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# Whitney Calls Detroit FBI Raids 'Gov't Law-Breaking'

## Head of R.R. Brotherhood Says Hoover Wants to Crush Labor Movement But American People Won't Stand for Terrorism

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CLEVELAND, Ohio, April 12.—The arrest by J. Edgar Hoover's FBI agents of ten men and one woman in Detroit on charges of aiding the Spanish Loyalists was a "shameful case of government becoming a lawbreaker," President A. F. Whitney of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen writes in the April issue of the union's journal, the Railroad Trainman.

Whitney's blast of the whole record of the FBI follows in part:

"The safety of civil liberties in this nation today is not what good Americans have a right to hope for and to have J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, is a hold-over from the shameful days of the Palmer red raids, which, to the everlasting credit of Attorney General Harlan F. Stone, now Justice Stone, were brought to a close. In 1919, Hoover organized the General Intelligence Division—the so-called "anti-radical division" of the FBI. Under the mask of 'general intelligence,' wholesale raids on thousands of defenseless and innocent citizens and aliens, the breaking of strikes and the violation of the most fundamental of civil rights took place. Then, as now, J. Edgar Hoover had the enthusiastic support of the Hearst newspapers, though distinguished lawyers and law professors, such as Felix Frankfurter, now Justice Frankfurter, and Charles Evans Hughes expressed alarm over the lawlessness of our federal police.

### NEW DRIVE ON LABOR

"Hoover is now engaged in a nation-wide search of those whom he considers are indulging in 'subversive activities.' He has again organized a 'General Intelligence Division.' Knowing Hoover and his supporters, his definition of 'subversive activities' are apt to be any activities of opinions which he dislikes, and that includes the legitimate and lawful activities of organized labor.

"The FBI has been investigating the employes of many factories to ascertain whether any of those individuals have been engaged in subversive activities."

"Congress has not authorized Hoover to use government money to operate an OGPU and spy upon men engaged in non-criminal activities which J. Edgar Hoover dislikes. In his activities following the World War, Hoover compiled a list of half a million persons whom he regarded as possessing economic or political beliefs or engaging in activities amounting to what he considered 'ultra-radicalism.' The equivalent of one person out of every sixty families in America was on his shameful spy list.

"While good Americans rightly condemn Heinrich Himmler and Nazi terrorism, let us be more concerned about conditions in our own



A. F. WHITNEY

nation. Hoover now asks for a \$10,000,000 appropriation with which the hopes, no doubt, to revive and carry on the practices that he carried on during the days of A. Mitchell Palmer and William J.

Burns. That amount is approximately fifteen times the FBI's appropriation for the year we entered the war in 1917.

### GOVERNMENT LAWBREAKING

"On Feb. 6, 1940, the arrest by Hoover's FBI men of ten men and one woman in Detroit, who were indicted under an 1818 statute was a shameful case of government becoming a lawbreaker. The fact that these ten men and one woman were not criminals is adequately established by the fact that Attorney General Robert Jackson later dismissed the charges. These American citizens were arrested in the early hours of the morning, while in bed, notwithstanding the fact that the G-men had all day Sunday and Monday, Feb. 4 and 5, to make the arrests.

"Many of them had substantial places of business where warrants could have been served upon them, but the crew of G-men brought to Detroit were interested in terrorizing the prisoners, all of whom were native-born Americans and most of whom thought they were the victims of kidnapers and burglars, so cruel were the circumstances of their arrest. They were chained together, and were stripped of their clothing, as though they were dangerous criminals, although several of them were practicing physicians. They were denied fair opportunity to consult their attorney.

"J. Edgar Hoover and his 'gallant' G-men who have made such good copy for the 'dime thriller' magazines and the radio advertisers must be made to understand that Americans will not for long mistake Himmlerism for true gallantry in defense of law."