
Papers Taken in Raid Show Plan of Reds: Destruction of American Government, Aim of Communists.

Unsigned reportage in the *St. Joseph [MI] Herald-Press*, Aug. 22, 1922, pg. 1.

“It was one of the most smashing blows ever dealt to radicalism in this country.”

Such was the comment this afternoon of the special agents of the Department of Justice after a brief examination of the documentary evidence seized earlier in the day during the raid at Bridgman which resulted in the arrest of fifteen chiefs of the Communist Party of America.

In the handwriting of C.E. Ruthenberg, of Cleveland, Ohio, National Executive Secretary of the Workers Party of America, an offshoot of the Communist Party, was found the radical program for the subversion of the American government and the substitution of a soviet in this country.

Here is Object.

Here is the way the memorandum in Ruthenberg's handwriting put the object of the Communists, who according to the Department of Justice are financed by Lenin and Trotsky, the props of the Russian soviet:

“The role of the Communist Party is, through its leadership, to marshal the working masses against the capitalist state, conquer and destroy that state, and establish the dictatorship of the proletariat in the form of [a] Workers State [and to] transfer Capitalist production into Communist production.”

It was this program that William Z. Foster, labor editor, who directed the great steel strike of 1919 and who was an IWW, discussed in secrecy with two representatives of Lenin and 75 other Communists near Bridgman over the weekend

until late last night.

How They Work.

The two great objects of the Communist Party and its offshoots, the Workers Party, the Young Workers League, the Friends of Soviet Russia, and the Trade Union Educational League, is set down in the Ruthenberg memorandum as follows:

“It (the Communist Party) must organize in the Communist Party the class conscious, revolutionary workers who have a clear understanding of the class struggle and the aims of the Communist Party. It must infuse these workers with an unshakable loyalty and an iron discipline.

“Through its program of action in the everyday struggles of the workers, through the activities of its members in these struggles, the party must win the confidence and leadership of the masses of the workers. Through the winning of this confidence, the party creates a condition when it will be able in time of revolutionary crisis to array the mass power of the workers against the capitalist state and overthrow that state.”

Another memorandum showed that the Workers Party had a membership of 9,319, scattered through 12 districts in this country, and represented by 75 delegates, the majority of whom were in Bridgman yesterday.

Few American Members.

The most important task of the Communist

Party at present, according to a third document, is “to build up the American membership of our party.”

This paper confessed that the smashing blows dealt by the government in the past to radicalism in general and the Communists in particular had alienated virtually the entire American membership, so that most of the Communists remaining under the party banner were aliens.

“We are not functioning in the world, and in the class struggle, effectively because we have not the members who can function,” the document stated.

Many notes in Russian and Polish were seized during the raids, and these were being translated this afternoon. Scores of pamphlets, dozens of typewritten memoranda, telegrams, and other private papers, exposing a large part of the radical program were confiscated.

“We’ve got pretty near enough on them to hang them,” laughed one of the agents, as he surveyed the material which had been seized.

Foster is Spotted.

Foster, a will-o-the-wisp of radicalism, had been sought throughout the country when he was

“spotted” in Bridgman yesterday.

The agents hoped, by his arrest and the arrest of the two representatives of Lenin, to bare the innermost secrets of the “red” organization, which, the agents said, had spread its tentacles much more effectively than most people imagine.

Foster is the head of the Trade Union Educational League, whose headquarters were raided in Chicago on Sunday morning [Aug. 20, 1922]. The radical leader has been reported in many localities since the outbreak of the strikes, and in those places violence has been spirited.

Boris Reinstein and Lokowsky (*sic.*), Lenin’s delegates to the Communist national convention at Bridgman, slipped into this country about two weeks ago by way of Canada, it is believed.

The opinion was expressed that they brought financial aid to the struggling American radicals. Lenin and the Bolsheviks are financing the Communist “revolution” in this country.

The delegates to the Bridgman convention represented all parts of the country. Fifteen were from New York, a dozen or so from Chicago, many from the Pacific coast and the northwest, where radicalism is especially strong, and others from isolated points.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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