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# Adolph Germer for Executive Secretary: Letter to the Editor of *The American Socialist*, January 29, 1916.

by U. Solomon

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Now that we know who are the candidates for Executive Secretary, one is able to indicate his choice.† Heretofore we have been treated to a series of “inspired stereotyped” letters blaming Comrade Lanfersiek for everything unpleasant in the party and were assured of an unprecedented era of prosperity if we but put Thompson in Lanfersiek’s job. All the qualifications which others lack were suddenly discovered in Thompson and we were made to believe that not only is he pregnant with great ideas but also has the needed executive ability to carry them out. We are told of his great work as Manager of the Information Department — recently abolished by the National Committee — his ability as a writer and speaker.‡ The Information Department did not require the same ability needed for Executive Secretary and the fact that Comrade Thompson often obtained prolonged leave of absences — to engage in more remunerative work — while his office ran smoothly, indicates as if other employees were doing some of the work which is now credited to him.

We are told that Thompson has organization plans, etc., but unfortunately his record in the organization shows that he was not always fortunate in manifesting that organization spirit so essential for an executive official. His name was

linked with early splits in the states of Nebraska, Minnesota, etc., and his interference with the organization in those states threatened to involve the entire national organization. Since the abolition of the Information Department Thompson was in charge of the National Lecture Bureau and as such he is arranging a tour for several comrades. At the same time a private lecture is arranged in the East for Comrade ..... Thompson. It is a sad exhibition of organization spirit when a comrade in charge of an official party lecture tour consents to be a party to a free-lance tour. This alone should convince those who have no interest in the Thompson boom that he is far from being that ideal candidate which we are told he is.

If a change is necessary, and it seems that one is because of friction in the National Office, in which Thompson is by no manner of means a disinterested person, then let us have a real change. Keep out of the National Office all those who either started dissensions or were participants in the same. A real change will take place if we elect Adolph Germer.

He has lately been endorsed at a big meeting of the membership of locals in Greater New York (locals representing 6,000 members) after a discussion of all candidates. Germer needs no eulogies and while not endowed with a college de-

†- Four candidates garnered sufficient membership nominations for Executive Secretary to make the ballot in 1916 and did not decline: NEC member Adolph Germer of Mt. Olive, IL; L.E. Katterfeld, State Secretary and National Committee member from Everett, WA; current Executive Secretary Walter Lanfersiek, recently from Kentucky; and Rev. Carl D. Thompson, Chicago.

‡- The primary function of the SP’s Information Department seems to have been dealing with the flood of correspondence and membership inquiries sent to the National Office — literature distribution being handled by a different department.

gree, he came to us from the mines and was for years an active and trusted official in the Illinois Miners' organization. When we are in a position to place at the head of our organization one who has had training in both the party and trade union movement, a fearless champion for Socialism in the labor movement, a gifted comrade like Germer, it is but the part of wisdom to elect him.

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