

Senate Red-Baiting Probe Starts

WASHINGTON—(FP)—Edgar Hoover, chief of the Bureau of Investigations in the Department of Justice—the job formerly held by W. J. Earns—will testify behind locked doors, June 9, in the first session of the star-chamber hearings to be conducted by the special House committee on investigation of Communist plots in the U.S. Rep. Fish of New York, chairman of the committee, announced the program when he emerged from a secret session of the five committeemen in Speaker Longworth's office, June 4. Longworth, Majority Leader Tilson and Chairman Snell of the rules committee, the actual bosses of the House, had been in meeting with Fish and his associates. They had apparently agreed that about \$40,000 would be provided by the House for the early expense of the probe.

Barring of the press and public from the hearings at which the governmental departments' officials will testify, was declared by Fish to be necessary. Oscar Lühring, head of the criminal section of the Department of Justice, was slated as the second witness. After him would be summoned anti-radical spokesmen from the Labor, Postoffice, War, Navy, Treasury Commerce and State Departments. The evidence and allegations given to the committee by these administration officials was to be confidential. The press would have no chance to analyze or dispute it.

On the other hand, Fish said, he expected to summon President Green of the American Federation of Labor and Acting President Woll of the National Civic Federation to testify in open sessions. The date for their appearance had still to be arranged. When Congress adjourns, the committee will conduct hearings in New York City. Ralph Easley of the National Civic Federation and other prominent anti-Communists will be invited at that time.

To the surprise of his critics, Fish announced that no counsel would be employed by his committee at the start. Four lawyers are members of the committee, and it appeared that one or more of them had proposed that the committee do its own work, so far as the questioning of witnesses is concerned. But a staff of detectives will be employed at once. They will be called investigators, and will be picked by Fish with a view to gathering all possible evidence of Communist propaganda against American government.

Edgar Hoover, chief of detectives for the Department of Justice, was the law officer of that bureau at the time of the Palmer "red raids" and what the late Louis F. Post called the "Deportation Delirium of 1919-20". He was feverishly active against labor radicals in that after-war period of unrest, and he convinced Immigration Commissioner Caminetti that the Communists were about to attempt armed revolt if conditions seemed favorable. Caminetti, frightened, caused warrants to be issued for the sudden arrest on deportation charges, of 20,000 alien workers in industrial centers throughout the country. Thousands of these workers were herded into over-crowded cells, into corridors of federal buildings and other unfit places of imprisonment, and were held under barbarous conditions for days. Their release under bond or upon showing of false arrest, were effected in some cities, such as Detroit, only after citizens' committees had demanded that Palmer's hysterical persecutions be stopped. Only a few of the army of victims of these raids were found to be legally liable to deportation. Several deaths resulted from the raids. The wife of one man thus arrested went insane.

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SAN FRANCISCO—(FP)—Five Communists one a woman, Ida Rothstein, organizer for the Trade Union Unity League, have been sentenced to the San Francisco county jail on rioting charges arising from a demonstration against deportation of 4 members of the Party. All received 30 days except one, sentenced to 90 days; one defendant failed to appear. All have appealed the case and are out on bail.

Our National Tour

Meetings Stir Great Enthusiasm

Good crowds, despite the hot June weather, are turning out to hear comrade Max Shachtman, now touring for the Communist League of America (Opposition) on his visit with L. D. Trotsky at Constantinople and the conference of the International Left Opposition at Paris, France and Berlin, Germany.

Splendid Meetings in Boston

The Boston meeting was a splendid and enthusiastic gathering with over 100 in attendance. A good discussion followed the lecture, in which the Lovestoneite, Stephens took part, and to whom comrade Shachtman replied effectively and strongly. On the morning of the same day, comrade Shachtman spoke before Branch No. 27 of the Independent Workmen's Circle on "The Communists and Work in the Mass Organizations". Sixty people were present, evincing great interest and applauding the position of the Communist League.

The Boston branch members are highly pleased over the results and expect as a result to gather new forces and to increase their activities.

The Philadelphia Meeting

In Philadelphia comrade Shachtman spoke before 60 workers. A warm discussion took place in which a Communist Party defender found himself in a defenseless position — ideologically.

The small branch of New Haven had a good-sized meeting and additional activ-

ity can be expected there.

Stalinists Boycott Meeting but Workers Turn Out in Toronto

A crowd of 100 attended Shachtman's meeting in Toronto, Canada. The official Communist Party boycotted the meeting—after the fashion of the Catholic Index—and actually had a picket line before the hall. They did not dare to participate in the meeting and to discuss the issues, realizing that they would be uncovered before the workers and exposed as opportunists and political cowards. Shachtman's speech made a strong impression upon the audience with his review of the actual program of the Left Opposition and its activities.

A banquet is scheduled on the following day of which as we go to press, we do not yet have reports.

The immediate dates that follow on the tour are Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and Detroit, Mich.

Chicago, Twin Cities and Lake Cities Prepare Extensively

Beginning with June 9th, comrade Shachtman will have numerous meetings in Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth and Superior, and then proceed westward to Kansas City. Extensive preparations have been made in these cities for the meetings, which will undoubtedly prove the largest yet. The remainder of the schedule follows.

Watch This Schedule for Your City

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Friday, June 13, Mass Meeting at COOKS & WAITERS UNION HALL, 520 Hennepin Avenue (above Unique Theatre).

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Saturday, June 14. Twin City Membership Meeting.

ST. PAUL, MINN.

Sunday, June 15. Mass Meeting at LABOR TEMPLE, 8 p.m.

DULUTH, MINN.

Monday, June 16, Mass Meeting at CAMEL HALL, 12 E. Superior St.

SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN

Tuesday, June 17, Mass Meeting at WORKERS HALL, Tower Avenue.

KANSAS CITY, Mo.

Friday, June 20. Mass Meeting at —HALL, 914 Grand Avenue, 2nd Floor.

KANSAS CITY, MO.

Thursday & Saturday, June 19 and 21—Branch Meetings.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

Sunday-Monday, June 22-23. (Place to be announced.)

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

Tuesday, June 24. (Place to be announced.)

CLEVELAND, OHIO

Wednesday June 25. Mass Meeting at PAINTERS HALL 2030 Euclid.

Thursday, June 26 Membership Meeting.

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Friday, June 27. (Place to be announced.)

PITTSBURG, PA.

Saturday-Sunday, June 28-29. (Place to be announced.)

Upholsterers Organize to Fight Speed-Up

MINNEAPOLIS—

Upholsterers Union No. 61, Minneapolis is conducting a drive to organize the unorganized upholsterers. The organization Committee, composed of John Brinda, Israel Colton and Carl Cowl has issued the first of a series of leaflets describing conditions among the upholstery workers and calling upon the workers in the industry to join the union. The Union meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 60—4th Ave So. at 8 o'clock.

MINNEAPOLIS—

Mike Mihalick, upholsterer at Levin Brothers Furniture Co., suffered the loss of one eye and possibly both from injuries received from a flying piece of spring steel while tying up springs. Due to the vicious speed-up system in Levin Brothers such accidents are growing more and more common. Upholsterers Union No. 61 has launched a campaign of organization in the industry as a step towards the abolition of the misery and sickness produced by the speed-up.

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PITTSBURG, Pa.—(FP)—A general strike of all Pittston Coal Co. miners is near unless the company retreats from its position of closing down part of its mines altogether while allowing others to operate. The union miners are demanding that work be equalized among the various collieries.

THE WORK IN THE OLD UNIONS

The work in the old unions has been virtually abandoned. This fact is clearly revealed in the almost complete disappearance of the Party representatives from trade union gatherings. Still worse, the leaders of the factions are competing with each other in the elaboration of "theories" which preclude the idea of serious work in the old unions in the future.

The factions are outdoing each other in irresponsible striving to be "Left" in this burning question. These theories and practices are a menace to the Party and threaten to put it off the track again. It is time to sound a warning and begin a determined struggle against them. The building of the new unions and the work in the old unions must be carried on together and not the one set up against the other.

—FROM THE PLATFORM OF THE COMMUNIST OPPOSITION ADOPTED (CHICAGO) MAY 20, 1929.

KLORKETT No. 2

Yiddish-speaking comrades should take note that the second number of Klorkett, organ of the Jewish Left Opposition group in France, has arrived. It contains among other articles the second installment of comrade Trotsky's "The Third Period of the Mistakes of the Comintern."

Scab Gunman is Acquitted

PHILADELPHIA—(FP)—"If I had it to do over again, I'd bump off the four of you." Those were the words of "Red" Pfeiffer, Aberle mill hosiery gunman tried in Philadelphia for the murder of Striker Carl Mackley as he rode with Mackley's three companions in a patrol wagon to the police station March 6 immediately after the murder. Nevertheless he was acquitted.

Walter Morrow, one of the unionist's companions testified to Pfeiffer's words as the strikebreakers went on trial. Young Mackley was riding with three other Aberle strikers the night their auto was met by one filled with gunmen, all of whom fired pointblank into the union car. By some miracle Morrow, William Zimmerman and John Cooper were not also killed.

Red Pfeiffer and his fellow-strike breakers were given guns by a private detective agency employed by the Aberle mill company, the Hosiery Workers Federation charges. All three of the union survivors, on the witness stand, told of the murder of their friend. The union and the scab car had come to a halt before a red traffic light. Zimmerman heard the scabs yell out, "Now throw your bricks." Then he heard another cry: "Let them have it."

Then bullets began to fly. All four gunmen blazed away. A bullet grazed Zimmerman's face and went through his hat before he could duck, he testified. He flopped behind the rumble seat and pulled his companion, young Cooper, with him. Another bullet passed through the metal shield and pierced Zimmerman's back and lungs. A bullet hit Cooper but did not wound him seriously.

Mackley, a youngster highly respected by his fellow workers in the Aberle mill and a staunch strike leader when the mill was struck because of wage cuts and the yellow dog contract, was trying to open the door of the coupe when he was mortally wounded, his companions told the court. His body was found lying almost under the wheels of the car.

Leftist Sectarianism in Toronto Needle Trades

When in Toronto the bureaucrats of the I. L. G. W. U. working with the bosses betrayed the strike of the cloakmakers, promising them better conditions but utilizing the militancy of the rank and file to seat themselves more firmly in the bureaucratic saddle—I expected that now the Left wing Industrial Union would understand its duty and organize the Left wingers inside the I.L.G.W.U. shops. Numbers of Left wingers have been forced by economic necessity to register with the class-collaboration I. L. G. W. U.

This has not been the case. Under the direction of the Stalinist Party officialdom, one opportunity after another has been lost to give organized expression to the grievances of the rank and file in the Schlesinger union and also to the readiness of the Left wingers to fight the Schlesinger machine from within. The Party bureaucrats and their puppets in the industrial union leadership simply proceeded to expel from both the Party and the Young Communist League the needle trades comrades who had been forced by the meanness of starvation to register.

If we had a fraction inside the I.L.G.W.U. we could have had a big following. The betrayals and the class collaboration of the Schlesinger clique are so manifest that the workers are ready to follow the Left if they were given an organized lead. All Summer the Cloakmakers Section of the Industrial Union did not even meet and did not discuss their needs and policies. Evidently things are no better in Montreal. The Stalin policy works the same ruin in the unions as in the Party.

—A TORONTO CLOAKMAKER

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48

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