
“Raids on Radicals Blow to Freedom of United States”:

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The widespread raids upon the so-called “Reds” in Chicago and elsewhere, the deportation of political opponents of the administration, and the announced policy of further terrorism on the part of the authorities against so-called “Bolsheviks,” Communists, members of the Industrial Workers of the World, and other political dissenters, is the gravest blow yet struck at the permanence of American institutions, and if continued, this policy will place the United States in the forefront of the reactionary nations of the present day.

This indiscriminate raiding, jailing, deporting, arresting, and general persecution, is a matter of the gravest concern to every liberty-loving citizen of the United States. The arrest of a single member of the Communist Party, or of the Industrial Workers of the World, on account of such membership, is a menace to the peace, the safety, and the security of even the most conservative citizen of the nation.

The Socialist Party herewith raises its voice in emphatic and solemn protest against these activities on the part of the hot-headed and overzealous guardians of the safety of the United States. Between the Socialist Party and the two Communist Parties there is at present a controversy in the matter of tactics and program; between the Socialist Party and the Industrial Workers of the World there has frequently been bad blood and controversy. But when the constitutional rights of Americas are assailed, all differences are forgotten, and the injury to the one group becomes

an injury to all.

This is a grave hour in the history of the United States. For this grave hour, no one has any plan, or program, or policy worthy of serious consideration except the Socialists and the various “radical” groups. All other groups summarize their program in the stupid, brutal, and savage, “S.O.S. — Ship or Shoot — proposed by the Prussian imitator Leonard Wood. Some of the so-called “Reds” maintain that the agitation for the changes necessary to meet the future, and the carrying out of those changes, can be accomplished through the regular, legal, constitutional channels guaranteed by the laws of the United States. Such a group is the Socialist Party.

Some of the groups deny that there is any political liberty, and propose that the agitation be made for a change outside of the constitutional means guaranteed by the constitution. The Socialist Party holds that the best way to give ammunition to that school of thought, the best arguments to give these anti-political radicals, the best possible material for the growth of the direct action sentiment is to continue this persecution.

In this grave hour, there is but one policy that leads to safety; the utmost freedom of speech, of thought, and of conscience.

The other path leads to the same thing that a similar policy led to in the Russia of the Tsar and the Germany of the Kaiser.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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