

SCHOOLS LEAD THE PARADE ...DOWN-HILL

*Corrupt ed. system earns
Chicago a special name*

Even some of the big murder stories have gotten smaller headlines in the yellow press than the news late this month that James B. McCahey, president of the Board of Education, would resign from the board next April.

This was a key event in a series of upheavals in the Chicago school system. The whole picture makes a lively story of political chicanery and points to the grim reasons why the millions of Chicago workers who want the highest quality of free education for their children are being cheated.

On November 31st the North Central Association (NCA) announced that if McCahey and the four other "old guard" members of the school board failed to resign, the NCA executive would recommend next April that member colleges refuse to recognize the credits of students from Chicago's schools. High school graduates would have special trouble getting into most colleges. Mayor Kelly immediately answered the NCA with a stirring defence of his "old friend" McCahey and proclaimed, "I will never ask him to resign!"

The mayor said the NCA would have to prove the accusations against McCahey and the present school administration. Now, it so happens that even LABOR VIEWS with its limited connections in the school system can point directly to specific people who hold down jobs in this system simply because they are connected to or are members of McCahey's family. For example at the Chicago Teachers College there is a Miss McCahey (the board presy's sister) who spends a very leisurely few hours a day in the school as a "clerk" at the reported salary of \$260 a month. And this is only one form of corruption which the NCA with its vast authority evidently could prove. So with Kelly still slapping him on the back, McCahey is resigning.

McCahey's action is hailed as a partial victory for the "liberals" who are fighting for what they call a "non-political" school board. Representatives of the Citizens Schools Committee, the Church Federation of Greater Chicago and the Womens City Club expressed their sentiments by asking, "Why wait 'till April?" "When will the other

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holdover members resign?"

The special set-up in the Chicago School system has made it quite unique throughout the country. Unlike these of other cities, Chicago schools are run by people appointed specifically because of their loyal affiliation with the political party in power. In most school systems a professionally trained educator is made superintendent, is given over-all executive power to manage school affairs. Only broad principles are laid down by the school board. But in Chicago...ah, it's different. Here the superintendent has only one third of the administrative power. The other two-thirds are shared by the business manager (at present John Howatt) and the president of the school board.

Since the eleven man school board hires both of the other two executive officers and pronounces school policy, the school board president is obviously dominant in this little trio. McCahey, a coal dealer and the Mayor's "old friend", has been the actual boss of the schools for twelve years. The president of the board - and finally the entire board with him -

has his hand in every little detail of school administration.

And, of course, the eleven school board members being trusty Democrats (except for one, Walter Truc, a Republican who years ago refused to resign) appointed by Kelly, the entire school system is easily administered as a patronage plum for the party faithfuls.

Reputable educators refuse to even consider the offer to become superintendent of Chicago schools under this set-up. It can easily be seen why leading educators who face a crisis throughout the nation in the great downward slide of school standards view Chicago with special alarm: it leads the parade in rottenness.

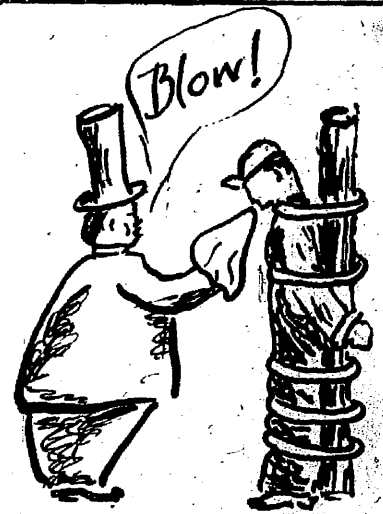
To stem this tide "liberals" and finally the NCA are demanding two changes: (1) A "non-political" school board. One chosen without consideration of party ties. (2) The amendment of the Otis Law to make the superintendent the chief officer of the school system. Six of the present board members are now "non-political" ones who joined the board September 7. In a following article we'll examine the "non-politics" of this board.

CHRISTMAS PARTY IN A RUBBER DUNGEON

It was the day before Christmas and even inside the dungeon-like American Industrial Rubber Co. plant at 4401 S. La Salle there was a yuletide cheerfulness among the workers...everybody going home at noon to begin the holiday early.

But the previous day the company had made the announcement, "Mr. Trilling (owner of the plant) is giving a Christmas party"; and sure enough, toward noon sandwiches, pop and cases of beer were assembled in the pressroom.

Now no matter how you look at it, these workers of local 288 URWA will tell you, a party in the pressroom of this broken-down factory could never be a very bright affair. This room where the workers slave day after day is windowless and dark. Presses and tables and rubber junk fill the place and a peculiar grey rubber dust mixed with a dark steam from the hot presses seems to hang continuously in the air and cover everything with a morbid



CAPITALIST CHARITY!

blanket.

But management already had plans to make the workers stay to the party. The pay-checks, which are usually passed out in the morning between eleven and twelve o'clock were being withheld.

"Don't worry about your checks,"
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