
Gale to Squeal Way to Liberty, Inquiry Shows: Renegade Radical to Give State's Evidence to Escape Penalty for Evading the Draft

Unsigned article in the *New York Call*, v. 14, no. 260 (Sept. 17, 1921), pp. 1, 5.

Charges that Linn E. Gale, Communist and former editor of *Gale's Weekly*, now being held on Governor's Island by Federal military authorities, on a charge of desertion, has completely renounced his radical faith were confirmed yesterday.

Following its charges that Gale had changed from a rabid Communist to a prisoner willing to incriminate other radicals, betraying their confidences, the American Civil Liberties union yesterday supplied *The Call* with its correspondence on the matter.

The exchange of letters, as made public by the union, includes:

1. A letter from Samuel M. Castleton, Gale's lawyer, in which he states that his client desires to have it known "that he is absolutely sincere in the repudiation of his former radical opinions."

2. A letter from Roger Baldwin, Director of the union, to Castleton, in which the direct charge is made that Gale offered to turn state's evidence in return for his own freedom.

3. A request from Baldwin that Castleton tell all he knows on the matter so that previous charges against Gale might be backed up and a subsequent refusal by Castleton to make public his client's confidence.

Military authorities on Governor's Island would make no comment on Gale's case yesterday otherwise than to reiterate their earlier statements — that the Communist had offered to turn state's evidence in exchange for his acquittal.

It was also learned by *The Call* yesterday that Gale, who prior to his affiliation with the radical movement had been an upstate Democratic Party "hanger-on," had offered his services to the former Russian

Soviet Bureau here, but had been turned down by Ludwig Martens, who mistrusted him. This was confirmed yesterday by Dr. Isaac A. Hourwich, who was an attaché of the bureau.

"The bureau received a request from Gale that he be designated its chief Mexican propagandist," said Hourwich. "As I recall Gale's letter to Martens, he wished to affiliate with the bureau in some manner or other.

"Santeri Nuorteva, then Martens' secretary, expressed the belief that Gale was either 'crazy or an agent of the Department of Justice.' Martens therefore either left Gale's letter unanswered or mailed him a formal refusal of his offer."

Union Asked for Help.

The file of the Liberties Union indicates that it has received numerous requests for aid in Gale's defense. In letters from Gale and his wife, the union was asked for information on various legal points and for financial contributions.

Upon the receipt of an appeal from Gale, *Good Morning*, Art Young's humorous magazine, sounded the Liberties Union on the matter. In reply Baldwin wrote:

In reply to your letter of July 18 [1921], let me say that we are not taking care of the Gale case, nor are we actively interested in it. I may say that I do not think we would be at any time because there are certain factors in the case which make it of exceedingly doubtful character from our point of view. If you are interested, I should rather discuss the matter in person or over the telephone.

Gale Denounced by Baldwin.

On August 26 [1921] Baldwin issued the following statement to the press:

The Civil Liberties Union has no interest whatever in the case of Linn A.E. Gale. He is not and never was a "conscientious objector." His activities as a radical in Mexico are open to grave charges of unscrupulous conduct, to put it mildly. His attitude since his arrest and the character of his efforts to secure support for his defense make it clear that he is unworthy of the confidence of those interested in civil liberty. We advise our friends not to contribute to his defense fund.

Under date of September 12 [1921], Baldwin wrote to Castleton as follows:

So many reports have come to us in regard to the conduct of Linn A.E. Gale, military prisoner on Governor's Island, for whom you are counsel, that we desire to make inquiry on the following points:

We understand that Mr. Gale left the United States for Mexico in order to escape the Draft Act, and that, when he left, he jumped bond in a criminal case then pending against him in New York City.

We understand that, although he posed as a radical in Mexico City as publisher of *Gale's Magazine*, he has since not only renounced his radical views, but has offered to give to the government information against radicals which he acquired as one of them.

We understand further that ever since he was deported from Mexico and arrested in the United States that he has

been appealing for defense funds and political influence to any and all sources of help in an attempt to escape the consequences of evading the draft. In so doing he has sown a complete disregard for principle, friendship, and obligations, offering to do practically anything which promises to bring his freedom.

We realize that these are delicate questions to put to a man's counsel, but we believe that you would desire to have an opportunity of denying them if they are untrue. Our information comes from reliable sources. We are sure that, in justice to the radical movement with which you are connected, you would prefer to have the facts accurately stated rather than to have unfounded reports so generally in circulation.

Castleton Confirms Rumors.

Castleton's reply to this, also dated September 12 [1921], was:

Replying to your letter of the 12th inst., I beg to advise that the relationship of lawyer and client seals my lips; and I therefore cannot impart any information while acting as counsel for Mr. Gale.

However, my client has authorized me to make public the information that he has renounced his former political beliefs and convictions, that he has completely severed his connections with the radical movement, and consequently would not be justified in receiving any further aid or support from them.

My client, Linn Gale, desires to state that he is absolutely sincere in the repudiation of his former radical opinions, as expressed through *Gale's Magazine*, and that at no time in the future will he engage in radical activities.

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