LESSON PLAN SUPPORT MATERIALS

Anti-German Hysteria In Wisconsin

See a lesson plan related to this material on the Wisconsin Historical Society website.

Newspaper Article

"Another Tar and Feather Party is Staged," Ashland Daily Press, 4/11/1918

GOV. PHILIPP WRITES MAYOR A LETTER

Gov. Philipp Writes Mayor a Letter

He Reviews The Anton Case and Despite The Fact That Court Discharged Them Says Men Were Guilty Of Crime.

MADISON, Wis., July 27—In an effort to check lawlessness in the city of Ashland Gov. E. L. Philipp last night directed a letter to the mayor of that municipality calling upon him to cooperate with the state government and enforce law and order. He declares that the success of the war depends to a large extent on the good order at home and that they do not wish their homes to have the reputation of being the one spot in Wisconsin given over to lawlessness where self-appointed men may commit acts of violence and go unpunished for it.

Despite this proof of the case against the men who could be identified was dismissed and I am informed that the men who were guilty of this crime sat in the court room, within the hearing of witnesses if the judge did not dismiss this case against them that he would receive the same treatment.

If my information is correct and I have every reason to believe that it is, a situation has grown up in Ashland that is the natural result of giving encouragement to mob rule and I cannot refrain from saying to you that I believe that your police department, also the sheriff's office, have not been a diligent as they should have been in suppressing that type of disorder.

Three or four victims have been tarred and feathered in Ashland, all because they were accused of having made some idle remarks. In the...

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GOV. PHILIPP WRITES MAYOR A LETTER

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The Antons have a telephone but the first thing that was done by the unwelcome visitors was to tear this from the wall and put it out of business for communication with the police.

As soon as the auto departed, Mrs. Anton ran to a neighbor and notified the police. She told the police that she thought the auto went out to the cemetery road and Chief of Police Blair took the police auto and went out as far as the brick school house on the cemetery road but could find no trace of any disturbance. He then returned to the house of Mr. Anton and by that time Mr. Anton had returned home and was busily engaged in getting the tar and feathers from his anatomy.

Recognized Members Of Party
The Antons told the police that one of the members of the party which entered the house was not masked and that it was Ephriam Gay, the house mover. They also stated that they recognized the voice of another member of the party and that it was the voice of George Buchanan, agent for the New York Life Insurance company.

Gay and Buchanan Arrested.
This afternoon District Attorney George F. Merrill, signed a complaint for the arrest of Gay and Buchanan, charging them along with six unknown persons of breaking into the home of Adolph Anton and of tar and feathering him. The warrant issued as follows:

The warrant under which Mr. Gay and Mr. Buchanan were arrested reads as follows:

Criminal Warrant
State of Wisconsin
City of Ashland
County of Ashland
In municipal court:
The State of Wisconsin to the Sheriff or any constable of said county:

Whereas, Geo. F. Merrill has this day complained in writing to the judge of the Municipal court of the city of Ashland and county of Ashland, on oath, that George Buchanan, Ephriam Gay and six other persons unknown to affiant, on the 10th day of April, A. D. 1918 at the city of Ashland in said county of Ashland did assemble in a violent, unlawful, and tumultuous manner to the disturbance of the peace and to the terror and disturbance of others and their present assault, strike, wound and beat Adolph Anton and did then and there in a violent, unlawful and tumultuous manner break into the dwelling house of the said Adolph Anton and did then and there in a violent, unlawful and tumultuous manner take the said Adolph Anton from his dwelling house and carry him from the said dwelling house and did then and there tear the clothing of the said Adolph Anton and stripped the clothing from him, and did beat him and cover him with a coat of tar and feathers to the great damage of the said Adolph Anton.