

Anti-Labor Role

VOICE OF THE FEDERATION

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FBI

Immigration Dept. Orders CIO Worker Not to Strike

CHICAGO—The anti-labor record of the FBI is by now well-established, but that of the Department of Immigration and Naturalization is not so well known.

Typical of its method of operation is the story of Erik Berg of Chicago, who, in a sworn affidavit, exposed the immigration department as deliberately cooperating with anti-labor employers to break a strike.

Berg, a native of Sweden, works for the Chicago Molded Products company, and is a member of Local 48 of the CIO National Association of Diecasting Workers.

In November, 1940, when the company backed out of a labor board election between the CIO and the newly formed company union, Local 48 went out on strike.

About three weeks after the strike was called, Berg, who had been on the picket line with his fellow unionists, received a letter commanding him to report at the department of immigration and naturalization.

Unsuspectingly, Berg, whose application for citizenship had been filed in 1937, went to the office. There he was met by an inspector Goodman. In Berg's own words, the inspector said:

"You have been reported to this department as an agitator and trouble maker."

He refused to tell Berg who had reported him, then told him

he should be very careful of the union which he joined, since many CIO unions were dominated by communists. He then queried:

"Do you know that your union is Communist-controlled?"

"No," said Berg.

"Well, it is," the inspector informed him. He stated that Berg could be deported because of the report on him, and that Berg's replies to his questions would have to be sent to Washington for final decision.

He told the frightened alien that in any event there was a strong possibility that he would be denied his citizenship papers, and would have to wait another five years because of this report.

"This country," he said, "is on the verge of war and in the event of war, fellows who have been reported may be held in concentration camps for the duration of the war."

DON'T PICKET

After asking Berg whether he was a member of any organization which sought the overthrow of the United States Government, and suggesting that Sweden was close to Russia, the inspector drove home his point.

"You'd better go home," he

said, "and don't picket any more!"

In corroboration of this method of pulling aliens off the picket lines, Local 48, to which Berg belonged, supplied the following information:

About the same time that Berg was called before the immigration department, two inspectors called at the home of William Skura, another striker. Immediately thereafter, Skura returned to work in the Chicago Molded Products company, as a scab.

On top of this, Ernest Sievers, a striking tool and die maker, was threatened on the picket line by a Mr. Freiberg, foreman of the tool and die room. Freiberg warned Sievers that participation in strikes was dangerous for non-citizens. Immediately afterward, Sievers left the strike and secured employment some where else.

This is only one example, which shows that at least three union members were rendered inactive, terrorized into not supporting the strike of their union, by action of the immigration department.

And this is the department, working hand in glove with the FBI's terroristic G-men, which seeks to deport an honest labor leader.