

Bridges Pulls a Boner; "Plot" Fails to Thicken

By Jack Cope

SAN FRANCISCO.—According to Mr. Harry Bridges, West Coast C.I.O. director, there are number of conspiracies afoot. These "plots" are being hatched, he indicates, to rid the West Coast of its most militant, courageous, honest and efficient representative of rank and file labor in the American labor movement, namely, Mr. Harry Bridges. Conspiring together to achieve this dastardly end, says Harry, are to be found such people as the Dunne Brothers of Minneapolis, William Green, Dave Beck of the Teamsters' Union, Harry Lundeberg of the Sailors Union, Mayor Dore, the shipowners, and every one else who for good reasons or bad does not approve of the Communist Party in general and Mr. Bridges in particular.

The most recent of these plots uncovered by the Bridges Bureau of Investigation, Inc., have like many of these discovered in the past rebounded to the great discomfiture of their discoverer. Plots there are in plenty but it would seem that it is Mr. Bridges who has a hand in their hatching.

Who Really "Plotted"

Two weeks after the murder of Pat Corcoran in Minneapolis Harry rushed to the microphone with the startling information that certain Minneapolis labor men were out to "get" him. Why, he had a "confession" from Robert John Bell himself, the very man sent to do the deed. Among other things, Bell "confessed" that Minneapolis officials of the Teamsters' Union had given him a \$1,000 check for the job. He cashed the check, his "confession" continued, at the Marquette National Bank, gave \$600 to his wife and left for the West Coast. Unfortunately, for Mr. Bridges that is, an investigation disclosed that no such check had ever been cashed at the bank named and Bell's wife admits she never even saw the \$600 in question.

Now who was "plotting"? If this "confession" is questionable, and its failure to check with facts certainly indicates as much, then the motives of Mr. Bridges in publicizing it are doubly so. If his implication that the Minneapolis teamster officials are murderers is founded on a phoney confession then it would appear that Mr. Bridges is collaborating in a "plot" to frame these same leaders.

This conclusion acquires its full force when it is understood that Bridges used this "confession" as an excuse for calling for a Federal Investigation by Department of Justice agents! Just exactly what the bosses and the Stalinists are trying to get in Minneapolis in order to turn the search of Corcoran's killer into an anti-labor investigation of unions.

Case of Lundeberg

Another "plot" was discovered by Harry in the recent steam-schooner dispute on the West Coast. This time Bridges lifts the veil on the devious doings of Harry Lundeberg, leader of the militant Sailors Union of the Pacific. Lundeberg, according to Bridges, is working hand and glove with the shipowners. But alas, again the facts indicate that the converse is true, that it is Mr. Bridges himself who is working with the employers. Let us examine these facts.

For some time the operators of coastwise ships have been becoming more and more bold in violating their agreement to serve hot meals, or pay their equivalent, to the crew while the ships are in port. The most recent and flagrant attempt was made aboard the S.S. James Griffith. Angered by these attacks on their conditions the crew walked off this ship in San Pedro and refused to work her until they were paid for all missed meals and certain other bad conditions were eliminated. Harry Lundeberg took up the "beef" for the Sailors' Union and went to meet with the owners to negotiate a settlement. Enter the "plot."

Bridges Against the "Griffith" Crew

A meeting of District Council, No. 2, Maritime Federation of the Pacific (Bridges-controlled) is called at the very moment the negotiations are taking place. At this meeting the action of the Griffith crew is denounced as a scheme of Lundeberg and the shipowners to precipitate a coastwise lockout and word is sent to the shipowners in the conference that District Council No. 2 does not support the demands of the sailors!

Meanwhile the San Pedro local of the Marine Firemen, Oilers, Wipers, and Watertenders Association has come out in support of the Griffith tie-up. The Stalinist officials dash to the rescue. They call a meeting together and rush through a motion giving them the "authority" to wire San Pedro ordering that local to "furnish crew to the James Griffith" and threatening that "failure to do so will be held accountable for precipitating a coastwise lockout."

Never remiss in its duty to the "Ruling Claws" the Western Worker described the dispute as "another disturbance... cooked up..." by "the shipowners" and "designed to effect legislation before Congress which would hamstring maritime unions."

As though to clinch all this strikebreaking sabotage Bridges now rushes into print with the following:

"This whole thing (the schooner dispute) is a provocative plot cooked up by the Sailors officials in collaboration with the Shipowners Association."

Sailors Win; Stalinists "Beef"

In order to allow the air to clear itself of this class-collaboration smoke the Sailors' Union agreed to let the Griffith proceed to San Francisco and there take up the whole matter anew. This was done and the dispute settled in short order, the sailors winning all their demands with very little opposition from the owners, thus proving all the sound and fury about a "lockout" to be only stage-thunder engineered by our Sherlock himself.

But if Harry Lundeberg and the other officials of the Sailors' Union are not involved in a conspiracy with the shipowners, then why is Bridges shouting "lockout" so loudly. A glance at the San Francisco Chronicle's editorial comment on the dispute may furnish us with a clue to this enigma.

Referring to the "complete stupidity of the walkout" and berating "unions that would let their men so heedlessly break their agreements with the threat of

S.U.P. Votes Fund to Sue Slanderers of Lundeberg

SAN FRANCISCO.—With 735 members present at one of the largest meetings held recently at headquarters of the Sailors Union, the membership took action on the libelous attacks on the S.U.P. and its Secretary-Treasurer, Harry Lundeberg by "the rat-sheet, the Western Worker, official organ of the Communist Party of California." The particular issue in question carried two articles, one of these charging Lundeberg and the Sailors Union with beating up members at meetings.

The stool-pigeon charges of the Western Worker, printed in its Dec. 13 issue, were based on an item in a national magazine called Newsweek.

Demanded Retraction

Lundeberg informed the membership that on Dec. 6th, his attention had been called to this item in Newsweek and he had immediately night-lettered the editor and publisher of the magazine that they had been completely misinformed, and that he demanded a retraction of them for the "information" they had published, i.e., that "Lundeberg had instigated the present deportation proceedings against Bridges." He added that he had included in his wire the demand for a retraction, or suitable action would be taken against them.

However, on Dec. 18 the Western Worker came out with its phoney charges, which had already been printed by the Daily Worker. Lundeberg pointed out that "this is just a continuation of the constant campaign of slander, lies, and vilification against him by the Communist

Party, its stooges in the S.U.P.; in D.C. No. 2 (of the West Coast Maritime Federation); in the CIO," and that they were spending unlimited sums and much space in the yellow rags in an attempt to discredit him and the officials of the S.U.P., so that they could take over the Union.

Sailors Nail a Lie

"That we answer them properly in the next issue of the WEST COAST SAILOR, and that we sue the libelers—the Western Worker and Newsweek—and that the secretary be authorized to draw \$500 out of the general fund as a bond in a suit for libel against the Western Worker, and that we give Brother Harry Lundeberg a rising vote of confidence as our answer to the attacks of the Western Worker and the Communist Party."

Rising vote taken: 715 Yes. 1 No.

—From the "West Coast Sailor".

Lundeberg repeated his challenge to anyone of the stooges to come before the membership and present his facts. So far not one has had any proof to present. Resort has been had, instead, to slanderous whispering campaigns and stoolpigeon activities against any union man who refuses to take the dictates of the Stalinists.

Several members stated that "it was high time we took action against these rags and moved in on these stool-pigeons in the maritime unions."

Aircraft Strikers Convicted of "Conspiracy to Felony"

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—Organized Labor rallied here this week to fight the outrageous convictions of 22 aircraft workers in a Superior Court on charges of "conspiracy to felony" which grew out of a sit-down strike last February at the Douglas Aircraft corp.

Included among the 22, all of whom are member of the United Automobile Workers of America, were William Busick and Andrew M. Schmouder, C.I.O. organizers who led the sit-down.

The sit-down was pulled against dismissal of union workers and the prevalence of low wage rates in the plant. District Attorney Fitts broke the sit-down by issuing felony complaints against 287 men who occupied the factory. It was the

first time that felony warrants were issued against sit-down strikers.

A huge army of deputies armed with machine guns and gas bombs caused the strikers to leave the plant and submit to arrest.

A first trial held with the 22 defendants ended in a victory as the jury disagreed and no convictions resulted.

This second trial lasted six weeks before the powerful anti-labor forces combined with the law enforcement agencies obtained the convictions. An appeal to higher courts was announced by defense attorneys.

Freedom for the strikers must be won since the trials were part of a carefully planned employer campaign to bust the union movement here.

tying up an industry" (exactly Bridges' argument), the Chronicle continues:

Bridges' Real Aim

"It seems probable that the speedy return of the sailors to reason (?) was due to their officers seeing, or being made to see (by Mr. Bridges perhaps?), the impossible position they had jumped into. The question still remains what sort of control the Union officers have over their men that permits such a stupid (!) outbreak to occur in the first place. If the officers do not maintain sufficient discipline to be able to prevent their men from

violating their agreements in a case so clear cut as this one then it is high time, for the good of the men and their union (oh, of course, of course, Mr. Editor!) that their official structure be reorganized."

This hardly needs any comment. Both Mr. Bridges and the Chronicle agree publicly that the structure of the Sailors Union should be "reorganized." And with the election of officials now in progress in the Sailors Union anything that discredits Lundeberg may rebound to the benefit of the Stalinist candidates. At least there is no harm in trying, Mr. Bridges seems to think.

Left Jabs

"Peace on Earth"

The disciples or prophets of the Prince of Peace are at it again and the "N. Y. Times" which has no comic page runs excerpts from their sermons.

The Right Rev. Shirley H. Nichols, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Kyoto, Japan delivers the following "gem": "The Japanese worship the forces of nature and the war heroes of the past. How then can we expect them to do anything else than those things which are shocking us in the present struggle?" How does the Right Rev. Bishop explain Christian Britain's shocking "Opium War" which was settled by compelling China to allow the importation of opium and missionaries? Or maybe that didn't shock the Bishop.

1914-18 A. D.

The Rev. Dr. William Ward Ayer held "dictators Stalin, Hitler, and Mussolini" as the enemies that are thwarting the "prince of peace" today. Did the Doctor ever hear of that peaceful period of the "prince of peace" 1914-18. A. D. and B. D. (before dictators?). At that time, I recall, a "Very Rev." handing out this "star from the crown": "You can love your enemy as yourself even while thrusting a bayonet in him." You should have seen the "eyes with love light shining" when the "reverend's" advice was carried out later.

God's Spokesmen

"Give the Huns hell," was the parting words of another of God's spokesmen as we left the base camp for the front. On another occasion, a sawed off, five-foot-nothing "messenger of God" stood on a table and screamed, "If hell was turned upside down you'd find Made in Germany on the bottom."

Labor's Mayor

Under the title "Unpleasant Things Which Must be Said" the Social Democratic "New Leader" lets out a whine which reveals the anguish in its soul. It seems that the appointments of "our great mayor" are not in line with the expectations which were aroused in many breasts. The new office of deputy mayor, we learn, has been filled by a Republican "known as a conservative with reference to the great social problems". As for the new city treasurer "when he was accumulating his millions in the cloak and suit industry, his shop was strictly non-union." Langdon Post, "an outstanding example of what is far too rare—the sort of public servant who really serves the public faithfully" has been fired. "It must be made clear that no candidate, by being elected, becomes bigger than the party or can with impunity act as if he thought he owned it," concludes the "New Leader". Appointing conservative Republicans to the good jobs while there are all sorts of "deserving and willing" A. L. P. ers is certainly enough to cause a "leader" to wonder if this "People's Front" with the Republicans was really the road to Socialism in our Time. Horn and Hardart strikers, clubbed, arrested and jailed are getting another angle on "Labor's mayor". And we hope, on the leaders who took them into the "Popular Fusion Front" as well.