

Party introduced political questions into the Confederation, and therefore he demanded that the Party shall withdraw this appeal from the Federation. This was the first time when the Party submitted a statement to the Confederation which states the Party line against Machado and the Nationalists.

Then there was a second one, who was sent to Cuba, Juan, a printer by trade, who was to organize the secret print shop of the Party, and who surrendered to the police all the Party archives. This same comrade also came into the commission to edit the proposed bill. This was the situation.

I have told the comrades that under these circumstances, with lack of funds, etc., we should not undertake the organization of print shop, but we should send 15 comrades into the shops to organize meetings, but the comrades find it impossible, since the Nationalists are fighting Machado and we fight against the Nationalists, the workers will get the impression that if we fight the Nationalists we are not fighting Machado. In order to clarify this confusion I had prepared outlines of speeches for the comrades at the meetings. Then they came together, took a telephone book and found the names of 150 shops to which the comrades should go, and when they began to look for these shops they found many of them out of business. Without telling us a word, these speakers decided to print their speeches and send them around to the factories.

I could submit many more examples, showing the state of affairs in the Party. At the same time, Machado invited the leaders of the Tobacco workers Union and told them that he was always the best friend of the workers, and with tears in his eyes, he presented them with the Cuban flag, telling them this flag must unite all workers, and that they together with the other organizations are authorized by him to call together a Workers Congress; that the Nationalists are a group of rich people, political speculators, that they are against the working class, and that therefore the workers must unite against them. The leaders of the Tobacco workers began to demoralize numbers of our trade union workers under the slogan of organizing the Congress, but I am convinced that at that time when the Party was disorganized, many of the comrades resigning from the Party, etc., if we had let things go for a minute a real crisis would have come into existence. Even members of the Central Committee, good members, came to me to say, "why should we not utilize this situation and take their money to organize a congress."

After that political defeat of the Party we were in danger that the second thing would be the loss of the Confederation, and then we would remain with nothing. Politically, we were then in a most difficult situation. We must remember that in December and January the Nationalists were very active. They came to the conclusion that if the workers would not come out in a general strike and if the workers would not support them then they would not succeed. On the other hand, they also knew that the Party has changed its line, refusing all the invitations of the Nationalists to cooperate. They still continued for a while to invite our people to ask them, what could be done. So they were forced to look for some channel so as to force us to accept their proposal for a general strike, and this they tried to do through the students.

When a student was assassinated, the students immediately came out on the streets. There were shootings and struggles. There was a danger for us then that the question of a general strike will arise despite us, not for economic demands, not for revolutionary slogans, but simply sympathy for the students. The Nationalists have so manoeuvred that a series of trade unions passed resolutions declaring their solidarity with the students. Naturally the second play would be to support the movement of the students for a general strike. The difficulty was how would we resist the movement