

LETTER TO FRAME TOM RAY AS SPY QUICKLY EXPOSED

Bootlegger Is Finder of Fake Document

By A. JAKIRA

(Special to The Daily Worker)

REPUBLIC, Pa., Nov. 22.—Quick and rigid action on the part of the striking miners here and the district office of the Workers (Communist) Party made it possible to expose a frame-up to label Tom Ray, militant miner, as a spy.

At a meeting of the striking miners held in this city, Tuesday night, Nov. 17, a "surprise" was sprung on those present when a "document" supposed to have been found on the floor of one of the rooms of the hall where the miners were holding their meetings was read. The envelope containing the "document" was addressed to "Mr. Thomas Ray, General Delivery, Uniontown, Pa." and was post marked "Pittsburgh, Pa. Nov. 13, 11:30 A. M." The typewritten letter itself reads as follows:

"Pittsburgh, Pa., Nov. 13, 1925.
No. 675-R

"Your report in reference to circulars received. You did not say just how you proposed to dispose of them

(Continued on page 2)

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(Continued from page 1)

after getting them out of the printer's shop. Of course you will have to distribute same to keep yourself covered, but you must not let many get out or our clients will charge us with working with their employes instead of for them. Keep playing up to G. P. as he is the strongest man in sight just now. Does he still appear to be as flush as when he first arrived in the region?

"You must be careful about spending as to always have money to pay your way looks bad. Borrow as often as you can as that gives the impression you have nothing but your pay from the C. P."

J. J. O'C.

Dic.

P. S.—M. M.

100-X27

"Sign your number, date and return immediately."

The last instruction was stamped with a rubber stamp. G. P. is supposed to refer to Comrade George Papcun.

Ray Active in Strike.

At first the letter came as a shock to those who have known Comrade Ray and have seen him in action during the strike. Ray was sent to the striking area by the district office of the Workers Party and during the several days that he spent there he was out on the picket line, was distributing leaflets together with other miners, was addressing meetings and was otherwise helping the strike under the supervision of the district office of the party. He returned to Pittsburgh Tuesday morning by request of the party to take up other party work.

Suspicious Individuals.

During the strike several individuals of a rather dubious character among them a well known bootlegger were mingling with the strikers. These individuals were suspected as being agents either of the company or of the union officials who have been constantly attacking Tom Ray for his active participation in the Progressive Miners' Committee. It is remarkable that it was just these individuals who helped to "find" the letter, and who were trying their best to stir up the miners against Tom Ray and the Workers Party. It was a cousin of the above bootlegger who did the "finding."

Investigation Exposes Plot.

Fortunately the miners did not lose their heads and decided that a committee of three shall at once proceed to Pittsburgh to take the matter up with the district office of the Workers Party as the miners have learned during the strike to have full confidence in the party. This was done and the committee of three (among them was also the individual who claimed that he found the letter) arrived at Pittsburgh shortly after midnight. A glance at the "document" was sufficient to convince anyone that it was an attempt at a frame-up in order to discredit Tom Ray and to disrupt the strike. However, in order to clear up the matter and to leave no doubts in the minds of the men out on strike it was decided to lose no time, but to proceed at once to McDonald where Ray resides to investigate the matter. The committee of three, together with the writer of these lines and a comrade from West Brownsville, reached McDonald by machine about 2 a. m. got Comrade Ray out of bed and with his full consent proceeded to search the house. Naturally, nothing of any suspicious character was found.

Further investigation revealed that Ray was in Uniontown on Nov. 13 before the letter reached that city and while in Uniontown he did not visit the post-office. This fact was established by a comrade of Uniontown who was with Comrade Ray during the entire period of his stay there. It was further established that since then he never visited Uniontown again. Comrade Ray left Republic Tuesday early in the morning. The letter was "found" about 2 p. m. Before this time quite a number of men were in the room where the letter was supposed to be found, but curious enough, no one noticed the letter until the bootlegger's cousin happened to come into the room together with the bootlegger himself.

Tom Is Exonerated.

The nature of the letter, the facts quoted above, the actions of Comrade Ray during the strike, the circumstances under which the letter was "found" and numerous other facts left no doubts in the minds of the committee that the alleged letter was nothing but a fake and unanimously decided to exonerate Tom Ray and to recommend that further efforts be made to identify the forces behind this attempt at a frame-up. The District Executive Committee of the party of Dist. 5 is now making an effort to locate those responsible for the letter and will continue the investigation until these individuals are identified. There is a firm belief among the miners that some of the union officials who were bitterly opposed to Tom Ray and the Workers Party had something to do with this affair.