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# Let the Facts Come Out.

## An Editorial from the *Milwaukee Leader*, January 8, 1920.

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Santeri Nuorteva was formerly the United States representative of the workers' government of Finland — the legal government of that country, which was drowned in a sea of blood by the Finnish capitalists and their mercenaries. He is now secretary to L.C.A.K. Martens, United States Ambassador from Soviet Russia.

Nuorteva was not recognized as ambassador from the workers' government of Finland, and Martens is not recognized as ambassador from the workers' government of Russia. Certain officials in Washington seem to have a strong prejudice against workers' governments.

Nuorteva has issued a statement charging that agents of the Department of Justice actively participated in the formulation of Communist Party platform planks which now form the basis of the persecution of thousands of people. He also charges such agents with bomb plots that were laid at the door of the Russians. He says the Soviet Bureau in this country would welcome an opportunity to make good these assertions before the proposed Senate Investigating Committee.

*The Leader* is not naturally suspicious. But it knows the wiles of capitalists and old party officials too well not to have suspected these very activities that are now charged by Nuorteva.

In fact, we expressed our suspicion that the bomb plots were concocted for the purpose of creating an excuse to prosecute radicals — also

that there were spies helping to promote the plan to wreck the Socialist Party last spring and summer.

We did not have tangible evidence that any particular Left Winger was a spy. But, the suddenness with which the fight was sprung and the terrific campaign of lies that was waged against the Socialist Party indicated that there was a malevolent desire to ruin the usefulness of the party altogether — a desire which happily was not gratified, for the party is stronger than ever before. It looked to us very much as if the enemies of Socialism were trying to either break up the party or lead it to take such a stand that they could proceed against its members with still more violent tactics than theretofore.

And now Nuorteva claims to have the evidence that will prove secret service agents had a hand in the matter.

By all means, give him and Martens an opportunity to prove these assertions. If secret service agents have laid a trap for the men who are now being prosecuted, let the public know that fact. It is to the interest of the whole people to know the truth about it. It is very much to the interest of the accused to know it. And it is to the interest of all members of the Communist and Communist Labor Parties to know whether or not they were misled by men with ulterior motives.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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