
Another One Caught: Joseph Krieg of St. Louis a Spy.

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During the “left wing scrap” there was a “Left Winger” in the St. Louis local who was particularly aggressive in his assaults upon the party and its “moderate” policy. His name was Joseph Krieg; active, aggressive, and able, he gave great strength to the “wingers” by his mere presence among them.

He is now exposed as another “undercover agent,” with which the “communist” ranks were over filled.

The following from the minutes from Local St. Louis tells the story:

“Joseph Krieg, 1857 Menard Street, member of Machinists’ Union No. 41, who had also been a delegate to the Central Trades and Labor Union from that organization, was charged at a meeting of the union held August 20th [1920] with being a spy and in the employ of the Industrial Service Corporation, a company that furnishes spies to factory employers. A committee of five was elected to hear the charges on Sept. 12; the trial was held; Krieg made a confession to the committee and acknowledged the charges were true, but that he was only spying on the men working in the shop, not on the union. (Since then Krieg has stated to several of our former members that he was not spying on the men in the shop, but on the union officials.) The committee of the Union offered him a very fair proposition, to-wit: If he would give them the definite assurance that he had quit this work, and would give them other information which they desired, they would deal very leniently with him. This Krieg refused to do. The committee made its report to the meeting of the union held Sept. 17, 1920, and Krieg was by unanimous motion expelled from membership of Union No. 41. This same Joseph Krieg joined our Socialist Party May 26th, 1917; he was a member of the 8th and 9th Ward Branch and was a delegate to our General Committee from January 1919 to August 1919. He voted consistently with the left-wing group and quit the party with them when the split occurred in August of last year.

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Edited by Tim Davenport.
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