
Foster Arrested in Chicago: 15 Radicals To Stand Trial in Berrien; Two To Be Deported.

Unsigned reportage from the *St. Joseph [MI] Herald-Press*, Aug. 23, 1922, pp. 1, 4.

William Z. Foster, labor leader, was arrested in Chicago at 4 o'clock. He will be tried here.

Bulletin.

J.P. Rooney, special agent in charge of the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice, with offices in Chicago, told *The Herald-Press* by long distance telephone at 3 o'clock this afternoon that none of the radicals who escaped from the Communist nest at Bridgman early yesterday had been caught.

It was rumored here that some of the fleeing "reds" had been captured. Mr. Rooney said arrests were expected hourly.

Charles W. Gore, prosecuting attorney, announced this afternoon that 15 of the 17 radicals netted yesterday would be tried in the circuit court at St. Joseph on charges of criminal syndicalism.

After arresting two more of the radical delegates to the secret convention of the Communist Party of America, held at Bridgman, and discovering the cache in which the fleeing "reds" hid their most private papers, the authorities today decided to try the revolutionists in this county.

Seventeen radicals were held in the county jail today. Fifteen will stand trial in the circuit court of Berrien County.

The other revolutionists, Norman H. Tallentire, a delegate to the convention from the Communist

Party in Great Britain, and Alex Ball, of Philadelphia, will be deported at once.

Tallentire and Eugene Bechtold of 1551 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, were captured by federal agents and deputy sheriffs yesterday, soon after the arrest of 15 of their fellows, trapped at the resort of Karl Wolfskeel near Bridgman.

Find Hidden Papers.

The arrest of the international delegate and Bechtold was followed here in the afternoon by the discovery of the private portfolios of all of the delegation to the secret assembly, hidden in two barrels, which had been buried in the deep ravine back of the Wolfskeel resort, while the frightened radicals were planning their hasty flight.

Two more agents of the Department of Justice arrived here from Chicago last night, and another pair were expected from New York today.

All of the special agents who took part in the raid declared today that the seizure of the Communists' documents hidden in the two barrels "was the most crushing blow ever dealt to radicalism in this country."

"More radicals have been sized in other raids," said Maurice Wolff, one of the agents, "but in no other instance have so many documents, revealing such important secrets, been taken."

Women Fled With Foster.

Further details of the hurried flight of William Z. Foster, head of the Trade Union Educational League, whose offices in Chicago were raided on Sunday night [Aug. 20], and the two representatives of Nicolai Len-

in, Bolshevik premier, were learned today.

Foster and the two Russian delegates, Boris Reinstein and Arnold Lozowsky (*sic.*), rode to Chicago in a taxi cab, accompanied by Rose Pastor Stokes and Ella Reeves Bloor, women agitators, and another woman.

The cab was rented from the McCracken Taxi Line, and was driven by Tad Becraft [?]. It left St. Joseph about 2 o'clock in the morning. Foster and his comrades got out in the loop in Chicago.

Held Under Syndicalism Act.

[The decision to deport Tallentire] and Ball was reached by three officials of the Immigration Department, who examined all of the radicals yesterday afternoon. The other fifteen revolutionists are citizens of this country.

The Communists, if they are tried in this county, will be prosecuted under the Michigan Syndicalism Act, which prohibits membership in any organization designed to overthrow the government by violence.

The federal agents today, after a careful examination, laid the escape of Foster, the Russian delegates, and about 60 other communists to the publicity given in the Monday papers to the raid on Foster's offices in Chicago.

"I don't believe the radicals were tipped off to the fact that we were about to arrest them," said E.C. Shanahan, one of the agents. "They were already scared. The press reports stampeded them, and sent them scurrying."

Probe Gary Wreck Here.

Captain Charles Johnson, of the Michigan Central railroad police at Niles, who has been investigating the wreck of an express train of the Michigan Central at Gary, Indiana, on Sunday morning [Aug. 20], was here last night in an effort to link the meeting of the Communists at Bridgman with the crash, which took the lives of two Niles men.

Captain Johnson spent some time in conference with the federal agents and Sheriff George C. Bridgman. The authorities were of the opinion that the radicals arrested here were not directly connected with the wreck, although a vigorous investigation was promised.

The special agents who arrived from Chicago to aid the four already here are Max F. Burger and Jack F. <*illeg.*>.

Question Wolfskeel.

Wolfskeel, proprietor of the resort [reserved?] by the radicals was questioned at length this morning by Burger.

Burger said that the proprietor would not be held. "Apparently he had no connection with the as-

Give Bridgman Credit in Raid.

Federal agents today gave Sheriff George C. Bridgman credit for the successful raid on the Communist nest at Bridgman.

"The reds can't put anything over the United States and particularly Berrien County," commented Louis Loebel, one of the special agents.

"We could not have captured a man if the sheriff had not so carefully planned the raid. The arrest of the radicals and the confiscation of their papers were executed with clock-like precision."

sembly of the radicals," Burger declared. Wolfskeel was questioned with regard to the meetings which the Communists held in the woods and ravines behind his house in the natural amphitheater which formed so formidable [of a] location for the revolutionists' nest.

Case to Davis.

The 15 radicals who will be tried here will probably be arraigned before Justice Ray W. Davis. The date for the arraignment had not been set today, according to Jacob Spolansky, one of the federal agents.

"The arraignment is up to the county prosecutor," said Spolansky.

The trial of the Communists here will attract international attention. Many of the men held in jail here are known from one of the country to another as dangerous agitators. Undoubtedly they will be de-

fended by the best legal talent that the Communist Party, or rather the offshoot, the Workers Party of America, can employ.

The trial will probably take place at the September term of court.

Ruthenberg is “Brains.”

The intellect of the party is C.E. Ruthenberg, of Cleveland, Ohio, National Executive Secretary of the Workers Party. Ruthenberg is in jail, and his papers are being examined with the utmost care by the federal men.

The assembly here was for the purposes of formulating a program to be ratified at a national convention of the Workers Party in Chicago on Saturday and Monday.

The Communist Party is an illegal, underground organization. The Workers Party is a legal body. According to the federal agents, the same men direct the destinies of both and the platform to which the Workers Party would have given assent was being formulated at the secret meeting in Bridgman.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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