
Stevenson's "Personally Conducted" Raid: An Editorial in the *New York Call*, June 15, 1919.

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Responsibility for the raid on the Soviet Bureau rests squarely on the shoulders of just one man. This terroristic interference with the rights of an organization scrupulously obedient to the laws of the land was not the result of any public demand. It was not the result of any announced public policy. It was not sanctioned in any way by the United States authorities, who are the ones most closely concerned. It was not even undertaken by a person clothed with public authority. It was the direct result of the machinations of a purely private individual.

The name of that individual is Archibald E. Stevenson.

The evidence is plain. Chairman Lusk of the New York State Legislative Investigating Committee denied all responsibility for the raid. Attorney General Newton, who is charged with prosecuting violators of state law, also has denied responsibility. The raid was conducted on the authority of a search warrant issued through the initiative of Stevenson himself. Both Chairman Lusk and Mr. Newton have stated this publicly. No one has denied it.

The raid itself was personally conducted by Stevenson. He headed the band of private detectives and state constabulary that invaded the Soviet office. They all took orders from him directly. Every detail of the raid was under his specific direction. The state constabulary officers, who remained in possession of the office for almost 24 hours, openly stated that they could not leave, much as they wanted to, until they got word from

Mr. Stevenson. They tried to reach him all Friday morning [June 13, 1919] on the phone to get their release. It was not until 1 o'clock that it came — direct from Mr. Stevenson.

There is a convincing amount of evidence to show that this man Stevenson is largely responsible for the creation of the State Legislative Commission itself and the whole course of its investigation. Stevenson conducted a vigorous campaign among the members of the Union League Club last winter for an investigation of radicalism in the state. He finally secured the appointment of a special committee of the club for that purpose. He was named its chairman. The committee found all that it was supposed to find. A voluminous report was issued.

With the held of this report Mr. Stevenson conducted vigorous measures at Albany to secure some action from the State Legislature. The result is becoming increasingly notorious: the present Lusk Committee.

Mr. Stevenson's intimate association with this whole business is attested by the fact that during the hearings of the committee he has been constantly at the elbow of the chairman, continually consulting with him and giving him his suggestions. And yet, up to date, there is no public record of his appointment to any official position,. Mr. Stevenson is still a private individual.

Mr. Stevenson's past is hardly one that would commend him to public esteem. He is the man who was summoned to testify before the notorious Overman Senate Committee in Washington.

He is the man who read into the proceedings the names of 60 persons whom he, in his own private judgment, considered "pro-German," even though he knew this act would damage them, no matter how false the allegation. He is the man who claimed that he was a member of the staff of the Military Intelligence Service in New York, and he is the man whom Secretary of War Baker publicly repudiated.

This much is a matter of public record and legitimate inference from public record.

What is needed today is not so much a public investigation of the Soviet Bureau — it has never shunned legitimate investigation — but a thoroughgoing probe of Archibald E. Stevenson and his underground activities.

Such a probe would lead to one of two places: either to the secret places in Mr. Stevenson's pride, bruised by Secretary Baker's repudiation, or into the secret chambers of the labor-hating Union League Club, where people of more power than Mr. Stevenson gather. Perhaps the probe would lead to both. At all events, neither can justify a public insult to the people of an entire nation and to the working class of the world.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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