland, and Bethlehem, a little work also being done in Buffalo. This resulted in complete failure, due to the antiquated and spiritless methods employed. At no point was enough grip secured in the industry to give it even a tinge of success. Nowhere were organizations established. The total number of workers signed up throughout the campaign in all the districts did not exceed 200 at the very outside. Such is the ridiculous showing made by the great American Federation of Labor, with its corps of highly paid organizers, after a year’s “work” and the spending of many thousands of dollars — a maximum of 200 steel workers who have been coaxed, cajoled, or tricked into joining the unions.

During the existence of the American Federation of Labor there have been many glaring examples of failure in organization work. Time and again the conservative leaders of the unions have pointed out that they do not understand the first principles of mass organization. But the so-called steel organizing campaign easily tops the list of such failures. It is the most pitiful example of impotency and incompetency, that the labor movement of this country has yet seen.

But, characteristically, Hannan and his associates have turned their miserable full and part-time resources to put on the necessary campaign. This day will come much sooner than many expect.