

MURPHY'S 'FOREIGN AGENTS' DRIVE FOLLOWS FOOTSTEPS OF ATTORNEY GENERALS PALMER AND 'OHIO GANG' DAUGHERTY

By Art Shields

Attorney General Frank Murphy, ex-liberal, is taking his place with his predecessors, A. Mitchell Palmer and Harry Daugherty, as a red-baiting union foe.

Murphy is following in the steps of Palmer and Daugherty as he threatens to prosecute Detroit automobile and aircraft workers on the pretext that they are "foreign agents" or saboteers.

Murphy's prosecutions are slated to start after his special Federal Grand Jury begins examining "evidence" of Department of Justice agents next Tuesday in Washington.

Prosecutions will be conducted by O. John Rogge, Assistant Attorney General, who donned a mantle of liberalism at the recent Civil Liberties conference at the Hotel Biltmore. In the new Murphy style he balanced civil liberties' phrases on that occasion with the promise to prosecute "subversive" forces.

Murphy hints that he considers the great Chrysler lockout and strike for better wages and conditions on the assembly line as

due in part at least to "foreign agents." He talks mysteriously about interference with production in the motor industry during the last four months by these alleged agents

ONLY ONE BIG STRIKE

The Chrysler strike was the only important withdrawal of labor power from the automobile industry during the present production season.

The Chrysler strike is named directly in this connection in a series of inspired articles in the World-Telegram (Roy Howard newspaper), interpreting Murphy's threats.

The Government, says the World-Telegram, will go after workers who start "slow downs" in industry. Such a slow-down, says the World-Telegram, preceded the great Chrysler lock-out.

Here Mr. Murphy borrows from the anti-labor policy of the Chrysler Corporation. Unable to speed the workers up beyond the excessive production pace already reached the company charged the workers were on a "slowdown" strike and locked them out. The



J. EDGAR HOOVER

protests by the United Automobile Workers that this was only a company trick to force greater speedup, appears to have made as much impression upon Murphy as upon the company that tired to smash the union. Hence, the company's "slowdown" fable is revived.

Slowdowns are "sabotage," according to this definition "Communist" workers cause them, says

Roy Howard's man and "Communists" are described as "foreign agents," whom Murphy intends to arrest.

This is dangerous, hypocritical nonsense, borrowed from Palmer and Daugherty.

COAL STRIKERS JAILED

Palmer, ex-liberal, arrested hundreds of coal and steel strikers in the fall of 1919 on the pretext that they were "reds," taking orders from Moscow. His FBI agents seized many other workers during the "outlaw" railway switchmen's strike of early 1920.

Palmer struck at the national coal strike of October, 1919 in two ways. First by a federal injunction in Judge Anderson's court in Indianapolis, tying up the funds of the United Mine Workers. The strike, said Palmer, interfered with production and thus violated the Lever Act, a food and fuel measure passed during the war.

Secondly Palmer had many militant miners arrested as "Reds" and agents of Moscow, for deportation or prosecution at home.

Palmer excuses his attack on

the strike in his annual report for 1920 by the assertion that the Communist Party was active among the coal miners. He boasts that Judge Anderson's injunction broke the strike [it actually failed to do that] and brought "the activities of the ultra radicals" to an end at the same time

SAME FOR STEEL

Palmer justifies his attack on the great steel strike of 365,000 workers for the same reason.

He makes the same excuse for his drive against the railway switchmen. Communists were among them, he said and the Communists were taking orders from Moscow, he asserted in words, which Murphy echoes today.

Murphy's FBI chief, directing the gathering of "evidence" against the automobile workers, incidentally, is the same John Edgar Hoover, who was Palmer's assistant all during this period. He is the same Hoover, who directed the arrest of several thousand workers on the eastern seaboard during the Palmer "Red Raids" of Jan. 2, 1920.

"Ohio Gang" Daugherty, Hard-

ing's Attorney General, stuffed a \$60,000,000-a-year wage cut down the throat of 400,000 railroad workers on the excuse that he was saving them from taking orders from Moscow.

Daugherty broke the strike of these 400,000 railroad shopmen in 1922 by mass arrests of strikers and a federal injunction by Judge Wilkerson of Chicago forbidding picketing and the use of union funds for strike purposes.

Daugherty bragged in his 1922 report that his FBI men investigated 2,000 railroad strikers and caused the arrest of 1,200 on charges of violating the injunction and on other pretexts.

Average jail time was 30 days, he said, though some got penitentiary terms, and in fact a number served many years in San Quentin and other prisons.

Hoover was Daugherty's assistant during this strikebreaking period, and he is at Murphy's elbow today as Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Hoover doesn't bother with fine liberal phrases. He leaves them to Murphy, while he strikes at the automobile workers.

Sunday Worker Dec 31/39