
“In Re: Workers Council.”

Report of a Meeting Held in New York, Oct. 8, 1921.

by Department of Justice Undercover Agent “P-134”

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Title and Character of Case:

“IN RE: WORKERS COUNCIL” Communist Activities.

Facts Developed:

The banquet and meeting of the above Council held at Labor Temple, E 84th Street, Room #10 was attended. There were about 200 people at the dinner. STEPHEN BIRCHER acted as Chairman, and in his opening speech explained that the Workers Council is organizing for the purpose of bringing all the radical elements together with a view to unity, and put up a solid front for the overthrow of the capitalist system.

J. LOUIS ENGD AHL, Secretary of the Workers Council was the first speaker, and during the course of his speech said he is a Communist, and that the Workers Council is organizing for the purpose of establishing Socialist Soviet Republic in the US and to help all the revolutionary classes unite into a true revolutionary Socialist organization, which idea is the primary mission of the Workers Council, and that a convention will be held in the near future to bring together the Left Wing Socialists and Underground Communist Party groups into a mass organization and unite for action. He also went on to say the Workers Council will affiliate themselves with the 3rd International unconditionally, and that it is the stand of the Workers Council to openly bring the message of Com-

munist to the workers of America in order to educate them along class conscious revolutionary working class lines and to establish Soviets in the United States.

[BENJAMIN] GLASSBERG was next speaker and attacked the Socialist Party of America as being defunct and not a working class movement.

STACKICKY of the JEWISH SOCIALIST FEDERATION, and editor of one of the Jewish papers, made charges against the Socialist Party and the Jewish Daily known as the Forward, explaining that the editors of the publication could be bought for \$10 at any time. He further explained that the Workers Council is a movement preparing the Commissars for the Soviet Republic of the United States. At this point Bircher called Stackicky to order, whereupon the latter in closing said the Jewish workers cannot function in an underground organization because of the fact that the Jewish workers are suppressed more than any others, and for that reason are uniting with the Workers Council.

ROSE WEISS made a speech and explained that the Department of Justice had asked her what kind of an organization the Workers Council is and whether it is a big organization, and she said that it was a small organization and only a few men get together to discuss Workers Council matters. She urged those present to forget the past actions and to get together and become active and not leave anything to the other fellow but to act for themselves.

LIGORIA from the Italian Socialist Group then spoke, charging that the Socialist Party of America was not started right and that it never was a revolutionary class conscious organization, which has caused the Italians in this country to split into various factions, and

he believes the Workers Council is the only organization that will bring all these groups together.

[ALEXANDER] TRACHTENBERG then spoke, explaining he had left the Socialist Party two weeks ago, and although he had been a member of same he had at all times opposed their actions and policy. He further said he has always been for the Left Wing because it is the true class conscious revolutionary element of the working class in the Socialist Party, and that the position and purpose as laid down by the Workers Council is and has been his intention, which is his reason for being a member of the Workers Council. He then appeal for funds and the sum of \$400 was collected.

I. COHEN or COHN, New Jersey State Organizer of the IYPSL [Independent Young People's Socialist League] made a speech in which he charged the workers Council as being nothing more than a centrist organization, and that the IYPSL have already taken their stand, which is with the Young Communist International of Moscow. After reading from *The Theses and Statutes of the 3rd International*, showing that a call had been sent out to organize illegal underground Communist Party organizations, he concluded that the Communist Party of America will not take the Workers Council into the organization, as an organization, but instead take every member in as an individual, stating the Communist Party of America is the place for all working class revolutionists, and the class conscious workers should fall in line with the Communist Party of America.

LUDWIG LORE, editor of the *VOLKSZEITUNG*, then said the Communist Party of America cannot meet the masses with their underground ac-

tivities. He said he is a member of the Communist Party and had been a member of the Communist Labor Party and the United Communist Party, and that the American working class will not take any orders from a clique, namely, the Executive Board [CEC] of the Communist Party of America, which is termed illegal and underground. He said he stands for the same principles as the Communist Party, and that it is necessary that mass organizations be kept instead of underground ones. He also said that whether the 3rd International says that Workers Council is proper or not, they will go before the masses openly and preach Communism and the establishment of a Soviet Republic in the United States. He also said he believed the 3rd International would change its views to act in conformity with the necessities and situations in the countries whenever it sees fit.

He also said the Workers Council will organize the class conscious revolutionary forces of this country regardless of what the orders from Moscow may be, and carry on their educational campaign organizing mass open organizations, whether it be legal or not, and if necessary the work can be done in a legal manner provided a little common sense is used, until the workers establish the Socialist Soviet Republic of this country and cause it to be a real one, and help the establishment of Soviet Socialist Republics all over the world.

Workers Council circulars were distributed at the door by J.L. Engdahl. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

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Edited by Tim Davenport.

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