In Re: Trade Union Educational League, Chicago — Radical Matter. [December 18, 1920]

by J.F. Loren

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Title and Character of Case: In Re: TRADE UNION EDUCATIONAL LEAGUE, Chicago — Radical Matter.

Facts Developed: At New York City.

Pursuant to instructions of Special Agent [Charles J.] Scully of the Radical Division, on the evening of December 18th [1920], I proceeded to the **Labor Temple**, 14th Street and 2nd Avenue, and attended a meeting of the above organization called by **William Z. Foster.**

The meeting opened at 8:30 pm with about 40 in attendance. Its purpose was to organize the above League, and its official organ will be *The Labor Herald.* According to **Foster**, who was the speaker of the evening, and who intends to be the Boss of the said paper, the purpose of this organization and paper is to educate the radicals within the Trade Unions, so that they may get, and hold, control of these unions which, because of lack of cooperation among the radicals, is in the hands of the conservative forces.

Eligible for membership in this organization will be every member of every union which recognizes the jurisdiction of other unions, that is to say, members of all unions, whether affiliated with or independent from the American Federation of Labor, excepting unions such as the IWW which claims the sole right to represent the workers. This does not mean that the spirit of this League should be less radical than that of the IWW insofar as making [moves?] on the employers is concerned; it means the realization that the IWW's aim of destroying the old unions has proven a failure, and that the radicalization of the old unions has proved to be a success in the case of the **Amalgamated Cloth**ing Workers of America, the Western Federation of **Miners**, and others, where the radicals, instead of deserting, have put up a serious fight.

Unofficial representatives from several unions, some affiliated with the AF of L and some who were not, showed they were favorable to the movement. An organization committee was nominated to visit and arrange with union men of all classes for the circulation of *The Labor Herald* among members of their respective unions.

A leaflet entitled **"A Statement of the Aims of the Trade Union Educational League,"** by **William Z. Foster,** was freely distributed, and I secured a copy of the same.

Continued.

J.F. Loren, Special Agent.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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