

---

# **Hysteria Rampant in the United States: Authorities Take Radicals Seriously, Raid and Crush Them. Thousands Arrested: Disruption of Socialist Party Accomplished — Communist and Communist Labor Parties Utterly Destroyed — Hosts of Men to Be Deported — Citizen Radicals to Be Tried in Court — More Raids and Arrests Threatened — Harmless and Ill-Advised People Hit Hardest — Many Families Are Made Miserable.**

Unsigned article in *The New Age* [Buffalo], v. 8, whole no. 397 (Jan. 8, 1920), pg. 1.

These are troublesome days for people who are in the habit of doing their own thinking and feel it their duty to give public expression to their thoughts, for who is able today to distinguish the permissible from the forbidden thought?

The times of our old reliable democracy, the democracy of the fathers, have passed.

Free speech has ceased to be the palladium of our liberty; the right of free assemblage does no longer exist, and as to the liberty of the press — well, newspaper writers with a well-developed conscience know that their every word is censored and measured and weighed.

Hysteria has taken the place of reason, fear has replaced common sense, and right finds itself at the mercy of might.

A man's house used to be his castle, today it might easily become his trap. And if your opinions about public affairs do not harmonize with those of our purchasing-powerful pillars of society, you are in great danger of being denounced as an anarchist, a Communist, or a radical.

And the powers that be have decided to rid the country of all radical troublemakers.

Deport the foreigners and incarcerate the citizens among the would-be revolutionists! That's the slogan. Wholesale arrests have been reported from 33 cities in

the United States, and last Saturday morning [Jan. 3, 1920] more than 1500 members of the Communist and Communist Labor parties were in custody, and Department of Justice officials expressed the opinion that within a few hours twice that number would be behind the bars.

## **In Buffalo.**

Eighty-three alleged anarchists were arrested in Buffalo and the surrounding towns last Friday [Jan. 2, 1920].

Among those arrested were Stephen Lissafeld, 342 box Avenue; James Campbell, 231 Chester Street; Charles Halich, 228 James Street; John Miller, alias Krissom, 247 Pine Street; Isadore Levy, 621 Jefferson Street.

Six only of the 83 proved to be citizens. Their names are Abraham Rabinoff, 293 Madison Street; Frank Cheliwoksky, Depew; Anthony Grunzwed, Depew; Martin Kudolbo, Lancaster; Gust Wilsis, Lancaster; Zygmunt Zaminski, Tonawanda. They pleaded not guilty and their cases were adjourned to January 7th [1920].

Most of the prisoners seem to be Russian, Poles, or Hungarians, and the government claims that radical leaders had planned to develop the recent steel and

coal strikes into a general strike and ultimately into revolution.

It certainly was a disagreeable surprise to many of the arrested men to hear how dangerous they were, for it is our opinion that very few of them realized the consequences of the radical-sounding phrases by which they had allowed themselves to be caught. Very few of them were at all prepared to lead an active hand in any enterprise directed against our government. The phrase got hold of them and deprived them of the capacity of careful observation and clear thinking.

Well-informed men and women, who had profited by the sad experiences of former years and former movements, were ridiculed for their attempts to stem the tide of phrase-radicalism, and denounced as reactionaries and enemies of the working class.

And what have we now? The Socialist Party has been disrupted, sober-minded people have been scared away from the Socialist movement, the political agencies of our ruling classes have been furnished ample excuses for their rule of terror, and thousands of families have been made miserable.

This does, of course, in no wise justify that rule of terror; on the contrary, it shows how little justified it is. For had our rulers taken the trouble to study the pseudo-radical movement, they would have realized that there was no reason for taking it seriously, and we sincerely hope the whole spectacular affair is simply meant as a warning to those who are easily taken in by beautiful phrases.

### **The Buffalo Communists.**

Before the Department of Justice began its nationwide roundup of radicals, 42 members of the Communist Party of Buffalo had been arrested, Mrs. Dr. Anna Reinstein, wife of Boris Reinstein, being the last victim. Mrs. Reinstein and 10 others were released on bail. The cases of all of them were called in city court last Friday [Jan. 2, 1920] and put over to January 7th.

Frank M. Cassidy was ordered released by Justice Charles B. Sears on the ground that the information against him was not properly drawn up. But as Cassidy

left the court he was rearrested on new information drawn by Walter P. Hofheins, of the District Attorney's office.

The new information alleges that the defendant, Frank M. Cassidy, Sr., "is feloniously and [unlawfully] a member of a certain unlawful society commonly known as the Communist Party, organized and existing for the purpose of teaching and advocating the doctrine of criminal anarchy and among other things, the overthrow of organized government by force and violence."

### **At Rochester.**

The Lusk Legislative Committee closed its up-state hearing at Rochester after it had heard evidence tending to show that the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America was syndicalistic and that the Rochester Young People's Socialist League was affiliated with the Communist Party of America and active in urging the use of "battle tactics" to conquer the power of the state.

### **Many Suspected This.**

From Washington we hear that S. Nuorteva has published a statement that agents of the Department of Justice had "actively participated in the formation of Communist Party platform planks," which now form the basis of the prosecution of thousands of people.

The statement also asserts that "we can prove that the chief figures in celebrated bomb plots were agents of a similar nature," and that some other radical activities now said to have been instituted in Russia "were in reality managed and inspired by secret service agents."

"The Russian Government Soviet Bureau," it added, "would welcome an opportunity to make good these assertions before the proposed Senate investigating committee."

Nuorteva was secretary to Ludwig Martens, the American representative of the Russian Soviet government.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

*Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2011. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.*