
Details of Foster Kidnapping Related: Story of Disguise and False Name Denied and Illegal Arrest and Bertillonage Told [events of August 6-7, 1922]

Unsigned report in *The Federated Press Bulletin* [Chicago], v. 3, no. 20 (Aug. 19, 1922), pg. 3.

OMAHA.— Full extent of the lawless kidnapping of William Z. Foster from Denver by Colorado state police not in uniform and of his deportation to Wyoming was revealed on his arrival here to fill a belated lecture engagement as Secretary of the Trade Union Educational League.

Foster indignantly denied the press yarns woven around his illegal removal from Colorado. He did not come to Denver in disguise, despite the assertion of Pat Hamrock, adjutant general of the Colorado rangers, that this was the case. Foster arrived openly to be the principal speaker at a widely advertised public meeting, and registered under his own name at the Oxford hotel.

Soon after registering [Aug. 6, 1922] three heavily armed rangers in plain clothes entered and forced him to accompany them to the street to a waiting automobile. Under direct instructions of Hamrock, the Ludlow butcher, the auto was headed for Brighton, 20 miles distant. The rangers had no warrants. At Brighton Foster was illegally held over night in jail and denied the right to communicate with friends or with a lawyer.

The state police confiscated half his baggage,

including the manuscript of a book he had in preparation and a number of reference works.

The next day [Aug. 7, 1922] the Colorado rangers took him 100 miles by auto across the Wyoming border to Cheyenne. Despite his protests they photographed, weighed, and measured him, contrary to law. In Cheyenne, the Colorado police, who were illegally holding Foster a prisoner on Wyoming territory without a warrant, learned that a Wyoming county sheriff was waiting to cooperate with them 12 miles away. Reentering the auto they took Foster back to the state line where the sheriff and he was going to put him on an east bound Union Pacific train.

Instead of doing so the sheriff drove Foster in an auto to a point 6 miles from Tarrington, Wyo., 100 miles distant from Cheyenne. Foster was ordered to walk the 6 miles to the Burlington station. He succeeded in arriving at the station with what was left of his baggage and hastened to Omaha.

Preparations for legal action against the Colorado and Wyoming authorities are being made.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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