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Comrade Martens is Deported

After a year of dilatory investigation and off the Secretary of Labor, Wilson, (former labor faker who was rewarded by his capitalist masters with a soft berth) has ordered the deportation of Comrade L. C. A. K. Martens, commercial representative of Soviet Russia in America.

Immediately upon the publication of the order Comrade Martens notified Soviet Russia, which answered that he return immediately with all his staff of Russian citizens in a scathing denunciation of the brutal policy of the American capitalist government. So, here this issue will be in the hands of its readers, Comrade Martens will be on the high seas bound for Moscow, thankful no doubt to shake the dust of this "glorious republic" from his shoes.

There is more than blind stupidity in this cynically brutal move of the U. S. Government. It is an earnest of the unflinching attitude of capitalist United States towards Soviet Russia. All the venom, all the hatred, all the fear which the capitalists of America feel towards Soviet Russia is embodied in the act of deporting Russia's unrecognized representative. Too far away from Russia to bar her directly through invasion—conscious that all the money she has loaned France, Poland, Yudenitch and Wrangel to overthrow the Soviet Republic has been spent all in vain and that she can never be re-imbursed—the U. S. Government is venting its concentrated hatred upon Comrade Martens and driving him from its shores.

So be it. Those whom the gods would destroy they first make mad. The U. S. Government is certainly going mad these last few years and it is also certain that she is doomed to annihilation. Its every act has illustrated the teachings of the Communists—that it is a democratic government in name only but actually the most reactionary and murderous capitalist dictatorship in the world. It forces the workers into war for the sake of capitalist ambitions to be a world power; it shoots down workers when they go on strike; it sends the leaders of the working class to jail; it destroys the workers' organizations; it issues injunctions against the workers and ties up their funds; it deports and jails radical workers; it drives political parties underground; it instigates and backs up with all the might of its police and armed power every assault upon the rights and lives of the working class as a whole.

And at the same time it permits the greatest era of proficiencing and graft in the history of the world. It permits the most merciless exploitation of the workers. It shifts the tax burdens for the war upon the heavy backs of the workers and the exploited. It reveals in the greatest orgy of useless spending ever known. In the face of the gravest industrial crisis and unemployment era this country has ever faced; the U. S. government is preparing to FEED THE MASSES WITH LEAD when they cry for bread.

So it is perfectly logical for such a government to deport the representative of a Workers' and Peasants Governments from its "hospitable" shores. We are not surprised. Our only surprise is why the government didn't do it sooner. Perhaps the election interfered with its plans, that is all. We can conceive of no humanitarian reason for its procrastination. A capitalist government is as devoid of human feeling as the machine which grinds the workers' blood into profits for the master class...

The Communist Party of America sends its warmest greetings to Comrade Martens and to Soviet Russia with the hope that the next representative from Soviet Russia to the United States will not come to establish

trade relations and recognition of Soviet Russia, but to bind the coming Soviet Republic of the United States in bonds of close fraternal unity with the Soviet Republic of Russia.

Exit John Sandgren.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found the official reports of the General Executive Board of the I. W. W. as printed in the December 18th issue of "Solidarity", regarding the vote on the recent referendum and also THE REMOVAL OF JOHN SANDGREN AS EDITOR OF THE "ONE BIG UNION MONTHLY" for "attacking revolutionary organizations of this and other countries in a manner which is contrary to the policy laid down by the General Executive Board at its previous sessions"...

However, despite this tardy acknowledgment of the counter-revolutionary activities and writings of John Sandgren which the "Communist" has consistently exposed time and again, this step is no indication of any radical change in the policies of the I. W. W. as carried on by its G. E. B. On the contrary, this move of expelling Sandgren seems to be only another attempt to string a red herring across the trail of the anti-revolutionary policy of the G. E. B. itself.

It is not true, as the G. E. B. claim, that Sandgren acted contrary to the policy laid down by the G. E. B. After the endorsement of his attacks in the October "One Big Union Monthly" upon the Communist movement in this country and the Communist International and its sections abroad, Sandgren, in the November and December issue simply carried out the policy of the G. E. B. to its logical conclusion. Not a retrogression from the policy laid down by the G. E. B., but too much zeal in carrying it out, with all its full implications, is the cause of his removal.

For the report of the G. E. B. special meeting of October 18th, as taken from the "One Big Union Monthly" of December, reveals the following item:

"Made and Seconded. That we endorse the policy followed by the editor of the O. B. U. Monthly in the October issue, and at the same time we recommend that all the editors in the future adhere to the policies laid down by the G. E. B., I. W. W., to the greatest possible extent. Carried."

This proves that it was Sandgren who was consistent and the G. E. B. who are inconsistent.

The G. E. B. have executed a hasty retreat, not because of a change of heart, or a new orientation towards the Communist International, but simply because of a cowardly attempt to cover up their own inherently opportunistic and counter-revolutionary policies. They merely wish to ward off any blame or criticism for their share—and theirs is the major share—in the November and December issues of the O. B. U. Monthly.

This vicarious expiation for their sins of commission and omission will not fool anyone with any knowledge of the facts. The rank and file of the I. W. W. know these facts. The members of the Communist movement in America are equally acquainted with the facts. Logically there is only one thing left for the members of the G. E. B. of the I. W. W., and that is to RESIGN their positions and slink off somewhere to cogitate on the unkind fate of those who try to straddle two horses at the same time.

The Communist International, and all its affiliated sections in the various countries, are the only really revolutionary proletarian movements capable of leading and guiding the proletariat and the exploited masses to the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat. They are standing in the first-line trenches fighting the battles of the world's workers. Against them are arrayed all the forces of reaction, flanked by the subservient flunkies of the Second International. Between these two forces battling for power there can be no neutral position. So-called revolutionary organizations, like the I. W. W., which pretend to a position of neutrality in this merciless war, are assisting the capitalists and the social-patriots and traitors of all kinds to crush the revolutionary movements at home, as well as the great Russian Revolution itself.

THERE CAN BE NO NEUTRAL POSITION IN THIS WAR OF THE CLASSES!

Those who are against the Communist International are for the capitalists and their henchmen.

The G. E. B. of the I. W. W. have convicted themselves of trying to maintain this untenable position of neutrality. It led their editorial policies directly into the camp of the bourgeoisie. John Sandgren was merely their instrument of articulate expression—their tool in applying those policies. To dismiss this tool, without at the same time changing their policy of "neutrality" to one of active and wholehearted support to the international Communist movement, is the sheerest hypocrisy and deceit.

Another "Mission" Goes to Russia.

One of the post-revolutionary factors which Russia is suffering from—with admirable self-possession and self-restraint we should judge—is the influx of "missions" from this or that "Socialist" party or labor organization from every part of Europe. The wear and tear, the time wasted by Bolshevik leaders in performing the necessary formalities, the answering of silly questions, and the search for those dainty morsels which are so indispensable to the proletarian appetites of these "missionaries", has generally been overlooked in condemning the Bolsheviks. Surely these "missions" have had something to do with keeping Russia in a state of chronic impoverishment?

And now comes the news that another "mission" is to visit Soviet Russia, to add to Russia's troubles and the gayety of the nations. The Socialist Party of America is sending Onca, Trachtenberg, Joseph E. Cohen, Algernon Lee and Mrs. Victor Berger to "study" Russian conditions at first hand. This is a remarkable aggregation of Mensheviks and traitors only comparable to the Labor Party mission of which the notorious Mrs. Snowden was a member.

The visit of this "Socialist" mission will be a fitting anti-climax to the Wrangel campaign; and we can only express our regret that Morris Hillquit, Meyer London and Mrs. Berger's husband are not to go along for the "reception" this mission will receive will be instructive and interesting if not wholly to their liking.

We suggest that they buy a wreath to place upon the grave of John Reed before departing, as a token of their esteem and admiration of the American Communist who gave his life for the world revolution. Besides, it might serve as a gentle reminder.

The "One Big Union" of Schlesinger and Hillman.

Coincident with the lockout of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers by the clothing bosses and the struggle for existence which this union must now wage, comes the news that the five needle trade unions have created a "One Big Union" in this industry. Of course, this action was foreshadowed by the affirmative action of the Amalgamated and the International's conventions held this year. Were this act of amalgamation a bona fide one, none would be better pleased than the Communists. One Big Union of the Needle trades is a consummation devoutly to be wished. The rank and file of the needle trades have been clamoring for it these many years.

But the trade union bureaucracy has just as consistently thwarted any action in this direction in the past. Even at the recent conventions of the two largest individual unions the teeth were extracted from the motion before the leaders permitted it to be passed. Have these same leaders suddenly suffered a change of heart? Have they really created a "One Big Union" that will really meet the needs of the needle industry?

The pseudo organization created at the Hotel Astor by the trade union bureaucracy of the needle trades was just another swindle

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