
Roger Baldwin Raps Haywood's "Desertion"

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CHRISTIANA.— William D. Haywood has radiographed from Moscow to the local Federated Press correspondent as follows:

“Arrived Moscow, April 25 [1921]. Will remain until after Congress of Trade and Industrial Unions and Congress of Third International.”

(The Congress of the Third International will open in Moscow June 1.)

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NEW YORK.— To refute the report that William D. Haywood, former Secretary-Treasurer of the IWW, had been ordered to Russia by the “Pan-American Agency” of the Communist International,” Roger Baldwin, director, American Civil Liberties Union, issued this statement:

The statement about the departure for Russia of William D. Haywood, made by Charles Edward Scott, is noteworthy because there is no Charles Edward Scott and there is no “Pan-American Agency” of the Third International, which he purports to represent. †

We would be in a position to know it if either existed. Otherwise the statement is ordinary Communist propaganda, intended to justify Haywood's desertion of the IWW defense organization and of his bondsmen, by stressing his new allegiance to the Communist Party, whose members are under a discipline which admits no personal judgment or other loyalties.

The statement contains not a single fact as to what specific mission Haywood is on, or when he will return. It is a series of oratorical opinions and speculations, evidently from the pen of some Communist anxious to square himself with the radicals for complicity in Haywood's getaway.

We do not question Haywood's motives. We do question the spirit and methods of a movement which has so little concern with loyalty to the elementary obligations of good faith to one's fellows.

†- Actually, “Charles Edward Scott” was the pseudonym of Karlis Ernestovich Janson, an “Old Bolshevik” born in Latvia and sent to America by the Comintern along with Louis C. Fraina and Sen Katayama as the CI's “American Agency.” The AA originally had the task of uniting the fractured American communist movement and establishing Communist Parties in Canada and Mexico. With the emergence of the Red International of Labor Unions, the AA was briefly transformed into the “Pan-American Agency” of RILU.

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.

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