

the Railroad Brotherhood, the Tobacco Workers and then there are all kinds of other organizations of very little strength,--cooks, peddlers, etc., and the aim was always to get the largest number of signatures and stamps of organizations endorsing this action, and fundamentally speaking, our Confederation, which has about 20 unions made a united front with the Tobacco Workers where there is only one union. The latest united front committee was such a committee. They brought together all the heads of these various unions, and they have declared, that if Machado will not liberate the political prisoners they will declare a general strike. This general strike, as can be proven, by documentary evidence, was engineered by the Nationalists, who were driving this committee to bring about the general strike. As was correctly stated in the letter of the American Party, the comrades have ~~it~~ failed to see that the Yellow leaders will do all they can to betray the strike. When Machado found out the only demand was the release of the political prisoners, he said, "all right I will liberate the political prisoners because if I want to I can arrest them again next week". Our comrade, Montaro, the Secretary of the Confederation, has a record of having been arrested 17 times. It is clear that Machado was risking nothing when he was promising the committee that he would release the political prisoners. Another thing, the executive of the united front committee said, "if we propose a general strike, we must go first to the police and present an ultimatum. Our members of the Central Committee of the Party, our own comrades also went to the police, and negotiated for the release of these political prisoners. It is clear that the general strike collapsed with the promise that the prisoners will be released. The Yellows immediately began to withdraw from this campaign. Then the Party decided to be "left" and declare the strike on its responsibility, and here our Party began to seek the support of the nationalists, inasmuch as they had lost the support of the United Front Committee, and they wanted to have a strike before the first of November, because on the first of November the elections to the Parliament would take place, and the Nationalists were issuing a slogan, "The elections will not take place".

The Communists at that time were very anxious to have a strike and to have it about November first. The question is that there must have been a force behind these Party leaders who would have the strike, and that force could have been no one else but the Nationalists who wanted to break down the strike.

There is another thing which I find it very difficult to speak about as a Communist and a Comrade. The Central Committee appointed a revolutionary committee. They confined the committee in a certain room, and they decided to prepare ~~x~~ certain houses for the eventual dead and wounded during the strike. They decided that Comrade Acela should mobilize the doctors and sympathizers with us as first aid. They had no money, so they found someone who advanced \$30.00. With this so-called material resources, without telling a word to the workers, or organizing the workers, into fighting groups, in the hope that the Nationalists will give them munitions and then weapons and arms, they have decided to explode the most important street cars, to throw some bombs in the police stations, to explode some bridges in the provinces and then establish a Soviet Power. You would not suspect me of joking,--but this is a fact. When a comrade asked the Secretary of the Party "when will you declare the strike?" He said, "When all is prepared we will call a meeting. In this meeting we will declare a general strike." So it was a general strike prepared in secret. ~~Gotona~~ declared in a small meeting: "Tomorrow we seize power". This was the situation, and very great demoralization set in after that. Our comrades in the various unions--textile and tramway,--these comrades began to ~~fight~~ vote against the Party. They were against the general strike. For instance, Comrade Acela refused to join this revolutionary committee. She said she will carry out the instructions, she will ~~insure~~ look for a house, find doctors, etc., but she said, "you are preparing a blood bath for the workers." As a result she was sent to the Control Commission. She is still under charges.