

H. L. ICKES DESERTS HARDING AS 'UNFIT'

Ex-Progressive Leader and Illi- nois Republican Delegate Comes Out for Cox.

Special to The New York Times.

CHICAGO, Aug. 18.—Harold L. Ickes, one of the organizers of the Progressive Party in Illinois, who was an Illinois delegate at large to the convention which nominated Senator Harding for President and voted against making the nomination unanimous, announced today that he could not support Harding.

"Holding as I do that my duties and obligations as a citizen are paramount to my duties and obligations as a party man, I have concluded to support the Democratic national ticket in this campaign," said Mr. Ickes, in a signed statement. "I shall continue to affiliate with the Republican Party, but I cannot in good conscience support for President a candidate who was not the real choice of his party and whom I regard as unworthy and unfit to be the Chief Executive of this nation by the tests of ability, public policies, official record and independence of character."

Mr. Ickes declared the primaries showed that the Republican Party did not want Harding as its candidate, and that his nomination was "a distinct shock to the progressive thought of the country."

"Senator Harding had an opportunity to repair the bad impression that his nomination created and his play-acting in the McKinley rôle kept alive by a clear-cut and ringing speech of acceptance that would have lined him up squarely as a forward-looking, progressively-minded man," Mr. Ickes continued. "But once more he failed signally. His speech shows that he is not even satisfied to stand pat. He proclaims himself a reactionary. He would turn back the hands of the clock and satisfy the aspirations of men's souls by talking of a full stomach. No more uninspired and uninspiring utterance from a public man is of record in American political history."

"What Senator Harding believes in is not party government, but boss control. He has the Mark Hanna conception of party. He looks upon the Republican Senate cabal as the Republican hosts and deceives himself that when Senators Smoot and Watson and Lodge, Murray Crane, James Hemingway and Col. Harvey met privately in a room in the Blackstone Hotel at 2 o'clock in the morning to decide upon him as the candidate and to determine his policies the Republican party was assembled together for solemn deliberation."

Mr. Ickes said he could not indorse Governor Cox's attitude on the League of Nations, being a supporter of Senator Johnson in that respect, but he could not tell what Harding's real position was on the League.

"Governor Cox's record is a distinctly progressive record," said Mr. Ickes. "That record proves that he looks upon public office as an opportunity for public service. He is standing in this campaign upon what he has achieved along progressive lines for the public welfare. His eyes are to the front, fixed on the future. He is not wabbling. And he is running as James M. Cox; he is not masquerading as a second edition of Grover Cleveland or a substitute Andrew Jackson."

Mr. Ickes added that Franklin D. Roosevelt's nomination emphasized the progressive character of the Democratic ticket.

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