

PROD, TDU Plot Teamster Wrecking Operation

According to information from investigative reporters and sources in Washington, D.C., Wall Street has ordered its FBI and Justice Department operatives to unleash a new offensive against their most powerful opposition in the labor movement, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT).

ENEMIES OF LABOR

The offensive, slated to take place on three interrelated fronts, would involve a myriad of countergangs, congressional and Justice Department members and staff, as well as their "spear carriers" in the media. On one flank, the Ralph Nader-FBI controlled Professional Drivers (PROD) countergang would escalate their "muckraking corruption attack" on Teamster General President Frank Fitzsimmons, while working with press contacts and congressional staff to pressure for indictments of the union leadership. Second, the FBI-controlled Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU) grouplet would attempt to mount a "rank-and-file" assault on the Teamster leadership; the TDU has already been told they will receive "major press coverage" of their rank-and-file campaigns. Simultaneously, FBI conduits in the media will publish major exposé material which, one of the conspirators said, would "drive Fitzsimmons into hiding and out of office."

It is not yet possible to ascertain how much of the above scenario is bravura on the part of PROD and the TDU. Such information becomes a *credible* policy option, however, in light of some other facts. Most importantly, several Washington sources report that the recent speech by IBT President Frank Fitzsimmons in Dallas (reprinted by this newsservice four weeks ago) "scared people in the Justice Department shitless." Equally important, as the interviews below indicate, Fitzsimmons's naming of the names behind groups such as PROD and the TDU also created a panic in the networks "on the scene" responsible for carrying out attacks on the union. If the Fitzsimmons counterattack goes unanswered the FBI will have a great deal of trouble holding its networks "in place" and together.

Finally, the Fitzsimmons speech represented a dramatic break from the Teamsters's "defensive" profile. Its moralizing effect on the whole labor movement and within the union itself could not be missed by both Washington, D.C. and Wall Street.

But, the Teamster leadership has yet to take advantage of the openings created by the Dallas speech. As

some observers on Capitol Hill have pointed out, they have yet to make any kind of appeal to industry and the rest of the labor movement to rally behind a program of high-technology nuclear energy development even though the sentiment for such a program exists in the IBT membership. Instead, the most recent issue of the Teamster national magazine places labor law reform and passage of the Humphrey-Hawkins bill as the union's legislative priorities.

This failure to consolidate, observers say, leaves the Teamster leadership vulnerable to a new round of attacks.

Alternative Media Joins Teamster Witchhunt

The following is excerpted from an interview with Dan Marshall, labor editor of In These Times, a Chicago-based paper associated with Fabian intelligence networks. Marshall works closely with members of the Fund for Investigative Journalism (FIJ), and has covered Institute for Policy Studies wrecking operations in the mineworkers and steelworkers unions.

Recently Marshall published a story on the possible resignation of Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons using information identical to an article by FIJ operative and former investigative editor of Overdrive Magazine, Jim Drinkhall, that appeared two weeks earlier in the Wall Street Journal.

As one member of the PROD staff said of Marshall, "he knows his way around this business"

Q: What was your reaction to Frank Fitzsimmons's speech in Dallas?

A: I've only heard about the speech. But what I have heard makes me believe that there is a direct connection between Fitz, the IBT leaders, and the U.S. Labor Party. In fact, I'm thinking about doing a story on the Labor Party-IBT relationship. The Labor Party is nothing but an intelligence organization for the police. Maybe they don't get their money from the CIA after all. Maybe it's the mob that funds them.

Q: What about the content of the speech, charging that PROD gets money from Wall Street foundations?

A: This is nothing so secretive. Both PROD and TDU do get a certain amount of money from progressive foundations. And they both pool their legal work through Joseph Rauh and 75 other lawyers throughout the country. But this is a matter of expenses not a "conspiracy." Boy, those Teamsters are paranoid!

Q: What do you think is the future of the reform

movements in the Teamsters in the coming few months?

A: There is going to be some sort of division of labor between PROD and TDU developing soon. I believe that PROD is going to be handling the Teamster corruption campaign much more strongly through the Percy committee (Sen. Charles Percy (R-Ill) heads the Government Operations Committee — ed.) and other congressional bodies. There will be selective legal actions plus PROD's hearing before the International Board on charges of Fitz's corruption. This should generate a series of scandals that will be picked up by the establishment press.

The TDU, on the other hand, will focus on rank and file movements, particularly in running opposition slates to get into the 1980 or 1978 convention. I have heard that the TDU is planning to file a lawsuit in federal court to have the elections for president of the union opened up referendum style. They hope to make this a big issue so they can run someone for president when Fitz resigns. You know TDU came very close to upsetting Bobby Holmes in Detroit last week. Bob Janedia got 42 percent of the vote against Holmes and lost by only 700 votes. If they can win one election I think it will have a chain reaction effect. Sort of like when (Ed) Sadlowski (former Director of District 31 of the USWA — ed.) defeated Sam Evett in the Steelworkers. One victory could go a long way in terms of publicity, if you know what I mean.

TDU Boasts "We'll Drive Fitz Into Hiding"

Below are excerpts from an interview with Ken Paff, the national director of the Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU).

Q: Have you heard Frank Fitzsimmons's speech that was given in Dallas a few weeks back, where he claimed that the TDU and PROD were funded by Wall Street to destroy the American labor movement?

A: I received a call about the speech from some of the members who said it was being shown in their union hall. His speech was a sign of weakness since he said he would never give us any publicity by mentioning our names. All this foundation crap is coming from an antiunion group that have enamored themselves with the Teamsters called the U.S. Labor Party. Prior to this speech, the Teamsters have been very cautious to openly identify with the USLP. But they are so frightened that they've jumped into bed with police provocateurs to stop us.

Q: How do you feel about his charge that you are trying

to do to the Teamsters what was done to the Mineworkers?

A: We're proud of what we've done to the Mineworkers Union. There has never been more democracy in one union since the early days of the CIO (Congress of Industrial organizations). That's nothing to be ashamed of.

Q: I have heard that the TDU is planning to file legal action to open the 1981 elections.

A: Where did you hear that? Whatever legal plans we have are still being worked out with our lawyers. Besides, we are talking about elections sooner than 1981. Fitz is going to resign, there is no doubt about it. A deal has been made that they will not indict him if he resigns.

Q: Not to doubt you or what you've just said, but I have heard that he is going to resign for years and after reading this Dallas speech it doesn't sound like a guy who's thrown the towel.

A: He has already made a deal. Take my word for it, ok?

Q: Ok, but where do you go from here. I understand you have some elections coming up that you think you can win?

A: No doubt about it. We came very close in Detroit where we almost beat Bobby Holmes, who is one of the big guns in the International. In fact, if you consider all the vote fraud that took place, I wouldn't be surprised if we won. Well, that's just a warning of what we can do. We are going to win big at Local 299 in Detroit. That's Fitz's home local, where Hoffa came from and Pete Cameratta is going to become the next Vice President of that local. They can't stop him. Dick Fitzsimmons quit the race because he knew that he couldn't win. And if Pete wins that race a lot of people are gonna know about the TDU. They've tried slander threats everything you can think of. They put out stuff by the Labor Party saying he was a drug pusher. But we will win.

Q: Any other places?

A: There are three races that are coming up in December that we expect to win. We are running Doug Alen for Executive Board of Local 208 in Los Angeles. We have a whole slate in Local 357 in Los Angeles as well. Our other good situation is in Pittsburgh at Local 341. But mark my words, Pete Camerrata has the potential to be another Ed Sadlowski. Keep your eyes on Local 299 next month.