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# Smash Radical Nest Near Bridgman; 15 Reds Seized:

## Break Up Convention of 75 Communist Chieftains: Foster and Two Lenin Aides Flee County During Night.

Unsigned reportage in the *St. Joseph [MI] Herald-Press*, Aug. 22, 1922, pp. 1, 4.

Fifteen radicals, leaders in the Communist Party of America, a revolutionary organization banned by the government, were arrested near Bridgman, twelve miles south of here, at 10 o'clock this morning by 22 deputy sheriffs and 4 Department of Justice agents, led by Sheriff George C. Bridgman.

Sixty others, including William Z. Foster, chief of all radicals of America, and two personal representatives of Nicolai Lenin, bolshevik premier, escaped in automobiles early this morning, while the raid was being planned.

The Communists had been holding a secret national convention at the resort of Karl Wolfskeel, near Bridgman, since Friday (*sic.*).

### Revolution Planned.

A hasty examination of "red" literature confiscated during the raid showed that the chief purpose of the convention was to devise a program by which the combined railroad and mine strikes might be used to overthrow the federal government, and set up, in its stead, "a proletariat of the workers," in other words, a soviet.

Scores of deputies were being spread throughout this end of Michigan this afternoon to catch the radicals who fled, tipped off, apparently, about midnight to the impending raid.

The fifteen revolutionists arrested this morn-

ing are:

**C.E. Ruthenberg**, of Cleveland, Ohio, National Executive Secretary of the Workers Party of America, an offshoot of the Communist Party. Ruthenberg once ran for governor of Ohio on the Socialist ticket.

**W. Reynolds**, of Detroit.

**William F. Dunne**, of Butte, Montana, labor editor of *The Worker*, a revolutionary organ.

**Caleb Harrison**, of Chicago, one of the principal lecturers employed by the Communists to spread their radical program.

**Max Lerner**, of Seattle, Washington.

**Cyril Lambkin**, of Detroit.

**Frances Ashworth**, of Camden, New Jersey.

**Alex Bail**, Philadelphia.

**Charles Krumbein**, of Chicago, a district organizer for the Workers Party.

**T.R. Sullivan**, of St. Louis, chairman of a national convention of the Workers Party, which was to have been held in Chicago on Monday and Tuesday.

**J. Mihelic**, of Kansas City.

**K. McMillin**, of St. Louis.

**Thomas O'Flaherty**, of New York City.

**Z. Nordling**, of Portland, Oregon.

**Charles Erickson**, of 4911 Walton Street, Chicago, a stool pigeon.

The federal agents attached particular importance to the documents seized in the raid. Many

of them, written in Ruthenberg's handwriting, proved, according to the authorities, that the Workers is the Communist Party disguised under a new name.

### **Raid Planned by Burns.**

The raid was planned by William J. Burns, head of the federal secret service. Mr. Burns ordered his agents by long distance telephone from Washington last night to execute the raid today.

The Communists came to Bridgman on Friday last (*sic.*) by small groups. Few of them entered the little village by night, and but twelve got off the train there, most of them taking automobiles from St. Joseph.

The greatest care was taken by the radicals to conceal their presence here. Many of them had several terms in prison for "red" activities, others were out on heavy bail, facing appeals in higher courts from their convictions in lower tribunals; still others were aliens, who would have been deported in a minute, if they had been captured.

### **Shadowed by Agents.**

Several of them, however, had been shadowed constantly for months from one end of the country to the other by federal secret service men, four of whom entered the county on Saturday, and investigated the resort where the radicals were stopping.

Wolfskeel's resort was admirably adapted to the purpose of the revolutionists. Situated in a hollow, protected on all sides by high hills heavily covered with underbrush and trees, and accessible only by two roads, both extremely dilapidated, the resort was almost impregnable.

The four agents of the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice who conducted the raid with Sheriff George C. Bridgman are Jacob Spolansky, E.C. Shanahan, Maurice Wolff, and Louis Loebel, all of Chicago.

### **Raid Follows Wreck.**

Working under the greatest difficulties, they laid the plans for seizing the 75 delegates and Foster, whose offices at 118 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, were raided on Sunday night by the state's attorney of Cook County, after the wreck of a Michigan Central express train at Gary, Indiana, believed to have been the work of radicals.

The four agents lay in the dark ravines near the resort on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday nights and carefully mapped out their campaign.

Yesterday, Spolansky completed the plans for the raid, which were carried out this morning at exactly 10 o'clock.



*Sheriff George Bridgman*

### **Invade Red Nest.**

Twenty-two deputies, led by the sheriff and Charles W. Gore, prosecuting attorney, and accompanied by a reporter from *The Herald-Press*, set out for Bridgman in seven automobiles shortly after 9 o'clock.

Eight deputies approached the resort from one side, eight covered the other side and the road, and the sheriff, who had been joined at Bridgman by the federal agents, with a second automobile load of officers, drove straight into the front yard of the resort.

### **Bridgman Gets Credit.**

Spolansky attributed the success of the raid to the care with which Sheriff Bridgman had planted his men, who were gathered together from all parts of the county this morning, ignorant of their destination.

A hasty inquiry, made by the federal agents, revealed the escape of at least 60 men during the night. Wolfskeel said the radicals had rented the entire resort, and given strict instructions that no one was to be admitted. Seventy-six sat down to dinner at the Wolfskeel home last night.

The investigation showed that about midnight a hasty summons for taxicabs was made by the terrorized anarchists, many of whom faced deportation to Russia or long sentences in prison.

William Hass, of Bridgman, who was ignorant of the character and even the names of the men, was busy from 1 o'clock until 7 o'clock this morning, carrying the frightened radicals to Benton Harbor. Hass was just getting ready to take another automobile load to the twin cities [Benton Harbor/St. Joseph] when the officers made their swift descent. Two other men operated taxicabs throughout the night also.

### **Foster Flees in Taxi.**

The investigation showed that Foster and the two representatives of Lenin and the Third International, the inner organization of the world Communists, hired a cab from McCracken taxi line about two o'clock this morning, and fled furiously to Chicago.

J.P. Rooney, special agent in charge of the Chicago office, hoped to seize Foster and the Rus-

sian dignitaries this afternoon. The Russians are Boris Reinstein and Lokowsky (*sic.*), who, it is said, carry with them the innermost secrets of the Communists, including their plans for setting up an American soviet.

Hotels throughout the country were being canvassed this afternoon for radicals. Many of those who escaped took refuge in the twin cities, it was believed.

### **Twenty-two in Raid.**

The men who took part in the raid besides the sheriff and the federal agents are Undersheriff Fred Bryant, Supervisor Arthur L. Mullhagen, Supervisor Charles Gage, Chief of Police Fred Alden, and Deputy Sheriffs John Keith, Lowell Guy, Phil Cutler, George Hald, Ward Logan, William Berk, William Minster, John Hurley, Henry Gittersonke, Lee, Phillips, Dunbar, George H. Slaughter, and Charles Miller. Patrolmen Hunt and Van Sar of the Benton Harbor force, and Dr. C.V. Spawr.

An immigration officer from Chicago was expected here this afternoon to examine the radicals. Should any of those held here prove to be aliens, they will be deported at once.

All of the aliens, with their baggage, were brought to the county jail here, and lodged in cells, to undergo a grilling examination by the authorities.

The experts from the Department of Justice divided their time late today between going through the mass of documentary evidence seized during the raid and spreading a dragnet for the fleeing revolutionists who got away during the night.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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