FUR WORKERS: CONDEMN A SHAMEFUL PROVOCATION!

TEAR THE DISGUISE FROM THOSE WHO CLOAK THEMSELVES WITH THE TITLE: "WOUNDED FURRIERS". LET ALL WORKERS, FURRIERS' AS WELL AS THE REST OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT, HEAR THE FACTS AND THEN PASS JUDGMENT.

On Friday, the 23rd of February, the professional committee of the Industrial Union distributed a circular signed "Wounded Furriers". With this leaflet the capitalist class receives on a silver platter a stool pigeon's gift.

The object is to link the rank and file furrier Comrade George Weiss with the murderous attack made on the Industrial Union office by a mob of profiteering thugs.

In the sheet they issued last week the stool-pigeons say—"the active Lovestoneite, Joe Weiss, was found in the building of our union." In order to make it still more palpable, they go on to say: "For 3 months and a half, this Lovestoneite was not seen in the office of the union. He was not working as a furrier and did not participate in any of the union activities." What are the aims of this shameful provocation? The chief objective is to let the employers and the police know about George Weiss' alleged crimes. With hopes of, of course, proving that this is a cunning ruse and the activity of the honest and devoted rank and file working for the interests of the workers in the fur trade.

We want to inform the officialdom of the Industrial Union that we understand your motives perfectly well. Of late you have launched a thoroughly unprincipled campaign of lies, provocation and slander. We are quite sure that you are anxious to make the workers whom are to be found scabs, thieves, and frame-up artists, have been a great help in this new policy of yours.

George Weiss must have lost his head completely! Your new "tactics" show you have sunk to the lowest depths. All your claims and accusations are based on nothing but calumny. "Not in the trade for 3 years"? Comrade George Weiss was away from the trade for only 8 months. But even during that time he was frequently to be seen in the market looking for work—seen not by a few but by hundreds who know him. Why does the union not let him discuss his desires for one union in our trade. During that time he even carried on discussions in the office of the Union with a certain political group even though he was in disagreement with him. Though in violent disagreement with the policy of the dual union he nevertheless defended the workers there whenever they were attacked by the bosses.

Furriers know that George Weiss was one of the chief victims of capitalist class oppression in the Mineola frame-up. In a pamphlet "The Mineola Frame-up" by Novick, Mr. Novick, written in 1923, the same George Weiss was singled out as the most devoted and self-sacrificing of the union defenders.

"Not in the trade for 3 years"? Why only six months before this sheet was issued on the Industrial Union. George Weiss was campaigning against an agreement concluded by the Trimming bosses and the Industrial Union which permitted the hiring and dismissing of workers.

At a meeting on 24th Street, Gold himself made a motion that George Weiss and other Lovestoneites be kept out of union meetings because they were too critical, too opposed to the official course of action. He is of that type of union man who is always to be found in the forefront defending the interests of the rank and file even if it means danger to life itself.

Not only the furriers but even the dual union leaders know this truth. To us it is quite clear that Comrade Weiss' political opinions are the real reasons for the filthy personal attack made upon him.

It was back in 1930 when the split in the Communist Party was taking place, that Comrade Weiss publicly lined up with the policies of the Communist Party. In this period of opposition, Comrade George Weiss was singled out for an attack. Why? Is it because he actively participated in the struggles in which the A.F. of L. union has stopped off? Is it that which has brought him into high disfavor with the owners of the dual union in the trade? Is it that what we are attempting is being made to have the police end his activity?

This is our declaration to the fur workers and to all fair-minded people in the labor movement.

At the same time we want to ask the leaders of the dual union the following questions:

1. What was it that made you issue the circular in the name of "Wounded Furriers", instead of the name of your social union?
2. Are the wounded signatories so weak that they couldn't sign their names?

3. We want to know, in calling witnesses to the trial of the thugs that attacked your office, why George Weiss was not called to testify.
4. According to your own admission you became pregnant with suspicion even at that time, last April. Don't you think that you will have to explain to us what it was you did to show why it took ten months to give birth to this monstrous charge?
5. And is it not a fact that Comrade Weiss has on several occasions saved your lives, especially that of Potash when he was assailed near Axel's shop?

We are of the opinion, however, that your suspicions have somewhat cooled off. We say this because Packard Fur Co. on 27th Street and Abramowitz, at 512 Seventh Avenue shops, where piece work and long hours ruled, where pay envelopes after a full week's work contained merely the big sum of $16 and where "revolutionaries" worked side by side with child laborers. When these shops were stopped—you will have to answer all about the conditions of slavery that prevailed there, but instead began to develop suspicions about the 10-months-old attack.

That is why you rush in with your provocation.

The workers are not entitled to an answer about the official scabbard you are establishing in our trade. We want to know whether the official Communist Party supports and endorses the "strikes" that you call on paper in order to frighten workers off jobs and replace them with your own hangers on? Is it in agreement with your ideas of Communism to underwrite that situation in the trade and thereby enslave the workers to their bosses?

Does it jibe with your ideas of Communism to build better bosses than your own? In his letter to the recognized employers associations, Gold promised class peace for the price of recognition. "Just a little recognition," was all Gold wanted. The prices of the workers are threatened to be raised to 350 per cent, 300 per cent, the usual hours, 20 per cent.

It was really a generous gift to the bosses. And we are told that the workers are expected to be scheduled to pay to the cockroach bosses you are organizing into a "Rabbit Association"?

Your list of betrayals is too long! But we believe you readily that your false political line would lead you to bankruptcy! Everyone admits that you have failed disastrously along the lines that you front.

But in the fur trade your actions and "politics" are really contemptible.

You are legalizing scabbery and dignifying the scab shop.

An "agreement"! For a signed agreement no matter with whom, you have endorsed legalized contracting, condemned legalizing contract, the eight hour day, overtime, and granted the bosses a free hand in the shops.

Like humble slaves you stand before the bosses begging any kind of an agreement to save your miserable existence. We were not surprised at that. But what did astounding us is something we wouldn't have believed till now. The spectacle of Communists trying to turn over to Capitalist justice, a class conscious worker merely because he differs with them in his political views. That is done only by those who have completely lost their heads.

But we warned, gentlemen, we stand prepared to repulse every such unprincipled attack.

Fur Workers! We call upon you in all seriousness to take notice of this provocation on our honest and courageous comrade George Weiss.

On furriers, defend your conditions. Don't permit the little scab nests to become an organized factor in the trade.

Remember! New associations of scab nests and contractors will mean a further load added to your heavy burdens.

Provocations, fratricidal strife, and splitting committees will be the probable result.

What we furriers need is unity and one union. Whatever our political beliefs may be our needs in the shop are the same we all have to struggle against the bosses. And when one of our struggle, that day we must all be united into one union affiliated to the American Federation of Labor.

Furriers! Reject with contempt the lies and slanders that make it impossible for all furriers to get together in united action.

Forward to the struggle for unity and one union!!

FURRIERS FRACTION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY (OPPOSITION)