

U. S. Senator Given Facts About Terror

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(Special to "The Worker")

PHILADELPHIA.—All the facts in the outrageous persecution of the Workers Party and its membership in Pennsylvania, especially in the Pittsburgh district, have been placed before United States Senator George Wharton Pepper. The immediate results of the conference held here are:

FIRST: Senator Pepper agreed to take up the Pittsburgh situation with Acting Attorney General Seymour at Washington.

SECOND: He will also confer with Governor Gifford Pinchot, at Harrisburgh, on the steel and coal tyranny that dominates in Western Pennsylvania.

THIRD: He agreed that a free speech test case should be made by holding a mass meeting under Workers Party auspices in Pittsburgh.

The conference was held in Senator Pepper's offices here. The case for the workers of Western Pennsylvania was presented to Senator Pepper by Robert W. Dunn, Acting Head of the Civil Liberties Union, and the writer, as an official representative of the Workers Party.

Mr. Dunn told the Senator that we came to lay before him the whole Pittsburgh situation and that I, as a spokesman of the Party concerned would give him the facts of the case.

Senator Pepper told us that he hoped we were fully aware of the fact that he could not effectively interest himself in too many propositions. He reminded us that last year he had turned down a request to sign a blanket amnesty resolution. Since then, he has made a detailed legal examination of all the evidence in the Chicago, Wichita, and Sacramento I. W. W. cases. The Senator expressed a tremendous, genuine interest in the cases.

Pittsburgh Outrages Described

Then the writer told, in brief, the wanton outrages committed against the Workers Party by agents of the Federal Department of Justice and the Assistant District Attorney Meyers. The arrest of George Kowalski, a worker who had been honorably discharged from the 302nd Infantry and had seen service on three fronts in the World War; the arrest of Mrs. Budnick, not a member of the Workers Party, and her consequent separation from her four-year-old daughter for ten days; and the case of the worker, Jakubauskis, whose six-year old child was struck and killed by an automobile while his wife was out looking for bail, were cited as typical of the present condition in Pittsburgh.

The Senator asked why all this persecution was organized against the Workers Party and who was behind these attacks. I told him that the Department of Justice was engineering all these arrests. The big

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Pennsylvania Senator Gets Terror Facts

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coal and steel interests were out to crush the Workers Party because of its growing influence amongst the miners. I let the Senator know that the Workers Party was unreservedly opposed to the 12-Hour Day and that we would do our all to help the Progressives in their struggle against the reactionary Lewis machine in the United Mine Workers of America.

The writer further pointed out that the arrest of Thomas Meyerscough, when he called at the District Attorney's office for the files of the Progressive Miners' Committee, shows clearly the connection between the Department of Justice and the coal interests. I told him of the complaint of the Assistant District Attorney Meyers that the trouble with the Workers Party is that the miners are joining it. Mr. Meyers is also reported to have gloated over the fact that, as he saw things, five of the indicted were as good as in jail, altho he has not presented a shred of evidence showing an overt act committed by any of these men.

Asks About the Workers Party

As the discussion went on, the Senator showed a growing interest. He said to me: "Now tell me, man to man, what is the worst thing you can say about yourself, your Party?"

I forthwith told him that we were uncompromisingly committed to the complete abolition of the present capitalist system of production and exchange and that we wanted to build in its place a Communist system, a system of social production and exchange. The present main activities of the Party are the campaign to organize a Farmer-Labor Party and to amalgamate the backward craft unions into fighting, efficient industrial unions. Senator Pepper asked whether we were a part of the Federated Farmer-Labor Party and whether we had a local in Philadelphia. When I informed him that we were a part of the Federated Farmer-Labor Party he hinted about the hard campaign confronting his own Party next year. I went on to let him know that the Workers Party had thriving locals in Philadelphia and most every large city in the state and nation.

The Senator manifested and expressed a great interest in the case from the point of view of guaranteeing the Constitutional rights to all groups. He proceeded to say that he does not, of course, agree with the tenets of a Party working for a complete change, because he believes that the main change needed today was the individual, and his use of the existing political machinery, in his heart and his mind, rather than in the institutions themselves.

Speaking of his attitude towards the seating of the Socialist Assemblymen, Senator Pepper said: "The Legislature is a cross-section of the opinions of the population." He

Gompers Welcomes Socialist Turncoats with Open Arms

(Special to "The Worker")

WASHINGTON, D. C.—With the victorious announcement that "The Socialist Party has finally accepted what has long been apparent to observing citizens," Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, greets and welcomes the Socialist turncoats who have accepted his "nonpartisan" political policy.

The welcome is contained in the July 14th A. F. of L. Weekly News Service. It is sent out under the heading, "Opponents of A. F. of L. Political Policy Change Front." It says in part:

"The Socialist party has made a complete about-face from its attacks on the A. F. of L. non-partisan political policy.

"It now acknowledges, that the trade unions are not interested in a national labor party.

"For years the Socialist party has condemned the A. F. of L. and its officials because of the trade union political non-partisan policy."

The greeting then goes on and glories in the Judas act of the Socialist Party in refusing the invitation to the "Labor Party Conference" in Chicago. The Gompers' press service quotes extensively from the Socialist reply, which declares that "few of the great trade unions are ready to take the decisive step of launching a working-class party on a national scale."

To which Gompers applies this verbal salve:

"The Socialist Party now indicates that it is at last awake to public opinion and changed public policy. Their own party—or what is left of it—is now adopting the A. F. of L. policy in certain localities. . . . The tendency of the times vindicates the 'non-par-

tisan' political policy of the A. F. of L."

Perhaps Gompers and the Socialists may get some comfort out of this brotherly embrace. They need it. And they'll need a lot more of mutual comforting with the continued growth of the Federated Farmer-Labor Party, that will wreck all of Gompers' dreams about "non-partisan" action within the old parties.

The Gompers-Socialist front against united independent political action of the workers and farmers showed itself afflicted with cold shivers from the hour of its creation. Even the warmth of a Gompers-Hillquitian embrace cannot liquidate the frigid chills that haunt the mutual spine of this uncouth political alliance.

This Gompers' pronouncement should clear the minds of all workers. Labor must now realize that the only unity of the workers' and farmers' fight against the twin Wall Street parties is to be found beneath the standards of the Federated Farmer-Labor Party, with which every local labor union and farmers' organization should be affiliated.

therefore believes in the right of the minority to have representation.

Dunn States Position

At this point the Senator requested that we submit to him a memorandum stating briefly and clearly the outstanding facts of the Pittsburgh situation. Mr. Dunn assured the Senator that we would be glad to send him this memorandum without delay. He continued and told Senator Pepper that the Civil Liberties Union had the same attitude as he had toward guaranteeing all groups the right to freedom of speech, press and assembly. Mr. Dunn clearly pointed out that the position of the Civil Liberties' Union in the Pittsburgh case was based on the information it had received from its local attorney. First of all, some arrests were made without warrants. Secondly, in carrying out the arrests some officers of the Federal Department of Justice and the Assistant District Attorney's office positively exceeded the powers conferred upon them by such warrants as they did possess. Thirdly, excessive bail was demanded bringing about prolonged confinement of those arrested. Fourthly, there was an attempt made at intimidating those engaged in defense activities as seen in the arrests at the home of Dr. Raznick who is an active defense worker. Mr. Dunn closed his case with a strong characterization of the Flynn Anti-Sedition Act under which all these oppressive measures have been taken against the workers.

Pepper Greatly Impressed

At the close of the conference Senator Pepper said that from what

he heard from us he was greatly impressed with the need for the consideration of the Pittsburgh conditions. But, of course, he said he would have to hear the case of the Department of Justice also. The Senator told us that he did not know but that the Department of Justice might paint a terrible picture of us.

Senator Pepper promised to confer with Acting Attorney General Seymour on the Pittsburgh matter and to take up with him our memorandum in a few days. The Senator will also take up the whole case with Governor Pinchot. To my request for his opinion as to the advisability and practicability of the Workers Party of Pittsburgh holding a mass meeting in the near future with the writer as one of the speakers on a public, political question, the Senator replied that he agreed that such a test case was the logical next step in securing full civil rights to the Workers Party. When I told Senator Pepper of the likelihood of the speaker being arrested and the audience intimidated he said that he would consider this concrete case with the Acting United States Attorney General and Governor Pinchot.

**INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH DAY
Friday, Sept. 14, 1923
at WEBSTER HALL**