

LABOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATION,
New York, July 7, 1930.

TOM JOHNSON,
Birmingham, Ala.

DEAR TOM: Corporations Auxiliary is one of the most active and widespread labor-spy agencies in the country. I have been following its activities for years. A good deal of material on it appeared in the Labor Spy by Sidney Howard, a copy of which I am asking the publishers to send you to-day. If

you will look on the following pages in this volume you will find material about the Corporations Auxiliary—2, 18, 26, 27, 90, 106, 169. You will note that the first chapter in the book is devoted to one of the leading operatives of this concern.

One thing to be noted especially is the fact that it uses different names in different places. In New York it operates as the International Auxiliary Co. at 1775 Broadway. It also uses a number of different names in hiring its operatives or spies. Eastern Engineering & Contracting Co. is one of these and there are several others. In Detroit, for example, they use still another names which I have forgotten.

A couple of years ago the Auto Workers' Union turned up two spies in Detroit plants. Both of them admitted coming from this office. Last year we received several of the reports sent by Corporations Auxiliary executives to spies operating in Elizabethton against the rayon workers. You may recall a story I wrote for the Daily Worker in April, 1929, a copy of which I inclose. Please return it when you have read it.

I have a good deal of other material in my files dealing with this organization. One letter that may interest you was addressed to textile firms in 1925 at the time that the United Textile Workers was active. This type of letter is, of course, used in getting business from the employers.

One of the most interesting cases was that of Adolph Lessig in Paterson, N. J. He had been a leader in silk-workers' unions for 15 years. His name was found on the books of the International Auxiliary in New York in 1925. It is a long story; I happen to have all the documents connected with it.

The last time I wrote anything about this agency was in 1926 when I got some material on their operations in New York State, a copy of which I inclose (see attached).

I think this ought to be enough information to give you a line on its activities. I consider it the most important agency in the country outside of the Sherman Corporation which I believe does a more profitable business. You understand that it is solely in the industrial spy business and does not, like Burns and others, take on divorce suits, legal work, office protection, and other types of detective business.

I should like very much to know what you find in the course of the next few days and to have as complete a report as possible. If you want me to help in writing up any of the material you may discover, I should be very glad to do so.

Let me know immediately whether you receive this letter as well as the book. With best wishes,

Fraternally,

ROBERT W. DUNN.

McDUFF EXHIBIT No. 1, N

Union-wrecking activities of labor spy agencies are revealed again in letters and reports issued by the International Auxiliary Co., the New York State representative of the Corporations Auxiliary Co. of Ohio, premier labor espionage service.

An item in a confidential report to clients issued by the Buffalo office of the international tells of speedy union liquidation where its under-cover operatives were employed. The unnamed client in Pennsylvania "advises of the great help derived through our service. He operates a foundry on an open-shop basis, but most of the molders are card men. A new production system was resisted by all employees. Several of our representatives (meaning spies) were placed among the men and through their leadership and propaganda work the men came to like the system * * *. The union is being gradually forgotten."

As a result, the international claims "we have another highly satisfied client and booster." Confidential reports on general labor conditions sent weekly to these clients give what purports to be "inside stuff" on union activities, though most of it is clipped from trade-union journals and the daily press. The comings and goings of trade-union officials are carefully watched and union membership growth is always the occasion for a warning paragraph insisting on the indispensability of international "service" to manufacturers. The old appeal popularized by the Sherman Corporation is common: "If you could don overalls and go to some particular department of your plant tomorrow morning you would do it and learn all the whys and wherefores of

some situation. You can not do that. We can do it for you by assigning one of our skilled and capable representatives (meaning spies). Let us help you overcome that problem."

Another instance of its efficiency in disposing of trade-unions is cited by the Buffalo office of the international in a letter which tells of a "100 per cent organized plant of 425 employees operating with an agreement with a large international union employed our service, using only two operatives. Eight months later it was an open shop * * *. Most forgot to say this was done without a strike or walkout." Those who know what a blacklist means and how union men can be fired on technicalities will understand this feat of open shopping.

In employing spies the international uses the name Eastern Engineering Co., the offices of which give the same address as the parent firm that deals with the clients. In New York City both offices are at 17 West Sixtieth Street, while in Buffalo they are in the Ellicott Square Building. Workers answering blind advertisements for "woollen weavers" or "boiler-makers," for example, will find themselves receiving a letter from the Eastern Engineering Co., telling them, "if you will call at our office and bring your own letter and this of ours to you and present them both at this office we shall be glad to give you an interview for the position applied for." When the worker is interviewed he is skillfully informed that the "permanent position with good pay" means becoming a Judas to his fellow workers. Other names used by the international in employing operatives in New York are Automotive Industries Exchange and Cosmopolitan Service Bureau.

The international claims it has been in the business for 30 years and that it never has less than 1,000 men of all trades and nationalities on its operative lists. Service costs the client \$150 and up per month, depending on the number of spies employed. Among the largest clients of the international in the East are "a large independent steel company," "a well-known smelting company," and many of the Brooklyn shoe manufacturers who recently broke the strike of the American Shoe Workers Union. Other eastern clients are Otis Elevator Co., New York Edison Co., Empire Silk Co., American Type Co., Federal Cable Co., and the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Co.

McDUFF EXHIBIT No. 1, O

COMMUNIST PARTY, DISTRICT 17,
Birmingham, Ala., July 10, 1930.

ROBERT DUNN, *New York City.*

DEAR BOB: This is to acknowledge your letter of July 7. The information was valuable.

I have now definitely established that our man works for the Corporations Auxillary Co., whose local address is room 905 Martins Building, Twenty-third Street and Fourth Avenue North, Birmingham, Ala.

Furthermore that in 1922 he occupied a suite at the Hillman Hotel here and was engaged in hiring scabs for the Florida East Coast Railway to break the shopmen's strike. Since that time (he was working under cover then) he has been a leading member of the Machinists Union (I. A. of M.) and dropped out of his own accord about 18 months ago.

He has been a more or less regular correspondent of the Federated Press here for years and has received from them occasional payments. He still writes for them.

His name is T. S. Rawlings. He often uses the name of T. L. James. His local address is 5704 Fifth Court South.

As yet he suspects nothing. I am arranging a little private interview with him for Saturday afternoon. Following this little interview I will be able to forward to you his picture and a statement of his activities signed by himself. Until after Saturday do not publish any of this information.

I will write a story for the Daily Worker on the case when I have completed the job. It might be best to destroy this letter after extracting the essential information.

Thanks a lot for your help in this matter. We have another spy in the movement I have been unable to locate yet. He is a police informer and I think is a negro. When and if I get the dope on him I'll send it to you. We are setting traps for him now and should have him spotted in a couple of weeks.

Comradely yours,

_____, *District Organizer.*