

NOTORIOUS FINK DIRECTS 'MYSTERY' ANTI-LABOR GROUP

By GRACE HUTCHINS

Who was behind the slanderous, cleverly-prepared pamphlet, 'Join the CIO and Help Build a Soviet America,' recently distributed so widely in steel, automobile and other industrial centers of the United States? More than 2,000,000 copies of this attack on the Committee for Industrial Organization have been sold since March, 1937, according to its own claims.

Who is now behind a similar, more lurid pamphlet, called *The Hell of Herrin Rages Again*, written by the same fascist-sympathizer, Joseph P. Kamp? This new attack is sponsored by the same outfit, the Constitutional Educational League, with head offices in New Haven, Connecticut, organized to spy on labor, and to engage in other strikebreaking purposes.

Senator LaFollette's committee to investigate viola-

Senate Investigating Committee Hot on Trail of Anti-Labor League

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20.—The Senate Civil Liberties Committee is hot on the trail of the "Constitutional Educational League," an organization which has attacked the C.I.O. in recent publications, by invoking the "red scare."

Appearing before the LaFollette Committee, Chester A. Hanson, secretary-treasurer of the organization, disclosed the fact that the records of his outfit were in a car touring the west with the League's president, Joseph P. Kamp. This, in spite of the fact that Hanson had been subpoenaed to appear and present all records.

tions of free speech and interference with the rights of labor is now looking into the secrets of this mysterious League.

Meanwhile a good deal is already known about the organization that has tried to hide behind Post Office Box Number 161, New Haven. Its offices

are on the third floor of the First National Bank Building, New Haven, and its telephone number is New Haven 8-3891. It has recently opened a new southern headquarters in the Protective Life Building, Birmingham, Alabama.

The well-known liberal historian, Charles A. Beard, tells of his conversation with a Mr. Benjamin, solicitor from the League. Benjamin came to his house to ask him for a contribution to the League's activities. Needless to say, this solicitation was unsuccessful. Under date of April 21, 1937, from New Milford, Connecticut, Prof. Beard writes:

"Mr. Benjamin represented the committee or League as a body of patriotic citizens bent on driving 'reds' out of the state. He said that the League employed five or six 'undercover men' who visited labor meetings and youth meetings, took note of speakers who criticized 'American institutions' . . . and otherwise expressed 'objectionable ideas.' He said that these men had warned such speakers to get out of the state and had in fact forced some of them to get out, although they had a legal right to be here and had said nothing unlawful in itself.

"He . . . referred me to the New Haven Chamber of Commerce for information as to his reliability. I believe that he fixed his collections in this town at around \$300. He said that the money was mainly spent for undercover agents. He would give me no 'literature' about the League, telling of its aims, directors and purposes. On such items, he was evasive or non-committal."

The spying, anti-labor purpose of this outfit are thus made clear. Professor Beard will undoubtedly appear before the La Follette Civil Liberties Committee to aid in exposing the League's real activities.

Rashly, the Constitutional Educational League offered on the back of its pamphlet, *Join the C.I.O. and Help Build a Soviet America*: "A \$1,000 Reward will be paid to anyone who can prove that a sin-

gle charge made in this booklet is untrue. A similar reward is offered if it can be shown that any of the published quotations are not strictly accurate." And then its troubles began. It had to remove this offer from its later publications.

The League had to incorporate in an effort to protect Joseph P. Kamp and his associates from suits brought against them by labor organizations, labor editors and organizers. One organization alone, Labor Research Association, was able to present evidence through its New Haven lawyer, Jacob Belford, that Kamp's pamphlet contained at least 20 falsehoods and errors of fact. But the League was not honest enough to pay the promised reward.

Incorporators of the Constitutional Educational League when it filed its certificate of incorporation, April 20, 1937, included:

Author Has Fink Record

JOSEPH P. KAMP, who has a long record of strike-breaking and spying against labor organizations. He holds "patriotic" meetings in front of plants where workers are on strike. He and the League were active in attempts to break the strike of shoe workers at the I. Miller plants in Long Island City, N. Y., in May, 1932. He issued a leaflet, distributed to the strikers, attacking the union, under the title, "Are You Against the Government?"

Similarly, in February, 1934, in the textile strike at Aspinook Bleachery, Jewett City, Connecticut, a leaflet attacking the union was published by the New England division of the Constitutional Educational League and distributed among the strikers.

Kamp and his organization were sharing offices and telephone, in July, 1931, with Harold Lord Varney and the Italian Historical Society, an organization for the promotion of Italian fascist prop-

SLANDERS LABOR

the HELL of HERRIN



RAGES AGAIN

The latest anti-labor provocation of the Constitutional Educational League which attacks the C.I.O.

aganda in the United States. Later Kamp became executive editor of THE AWAKENER, openly fascist magazine, published until recently by Varney and by Lawrence Dennis. Kamp now writes for the AMERICAN MERCURY, of which Varney is an associate editor.

Chester A. Hanson, another incorporator of the League, is now its executive secretary and most obedient servant. He was listed in certificate of incorporation as the "agent on whom process may be served."

Papers of incorporation were executed before Madelyn A. Cannon, a justice of the peace, who is employed as secretary of the League. She was until recently secretary of David J. McCoy, a New Haven lawyer, recently disbarred for unethical conduct.

Advisory Board In Connecticut

But behind these active representatives, the League has been able to gather an Advisory Board of more respectable Connecticut citizens:

JOHN L. GILSON, New Haven Probate Judge, is President of the organization.

CHARLES D. LOCKWOOD, law

partner of U. S. Attorney General Homer S. Cummings, is on its "Board."

COLONEL ANTHONY SUNDERLAND, Commissioner of State Police, Connecticut, is another "advisor." But Colonel Sunderland in a letter to Jacob Belford, denies having any real connection with the League, except that he has given its representatives "letters of recommendation."

Just how close the tie-up is between the Constitutional Educational League and the National Association of Manufacturers, or with state associations of manufacturers, is not fully known, but the organized industrialists are first to make use of the League's anti-C.I.O. material. The President of the Connecticut Manufacturers' Association, when asked about the League, its pamphlet and its representative, Joseph P. Kamp, answered that he didn't know Kamp—"never heard of him." But the League was "doing good work," he thought, and Judge Gilson and Lockwood were "very fine men."

RALPH EASLEY of the notorious anti-labor National Civic through his organization, distributed through his organization, distrib-

(Continued on Page 6)

MYSTERIOUS SCAB LEAGUE LED BY FINK

(Continued from Page 3)

uted many copies of Kamp's first attack on the C.I.O. He writes in November, 1937, that he hears errors have been found in the pamphlet, "Join the C.I.O. and Help Build a Soviet America." He had, he claims, supposed it was entirely true and had made considerable use of the pamphlet.

Typical of the rottenness that characterizes the League's latest pamphlet, "The Hell of Herrin Rages Again," is its handling of the Memorial Day Massacre in Chicago. According to Kamp:

"On this Sunday, Memorial Day, two thousand men and women, agitated and inflamed to the point of viciousness by their leaders, moved against a thin line of uniformed police."

This wildly distorted description of a workers' peaceful demonstration that included women and children, follows an equally distorted description of the Herrin, Illinois, strike of 1922. Kamp tries to throw on to John L. Lewis and the C.I.O. the blame for the massacre of ten C.I.O. strikers.

It is common knowledge now that Tom Girdler, the REPUBLICAN STEEL CORP. and Chicago police, on May 30, 1937, were responsible for the merciless shooting down and killing of ten unarmed workers. Newsreel pictures taken of the massacre, leave no room for any least doubt as to who were the murderers on Memorial Day.

According to Labor Research Association's tabulation of names, dates and circumstances, at least 21 workers were killed in labor struggles during the first half of this year; 14 were killed in 1936.

BUT NOT EVEN ONE POLICEMAN OR COMPANY GUARD HAS BEEN KILLED OR SERIOUSLY INJURED BY ANY C.I.O. STRIKE OR LABOR STRUGGLE DURING THIS PERIOD.

This one outstanding fact is enough in itself to answer Kamp's whole fabric of misrepresentations. It is enough to answer the false "witness" of his photographs, depicting guns, axes, and dynamite allegedly taken from pickets in the great steel strike of 1937.

The Constitutional Educational League is only one of many such vigilante, semi-fascist organizations in the United States today. An incomplete list reveals at least 100 such "professional patriotic" outfits as Kamp's — some larger, some smaller and less important; but all headed the same way.

Such spies as Joseph P. Kamp are only the tools of manufacturers who try to stop the mighty flow of C.I.O.'s progressive unionism. Labor's answer is: "Expose them for what they are, and move on — with a strength that nothing can stop."