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# **Nationwide Raids On IWW; Two Socialist Offices Searched: Homes of Workers Invaded by Sleuths: National Party Office is Ransacked — Headquarters in Many Cities Searched [events of Sept. 5, 1917]**

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Government operatives, secret service men, city, state, and county police from coast to coast yesterday conducted one of the biggest invasions of the rights of labor in history, when in cities all the way from New York to Portland, Ore., headquarters of the Industrial Workers of the World, including the National Office in Chicago, as well as the National Office of the Socialist Party in the same city, were ransacked.

The agents and police stopped at nothing in their endeavor to “get something” by which to prosecute the labor men. In Chicago it is reported that Adolph Germer, National Secretary of the Socialist Party, witnessed the raid. It is said that books, membership records, and literature were seized. When the agents appeared in the IWW offices in the Windy City, William D. Haywood, national secretary of that organization was taken into custody, although, it is said, he was not arrested.

The reports from the Western cities in which the raids took place do not contain information of many arrests, except in the extreme West, where homes of members of the IWW were raided and their effects seized.

A dispatch from Washington merely implies that the government has decided upon a campaign of terrorism against the revolutionary labor organizations.

The cities in which labor headquarters were raided include Chicago, Philadelphia, Minneapolis, Cleveland, Salt Lake City, Butte, Portland, Ore.; Denver, Superior, Seattle, San Francisco, Miami,

Ariz.; Missoula, Mont.; Spokane, Fresno, Great Falls, Mont.; Everett, Wash; and Pittsburgh.

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 5.— Raids on IWW headquarters in different parts of the country were made today as the first step in a campaign to curb the activities of this organization.

Prosecution of agitators who appear to be in a nationwide plot to hinder war work will follow.

Department of Justice agents in cities throughout the West today are trying to get documentary evidence — checkbooks, papers, correspondence — needed, it is said, in connection with the prosecution of offenders who have utilized the name of the organization in violating the federal law.

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### *[The Raids in Chicago.]*

By Staff Correspondent.

CHICAGO, Sept. 5.— The national and state headquarters of the Socialist Party at 802 West Madison Street were raided today by agents of the Department of Justice, acting under orders from Attorney General [Thomas Watt] Gregory.

Simultaneously with the raid on the Socialist Party offices, William D. Haywood, secretary and treasurer of the IWW, was detained when police swooped down on the main offices of that organization at 1001 West Madison Street.

Leland E. Davis of Texas, now a student at the Rand School of New York, was held for half an hour and was forced to give up the papers he had in his pockets. Davis was not in the office at the time the raiding party entered, but came in on a visit later.

### **Search Warrants Shown.**

The raid was engineered early this afternoon. Adolph Germer, National Secretary of the party, with about a dozen others, was in the headquarters when a Department of Justice agent walked in, presented a search warrant, and demanded everything called for in the

warrant. Germer immediately got in touch with Seymour Stedman, Socialist attorney in Chicago, who protested the search, claiming that the publications found in the office were not all Socialist literature, and disclaimed responsibility. He had reference to exchanges from anarchist and IWW periodicals and newspapers.

The Police of Chicago assisted in the raid, and with federal agents are in possession of the headquarters. No one was allowed to leave and admission was refused everyone. The officers in charge refused all information, and the only light upon the raid was furnished from the federal building, whither Haywood had been taken in an automobile.

There it was learned that Hinton G. Clabaugh, Chicago head of the Department of Justice, had conducted the affair, and it was established that telegrams to Meyer London and other Congressmen and Senators known to be out of sympathy with what they deem despotic methods of government had been intercepted.

### **Beginning of the Iron Heel.**

Stedman, however, finally sent a message to Senator LaFollette. According to belief among radical leaders here, the raid today is the beginning of the iron heel. It was gloomily predicted that the ruling class has determined upon stamping out all opposition.

The search warrant revealed the amazing effectiveness with which the Democratic administration seeks to crush *The American Socialist*, the official organ of the party. Complete files of the paper were asked from April 6, when war was declared, up to the present time. Even the plates of the current issue were demanded. The search warrant also demanded the following:

“Lists and memoranda of names and addresses of officers, agents, stockholders, and employees of the corporation or concern engaged in publishing the said *American Socialist* newspaper.

“Lists and memoranda of names and addresses of contributors to and writers for said *American Socialist* newspaper.

“Lists and memoranda of names and addresses of persons who, since April 6, 1917, have been engaged in making speeches and public addresses anywhere in the United States, under auspices or at the request or expense of said *American Socialist* newspaper, or of Adolph Germer, Irwin St. John Tucker, R.C. Page, J.L. Engdahl, or any or either of them.”

Page is the business manager of the *American Socialist's* Chicago edition.

This information was easily furnished. It was pointed out that *The American Socialist* was owned by the national Socialist Party, that the paper had no regular paid contributors, and that it had sent out no speakers since the Presidential campaign last year, when speakers were routed in many cases on a subscription basis.

After a casual examination of the national headquarters, which occupy 12 rooms, the Department of Justice operatives looked a little shamefaced and exclaimed, "Why, you have nothing to conceal here. All your cards are right on the table." The confessed they did not know what the Department of Justice heads expected to unearth in the way of "blueprints, maps, plans, models, etc." The National Office has a big map case, with a separate drawer for each state in the union. This weighs several hundred pounds. The office furniture and machinery called for in the search warrant weighs several tons.

### **Truce is Called.**

When they discovered this the deputy marshals and Department of Justice sleuths got those higher up on the phone and wanted to know if the search warrant really meant what it said. It was getting evening by this time and a truce was called; it being agreed that the government should remain in control of the office. Tomorrow Chief Clabaugh promises to come and take a look at the national Socialist headquarters himself.

The leaflets asked for and copies of which were furnished were *The Price We Pay, Why You Should Fight, Protect Your Rights, War — What For? Proclamation and War Program, The High Cost of Living*, as well as two circular letters that had been sent out by the national party.

The search warrant had also listed the names of numerous leaflets that had not been heard of, among them one entitled *Thou Shalt Not Kill*, while copies of all anarchist publications ever heard of were also asked for. It was pointed out that the Socialist Party had no connection with any anarchist organization or with the Industrial Workers of the World.

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## ***Search Philly Headquarters.***

(Special to *The Call*.)

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 5.— Agents of the Department of Justice here this afternoon raided the Philadelphia branch of the Industrial Workers of the World, located at Broad and Cherry Streets.

Books, ledgers, and membership cards were seized by the raiding party and taken to the federal building. No arrests were made. The search warrant was issued by Commissioner Edmunds.

Simultaneously with the raiding of the headquarters came an attack by city authorities on the clubrooms of two local unions of the Industrial Workers of the World. The Marine Transportation Workers, 427 South 2nd Street, and the Longshoremen, 131 Catherine Street, were the victims. The clubrooms were cleared of all valuable belongings, which were store in the federal building.

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## ***Butte Unions Suffer.***

BUTTE, Mont., Sept. 5.— Headquarters of the striking mine workers' union and the IWW were raided this afternoon by United States Marshal and Secret Service agents. The records were searched. Several other places where the IWW congregate were also searched.

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## ***Books Are Confiscated.***

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Sept. 5.— Three separate offices maintained as headquarters of the IWW in this city were raided by government officials here shortly after 2 pm. IWW literature and the membership books of the organization were confiscated. Government agents still were in possession of the offices late today.

Carl Ahlteen, editor of *The Alarm*, an IWW semi-weekly published in Swedish, was arrested today by a special agent of the Department of Justice on a charge of "disloyalty."

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### *Three Are Arrested.*

CLEVELAND, Sept. 5.— Federal officers this afternoon raided three buildings here, including IWW and Socialist headquarters, and seized papers and records found.

Three men were arrested.

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### *Homes Are Raided.*

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Sept. 5.— Federal officers this afternoon raided the homes of about 30 Salt Lake IWW members, confiscating organization literature in several places.

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### *Offices Are Searched.*

DENVER, Colo., Sept. 5.— Deputies from the United States marshal's office this afternoon took possession of the headquarters of the Industrial Workers of the World in Denver.

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### *Sheriffs Search Offices.*

PORTLAND, Ore., Sept. 5.— A party of deputy sheriffs swept down at noon today on the headquarters of the IWW and searched the place from cellar to garret.

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### *Literature Is Seized.*

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Sept. 5.— Federal authorities of this city conducted a raid today on the IWW headquarters here. Besides seizing all the literature, books, and newspapers they could lay their

hands on, they also placed under arrest one of the members in charge of the printing plant.

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### *Tacoma Offices Invaded.*

TACOMA, Wash., Sept. 5.— The headquarters of the IWW in this city were raided today by federal authorities. Books, papers, and other pieces of literature were seized.

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### *New York Offices of IWW Are Raided.*

IWW headquarters at 211 5th Street were raided at 7 o'clock last night by federal secret service operatives. The offices had been closed during the afternoon. It was announced the local head of the IWW had gone to Staten Island.

When the headquarters were reopened at 7 o'clock the first visitors were the secret service men. Two operatives told the clerk who had opened the doors to collect books, papers, and other literature in the office. These were closely examined.

Superintendent W.M. Offley of the Department of Justice said nothing of importance had been discovered. He said:

“We did not expect to find much here. There will be more important developments in other cities. Our raid was perfunctory, and, while we were prepared to meet resistance, there was none.”

At the anarchist headquarters, 126 Lafayette Street, it was announced the office had not been visited.

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

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