
Special Report on Radical Activities in the San Francisco District.

[Week Ending Nov. 22, 1919]

by F.W. Kelly

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Report made at: San Francisco

Date When Made: Nov. 22, 1919.

Period for Which Made: Week ending Nov. 22, 1919.

Report Made By: F.W. Kelly

Title and Character of Case: In Re: RADICAL
ACTIVITIES IN THE SAN FRANCISCO
DISTRICT.

Facts Developed:

At San Francisco, California.

Dockmen's Strike.

On the afternoon of November 15th about 1,000 striking stevedores and sympathizers gathered along the waterfront and planned a coup to avoid the Police and beat up a number of strikebreakers by starting a demonstration at Pier 42 while the major portion attacked the strikebreakers at Pier 66. Two negro strikebreakers were seriously beaten and 119 of the rioters were arrested on a charge of rioting. The trial of these men will be held as soon as the injured men are able to appear against the defendants. No further disorder to date.

Shipbuilders' Strike.

Over 11,000 men have registered to return to work, of which about 10% are laborers, 40% skilled mechanics, and 40% helpers. The employers have announced that a sufficient number of men have registered to warrant a resumption of work on Monday,

November 24th, and that 10 days thereafter, if not enough of these strikers have returned to operate full force, advertisements will be placed and outside men will be employed to make up the deficiency.

The union leaders contend that no members of the union have registered to return to work and that no union men will return until the employers meet their demands. Notices were sent to labor leaders in Oakland last week advising them that this strike was called by less than 10% of the men and that further opposition on their part to the men returning to work would result in personal injury to the aforesaid radical leaders and a disruption of the unions involved.

Just what effect the recent publications of dispatches in effect that Federal mediators would make efforts to bring about a settlement of this strike will have on the return of men to work will probably be determined by the end of next week.

Communist Labor Party — Oakland.

J.E. Snyder, Editor Oakland World, John C. Taylor, State Secretary subject party, J.H. Dolsen, and Max Bedacht, strikers and propagandists, were arrested by the Oakland Police November 19th, charged with violation Criminal Syndicalist Law. These arrests the result of information from a confidential informant of this Department, to the effect that these men were plotting the organization of an inner circle for the purpose of killing three prominent citizens for every radical killed or injured by the activities of the American Legion.

IWW — San Francisco.

Thomas McDermott, Secretary; John Connors; Peter Aguilar, alias Pedro Corilla indicted Chicago Federal IWW, indicted more recently Criminal Syndicalist violations, Los Angeles, Calif. Andrew Anderson, Henry Garan, Raymond Rodriguez, and Julius Doeling were arrested as the result of three raids by the San Francisco Police on IWW headquarters. All are charged with violation of the Criminal Syndicalist Law.

IWW at Oakland.

The case of People vs. McHugo is progressing favorably for the prosecution and the introduction of the Sacramento Federal evidence of applied Sabotage is giving considerable publicity to what WILLIAM D. HAYWOOD terms “that great weapon.”

IWW at Eureka.

Responsive to advises from this Department, the halls at Eureka and Arcata were raided by Peace Officers and the following members arrested on charge of Criminal Syndicalism: John Golden, Secretary; Charles Lease; Henry Gliksohn.

IWW at Sacramento.

In the case of the People vs. Charles Hutchinson and John Craig, a demurrer for the defendants was overruled and the trials set for December 15th.

IWW at Stockton.

The Criminal Syndicalist prosecutions at Stockton have not progressed as rapidly as the circumstances connected therewith seem to warrant, and there is some

danger that the American Legion in that city, as a result of this delinquency, may take ill advised action in that matter. The following self-explanatory letter has therefore been sent the District Attorney at Stockton:

“I am in receipt of information from the American Defense Society of the continued organization activities of C.F. BENTLEY and R.V. LEWIS. This information is from a confidential source and cannot be used further than for your general information. I will, however, within the next few days mail you photostat copies of letters covering the activities of these men, also of THOS. HOOKER.

I also desire to call your attention to the fact that in the case of the People vs. Jas. McHugo at Oakland, the bail of the defendant has been raised from \$2000 to \$10,000, and the fact that in the case of the People vs. CHAS. HUTCHINSON and JOHN CRAIG at Sacramento, charged with conspiring to violate the C.S. [Criminal Syndicalism] Act, the bail in the Justice Court was fixed at \$5000 each.

In view of the utter disregard of instructions of the Court in the matter of the Stockton defendants in their continued organization activities and of the fact that they constitute the head of the organization in this state, also that a number of those indicted and admitted to bail on their own recognizance have failed to put in an appearance, I believe that the precedent set by Judge Quinn in the case of JAS. MCHUGO should be followed in the Stockton cases, and that the bail of these defendants fixed at not less than \$10,000. There is now no excuse for the release of these men for the purpose of gathering defense funds as that matter has been amply taken care of by the Workers Defense League in San Francisco and the International Workers Defense League of San Francisco.

Mr. Kelly wishes me to advise you that he will keep you advised as to the progress of the McHugo case and hope that you will be able to attend during the presentation of the most important testimony — probably sometime in the latter part of next week.”

Upon receipt of this letter, Mr. Van Vranken telephoned this Department that new indictments would be returned November 25th against all the defendants and that the bail would be materially raised and the prosecution thereafter expedited as rapidly as consistent.

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Edited by Tim Davenport.

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