
Workers Rally to Support of Victims of Michigan Raids.

An unsigned news report in *The Worker* [New York], v. 5, whole no. 244 (Oct. 14, 1922), pg. 2.

BUFFALO.— The Labor Defense Council launched to fight for the freedom of the victims of Daugherty's Michigan "Red" raid and to carry on a campaign against all infringements upon the workers' rights is meeting with an enthusiastic response from all elements of the labor movement.

This is evidenced in the meetings which W.Z. Foster and C.E. Ruthenberg have addressed in their speaking tour during the last week.

The audiences which have greeted the speakers have not been made up only of the radical element, but in each city there has been a goodly number of progressive trade unionists. These trade unionists have not only attended the meetings but have shown their willingness to become members of the Labor Defense council.

Toledo Hears Foster's Story.

In Toledo an audience which filled the Labor Temple was on hand. Sprinkled through this audience was a goodly number of trade union officials of the city.

Foster drew a picture of the way craft unionism worked in the example of 7 railroad unions on strike while 9 unions remained at work, which drove home the lesson.

He pointed out that it was because the "reds" were fighting against such conditions in the labor movement that the effort was being made to railroad them to prison.

Ruthenberg told the story of the organization of the Communist Party and its participation in the industrial conflicts of 1919 and 1922 and the resulting attacks upon the movement. The audience contributed \$104 for the defense fund. The work of organiz-

ing a local branch of the Labor Defense Council is under way.

Most Enthusiasm in Cleveland.

The Cleveland meeting was held under the auspices of the local Labor Defense Council, which has already been provisionally organized.

The meeting was held in the BLE [Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers] Auditorium, which was filled by the largest and most enthusiastic audience of the tour so far.

Foster took advantage of the fact that he was speaking in the 12 story building which is the headquarters of the most conservative of the railroad unions to outline the program of amalgamation of the railroad unions.

"What would you think," he asked, "of an army which sent its infantry into battle while the cavalry and artillery, the air service and the other branches stayed out?" And then when the infantry had got "leaned up" sent in the cavalry to fight alone and get its licking?

"That is what we are doing on the railroads. We are sending our men in single divisions to fight the whole power of the enemy. When we learn some common sense we will send in our whole army at one time. We will make one army, one big industrial union of the workers in each industry, and then a tin-horn politician like Daugherty won't dare have an injunction issued against us."

Ruthenberg's appeal for a united front through the Labor Defense Council met enthusiastic endorsement.

"The answer to the Michigan raids and the Daugherty injunction must be a united stand by labor

to make real the right of free speech, free press, and freedom of assemblage, the right to organize and strike in the only way that these rights can become a reality for the workers, through the organized power of labor.”

David S. Williams of North Church presided at the meeting. The audience contributed \$447 to the defense fund in addition to paying 25 cents admission.

Pittsburgh Hates Foster.

Pittsburgh does not love Foster. The memory of the great steel strike is still too fresh in the minds of the steel bosses. The Pittsburgh police first decided that Foster could not speak in the city but backed up when they saw there was going to be a fight.

A good crowd came out to the Labor Lyceum, the only hall which could be secured for the meeting. The defense contribution amounted to \$280. After the meeting the local branch of the Labor Defense Council was organized through the election of a provisional executive committee, which will issue a general call to the labor bodies of the city. On this committee are three or four of the most active members of the Pittsburgh Federation of Labor.

Youngstown Mayor Backs Down.

The mayor of Youngstown prohibited the defense meeting in that city, but Wallace Metcalfe, acting in the name of the Labor Defense Council and the Civil Liberties Union stirred up such a hornets' nest of protest that the mayor was compelled to back down.

Metcalfe lined up behind him the Private Soldier organization, the Central Labor Body, and the

liberal forces of the city and demanded to know whether the mayor was bigger than the constitution. The result of the advertising given the meeting was one of the biggest meetings held in Youngstown in recent years.

The Central Labor Union had planned a meeting in the afternoon to protest against the Daugherty injunction but called off the meeting and decided to support the Foster-Ruthenberg meeting. This brought many of the union men of the city to the meeting.

Foster recalled some of the incidents of the steel strike. Most of those in the audience were steel workers. Foster's suggestion that the time was coming when there would be an new campaign of organization in the steel mills and that the next strike would not be lost was received with cheers.

“When the next strike in the steel industry comes,” he said, “we will be organized to win. We will have united with the miners so that there will be no coal for scab mills, and with the railroad men, so there will be no trains to bring in raw material or take out finished goods. That is the kind of unionism which will win.”

By a unanimous rising vote the audience adopted the Workers Party resolution calling for a Labor Defense Council, the General Strike, and independent working class political action through a working class political party.

Undoubtedly Youngstown will have one of the strongest local groups of the Labor Defense Council, organization of which is already under way.

The Youngstown audience contributed \$170 to the defense fund, to which there was added \$50 collected by the workers in the nearby town of Girard and added to the collection.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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