
High-Handed and Lawless, Hillquit Brands IWW Raids [reaction to Sept. 5, 1917 events]

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Morris Hillquit, Socialist candidate for Mayor of New York, made the following statement with reference to the federal raids yesterday:

"I have not seen the warrant and do not know in what proceeding it was issued, but it is perfectly clear that all the raids of Socialist and other anti-war organizations going on simultaneously all over the country, together with the suppression of the People's Council meetings by the concerted action of the governors of several states, and the suppression of several newspapers, are all part of a very definite policy on the part of the federal government to exterminate all organs of opposition and to stifle all voices of criticism in the present war.

"I do not know of any country at war that is on the Allied side or in the Central Powers that has dared to go so far in the destruction of democratic institutions and civil rights of the people under pretexts of military necessity as has this country at the very outset of the war.

"The high-handed and lawless procedure of the government throws a lurid sidelight on our avowed purpose to make the world safe for democracy.

"As far as the Socialist movement and the movement for peace are concerned, they will not be affected adversely by the persecution. On the contrary, they will gain greater strength.

"The Socialist Party and the pacifist organizations are being driven to methods of secret conspiratory activities as they were in Russia prior to the revolution, but the inability of the Russian people to meet in public and to work in the open in the case of the tsar did not prevent the overthrow of tsardom."

Edited by Tim Davenport

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