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## Vegetarians Arrested as “Reds”: Tailor Seized in “Tolstoy” Cafe Freed on Showing Union Card.

Unsigned new report published in *The New Majority* [Chicago], v. 3, no. 2 (Jan. 10, 1920), pg. 2.

B. Slater, a member of the Executive Board of Ladies’ Tailors, Local No. 104, Chicago, described his experience as a victim of the federal onslaught upon “reds” January 2 [1920]. Mr. Slater was partaking of a meal at the “Tolstoy Vegetarian Restaurant and Library,” 2609 W. Division Street, [Chicago], when a lot of plainclothesmen entered the place.

“I had stepped up to the cashier,” said Mr. Slater, “and asked her if Mr. Hoffman, who was scheduled to speak on ‘Vegetarianism,’ had made his appearance yet, when she whispered that the place was full of ‘dicks.’ I made for the door to go home, when a husky guy asked me where I was going. The detective told me there was no hurry, that I should stay inside where it was warm and comfortable. Then they took a picture of us and a patrol wagon drove up and we were brought to the West Chicago Avenue station.

“They asked me if I belonged to the Communist Party and I replied that I was not affiliated with any party. They asked me to identify myself and I showed them my membership card in the Ladies Tailors’ Union. This seemed to satisfy them, for they said they couldn’t find anything against me, and they let me go. They warned me, however, to keep away from the Tolstoy Restaurant.”

Mr. Slater says the only excuse he could see for the raid were the words “and library” painted on the window. He says the nearest excuse for calling the place a library was a few books in the rear of the restaurant, and as far as he knew they all preached the Tolstoyan doctrine of non-resistance.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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