

Modern A. F. L. Judas Gets His Pieces of Silver

A Chapter in the History of Edward McGrady, Newly Elected Assistant Sec'y of Labor

By ROSE WORTIS

Last week the press announced the appointment of Edward McGrady, organizer of the American Federation of Labor as assistant secretary of the United States Department of Labor. McGrady, the arch traitor of the American working class who has carried through the most wholesale betrayals against the workers has received his reward at the hands of the bosses.

With McGrady in the Labor Department the bosses' government will be able to carry through more effectively the hunger program, forced labor, and the ruthless attack on the conditions of the workers. It is important for the workers to know why this bitter fighter of the militant workers received this high government post.

The needle trades workers, especially the furriers, know from bitter experience the price paid for McGrady's betrayals. Here are some facts about McGrady's treacherous role in the needle trades.

In 1926, the furriers, after many years of struggle against the corrupt grafting Kaufman-Stetsky machine, gained control of their union and carried through a militant seventeen weeks long strike that will remain one of the most brilliant pages in the history of not only the needle trades workers, but of the entire American labor movement. In this strike the workers won the 40-hour week, increases in wages, and succeeded in establishing one hundred per cent control of the industry and control of their union.

The ousted officials, hated and despised by the masses of the furriers secured the help of the A. F. of L. with whose aid they launched a vicious pogrom against the furriers which lasted a period of six years and has brought untold misery and suffering to the thousands of furriers and their families.

Chief Pogromist.

Edward McGrady was the leader and chief of this bloody pogrom. McGrady came in as chief supervisor of the Joint Council. McGrady made a common cause with the bosses who had already felt the power of a class struggle under militant leadership. He began a series of provoca-



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tions in an effort to bring about the imprisonment of the leaders of the furriers' union in the hope that he would thus be able to break the backbone of the furriers' union. McGrady in the manner of a true agent provocateur instituted the police investigation against Ben Gold and the entire leadership. When the leaders of the union exposed this open agent provocateur work and were cleared in this investigation, McGrady began a new wave of conspiracies through which he wanted to railroad to jail not only Gold and Schneider but ten other militant workers.

Arranges Frame-Up.

The famous Mineola trial was the work of McGrady. He prepared the trial and witnesses. In his office the frame-up was hatched. The state witnesses, the police testimony, everything was planned under the leadership and guidance of McGrady.

With his aid the bosses broke the agreement with the Furriers' Union and concluded a company union agreement with the Joint Council led by McGrady. The entire underworld, the police, the industrial squads were organized to crush the fighting furriers. McGrady instituted a reign of terror, the like of which New York

has never experienced. The fur market, the gathering place of the workers, became a veritable battlefield. Hundreds of workers were maimed and crippled by the underworld thugs hired by McGrady. Aaron Gross, at that time one of the leaders of the union, was murderously attacked. The attack finally led to his death.

Destroys Furriers' Union.

The furriers' union built through years of struggle and sacrifice, the gains won by the workers in the 1925 strike, were reduced to naught. With blackmail and fist, with police and arson, McGrady temporarily defeated the furriers and placed them at the mercy of the bosses. Numerous frame-ups were instigated by McGrady against Jack Schneider, Irving Potash, Ben Gold, J. Winogradsky and tens of other militant workers who fought heroically against the regime of terror. McGrady became the most hated and despised man. His name was uttered with a curse.

For a while the furriers bowed to the yoke of this agent of the bosses. Under McGrady's rule every vestige of union conditions was wiped out. The once powerful union of the workers was reduced to a collection agency of the bosses. The once proud furriers were reduced to abject slaves at the mercy of the bosses. McGrady for a while defeated the furriers, but he did not crush them.

The Rank and File Fight Back.

In 1931 the furriers rose in mass revolt against this corrupt terroristic regime of McGrady. This time the renewed attacks on the workers, the mobilization of the Myer and Izzie Shapiros and the gangs of New York

and New Jersey were of no avail. The furriers had learned from their bitter experience that to submit to the rule of McGrady means to die of misery and starvation. The revolt of the furriers, the united struggle of the furriers against their oppressors delivered a crushing defeat to McGrady and the entire A. F. of L. outfit who were completely driven from the fur trade.

The treacherous work of McGrady in the fur trade is but one chapter in his history of betrayals which he carried through against every group of workers with which he ever came in contact. No wonder that he was chosen as a high ranking official for the United States Department of Labor. With his aid the bosses will attempt to stifle the rising revolt of the American working class against hunger, misery, against wage cuts and unemployment.

McGrady Figures in Recent Attack.

From authentic sources it has been learned that last week a conference was held in Washington which was attended by officials of the A. F. of L., representatives of the bosses' Association and the Joint Council where the pogrom attack on the union last Monday was decided upon so as to prevent the complete unionization of the fur industry. McGrady, as Assistant Secretary of Labor will utilize his position to continue his treachery against the workers.

Just as the workers in the fur trade through their united struggle have driven McGrady from their ranks, so the American working class, through unity and struggle, will defeat and drive out McGrady and all his allies. The modern Judas has received his reward, but the mass struggle of the workers will defeat his treachery.

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