

# What Tom Mooney Thinks of Men Who Betrayed General Strike

## A.F. of L. Leaders Aided in Frame-up, Famous Labor Prisoner Wrote

By CYRIL BRIGGS

**T**Hese lieutenants of capital masquerading as labor leaders must be exposed; they are the worst enemies of a real organized labor movement. It is our duty to help expose enemies of a real organized labor movement. It is our duty to help expose their culpability. They are our worst foes. They are the foes of all militant workers."

Thus wrote Tom Mooney on January 5, 1931, in a letter to Warren K. Billings, his fellow victim of the foulest frame-up in American labor history.

Tom Mooney, rotting in San Quentin prison for the past 17 years despite overwhelming proof of his innocence of any part in the bombing of the 1916 Preparedness Day Parade in San Francisco, had intimate and bitter experience with the A. F. of L. misleaders who, after vainly trying to prevent the General Strike in San Francisco, have now knifed it in the back in the most colossal sell-out of labor in the history of the United States.

### "Frame-up Aided by Labor Leaders"

In his letter to Billings, Mooney categorically declared that the leaders of the A. F. of L. shared joint responsibility with the California corporations, the State Supreme Court and State officials for his frame-up. In his letter to Billings and in his preface to the pamphlet

"Tom Mooney Betrayed by Labor Leaders," Mooney named names. Today most of these names reappear in the reports of the maneuvers leading to, and in the actual shameful betrayal of the San Francisco general strike by the A. F. of L. misleaders.

### What Mooney Says of Green

Of William Green, President of the A. F. of L., whose strike-breaking statement of July 17 was hailed in the capitalist press with headlines such as "A. F. of L. Disowns Frisco Strike," Tom Mooney wrote, in answer to Green's lying claims that the A. F. of L. bureaucracy had helped Mooney's defense:

"I challenge President Green to prove that a single dollar was ever donated by the A. F. of L. unless the rank and file insisted that funds be sent for my defense. I challenge President Green to prove that a single resolution was ever adopted unless the rank and file demanded that I be helped this way. Let President Green explain the failure of the 1927 Los Angeles convention to adopt a resolution when meeting in the midst of the 'frame-up' state. Can President Green state how much help was given the defense by the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. during the past 15 years? How much was contributed directly by the A. F. of L.? How many letters are there in the Governor's office from members of the Executive Committee urging my pardon?"

Scharrenberg, Casey, Vandeleur & Company

And Paul Scharrenberg, Michael Casey, Edward Vandeleur and other A. F. of L. sell-out artists on the

West Coast? What does Tom Mooney, famous class war prisoner, victim of their traitorous collusion with California corporations and corrupt bourgeois politicians, think of these "safe" and "noble" labor leaders who today are showered with praise by the capitalist press, by Gen. Johnson and other "New Deal" officials?

"Incredible as it may seem," writes Mooney, "the greatest support given capital in this infamous frame-up case has come from the major labor leaders of San Francisco. Paul Scharrenberg, Secretary, State Federation of Labor, attacked our defense committee and myself with malicious cunning at the 1930, Marysville Convention of the California State Federation of Labor."

Scharrenberg and Michael Casey consistently fought against any move designed to pardon Mooney. And William Green throttled many such moves within the A. F. of L. by referring to Scharrenberg all requests for action in behalf of Mooney: "Before taking any action I would suggest that you confer with Mr. Scharrenberg," was Green's pet advice.

### Casey Campaigned Against Mooney

"Mooney is no good." This was the insidious poison spread by Michael Casey for 15 years. Immediately after the arrest of Mooney and Billings in 1916, Casey toured the country and spread the most noxious insinuations against these victims of capitalist frame-up justice. He spread the contemptible lie that he knew "they were guilty," that a "confession" was forthcoming, that they were "dirty Reds,"

and did not belong to the trade union movement.

The labor misleaders endorsed Governor Stephens, jailer of Mooney, for re-election. Casey was particularly active on behalf of Fickert, Mooney's prosecutor, during the campaign for Fickert's recall.

Kidwell, Casey, Scharrenberg and others actively campaigned for the renomination of the servile tool of the corporations, Gov. C. C. Young, during the 1930 primaries.

### Voted Funds For His Prosecution

Not only did the labor misleaders help frame Mooney, but they voted funds for his framing and prosecution. At the time of the arrest of Mooney and Billings, these misleaders had a working majority on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. On Nov. 21, 1916, they voted \$2,500, on April 1, 1915, \$1,500, and on August 7, 1917, \$7,500 for "special expense of the Police Department and District Attorney in connection with investigation and prosecution of the perpetrators of the bomb explosion."

During the long years of Mooney's imprisonment, these misleaders have carried on their betrayals of the working class. Today they have earned the gratitude and thanks of the oppressors of labor, as expressed in the glowing tribute paid their treachery by the strikebreaking mayor of San Francisco, Angelo Rossi, who called out troops against the strikers.

### Again Earn Thanks of Bosses

"The strike is broken," Mayor Rossi gleefully chortles. "You can put it like this: For a while conservative leaders have gained con-

## Scharrenberg, Casey, Co. Blocked Pardon Moves, Aided Mooney's Jailers

trol. The turning point was when the municipal street cars started running again on Tuesday.

"As soon as the conservatives got back they asked the municipal men to go back to work on the cars, and they did. . . . I have been in constant and amicable communication with the labor leaders."

For labor, Mayor Rossi's tribute is in itself an indictment of these misleaders.

The General Strike is broken—knifed in the back by the misleaders. But the San Francisco longshoremen and seamen are continuing their heroic struggle, and the strike upsurge continues throughout the country, and will continue as the toiling masses, harassed by hunger and confronted by intolerable conditions and increasing fascist terror, move forward in struggle and, learning from their bitter experiences repudiate, as did the San Francisco strikers on many occasions, the misleaders, and elect militant leaders from their own ranks. In these struggles, the Communist Party and the revolutionary unions will continue to play an increasingly important role, despite the ferocious raids and terror instigated by Federal and California authorities and unleashed by police and employers' vigilante bands against the most trusted, loyal, devoted and experienced section of the working class.