

EXCLUSIVE

LABOR

Bare Secret Plans To Destroy Teamsters; Throw U.S. Unions Into Chaos

Arthur Fox, an employee of Ralph Nader who serves as lawyer for the FBI-controlled "PROD" countergang in the Teamsters union, has revealed secret plans to disrupt and destroy the two-million member International Brotherhood of Teamsters through coordinated actions by PROD and various government agencies, including the Justice Department.

"Our strategy is to divide and conquer," Fox told a reporter June 28. "Go after the big boys — Fitzsimmons (the IBT International President) and maybe Presser (Ohio Teamster leader and International Vice-President) and watch everybody else cut each other to shreds...If things go as planned, the entire union will be in chaos..."

The attack on the Teamsters is the beginning of an all-out attack on the U.S. trade union movement, intended to leave it demoralized and in ruins within a matter of months. Wall Street networks of both the "left" (such as those controlled by the Institute for Policy Studies) and the right (such as the Justice Department-controlled Nazi party) have been activated. At this point, the key targets are the Teamsters, the United Mineworkers and the United Steelworkers.

PROD's Fox stated that he had received "numerous assurances" from officials of the Justice and Labor Departments as well as the Internal Revenue Service, that top Teamster officials will be hit with criminal indictments stemming from alleged misdoings involving the Teamsters Central States Pension Fund. The Teamster leaders think that they have made some kind of informal deal with government to quash these indictments," he said. "But they didn't and they'll find that out soon enough..."

Terming IBT President Fitzsimmons "the number one target" of these operations, Fox said that the government and PROD viewed Vice-President Jackie Presser as "an even greater danger." Presser, the most outspoken spokesman for the union leaders against the PROD-government conspiracy, was called by Fox "a thug, a goon and a Nazi who deserves to be treated as such." Fox said Presser has been driven into hiding by the "fortunate assassination" of his associate and Cleveland Teamster leader John Nardi "in front of his (Presser's) window." Presser "got the message," Fox stated, "but he is running out of holes to hide in...you can never tell, maybe someone will get rid of him and we won't have to worry about doing the job ourselves..."

Fox's "plans" cohere with reports received by this news service from highly placed individuals in the U.S. intelligence community that the Carter Administration and Wall Street have activated their full range of "black operations" against the Teamsters. Such operations,

sources report, include the activation of assassination capabilities against top Teamster leaders like Presser.

The Offensive

As Fox spoke, the union-busting "offensive" he described was already taking shape.

*A PROD-controlled slate of officials yesterday took over the 7,000-member Teamster local 639 following an election here last week. Defeated Local 639 President Frank DeBrouse has reported that there were numerous irregularities in the voting and has filed an appeal with the IBT Joint Council.

*The FBI began an investigation of three Teamster locals in the Cleveland area for alleged financial "irregularities."

*Rep. J.J. Pickle (D-Tex.) announced plans for a new round of hearings by his Oversight Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee on the Central States Pension Fund. Fox described the hearings as helping to create the appropriate climate to "hand down some indictments." Pickle, whom Fox described as working closely with PROD, will demand to know whether the Justice and Labor Departments have made any "illegal deals with the IBT leadership to squash indictments in exchange for 'cooperation' in cleaning up the Pension Fund (Fitzsimmons and IBT Vice-President Roy Williams resigned as trustees of the fund under pressure from the government in a "deal" worked out prior to the last round of "Pickle hearings.") The Justice Department and IRS, Fox stated, could now turn around and tell IBT leaders "sorry fellows, the deal is off...the public wants your heads..."

Strategy for Chaos

Maximum chaos, Fox told the reporter, will be achieved by "initially concentrating our fire on Fitzsimmons, while weakening the union (in the eyes of the public) as a whole." If PROD and its government allies are successful in ousting "Fitz," he said, the "whole house of cards will fall."

PROD has filed an appeal with the IBT executive board to oust Fitzsimmons for malfeasance and non-feasance. "We'll give them (the executive board) a little more time and then hit them in Federal Court. We'll get satisfaction in court by asking that the entire union be put under a board of monitors." This would mean effective receivership for the Teamsters. Fox reported he already received assurances that the Labor Department would not quash such action.

D.C. Local A Target

PROD's "victory" in the local 639 election is a set-up

aimed at giving PROD additional leverage to carry out its internal destabilization of the union. "Favorable conditions" led to the takeover of local 639, according to Fox: its leadership was paranoid and indecisive while its proximity to the national made countervailing action by the IBT executive "dangerous." "The IBT leadership might want to help DeBrouse, but we think that they are paralyzed..." Fox said. While newly elected President Daniel George is termed a "PROD collaborator," Fox stated that "our key inside man is John Catlett, a PROD member who was elected Secretary Treasurer. According to Fox, Catlett was the man who ran the campaign.

According to Fox, PROD will "distance" itself from George to discredit DeBrouse's claim of outside interference. "Meanwhile, we still have Catlett on the inside."

PROD is counting on the media to leverage the local 639 "victory" for maximum effect nationally. The *Washington Post* has obliged them by carrying two frontpage articles on the election. Fox and PROD director John Sikorski, also a Nader operative, have targeted several other key Teamster locals for takeover in next fall's elections, particularly locals in Hagerstown, Md., Cape Girado, Mo., Evanston, Ill. and Oakland, Calif.

But, Fox and his Wall Street controllers are counting on the stupidity of the Teamster leadership. "They have two million members, we have 12,000 (other sources report 1,000 — ed.) They don't know how to fight us..."

The Mineworkers

The defeat of traditionalist candidate for UMW President Lee Roy Patterson in the June 14 election marked a big success for a Rockefeller-inspired scenario to plunge that union into endless internal difficulties and lead to possible military confrontation over a fall coal strike. Patterson, whose loss in the election, according to informed sources, could have only been attributable to a whole bag of dirty tricks operations ranging from outright vote theft to internal sabotage of his campaign, was the only candidate who could have possibly led the UMW out of the mess created by four years of Institute for Policy Studies-directed rule over the union. The "victor," the incumbent Arnold Miller, was viewed by his own staff as a "helpless paranoid" who had little control of the union. "Arnold is a simple man," one of his staff members told a reporter. "I'm afraid he doesn't even think about such things as whether the military would intervene in our strike."

Patterson has announced plans to challenge the results of the election with the union executive board; if they agree with him — it is said that he is close to a majority on the board — then a new election could be ordered. If that took place, Miller's people have indicated that they would go to court and the whole question of who is in charge of the union could bounce around courtrooms for years. If the Patterson challenge is not to produce even more chaos, sources in the union indicate, he must be willing to come out and campaign on a program of high technology growth.

Meanwhile, IPS networks in especially West Virginia and Kentucky have led a series of wildcats over proposed cutbacks in the union health and welfare fund. Ironically such cutbacks had been forced by previous IPS-directed wildcats which gave employers the excuse to cut back their payments to the fund. At one point last week, more than 30,000 miners were out and Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall was terming the whole situation "dangerous...very dangerous." The miners are now on a two-week vacation. IPS-linked sources in the union have broadcast their intention to continue and expand these provocations.

The Steelworkers

The chaos in the USW is being sown around two key nodal points.

Two weeks ago, the Labor Department announced that it would undertake the most extensive investigation in its history of charges of vote fraud in last February's USW Presidential election levied by the IPS-created candidate, Edward Sadlowski. More than 250 investigators are now swarming all over the union, examining books and harrasing people, allegedly attempting to discover whether outgoing USW President I.W. Abel had conduced union funds to the victor, traditionalist Lloyd McBride.

According to sources in the Steelworkers headquarters the McBride leadership is reported to be "pre-occupied with the Sadlowski challenge" and "unsure of what the Labor Department is really after." McBride has been saying and doing almost nothing in public, which erodes support for him within the union. "He is laying low," one source said.

Meanwhile, Sadlowski forces are attempting to parlay general dissatisfaction with the recently negotiated national steelworkers pact into a series of localized Apache-style strikes over local issues. Although Sadlowski operatives have tried to get things going in such places as Baltimore's Sparrows Point steel complex, it appears that the most dangerous situations exist in Sadlowski's home District 31 in the Chicago-Gary area. Strikes have been authorized in three key plants — Inland Steel, Republic, and Youngstown Sheet and Tube. At Youngstown, the strike vote carried by less than 10; at Inland, it passed by only 1,000 votes out of almost 15,000 cast. Sadlowski supporter and District 31 head Jim Balanoff had claimed that "there would be overwhelming support for a strike." According to reports from inside the plant, workers feel that they are being "forced out."

The strike votes are accompanied by activation of right and left countergangs within the union. Such an activation, which includes such groups as the Revolutionary Union and Nazi Party, coupled with the closeness of the strike votes, lays the potential for provoked violence, if the strikes come off after the July 31 expiration of the old national contract. Labor violence and provoked strikes are nothing new to the Rockefellers; their family has deployed labor agitators for more than 90 years to justify repression of workers.

—L. Wolfe

Executive Intelligence Review

Press Service Bureaus

CONTINENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Wiesbaden BRD
62 W. Schiersteiner Str. 6
Tel. (06 121) 37 70 81

Mexico City
Paseo de la Reforma 95
Despacho 100 4-5
Tel. 5 46 17 39

New York
GPO Box 1972
New York, N.Y. 10001
Tel. (212) 563-6650

LATIN AMERICA

COLOMBIA — Bogota
VENEZUELA — Caracas

EUROPE

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY —
Bonn, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Dusseldorf
BELGIUM — Brussels
FRANCE — Paris
ITALY — Rome, Milan, Turin
SWEDEN — Stockholm
DENMARK — Copenhagen

NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES — Boston, Charlotte,
Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington,
D.C., Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago, Den-
ver, Seattle, San Francisco
CANADA — Vancouver, Toronto,
Montreal

Subscription Rates for
New Solidarity International Press Service
Executive Intelligence Review

Executive Intelligence Review
P.O. Box 1922, GPO
New York, N.Y. 10001

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

\$ 60 for three months

\$115 for six months

\$225 for one year