
Martens Files Libel Suit Against the *Washington Post*

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WASHINGTON, March 4.— Suit against the *Washington Post* for criminal libel was filed Tuesday [March 2, 1921] by Ludwig Martens, representative of the Russian Soviet government, who has been testifying here before a Senate committee of inquiry for the past 7 weeks.

Martens' suit is based upon a news story and an editorial which appeared in Monday's issue of the *Post* [March 1, 1921], and which charged, among other things, that Martens had admitted before the Senate committee that he was a member of the American Communist Party, had directed secret organizations aiming at the overthrow of the American government, had "associated with and incited criminal anarchists to crime," had attended an unlawful and secret meeting of anarchists in Detroit, and that he is "a German revolutionist."

In its editorial the *Post* demands that Martens "be delivered over to the tender mercies of Noske, who knows how to deal with Sparticides, Bolsheviki, and their ilk."

Ex-Senator Hardwick, attorney for Martens, has engaged local counsel to assist in prosecuting the suit against the *Post*. Their contention is that the above and other allegations by the *Post* are utterly false and are refuted by the official record of the Senate hearings.

On Saturday last [Feb. 28, 1921] the *Washington Times* taunted the Department of Justice and the Lusk Committee advisors who have been striving to incriminate Martens, and declared they were becoming desperate over the failure of the hearings to justify their hysteria against the Soviet representative.

The *Post* story is regarded as the Luskers' final effort to stage a comeback, and may foreshadow the arrest of Martens on Tuesday [March 9, 1921].

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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