

NAZI SHOES ON AMERICAN FEET

WHY HAS THIS CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION BEEN SHELVED?

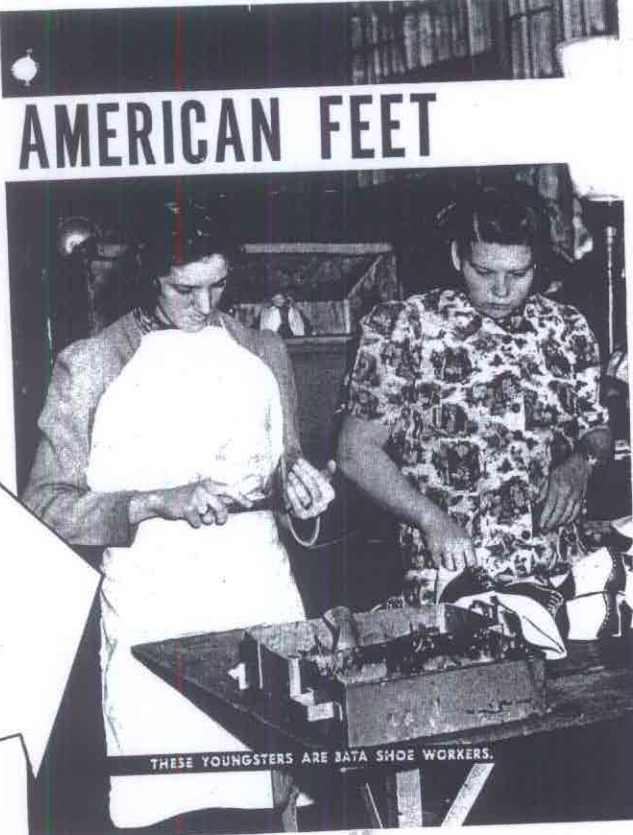
THE CONGRESS
in Session

H. RES. 432

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
March 19, 1940
Mr. CROZIER submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

1. Resolved, That (1) the Committee on Labor shall immediately make an inquiry as to the un-American conditions of employment imposed upon workers at the plant of the Bata Shoe Company, Belcamp, Maryland; shall immediately inquire as to the accuracy of the charges made that Bata Shoe Company has openly and willfully violated the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act in that less than the mandatory minimum wages provided by such legislation has been paid to the workers of such concern in Belcamp and other places; that hundreds of aliens who have been admitted to this country under false representations on the part of officials of the Bata Shoe Company or themselves are employed by such concern, while some fifty or more



THESE YOUNGSTERS ARE BATA SHOE WORKERS.

HITLER'S FOOT-SOLDIER

THE SENSATIONAL STORY OF JAN BATA'S UN-AMERICANISM

by HAROLD WEISBERG

HITLER'S onrushing legions were almost in Zlin. Jan Bata, Czech shoe king, paced the runway beside his waiting airplane, nervous and worried. Then an auto dashed into the airport and screeched to a stop beside him. Tenderly he lifted out his only son, sick little Jan Jr., carried him into the plane, raced the motor a few times, and zoomed off into the east. In a few hours he landed in Bucharest, Rumania, safe from the Nazi terror.

This was on March 15, 1939. Four months later he landed in New York, "just a shoemaker, without a nickel," a refugee.

Free America, which annually consumed 6,000,000 pairs of his shoes, held promise of a bright future for Bata. On his 2200 acres at Belcamp, Harford County, Maryland, about 20 miles northeast of Baltimore, construction had begun on a shoe factory and plans were drawn for five more. He wanted for nothing, and his family was comfortable.

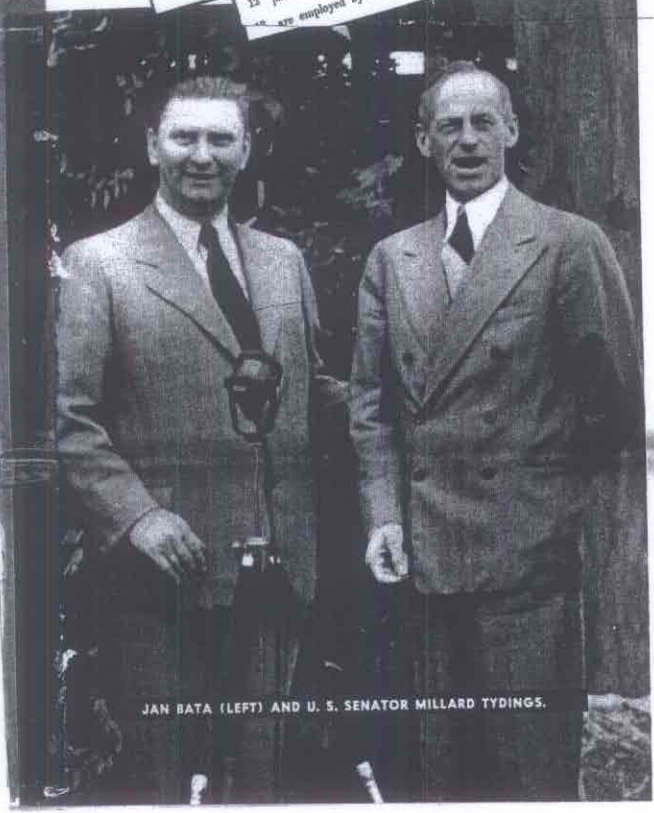
Maryland's farmers welcomed him and treated him with respect. Hitler's enemy was their friend. He told them of his plans, how he would give their sons work.

Thus began the career of America's strangest refugee.

For a while everything went well. Senator Millard Tydings, Bata's neighbor and lawyer, arranged to bring into the U. S. Czech "experts" and "instructors" for the Bata plant. Then one summer morning some had their first doubts about Bata. Every member of the graduating class of the

Harold Weisberg, Sr., Information Specialist
313 H St., NW Wash D.C.

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JAN BATA (LEFT) AND U. S. SENATOR MILLARD TYDINGS.



JAN BATA IMPORTS most of his machinery from abroad, thereby turning over American money to the Nazis who dominate the countries from which the machinery comes. Bata insists on having his own Czech workers unload and unpack the precious goods.

Records of the Children's Bureau indicate that on March 11, 1940, the company was employing 69 children under 18 years of age, five of whom were under 16. Of a total of 234 minors employed between September 26, 1939, and April 19, 1939, all were less than 19 years of age, 69 under 18 years of age.

None of the (Government) files contain any evidence to establish that the Bata Shoe Company or its affiliates in the United States are, at the present time, engaged in subversive activities here, but there is considerable evidence indicating that Jan A. Bata and officials of the Bata organization in the United States are "persona grata" with the present German government. Further, there is every reason to believe that the Bata organization in this country is a part of the Nazi economic plan for trade expansion and that the Bata Company and its affiliates are as a source of foreign exchange for Germany.

In most countries (including Czechoslovakia) where the Bata organization has established or tried to establish factories or

CONFIDENTIAL DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REPORTS show two things about Bata: he defied the Child Labor Laws and, although his organization has not yet been labeled a "fifth columnist" group by the U. S., it is part of a vast Nazi system of economic expansion.

Enclosure No. 1 to Telegram No. 1276 of August 8, 1939, from Embassy, Berlin.

MEREBARIN

On July 20th this office was visited by Mr. Jozef Lewinsky and Mr. Miroslav J. Schobert, both of the Bata Shoe Company, 274- Westchester at Hoboken and Newark, Connecticut.

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extent of Bata's business with the United States both in the exportation of shoes and in the purchase of American hides and skins. The Bata Company, under special permit from the Czechoslovak National Bank in Prague, is allowed to use the dollar proceeds of its sales to the United States for the purchase of hides and skins. So long as Bata continues to export to the United States the company will have no

THESE EXCERPTS FROM A REPORT to the Secretary of State from our Berlin embassy show that representatives of the Czech Bata plant were given power by the Nazis to use dollar proceeds from U. S. sales to buy hides and skins.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION

Port of New York, N. Y.

Arrival at August 12, 1938

Consular Office of Immigration and Naturalization
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Robert H. Tidyngs

In accordance with Department decision No. 10007/100 Ser. of August 11, 1938, the alien Robert H. Tidyngs

was admitted deported via S. S. and the alien

is not admitted as a visitor for pleasure for a period of two months, under Sec. 2(a) of the Act of 1924, as amended.

(Name) Robert H. Tidyngs (Alias)

(Title) Historical Director

THIS U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR FORM allowed a Bata employee, Robert Podzemny, to enter this country as a visitor—purportedly to visit the World's Fair. With wire-pulling by Bata Lawyer Tydings he got an extension.

high school in Aberdeen got a booklet entitled, "Bata, Key to Success." It said Bata wanted inexperienced boys and girls. He would teach them not only how to make shoes, but aviation and "mechanical, chemical and electro-engineering." After working all day, they would go to his school at night. Under the Bata plan, they would have "as little unutilized leisure time as possible," and would live at the plant under the command of tutors who would supervise their private lives. For this Bata would take back all but \$2.47 of their \$12.60 weekly salaries. Parents must promise not to interfere with the school's methods. They must agree in advance to their children's being sent anywhere in the United States or "to various remote parts of the world." The six-page application even demanded personal information, property holdings, income, politics and personal data about close relatives!

"See the world with Bata," said the booklet, but the countryside thought the plan rather Hitler-like. "Bata, Key to Success" or "Key to Bata Success," they wondered.

Their protests reached the town council and Bata was forced to give up the idea of regimenting local youth.

By this time Bata employees, forced to labor longer than the law permitted, for small pay on a fast assembly line, tried to organize a branch of the shoe workers union. Union organizers who came to Belcamp from Washington were threatened.

That's how the story of America's strangest refugee came to the attention of the government. The union representatives made formal charges against Bata. Several investigations were ordered.

He was charged with infractions of child-labor law—the first case of its kind in the State; of repeated violation of the wage-hour law, and compelled to pay back wages and fines; and of abusing the immigration laws.

These investigations, never made public outside of official proceedings, developed some startling facts. They show that Hitler gives Bata complete freedom from Nazi domination in the conquered lands and helps him in all possible ways. They show that although Bata pretends to be an American concern and exploits the power and prestige of our government, he actually serves Hitler's interest. In the course of so doing Bata uses powerful connections high in the business and political life of our nation.

The author has conducted his own investigation of Bata and has found that his claims, almost without exception, are fraudulent. Government files, especially those of the State, Labor, Justice and Commerce Departments, are full of information about him. These documents should see the light of day. Some are here reproduced.

Bata's claim of poverty is false. He is the unquestioned dictator of a tremendous industrial empire sprawling through 46 countries on five of the six continents. Find a place of strategic military importance—Singapore, Malta, Panama, Hawaii, the Philippines, the Indies, Indo-China—and there you will find Bata. His retail stores total 10,000. A conservative estimate of the value of his many operations is \$300,000,000. Although footwear


 STATE OF ILLINOIS
 HENRY HONOR, GOVERNOR
 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
 ROOM 200, MERCHANTS BLDG.
 228 NORTH BAKA DRIVE
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
 TEL. BR. 2-2244-4100
 May 2, 1940

Mr. Leo Goodman,
 Research Director
 United Shoe Workers
 of America of the CIO
 917 - 15th Street, NW
 Washington, D. C.

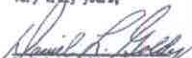
Dear Mr. Goodman:

In accordance with your letter of March 12th and pursuant to the attached certified copies of hearings conducted before the Department of Labor in Washington, a preliminary investigation of possible violations of the Illinois Unemployment Compensation Act by the Beta Shoe Company has been concluded. This investigation indicates that the Beta Shoe Company has failed to report earnings for a group of their employees and has not paid contributions on such earnings. If this conclusion is substantiated by an audit of the Beta Shoe Company's records, necessary legal steps to compel proper reporting and payment of contributions will be instituted.

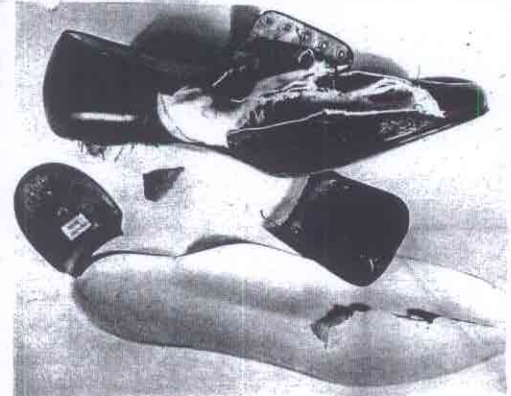
I am returning to you transcripts of proceedings before the United States Department of Labor which you were kind enough to permit us to use.

I am highly appreciative of your information and cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,


 Daniel L. Goldy
 Executive Assistant

BATA PLEADED GUILTY to a charge of failing to keep proper records in connection with his defiance of the Unemployment Insurance Act. He said the whole thing was an "accident," but records showed little support for his "mistake."



We therefore find the following facts:

- (1) That the merchandise in question consists of certain unfinished boots, consisting of calendered rubber soles, rubber foxing, and uppers of velveteen, from Czechoslovakia.
- (2) That such unfinished boots are not within the purview of the Presidential proclamation published in T. D. 46158.
- (3) That there is no foreign value, no export value, or no United States value, as such values are defined in section 402 of the Tariff Act of 1930, for said unfinished boots.
- (4) That the proper basis for appraisement for said unfinished boots is cost of production as that value is defined in section 402 (f) of the Tariff Act of 1930.
- (5) That such cost of production for said unfinished boots is 54 cents a pair, United States currency, the invoiced and entered value.
- (6) That the correct dutiable value for said unfinished boots is the invoiced and entered value.

We hold as a matter of law that the correct dutiable value of the instant merchandise is that set forth in findings of fact 5 and 6, as above set out, and that the judgment of the court below is hereby affirmed.

Judgment will be rendered accordingly.

THE MUTILATED SHOE ABOVE shows the flimsy construction, the "Made in Germany" heel marked so that its label disappears in the assembled shoe. The Court decision shows how Bata imports unfinished shoes, adds parts here, saves his firm 70c per pair in custom's duties.

is the basic product, they also make rubber and rubber products (such as automobile tires), gas masks, synthetic yarns, machinery, lime, cement, hosiery, and motion pictures. No, Bata is not poor. His empire is one of the world's wealthiest.

There is nothing American in Bata's conduct. His numerous and repeated violations undermine our laws. His sweat-shop labor practices and cut-throat competition are a menace to both labor and industry. Both condemn him. His contempt for Americans is shown by his reason for having Czechs unpack machinery: if U. S. citizens did the job, he'd have gotten "junk, not machinery."

The worst mistake we could make about Bata is to believe him a refugee from the Nazis.

Ordinary people go to concentration camps for taking a few marks out of the German territory. Not Bata. From his European holdings, regulations notwithstanding, he brought \$2,500,000 into the United States in 18 months.

The Nazis have been pushing machinery exports to get foreign exchange. Bata admits that 95% of his machinery at Belcamp comes from his plants abroad or from the Moenus company, a Nazi outfit.

No Nazi product is too small for Bata to use. Recently he used German-made ersatz heels.

Some of Bata's activities have been scrutinized by the Department of Justice in connection with immigration matters. Thanks to Senator Tydings' ability to persuade Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins that Bata's reasons for wanting these Czechs

were valid—and any shoe specialist could have alleged the opposite—about 100 entered the country, many with their families, while bona fide refugees starved in Europe. The first 23 to present themselves at Ellis Island hadn't even complied with the terms of the permits. Senator Tydings wrote some more letters on Senate stationery and they became visitors to the World's Fair. They then attempted to legalize their entry by calling themselves "inventors, engineers, executives and experts."

Each of these Czechs, who were to instruct Americans, was supposed to have five years of experience. Nonetheless, among 71 who arrived in August, 1939, was a 16-year-old girl; two were 17 years old, two were 18 years old, 44 were under 30 and all were under 40.

Some of these aliens have left. The Department of Justice recently ordered 59 others deported because they were workers, not teachers.

All of this has had a profound effect on Belcamp. The simple folk who welcomed Bata as one of them are now against him. Bitterly they point to issues of the local paper—Bata's—and show where he advertises his miserable salaries. One week the best-paid "girl" got \$15.88 and the best-paid "boy," \$16.68.

Representative Edith Nourse Rogers (Rep., Mass.) denounced the company as "un-American." Her life was mysteriously threatened. Department of Justice agents, concerned about the same thing, concluded Bata was "very much persona grata" to the Nazi topdogs, but "not at the present time" engaged in

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JAN BATA (center), his Belcamp manager Jan Hoza (third from left) and architects worked for months in their Czechoslovak office over plans for the proposed Belcamp factory. These plans were completed before Bata "fled" to the U. S.

Retrialization in the Department of Labor of the United States, Washington, D. C.

Defendants.

APPLICANT IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION.

HARFORD COUNTY) ss:
STATE OF MARYLAND)

JOHN HOZA, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

THAT he is an American citizen and the General Manager of the Bata Shoe Company, Inc., a New York Corporation, which is operating a shoe factory at Belcamp, Maryland;

THAT for the past 20 years he has been associated in various capacities incident to the management and operation of shoe

Ver. Nimsen v. Anozika
Case No. 11-231

NOV-5-38 88417 K-Casi 30.00 Patent #3866

239171

PETITION

TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS

Your Petitioner John H o z a,

a citizen of the Czechoslovakian Republic,

resident at 2 1 1 N, Czechoslovakia,

whose petitive address is 2 1 1 N, Czechoslovakia,

prays that letters patent be granted to him for his improvement to a machine for the ornamentation of wigs,

set forth in the annexed Specification.

And he hereby swears, Maxwell E. Sparrow Patent Lawyer of 235, Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y., United States of America, Register No. 11,231

His attorney... will full power of solicitation and retention, to prosecute this application, to sign the drawings, to make alterations and amendments thereto, to receive the Patent, and to transact all business in the Patent Office connected therewith.

John Hoza

FALSE SWEARING MEANS NOTHING to Bata's cohorts. Jan Hoza, manager of Belcamp, is an American citizen (top). But when it suited his purposes for a patent application, he swore he was a citizen of Czechoslovakia. Such practices are Bata methods.

activities that could overthrow our government. It is clear that Bata is a menace. He has Nazi affiliations. Something ought to be done about it.

A year ago legislation authorizing an investigation of Bata was demanded, but it was pigeon-holed. Such an investigation is necessary. To any authorized committee, CLICK will gladly present copies of the documentary evidence supporting this story.

BATA OCCUPIES A STRATEGIC SPOT IN U. S.

1. Belcamp, Md., approximate center of Bata's 2200 acres. Belcamp is between the B. & O. and P. R. R., is on U. S. Route 40.
2. The Army Proving Grounds at Aberdeen.
3. The Army Chemical Warfare Station at Edgewood.
4. Glenn L. Martin airplane factory area.
5. Conowingo Dam, source of electric power for Phila. and surrounding districts. Carries U. S. Route 1 over Susquehanna.
6. Two R. R. and auto bridges over Susquehanna at Havre de Grace.
7. Highways, Route 1 and Route 40, north and south.
8. Belcamp is approximately 50 miles from Annapolis, Md., where the United States Naval Academy is located.

