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Another Blow Between the Eyes

The guilty plea entered Wednesday by Nicholas Dozenberg to an indictment charging him with having used a false passport should have been of interest to every Communist and Communist sympathizer in the country. Yet not a word of it appeared yesterday in "The Daily Worker." The assumption is inescapable that here again, as in the case of the Stalin-Hitler pact, or the reversal of Russian arms in Finland, the official organ of the Communist party is at a loss to know how to take a blow between the eyes, and awaits instructions from Moscow. For Dozenberg, for the better part of two decades, was a Communist leader in this country and intimately involved in Communist intrigue both here and abroad, and, according to the office of United States Attorney Cahill, has made a complete disclosure of his activities. He will appear, so say the authorities, as a witness for the prosecution against his old associate, Earl Browder, and possibly three other Communists also indicted for passport frauds.

Of course, the suppression of this news by "The Daily Worker" is merely a confirmation of its importance. It suggests the probability that soon we shall see the entire lid blown off the Kremlin's conspiracy in this country with more or less corroboration of Gen. Krivitsky's story of its operations elsewhere. For instance, Krivitsky, in "The Saturday Evening Post," has told of meeting Dozenberg in Vienna in 1931 when the latter "was operating for us (the Red Army) in Rumania, where he maintained the American-Rumanian Export Film Company." Dozenberg's statement, meanwhile, is said to describe the methods he used in gaining the confidence of a Balkan monarch and the privilege of using the royal airplane to photograph for Moscow the military objectives in his country.

The indictment to which Dozenberg has pleaded guilty does not trace his activities as far back as 1931. On the other hand, we find the name of a "Nick Dozenberg" cropping up in the news here as long ago as 1923 in relation to the massacre of non-union coal miners at Herrin, Ill. At the time the United Mine Workers of America, in an official article, said that "Nick Dozenberg" was one of a group of Communist agitators in Chicago responsible for the massacre.

Altogether, it seems reasonable to conclude that the government has got hold of a key informer, and it has done so, let us not forget, on the spur of evidence before the Dies committee. It was Browder's admission before the committee that he had traveled on a false passport, which started the train of prosecution now likely to spill all the Communist beans. Should Congress refuse to continue the committee lest its hearings lead to further disclosures of the kind in store?