

Stamp Out the Black Legion!

Here Is the True Picture. Here Are the Facts

Here Is the Real Meaning of the Black Legion

And Here Is What Should Be Done About It

Issued by the FARMER-LABOR PARTY OF WAYNE COUNTY

The Black Legion, a fascist organization, patterned after the Ku Klux Klan and making use of all the blood-curdling rituals and rites of a terrorist band, has come to light.

The Black Legion, whose members are pledged to deal death and destruction to Catholics, Jews, Negroes and to militant workers irrespective of religious affiliation, has been accidentally uncovered with the murder of a W.P.A. worker, Charles A. Poole.

Draping itself in the American flag, chanting its "patriotism", this infamous gang of night riders has perpetrated a long series of violent outrages against innocent people and against working men and labor organizations, which it has been organized to destroy. There is little question now that the long epidemic of bombings which destroyed strikers' homes and labor halls and endangered lives has been the work of the Black Legion in carrying out its anti-labor program.

Union Men Murdered

John L. Bielak, active trade unionist, member of the Hudson Motor local of the A. F. of L., who

was found murdered near Monroe in March, 1934, with 5 bullets in his body, was obviously the victim of the Black Legion. (No arrests were made.)

George Marchuk, treasurer of the former Auto Workers Union, who was found murdered in Lincoln Park in a ditch with a bullet through his head on December 22, 1933, was obviously murdered by the Black Legion. He was soliciting members for the newly organized United Automobile Workers of America (A. F. of L.). (No arrests.)

The burning of the buildings at the Workers' Camp, located in Oakland County on 12 Mile Road and Halsted Road, both in 1932 and 1934, was obviously the work of the Black Legion. (No arrests.)

The flogging of 3 militant workers in the City of Pontiac in 1931 was obviously the work of the Black Legion. (No arrests.)

The burning and burglarizing of the buildings on the farm of William Mollenhauer, a labor sympathizer, at Holly, in Oakland County, Michigan, was obviously the work of the Black Legion. (No arrests were made. Instead, Oakland County officials procured a warrant for Mr. Mollenhauer!)

Bombings

Can there be any doubt in anyone's mind that the following crimes committed in Detroit were also the work of the Black Legion:

The bombing on November 24, 1935, of the headquarters of the Motor Products Local of the United Automobile Workers (A. F. of L.) at 3811 Gladwin Avenue. (No arrests.)

The bombing on November 24, 1935, of the home of Frank Lashowski at 6203 Helen Avenue. A Motor Products striker lived next door. (no arrests.)

The bombing on November 27, 1935, of a garage in the rear of the home of Ernest Danielson, a Motor Products striker, at 6009 Lakeview. (No arrests.)

The bombing on January 24, 1936, of the home of Mike Nipar, Motor Products striker, at 2556 Fairview Avenue. (No arrests.)

The bombing on January 25, 1936, of the home of Frank Bishop, at 2544 Beniteau. A member of the Motor Products Strike Committee had previously lived there. (No arrests.)

The bombing on January 26, 1936, of the home of Robert Hunter, Motor Products striker, at 14866 Fordham. The police were furnished with the license number and description of the assailants' car. (No arrests.)

The bombing on September 5, 1935, of the headquarters of the Communists Party at 3561 Belvidere Avenue. (No arrests. Instead the police ransacked the premises, confiscated all property, including a sum of money.)

The bombing on January 18, 1936, of the hall of the Ukrainian Educational Society (a workers' meeting hall) at 4959 Martin Street. (No arrests.)

The bombing on May 4, 1936, of the Modern Book Shop at 3537 Woodward Avenue, where labor literature is sold. (No arrests.)

The foregoing bombings were all presented to the Common Council of the City of Detroit by the Conference for the Protection of Civil Rights and the labor unions of Detroit in their demand for an investigation of Police Commissioner Pickert and the Detroit Police Department. The Council refused even to investigate! And Mayor Couzens unreservedly upheld Commissioner Pickert!

And not labor alone has been the target of this band of bombers and floggers and murderers. It has spread literature inciting racial and religious hatred in a style worthy of Hitlerites.

A Fascist Band

The Black Legion clearly shows the menace of fascist organization. It has spread its network of terror over the major industrial centers of Michigan. And it is now clear that it has national ramifications. But the flourishing seat of the organization in Detroit shows that in common with all such organizations it thrives best in an atmosphere of employer, official and police repression.

The existence of the Black Legion presents a grave and alarming situation—a warning that all

forces of the labor movement and all progressive forces, irrespective of religious affiliation or race, must weld themselves together in a solid front for the protection of civil rights and against every manifestation of fascism.

Where Was Pickert?

But if the menace of the Black Legion and other fascist bands is to be fought effectively, the supporters and defenders of fascists organizations must be known. Let the people of Detroit ask themselves:

“How is it that this band of bombers, floggers and murderers has carried on its operations over a period of years, without hindrance or interference from our law-enforcement bodies?”

There is but one answer. The anti-labor program of the Black Legion coincides with the program of union-busting of the auto manufacturers. The execution of the auto manufacturers' program is entrusted to the governmental bodies of the city and state. The Black Legion has found protection from these governmental bodies. Only the childish can believe that such an organization could exist for any length of time without at least the tacit support and endorsement of police, prosecutors and politicians.

Republican Friends

We already have a glimpse of the intimate connection between the Republican Party and the Black Legion. The Republican ex-Governor, Wilbur M. Brucker, who energetically pressed for the passage of the notorious anti-labor Dunckel-Baldwin Bill in the Michigan Legislature, chose none other than the Wolverine Republican League, which harbored one branch of the Black Legion, at which to make his maiden speech in his present campaign for Senator.

Harry Z. Marx, director and attorney for the Wolverine Club, a cog in the Republican Party, and supporter of Police Commissioner Pickert at the recent hearing on Pickert before the Common Council, has now been disclosed to be the attorney who twice in the past appeared in court to defend members of the Black Legion who had been arrested with their weapons and regalia. On both occasions, he secured the release of his clients. In neither case was there any police investigation of the Black Legion although authorities knew the type of organization with which they were dealing.

This same Marx was chairman of the Americanization Committee of the American Legion in 1934, and certainly found no contradiction between the “Americanism” of the officials of the American Legion and the “Americanism” of the Black Legion.

Friends in the State

In the town off Pontic, a Republican stronghold of General Motors, it has now been disclosed that the Sheriff's Office is intimately connected with the Bullet Club, local affiliate of the Black Legion; David C. Pence, County Prosecutor, admits he was a member of the Black Legion; and the ex-police commissioner of Pontiac now charges that fully one-third of the police force, the fire department

and the city employees of Pontiac were or still are members of the Bullet Club.

In 1936 when the Communist Party demanded an investigation of the bombing of the Workers Camp and the floggings of militant workers in Pontiac, the General Motors City Council disregarded their demand notwithstanding the fact that in the handbill issued by the Communist Party names, facts and dates were given, setting forth the connection of the city officials with these acts of violence. Instead, the City Council passed an ordinance against the distribution of handbills!

When George Marchuk was murdered, evidence was presented to the Lincoln Park City Council that this was the criminal work of a Ku Klux Klan organization. These charges were dismissed and the whole affair hushed up by the authorities, who evolved a convenient "theory" of suicide.

In Jackson, which is now discovered to be a hotbed of Black Legion activity, every edition of the newspapers brings further disclosures of membership in the Black Legion by guards and officers in the State Prison.

In Ecorse and other small centers in the immediate vicinity of Detroit, Republican city officials and members of law-enforcement agencies are found to be Black Legionaires.

Nest Among City Republicans

In Detroit proper, practically all of the leading members of the Black Legion so far questioned have been found to be employed by the city and its various department and it is reported that a large number of Detroit police officers belong to this organization.

The president of the Wolverine Republican League (name used as the blind for the Black Legion) was Lester J. Black, Court Clerk of Judge L. Eugene Sharpe (Republican) of the Common Pleas Court.

The chief recruiting officer for the Black Legion was A. F. Lupp, Sr. He was employed as milk inspector by the Board of Health. In his application for a permit to carry a gun he gave as references Judge Sharpe and M. Wesson Dickinson, State Supervisor of **Private Employment Agencies.**

John B. Mitchell, one of the Black Legion defendants on trial for murder, was an ardent campaigner for one of the Republican Circuit judges in the last election.

Democrats Tainted

But it is not the Republicans alone who are found connected with the Black Legion. A strong suspicion exists that reactionary Democrats, such as Duncan C. McCrea, Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney, have received support from this nest of terrorists.

Thomas R. Craig, one of the defendants on trial for murder, was recently convicted of vote stealing for the Democrats in the Wayne County recount.

From all of the above, it is not difficult to understand how the Black Legion operated for so long without interference. While as an organization it was independent, it was sheltered and pro-

tected by constituted authority; it numbered city, county and state officials among its active membership. It received the tacit, if not the open support of politicians in the state of Michigan.

Every worker knows that the slightest activity in behalf of Labor, even the distribution of a leaflet or the showing of a workers' film, has brought swift repression; yet the Black Legion, armed on a basis of lynch law, went freely about its criminal work without interference.

Labor Haters in Action

Police departments, sheriffs' offices, prosecutors' offices, etc., have been serving as the legal apparatus of oppression while the Black Legion carried on the undercover acts of terror which helped to enforce that oppression.

The people of Detroit and Michigan in their fight against the Black Legion and against any recurrence of its violent deeds must recognize that such an organization could come into existence and find encouragement only because of the labor hating and red-baiting campaign daily and consistently carried on in the pages of the Detroit Times, the Hearst press generally and by politicians of the brand of the Liberty League.

Fake "Americanism"

The Black Legion conducts its activities and unspeakable crimes with the ranting "Americanism" of Hearst—so typical of Hearst, indeed, that part of its ritual might have been copied from Hearst's editorials.

Fake "Americanism" stands exposed as a poisonous viper. Real Americanism—the Americanism of the Farmer-Labor Party, must exterminate such snakes.

It is these forces of reaction, these red-baiting, strike-breaking "patriots," politicians, sheriffs and police commissioners who are now confronted with the abhorrent creature of their own design and creation.

These flag-wavers have accused the labor movement of fomenting violence and resorting to force. Such were the charges hurled in Lansing during the hearing on the Dunckel-Baldwin Bill. Such were the accusations made as recently as May 22 when Walter Reynolds, of the "Subversive Activities Committee" of the American Legion, acted as official defender of Police Commissioner Pickert at the Common Council hearing on charges of police lawlessness and violence. They charged that violence was the objective of those who were seeking a Councilmanic investigation of the Police Department, crying "Communist! Communist!" notwithstanding their inability to show that any of the petitioners, whether Communist, Socialist, trade unionist or liberal had ever been found guilty of acts of violence.

The truth is that all sections of the labor movement have been the victims of the "patriotic" violence whipped up and fomented by all such enemies of progressive thought and action.

Let the revelations of the Black Legion stand as the unchallengeable and final measure of the true worth of the labor-hating and red-baiting

lence whipped up and fomented by all such enemies of progressive thought and action.

Let the revelations of the Black Legion stand as the unchallengeable and final measure of the true worth of the labor-hating and red-baiting brotherhood who try to attribute to Labor the crimes of which they alone are capable.

If the liberties of the people are to be maintained the Black Legion must be stamped out. But with it must go its roots, which sink deep in the underworld, and its branches, which reach high into posts of political power.

A People's Committee

But where is there an impartial agency which will carry through a thorough investigation? The Republican Party is already exposed as having organic connections with the Black Legion. Democratic politicians have been willing to accept support of the Black Legion and other anti-labor organizations. **The Common Council of Detroit was asked to investigate the inactivity of Police Commissioner Pickert and the Police Department in the series of bombings and shootings, but unanimously refused.**

In this situation we submit that the people of Detroit should demand that the Mayor appoint a genuine representative People's Committee for a real investigation. This demand must be backed up and supported by the entire Labor movement. Congress also must act against the Black Legion and all fascist groups.

In addition to this demand, we call for the immediate cessation of all fascist activities and the

complete restoration of civil rights and liberties in Detroit and Michigan.

We demand a complete investigation of the auto spy and stool-pigeon agencies, and their abolition by law.

We demand an investigation of the so-called Constitution Protective League, founded by the reactionary Wilbur M. Brucker; and of the Knights of Dearborn, operating in Ford's own city, and a cessation of their anti-labor activities.

We demand that a stop be put to the violent anti-labor red-baiting of the higher officials of the American Legion.

Only a People's Committee, with complete representation of the labor and progressive elements and the racial minorities of this city, can conduct a genuine, fair and fearless investigation, stopping at no obstacles placed by the political machines of the old parties.

If civil rights are to be guaranteed, if all sections of the labor movement and racial minorities are not to be crushed by fascist bands in Hitler fashion, then political power cannot be left in the hands of politicians who prove to be blood-brothers of the foulest gang of cut-throat terrorists, but must be in the hands of the people, organized independently in a Farmer-Labor Party embracing the workers, farmers and middle class of this city and state.

Such a festering sore could not develop with the Farmer-Labor Party in office. A strong Farmer-Labor Party is the need of the hour in Wayne County and in the State of Michigan.

PEOPLE OF DETROIT:

Adopt resolutions of protest!

Protest in writing to the Mayor, the Council and the press!

Demand an investigation by a PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE!

Disarm, disband and stamp out the Black Legion!

Wipe its supporters out of office!

Strike a Real Blow for Liberty and Security! Join the Farmer-Labor Party NOW!

FARMER-LABOR PARTY OF WAYNE COUNTY

Room 1101, Frances Palms Building

2111 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Mich., Phone CAdillac 8721

I want more information about your Party

I hereby apply for membership in the Farmer-Labor Party

My name is

I live at

The True Story of the Black Legion Plot to Murder Maurice Sugar

Sensational Disclosures Suppressed by Detroit Newspapers

Dayton Dean, trigger man for the Black Legion, and confessed murderer of Charles A. Poole, has admitted that Black Legion higher-ups plotted for months to murder Maurice Sugar, noted attorney and Labor candidate for the Common Council last Fall.

Dean lived for four and a half months in the same apartment house that Sugar lived in, seeking a favorable opportunity to carry out his murder assignment.

Following are the startling disclosures of the sequence of events that led up to the murder plot. The local papers have played down or suppressed these facts:

1) April, 1935: The entire Labor movement put Maurice Sugar forward as candidate for Judge of Recorder's Court. For the first time in Detroit history, an active election campaign was conducted by Labor for Labor.

BOARD OF EDUCATION DENIES FREE SPEECH

2) March, 1935: Application for the use of the Northern High School Building in the Sugar campaign was made by the Detroit and Wayne County Fed. of Labor, the Mechanics Educational Society of America and the Forgotten Men's Club. All other candidates were granted the use of the schools. But Maurice Sugar was campaigning against the dominant employer interests and in behalf of Labor. The application was denied.

3) March, 1935: Suit was instituted against the Board of Education and argued before Judge Robert M. Toms, who issued a writ of mandamus compelling the Board to grant Sugar the use of the schools. The Judge held that under the law as it stood he was obliged to make such a decision.

BLACK LEGION PLOTS TO DISRUPT RALLY

4) March 30, 1935: A campaign meeting was held in Northern High School. The night before this meeting the Black Legion met in a church at Second and Ledyard Streets and laid a plot with two objectives: to break up the election rally and to furnish an excuse for denying the use of the schools for Labor meetings thereafter.

At the election rally a number of Black Legionaires seated themselves in the audience with stink bombs and faked leaflets in their pockets. Dayton Dean and Leslie J. Black, then clerk of Judge Sharp's court, climbed poles outside the building to cut the wires leading to the school, planning to throw the meeting into darkness. This was to have been the signal for throwing the stink bombs and hurling hundreds of fake leaflets amongst the crowd. The leaflets purported to be issued by the Communist Party, and advocated support of Sugar on the grounds that he was in favor of "tearing down the Government."

This whole plan miscarried because the two pole-climbers cut the wrong wires, but a number of the fake leaflets, printed on Black Legion presses at 55 Hendrie Street, were left in the building.

The Board of Education and the Police Department learned the next day of the cutting of the wires, but both suppressed all news of it.

BOARD OF EDUCATION FULFILLS AIMS OF BLACK LEGION

5) April, 1935: The Board of Education immediately made use of the obviously fake leaflet of the Black Legion

to justify its denial of the schools for Labor rallies, and sent a copy of it to Judge Toms with a letter of complaint against his decision. The Board of Education also sent its secretary, Charles Gadd, to Lansing, where he used the fake leaflet to prevail upon the legislature to so change the law that the Board of Education would have unlimited discretion in denying the use of school buildings to Labor.

6) AN ILLUMINATING FACT: One of the candidates running against Sugar for Judge was Harry Z. Marx (christened Herman Zeryoieser), attorney for Black Legionaires and an officer of the Wolverine Republican League. Marx's office was the headquarters of the organization. He is friend and supporter of Police Commissioner Heinrich A. Pickert.

7) August, 1935: Enheartened by the magnificent showing for Labor in the campaign for Judgeship, in the face of such employer tactics, Labor put forward Maurice Sugar as its candidate in the Councilmanic elections.

BLACK LEGION PLOTS MURDER

8) August, 1935: Thoroughly frightened at the prospect of Labor electing its candidate, the opposing interests, acting through the Black Legion, went to work in earnest. Dayton Dean moved into an apartment close to Sugar's, which Sugar had to pass in going to and from his own apartment.

9) Dean was directed to explode a bomb at the door of Sugar's apartment. Dean now explains that he got "cold feet" because of the danger of killing several other people in the apartment house at the same time.

It was next decided to call Sugar out of his home "to get a case." During this period Sugar received numerous calls to see "clients" at one or another address in different parts of the city. But this failed because Sugar makes it a practice to interview clients only in his office.

A "BREAK"

That Sugar is not listed today among the 50 odd murders attributed to the Black Legion is due not to the vigilance of the police department or other law-enforcing agencies, but to the purest accident, the most fortunate of "breaks."

And to this very day the Black Legion flourishes. It is right now engaged in beating those who "know too much," and openly tossing its bullets as a threat of death to witnesses.

REAL PROTECTION IN STRONG FARMER-LABOR PARTY
What assurance is there that Maurice Sugar and Labor leaders will not become the victims of the Black Legion today or tomorrow?

There is no assurance from the Detroit newspapers, which suppress such astounding facts as the above.

There is assurance only in the uniting of all Labor and progressive elements, of all creeds, all colors and all races, in a common front to demand and to get a real exposure and prosecution of all who are in or who support the Black Legion.

There is assurance only in the establishment by the people of Detroit and Michigan of a Farmer-Labor Party for the purpose of electing to office real representatives of the people, such as Maurice Sugar, who would make short shrift of the Black Legion and its backers, the gigantic employing interests.

Send Letters to Detroit Newspapers Protesting the Suppression of These Facts!

Send letters to the Board of Education Protesting the use of forged Black Legion leaflets to deny the right of free speech to Labor. Demand that the Board of Education issue a statement on these issues!

DEMAND the exposure and full punishment of the higher-ups who plotted the murder of Maurice Sugar, John Bielak, George Marchuk and Labor men!

DEMAND that Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea arrest all responsible for this plot; demand that the investigation of the Black Legion continue until the entire organization is exposed and wiped out; demand the immediate arrest and prosecution of all Black Legionaires!

STAMP OUT THE BLACK LEGION! — JOIN THE FARMER-LABOR PARTY!

Issued by the FARMER-LABOR PARTY OF WAYNE COUNTY,

Room 1101, Frances Palms Building, 2111 Woodward Ave., Tel. Cadillac 8721