

An Apology of Terrorists at Pittsburgh

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PITTSBURG, PA.—While the agents of the Department of Justice and Assistant District Attorney Meyer were raiding the offices of the Workers Party in Pittsburgh last April they did not forget other workers in their campaign of terrorization.

A troupe of these agents swooped down upon the headquarters of the National Croatian Society and "searched the place for seditious literature." The Recording Secretary of the organization was arrested and ordered to turn over all papers, books, records and documents pertaining to the society.

These agents of the coal and steel interests had been "tipped off" that the Croatian Society was a "Red" organization. The order went out to clean it up. The raid followed.

Put One Over on Prosecutor

But there was some humor in the situation. Someone put it over on Assistant District Attorney Meyer. He got the wrong "tip" this time. The National Croatian Society has nothing to do with the "Reds" of even the pinkest variety.

When the staff of sleuths went over the records of the organization they learned of this, very much to their dismay. So dead wrong were the Steel Trust authorities on the dope that had been sold them by some private detective agency and labor-wrecking crew that the District Attorney Meyer was compelled to write the Croatians a letter of apology for the raid. Mr. Meyer confessed that his detectives did not have the slightest basis for the raid.

Novel Excuse Invented

Ordinarily when the gangmen of the big capitalists attack the workers' organizations they do so under the pretense of these bodies receiving money from Moscow or some other mysterious "foreign" source to finance their terrible, subversive movements.

But this time the tables were turned. The excuse for breaking in to the headquarters of the workers' organizations was turned on its head. In this case the "officers of the law" had the gall to order the raid on the harebrained excuse that the Croatian Society was financing Moscow! This confession in bankruptcy was openly made by Assistant District Attorney Meyer in his letter of apology dated June 16th to Mr. Anthony Lucas of the National Croatians. He wrote:

"A short time prior to the arrest of your secretary, this office was informed that the Board of your society had very recently appropriated a sum said to be upwards of \$10,000 and that this sum together with other money had been forwarded to the Communist leaders in Russia for the spreading of Bolshevik and Communistic ideas."

Admit They Wronged Workers

The letter goes on to say: "A careful examination of the records of your society and definite and exact statements made by the Executive Board of your society have convinced us that the information that we received was entirely false."

Of course Assistant District Attorney Meyer expressed his hopes that this letter of apology would be accepted by the Croatians as an act sufficient by itself to "right any wrong or injury that might have been done," to their officers and members.

This unwarranted raid on the National Croatian Society shows clearly what the workers of the Steel and Coal Barony of Pittsburgh are up against. The attack on the Workers Party and the Progressive Miners' Committee is only part of the general offensive tactics against all the labor organizations in the district.