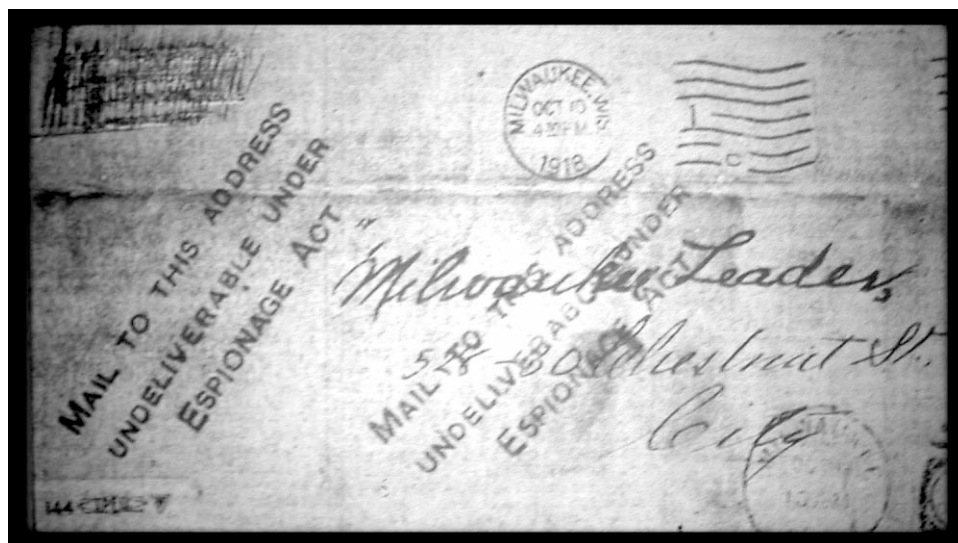

In the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.

by Victor L. Berger

Unsigned editorial in *The Milwaukee Leader*, v. 7, no. 267, home edition (Oct. 19, 1918), pg. 1.
Authorship attributed to Editor Victor Berger based on style and content.



“You have a cowed nation. And you have a cowed Congress.” —Senator Hiram Johnson.

Citizens of this great democracy, behold this picture. It is a photograph of a letter sent to your paper. All our mail is treated the same way. None can reach us. We are cast into outer darkness.

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Do you know what this means to us?

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The following can not reach us by mail:

- Money due on subscriptions.
- Money for new subs.
- Money for advertising.
- Mail from our paid correspondents.
- Mat and feature services.
- Change of address and complaints.

- Requests for advertising rates.
- Mail from firms from which we buy material.
- Price quotations.

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But what's the use to go on? Any person with ordinary sense knows what the denial of the mail means to any concern, especially a newspaper.

Since Oct. 3, 1917, when the mailing right of *The Leader* was revoked, we have LOST \$70,000 IN SUBSCRIPTION MONEY AND \$50,000 IN LOCAL AND NATIONAL ADVERTISING.

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Now, mind you, no court has found us guilty of any crime.

This tremendous loss of \$120,000 was the result of the act of one man — the Postmaster General

of the United States.

The constitution says plainly: "No property shall be confiscated without due process of law."

But a subjugated and "cowed congress" passed a law which violated, not only the constitution, but every principle of Americanism. This act gives to one man the power to ruin or confiscate the business of any citizen of this great democracy.

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This one man is prosecutor, judge, jury, and court of appeal. He may bankrupt the Standard Oil Company or the Steel Trust and snap his fingers at the sovereign people.

Of course, there is no danger that the Postmaster General will exercise his Royal Prerogative on the Steel Trust or any other profiteering concern.

Plutocracy is safe, but democracy is being murdered.

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No republic can live without the freedom of press and speech.

No republic can live without opposition and opposition parties. "Government is not eloquence, but force," as George Washington said.

And men with unrestricted power — as we have them in the national capital now — become wolves and tyrants.

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We are not whining. We are not cringing. We are not cowed. We will not cry "enough!"

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We will fight on until the prison door clicks behind us or until the noose tightens around our necks.

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More precious than the freedom of the few, dearer than life itself, is Liberty.

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Too many have died that "government of the people, by the people, and for the people" may not perish from this earth; too many great souls have breathed their last on fagot piles, amid dungeon walls and gallows ropes that Liberty may live.

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Go on, gentlemen, and do your worst! Someday a bruised and outraged people will rise in holy anger and cast you on the rubbish pile of history.

Hiding behind the plea of making the "world safe for democracy" you are assassinating the freedom of the American people themselves.

Go on! Do your damndest and learn that all are not yet cowed "in the land of the free and the home of the brave."

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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