

Estados Unidos, por que não?

193
É o que perguntam os dirigentes sindicais acusados de corrupção pelo Ministério do Trabalho

Agora os homens do Ministério do Trabalho, que investigam a corrupção nos sindicatos paulistas querem saber porque os nossos líderes viajam tanto para os Estados Unidos. Ontem foram interrogados na Delegacia Regional do Trabalho todos os diretores do Sindicato dos Trabalhadores em Destilação e Refinação de Petróleo de Santos, Cubatão e São Sebastião, que fizeram a viagem. Quem pagou as passagens e hospedou nos EUA foi o IADESIL (Instituto Latino Americano para o Desenvolvimento do Sindicalismo Livre) aquele mesmo que é acusado pela CPI da Ca-

mara dos Deputados de ser subvencionado pela CIA (serviço secreto americano).

Os dirigentes sindicais se defendem dizendo que, afinal das contas, "todo mundo vai para os Estados Unidos". Waldomiro Trento, vice-presidente do sindicato tem essa opinião. Ele diz:

— Os militares vão aos Estados Unidos e lá participam de cursos; os estudantes também vão, financiados pela Aliança para o Progresso; os empresários estão sempre por lá e em outros países. Então porque os operários não podem ir também? Os líderes continuaram dizendo no depoimento que

“os trabalhadores devem conhecer o desenvolvimento do mundo “e que” agimos com independência durante a viagem”:

— Não assinamos nenhum compromisso”.

Depois de se defenderem das acusações das viagens, os dirigentes do Sindicato passaram a defender a Federação Internacional dos Trabalhadores Petroleiros e Químicos, que vai ser cassada pelo Ministério do Trabalho. Alonso Perez Gonzalez, secretário do sindicato, disse:

— A existência da FITPQ é legal e o meu sindicato está filiado legalmente a ela,

através da Federação dos Trabalhadores Químicos e Farmacêuticos. Portanto não podemos aceitar estas calúnias e infâmias.”

Eles acham que agora estão fazendo o «verdadeiro sindicalismo» e essas acusações de serem subvencionados pela CIA é coisa de «individuos patronais». Dizem que este plano de «amaciamento» por parte da FITPQ aos trabalhadores em Petróleo, em benefício dos inimigos da Petrobras não passa de acusações por parte de «elementos que querem quebrar a harmonia na área sindical petroleira».

Um dos «elementos» que

Alonso Perez Gonzalez acusa de «quebrar a harmonia» é Lourival Coutinho, presidente do Sindicato dos Trabalhadores em Petróleo da Guanabara e pessoa muito respeitada pelos homens do governo. Ele é tão respeitado que a própria Comissão de Inquerito que está investigando a corrupção usa os seus documentos para as investigações. Lourival e o deputado Jamil Amiden, da CPI da Câmara, acusam a pela CIA.

No próximo dia 3 o presidente da Comissão do Ministério do Trabalho que está agindo em São Paulo vai terminar seus trabalhos, par-

tindo para Minas Gerais. Neste dia o presidente da Comissão, Idelio Martins, diz que vai dar uma entrevista contando tudo da corrupção que conseguiu descobrir nos sindicatos de São Paulo.

E no Rio o presidente e o secretário geral da Federação Internacional dos Petroleiros e Químicos estão afirmando que a sua entidade não comprou nem subornou nenhum dirigente sindical norte-americano. Hoje eles vão conversar com o coronel-ministro Passarinho para contar da «inocência» da FITPQ.

Os dirigentes são Luiz To-

Venezuela) e Levo Haskins. Eles dizem que a FITPQ vive das contribuições dos seus filiados, que são dois milhões em todo o mundo.

Os objetivos da federação, segundo seus dirigentes, é de prestar “assistência técnica” aos trabalhadores e “orientar e orientar seminários para levar a cultura ao dirigente sindical”. Na Venezuela eles mantem uma escola sindical permanente só para estes cursos.

Luiz Tovar, o presidente da FITPQ vai pedir a Passarinho que investigue todas as denúncias contra a federação porque, ele acha, elas são falsas.

T R A N S L A T I O N S

Article relative to the situation of the ICFTU's related labor organizations in Brazil, as a result of a campaign being waged against such unions and the government's attitude on the face of the problem.

Preview: Second only to the negative government attitude and action in view of the accusations against all democratic labor organizations, the silence, inaction and omission of the leaders of the Brazilian labor movement constitutes one of the main reasons why the enemies of the democratic trade unionism had so much success in the last six months in Brazil.

Such lack of support, especially from top leaders of national workers federations and confederations, resulted — only as the first ~~XXXX~~ sequence — in a decree by the Minister of Labor requiring that all and any assistance to Brazilian unions must be approved by the government before it can be executed. This practically means that neither one of the ITS, the AFL-CIO, AIFLD, and ICFTU-ORIT will be able to give assistance to their Brazilian affiliates or cooperating unions, lest they willingly renounce to one of the fundamental principles of trade unionism: Freedom from government control.

Many top Brazilian labor leaders have received a great deal of assistance from international labor organizations, some of them belong to the world boards of several ITS, the ICFTU, and ORIT; but none had the courage to stand up and face the accusers of corruption, bribery and interference in the internal affairs of the Brazilian unions. People like Mario Lopez de Oliveira (member of the world board of the ITF and of the continental board of ORIT), João Wagner (alternate world board member of the ICFTU), Alberto Bettamio (world board member of the IFPCW), etc., remained eloquently silent while all kinds of unfounded charges were publicly brought against their organizations.

As a matter of fact, at least one very well known leader, Ary Campista of the CNTI, supported the accusations against the international labor entities and especially against the AIFLD. Campista is still bitter about his failure to be elected Member of ORIT's Continental Board in the 1965 ORIT Congress in México. Only one of the eight national confederations (communications and publicity workers) attempted to defend their relations with the international labor organizations; and even this sole attempt was so late and half-heartedly that it practically amounted to nothing.

Of course, this is no time for making recriminations about these leaders' lack of trade union principles, discipline and respect. We would only make them angry and break our ties with the Brazilian labor movement. Humiliation now will bring negative response. We should, by all means, take up this matter at the appropriate time in the future.

The above remarks, however, do not apply to the majority of the leaders at the local union level, who remained loyal to their international labor organizations and actually stuck their necks out on our behalf. The following is a translation of an article published in a São Paulo newspaper, relative to the declarations made by several petroleum workers who were called to make depositions before an investigating commission of the Ministry of Labor. These brothers' remarks and valiant defense of their International union (IFPCW); on the other hand, is the best example of the high value of our educational programs. All of these leaders are IFPCW trainees.

Newspaper: Folha Da Tarde (São Paulo) Date: February 1st., 1968

Title: "THE UNITED STATES, WHY NOT?"

This is what is asked by the labor leaders accused of corruption by the Ministry of Labor."

Now the men from the Ministry of Labor, who are investigating the corruption in the São Paulo unions, want to know why our leaders travel so much to the United States. Yesterday all the directors of the Santos, Cubatão and São Sebastião Union of Workers in the Petroleum Distilling and Refining Industries who made a trip were interrogated at the Regional Delegation of Labor. The one who paid for the plane tickets and hosted them in the U.S.A. was the AIFLD (American Institute for Free Labor Development), the same one which is being accused by the Investigating Parliamentary Commission of the Chamber of Deputies (IPC) of being financed by the CIA (American secret service).

The labor leaders defend themselves by saying that, after all, "everybody goes to the United States." Waldomero Trento, Vice-President of the union, has that opinion. He says:

"— The military go to the United States and take courses there; the students also go, financed by the Alliance for Progress; the employers are always there or in other countries. Then, why can't the workers go also?"

The leaders ~~had~~ went on saying in their depositions that "the workers should get to know about the development of the world," and that "we had complete independence during our trip."

"We did not sign any obligation."

After defending themselves from the accusations of having made the trip, the leaders of the union began defending the International Federation of Petroleum and Chemical Workers, which will be expelled by the Ministry of Labor. Alonso Pérez González, Secretary of the union, said:

"— The existence of the IFPCW in Brazil is legal, and my union is legally affiliated to it, through the São Paulo State Federation of Workers in the Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industries. Therefore, we cannot accept these calumnies and infamies."

They believe that it is now that they are making the "true trade unionism" and that all those accusations that they are financed by the CIA is something from "company-men." They say that so-called plan to "weaken" the ~~XXXXXX~~ on the part of the IFPCW, to benefit the enemies of the Petrobras, ^{petroleum workers} is nothing more than accusations by "people who wish to break the harmony in the petroleum labor movement."

One of the "people" who Alonso Peres Gonzalez accuses of "breaking the harmony" is Lourival Coutinho, President of the Guanabara petroleum workers union and a person very much respected by the men in government. He is so much respected that ~~XXXXX~~ even the Investigating Commission itself, which is conducting the inquiries on corruption, uses his documents to conduct the investigations. Lourival and Deputy Jamil Amiden, who belongs to the House's IPC, accuse IFPCW of being financed by the CIA.

On the next February 3 the president of the Ministry of Labor's commission acting in São Paulo will finish its activities and go to Minas Gerais. On this day, the president of the Commission, Mr. Ildelio Martins, says that he will give an interview saying everything about corruption that the Commission found out in São Paulo.

In Rio, the President and General Secretary of the International Federation of Petroleum and Chemical Workers are saying that their entity did not buy nor bribed any North American (?) labor leader. They will be talking to the Colonel-Minister (!) Passarinho today, in order to tell him about IFFCW's "innocence."

The leaders referred to are Luis Tovar (also a Senator in Venezuela) and Loyd Haskins. They say that the IFFCW is maintained by the dues paid by the affiliates, which amount to two million all over the world.

The objectives of the Federation, according to its leaders, are to bring "technical assistance" to the workers and to "create and orient seminar to enhance the labor leader's culture." In Venezuela they keep a trade union school permanently, just for holding such courses.

Luis Tovar, the present of IFFCW, will ask Passarinho that all accusations against the federation be investigated, for he believes that they are false.

REMARKS: The day it was made public that the government intended to expell IFFCW (and especially that nefarious, heinous, abominable and execrable agent of the American imperialism: Chico Velázquez) from Brazil, the press asked me whether the expulsion would affect our relations with the Petrobras labor leaders. I replied that it would not, for the seeds we planted in Brazil would germinate no matter all the ~~xxxx~~ anti-labor legislation that could be enacted. Everybody laughed...

Efrain Velázquez, Director
IFFCW Brazil Office