

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD  
Washington, D. C.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1938.

STATEMENT OF J. WARREN MADDEN, CHAIRMAN  
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

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Representative Dies, in presuming to pass upon the fitness for public office of David J. Saposs, Chief Economist for the National Labor Relations Board, has quoted excerpts from articles by Mr. Saposs in such a way as to make it appear that Mr. Saposs had adopted as his own the political opinions of those about whom he was writing. I am assured by Mr. Saposs that he does not hold the views assigned to him by these indirections.

Mr. Dies directly attributes to Mr. Saposs a statement that "...the world can not be saved by capitalist devices." In fact Mr. Saposs used these words to describe the political statements of a minority group at a labor congress in Vienna in 1931. Mr. Saposs attended the congress as a student traveling on a research grant from the Social Science Research Council, whose funds were mainly supplied by the Rockefeller Foundation. In an article describing the proceedings of the congress he made objective summaries of all views put forward there. To pick out certain viewpoints, and to omit to mention that these were summaries of the views of delegates to the congress, is to presume that every reporter of current events must personally adopt every view which he records.

The Board takes notice of these aspersions on the views of its Chief Economist because of the fact that they continue despite Mr. Saposs' reiterated public statements that he does not hold the view which Mr. Dies has assigned to him. In a previous statement it was made to appear that a book "Left Wing Unionism", written by Mr. Saposs as a doctorate thesis at Columbia University, was a radical propagandist document. This study of radical policies and tactics was described by the book review section of The New York Times as follows:

"Mr. Saposs has wielded a skillful scalpel on an intricate tangle of economic issue....He has done it as an eminent surgeon would: with sympathy for the patient, of course, yet firmly and incisively -- utterly without emotional display and with cool disregard of the latent drama in the whole situation."

The New York Herald-Tribune book review section stated in regard to Mr. Saposs' book:

"Almost two decades of ideally balanced training went into Saposs's little volume on radicalism in American labor. The child of a labor environment, the author became a trade unionist in his adolescence. Then came years of formal training as the research assistant to Professor Commons at the University of Wisconsin, where he brilliantly collaborated on the monumental 'History of Labor in the United States.' The war rapidly antiquated the Commons philosophy of the Commons history. And so Saposs went on his Wanderjahre in American labor. He investigated its ins and outs up and down the land for the New York State Department of Labor, the United States Commission on Industrial Relations, the Interchurch World Movement, the Carnegie Americanization Study, and as the economic expert for innumerable trade unions...."

A study so described could not be confused among fair minded persons with the advocacy of the doctrines it had under consideration. As one of the country's long acknowledged research students of labor history, Mr. Saposs' usefulness to the Board he serves must not be allowed to be impaired by such accusations.