
American Legion Has Another Brainstorm: Break Up Labor Defense Council Meeting in Kansas City Thus Preventing Another Revolution. [report of April 13, 1923]

Unsigned report in the *Miami Valley Socialist* [Dayton, OH],
v. 10, whole no. 580 (April 20, 1923), pg. 1.

NEW YORK, April 13 [1923].— The American Legion, which since the post-war hysteria has to a great extent sunk into the oblivion to which it deserved, has again made another bid for infamy. A peaceful meeting of the Labor Defense Council held in Kansas City, Mo., was raided by American Legionites supported by the local police department. According to reports appearing in the Kansas City daily press the raid was made on information given by the local American Legion Secret Service. It was not explained why it was necessary for any undercover sleuths to “discover” the meeting, which was given all the publicity and advertising that the local Labor Defense Council could secure.

A terrorist plot however quite evidently was unearthed, as some of the literature unlawfully seized by the raiders was “printed in red ink.” Another seed of revolution was sterilized in its birth as it was ascertained that the 4 union men who were arrested for attending the meeting were “unfriendly to certain parts of the Constitution of the United States.” Those arrested and held for investigation were C.R. Kaible, John Noonan, Frederick Simmons, E. Peterson, and George McLaughlin. Noonan is 75 years old.

Ella Reeve Bloor, who was the speaker at the meeting, was not molested. She announced as the crowd was being chased out of the hall by the dicks and Legion that a mass meeting would be held on Sunday, April 15 [1923], and the authority of the police and the power of the Legion to stop peaceful assemblages will be tested.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2007. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.