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# W.Z. Foster, “Pursued in Michigan,” Wasn’t There: “Truckload of Literature” Proves Two Small Record Files and Thus Capitalist Journalism Scores Twice.

by Carl Haessler

Staff Correspondent, The Federated Press

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CHICAGO. — Lurid newspaper tales of William Z. Foster, described as the “master of the reds of America,” through the Michigan woods by state troops and federal Department of Justice spies exploded again when it was discovered that Foster had not been in Michigan.

At the moment that the raiders were stated by the newspapers to have been closing in on an alleged Communist convention in Berrien County, Mich., Foster was in the Cook County courthouse in conference with Assistant State’s Attorney Jonas. He was attempting to obtain the return of the records taken from the office of the Trade Union Educational League in a raid the night of Aug. 20 [1922].

## No Trucks Necessary.

No wonder that the newspapers’ fairy tale about the Michigan raid relates that “Foster, prize of the party, escaped, as did most of the others.”

Further details of the state’s attorney’s raid in Chicago indicate the special privileges *The Chicago Tribune* enjoys in the campaign against labor men in Chicago. *The Tribune* scooped *The Herald and Examiner* on the story the next day. *The Tribune’s* staff photographer had been exclusively invited to attend the affair.

The 12 policemen aiding the private detectives were not needed because no one was at the office. The glass panel in the door was smashed and the office

floor littered. No trucks were necessary since only two small record files were taken.

It is believed that the real purpose of the raid was to embarrass the national conference of the league scheduled for Saturday [Aug. 26, 1922].

## Here is Capitalist Report.

Following is the story in part carried by the *Chicago Tribune* today:

CHICAGO. — In the arrest of William Z. Foster, head of the Trade Union Educational League, in Chicago last night, following the seizure of 17 members of the Communist Party of America, federal authorities last night announced the breaking up of what they term one of the greatest radical conspiracies of recent years.

The majority of those held were captured in a midnight raid in the hills of Berrien County, Michigan, 12 miles south of Benton Harbor.

There the “reds” had assembled their annual convention. To a lonely glade at the bottom of a heavily timbered valley they had led their delegates amid greatest secrecy.

Pine knots furnished the light by which their business was transacted; there they heard the reports of personal representatives of Lenin and Trotsky of Russia; there, the federal officials aver, plans whereby the existing railroad strike was to be used as a means of spreading their program of violence were discussed.

For three days federal officials watched them, powerless to act without authority from Washington. Then came a tip to the radicals. All but 17 disappeared within an hour. The rest were surrounded by 60 deputy sheriffs, members of the Michigan state constabulary, and agents of the Department of Justice and seized.

Foster, one of the escaping ones, was trailed to Chicago.

He turned up at his office. He was arrested by A.M. DeVoursney of the William J. Burns International Detective Agency. In his pocket was found his checkbook, the stubs indicating payments of money to various adherents.

As early as last Thursday morning [Aug. 17, 1922] strangers began dropping from trains at St. Joseph and Benton Harbor. They would be seen in the cities for an hour or two — then they would disappear.

### **And Here is More.**

**By Charles R. Lynch,  
Staff Correspondent, The United Press.**

CHICAGO. — The round-up of scores of radicals who escaped when federal officials raided their convention at Bridgman, Mich., was on today. Seventeen alleged Communists were captured.

William Z. Foster, head of the Trade Union Educational League, was arrested at his office here and held incommunicado at the county jail. Extradition papers will be asked to remove Foster to St. Joe [St. Joseph], Mich.

Federal officials spread a net over the entire country in an attempt to arrest "fleeing radicals." Mrs. Rose Pastor Stokes of New York and 4 other women were sought.

Foster's arrest occurred as he was denying any connection with the Bridgman convention.

Federal authorities who shadowed the convention for two days before the raid said they recognized Foster as one of the delegates.

Jacob Spolansky, of the Chicago department staff, declared it would take at least a week to go through the "mass of literature captured in the raid."

Among the effects of C.E. Ruthenberg, Cleveland, alleged "guiding star" of the convention, were found "the code" and a complete list of the delegates to the secret convention.

"It is only a question of time when we will get them all," Spolansky stated. "Documentary evidence shows that the radical organizations of the country were planning to use the present industrial unrest to overthrow the government.

"There is every indication to show that 4 representatives from the Russian Soviet government were here to arrange financing of the revolution."

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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