Expose FBI Frame-up Plot In Montana

BUTTE, Mont., Nov. 9. — Accusing J. Edgar Hoover's Federal Bureau of Investigation of seeking to engineer a frame-up, the powerful CIO Butte Miners Union today was demanding complete exoneration of Joe Mason, its financial secretary, on "ridiculous" Mann Act charges.

Pretext for the arrest of Mason was an automobile trip taken by the local union man from his fiancee's home in Spokane, Wash., to Kellogg, Idaho, where they were to be married on Sept. 20 in the presence of relatives and friends.

Enroute to the wedding, the couple—together with Herb Wurst, local official of the Workers Alliance — were seriously injured when their car left the road and turned over several times.

POSTPONE WEDDING

Hastily abandoning the wedding plans, the group drove into Butte to provide the girl with adequate medical attention. After three weeks of medical attention by Butte doctors, the couple were married on Oct. 14.

The following day Wurst was seized by a Butte policeman, thrown into jail and questioned. On Oct. 16 both Mason and Wurst were brought before the local U. S. Commissioner, where the FBI men launched formal Mann Act charges against the two men. The Mann Act is aimed at preventing white slavers from taking girls across state lines for illicit purposes.

HOT POTATO FOR FBI

Though the FBI had promised a number of "witnesess," they turned up at preliminary hearing without a single one and instead asked that the charges be dismissed.

They announced their intention, however, of bringing other witnesses before the next session of the Grand Jury, thereby leaving the door open for further frame-up attempts.

The whole matter is regarded by Butte miners and workers generally as an obvious frame-up by FBI agents, who seem desperately intent on harassing local unions.

More than 85 FBI men are known to have visited Butte since last March, according to the union, and some 15 or 20 are estimated to be stationed here at the present time. Apparently they are missing no opportunities to smear the union.