
Government Spies Wrote Planks in Communist Platform, also Laid Bombs, is Charge:

Washington Stirred to Depths by Sensational Accusations Against Government Spies — Russian Republic Representative Demands Full Hearing Before Senate.

Published in *The Toiler* [Cleveland], whole no. 102 (Jan. 14, 1920), pp. 1, 4.

WASHINGTON.— Did the Department of Justice organize the Communist Party of America and write into its platform the very planks upon which it now bases its prosecutions and deportation proceedings?

Charges that the Department of Justice did these things are contained in a statement given to all the press associations Jan. 6 [1920] by Santeri Nuorteva, Secretary of the Russian Soviet Government Bureau.

Members of the United States Senate, who had received earlier information respecting the alleged “agent provocateur” activities of the Department of Justice, were excited and furious to hear that the most degrading practices of the old Russian Tsars had been copied by an executive branch of the United States government.

“Conspiracy to Suppress Truth.”

Nuorteva’s sensational statement to the press occurs in the course of his comment on the arrest of Gregory Weinstein, of the Soviet Bureau, in New York City.†

After stating that the Soviet representatives “welcomed the opportunity given by the proposed hearings before the Senate committee to state the facts and refute the historical lies which are being spread about the Soviet government.” Nuorteva charges that the contemplated deportation of himself and Martens is a

conspiracy to prevent the Senate and the American people from learning the truth.

His statement then declares:

We have conclusive evidence that agents of the Department of Justice have actively participated in the organization of the Communist Party of America, and that those very planks in the program of the party which now form the basis of the persecution of thousands of people have been drafted and inserted into that platform by such government agents. We can prove that the chief figures in certain celebrated bomb plots were agents of a similar nature.

A member of the President’s cabinet who heard the charges against the Department of Justice exclaimed: “I have felt for some time that private corporations were employing ‘agents provocateur’ to discredit labor, but it is almost incredible to learn that a department of the government has descended to that frightful practice.

Wholesale Collusion Charged.

The attention of some Senators was drawn to day to the fact that a well-known character within the Communist Party ranks, who was most active in its creation and early agitation, is reported to have “slipped through” the Department of Justice net, and they are asking whether he was given official assistance to “escape.”

†- Gregory Weinstein (1880-???) was the office manager and secretary to Ludwig Martens at the Russian Soviet Government Bureau. He was a journalist by trade, a graduate of the University of Geneva, and held a legal degree.

Senators learned that the Soviet representatives are prepared to offer evidence of the most explicit sort showing that the Department of Justice was paying money and receiving reports from the man who dictated the most radical planks of the Communist Party in the weeks before, during, and after the organization of that party.

On every side the opinion is expressed that the Senate will certainly demand the right to question the Soviet representatives and make them prove or confess the falsity of their astounding accusation. As one member of Congress declared tonight, "If America has emerged from the world war a nest of spies and official plotters against exploited classes at home and against new experiments in government abroad, the American people ought to be informed of it immediately."

Welcomed Chance to Testify.

Nuorteva's statement follows:

We have been informed that Mr. Gregory Weinstein, of the Russian Soviet Government Bureau, has been arrested and held for deportation, and that similar action is threatened against Mr. Martens and other members of his staff as a last desperate effort to prevent the truth about the Russian situation, and about the real foreign policies of the Russian Soviet government, from being placed before the people of America.

We welcomed the opportunity the proposed hearings before the Senate committee would give us to state these facts and to refute the hysterical lies which are being spread about our government and about the Russian Soviet Bureau in New York.

Soviet Russia, victorious over her internal enemies, has no desire to interfere with the internal affairs of other countries. It was, and it still is, our hope that now that the futility of intervention in and of the blockade of Russia has been proven with such disastrous results to our opponents we would be allowed to live in peace with other countries.

I regard the mean persecution of our bureau and the frantic man-hunting of all friends of Soviet Russia as a deliberate attempt to prevent the impending peace and understanding with our country and to prevent a fair hearing before the Senate committee.

I feel confident that the large masses of the American people, in spite of the manufactured prejudice against us, will now at least understand that there are forces at work who are afraid of getting the truth about Russia before the American people.

The Senate hearing would also have opened wide — if we were permitted to testify — the Augean stables of the work of Russian reactionaries in this country, who have squandered on abominable plots and intrigues tens of millions of money lent by the American government to Russia.

It seems that there are many people beside Mr. Boris Bakhmetiev and his crowd who would not like to have these matters made public.

There also appears to be another reason for the desire to deport us. ***We have conclusive evidence that agents of the Department of Justice have actively participated in the organization of the Communist Party of America and that those very planks in the program of the party, which now form the basis of the persecution of thousands of people, have been drafted and inserted into the program by such government agents.***

We also are prepared to show before the Senate Committee that some other radical activities, the instigation of which has been charged to Russians, in reality were managed and inspired by secret service agents.

We can prove that the chief figures in certain celebrated bomb-plots were agents of a similar nature.

In other words, some officials have been establishing that sinister institution which is known in Europe as the system of "agent provocateur."

We are ready to bring out all facts concerning this charge, the gravity of which I fully recognize. It is clear that some officials implicated in this matter are only too anxious to prevent us from disclosing these facts.

Neither Mr. Martens nor I are opposed to going back to Russia. In fact, it has been our fondest wish to go there and to participate in the splendid work of Russia's social reorganization. We have been staying here as a matter of duty, in the hope it would be possible to dispel existing prejudice and to establish friendly relations between the United States and Soviet Russia.

I am sure that such relations will soon be established in spite of all the frantic efforts of reactionaries to discredit the people of Russia. The people of America in general are too sensible to support such policies as have been pursued by some officials here in respect to Soviet Russia.

I shall take the liberty of reminding our persecutors of the words of one of their own national heroes: "You can fool some of the people all of the time; you can fool all of the people some of the time; but you can't fool all of the people all of the time."

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2006. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.