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# Police Report that Real Bullets Were Fired at W.Z. Foster

by Carl Haessler

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(Federated Press Staff Correspondent)

CHICAGO. — Real bullets were fired at William Z. Foster, according to the police statement following investigation by Detective Sgt. Crowley of the shooting at the mass meeting of members and sympathizers of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union called to protest against the expulsion from the organization of radical members [Aug. 27, 1923].

Sgt. Crowley, in an authorized statement to the Federated Press, denies that any police report has been made branding the shooting a fake, contradicting statements made by the *Chicago Tribune* on the 2nd and 3rd days following the attempted assassination. He located 3 marks in the ceiling of the hall, all in line with the emergency exit where the gunman stood in the doorway for a brief moment and the platform where Foster was speaking.

“From our investigation we have no reason to believe the *Tribune* statement that the shooting was ‘faked,’” reads Crowley’s statement. “We have not caught the assailant, but are working on the case. There are 3 bullet marks on the ceiling at Carmen’s Hall about 40 feet from the side entrance where the shots were fired, that is, about half way between the en-

trance and the speakers’ platform. No report differing from this has been made by the police.”

The bullet holes were plainly visible to me. They were evidently made through hasty pulling of the trigger while the gunman brought the revolver down forearm to level it at Foster. The first bullet narrowly missed a huge inverted electric light bowl, of which there were 2 in the line of shots. The second shot wavered a little to the right of the first, but 6 feet nearer the platform. The last was in direct line and 10 feet closer to Foster.

The manager of the hall declares that he had noticed a number of interrupters who were getting ready for more pronounced action and he spoke to them asking who they were. They told him, he says, that they were members of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union. He advised them to abandon their tactics and for a while there was quiet. Then after Foster had begun speaking a man in the audience near the emergency exit tapped loudly on the bottom of a seat. Immediately afterwards, the door suddenly opened, a single gunman fired, masking his face with one arm, and fled.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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