
Revive Bridgman Communist Cases in Boss Attack: Lovestone, Foster, Bedacht, and Other Outstanding Communists Involved in 8-Year Old Case

Published in *The Revolutionary Age* [New York], vol. 2, no. 18 (April 4, 1931), pg. 1.

The Michigan government authorities are threatening to bring to immediate trial the Communist leaders arrested for attending the Bridgman Convention of the Communist Party in August 1922. Among those facing such trial are Jay Lovestone, then Executive Secretary of the Communist Party, William Z. Foster, Alex Bail, Max Bedacht, Earl Browder, and Robert Minor.

In the trials in 1923 the jury failed to convict Foster. Shortly afterward C.E. Ruthenberg was tried and was convicted in the State Court at St. Joseph, Michigan. On appeal, the State Supreme Court upheld the conviction. Then the case was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, where it was up for decision when Comrade Ruthenberg died.

The Michigan authorities are holding about \$80,000 in bail for the defendants. Some time ago the defendants, thru the International Labor Defense (ILD) tried to get the bail money back in an attempt to secure a dismissal of the cases, which are now almost 9 years old. The threat to bring the defendants to immediate trial is the answer of the prosecution.

A few years ago the Michigan Legislature amended the State Constitution so as to enable the prosecution to deny the right of separate trial to each defendant and thus to try the Communists all together or in gross.

On March 11 [1931] the state filed a motion to try all the defendants jointly. This motion was granted instantly by the court, which rejected the counter-motion made by the lawyer for the defense to dismiss the cases.

It is very significant that the Michigan authorities now choose to revive these cases after so many years. Undoubtedly it comes under the bidding of the Michigan manufacturers, who hope to paralyze the increasing unrest and discontent of the vast army of unemployed by striking a heavy blow at the most militant, the most class-conscious workers, the communists. In the face of this very urgent and immediate need for Communist unity, the Communist Party officialdom running the International Labor Defense is acting in a desperate factional manner, as can be seen from the columns of the *Daily Worker* of March 27 [1931] giving the ILD announcement and appeal for help in these Michigan cases. In this appeal to rally the support of the defendants, to which every working man should respond energetically and promptly, the ILD deliberately omitted, for factional reasons, the names of such defendants as Lovestone and Bail, members of the CP Majority Group.

The Communist Party (Majority Group) is now taking steps to find out whether the ILD will or will not help these comrades in the event of a trial.

Edited by Tim Davenport

1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR · March 2012 · Non-commercial reproduction permitted.