

# U. S. Delays Citizenship of Alex Balint, Leader in Threatened Aluminum Strike

Alex Balint, C. I. O. leader behind the threatened strike at the vital Aluminum Co. of America here, is being denied American citizenship on grounds of alleged Communistic activities, it was learned today.

His citizenship petition was filed last September under the new law requiring, for a person marrying an American citizen, only a 90-day wait for final papers. It is being held up while FBI agents investigate information from the Dies committee and other sources that he is "an out and out Communist."

The investigators also have learned that Balint once served 13 months of a 1-to-10-year sentence in the Illinois State Reformatory for auto theft. This was in 1929-30 when Balint was 17, officials of the prison at Pontiac, Ill., said.

## Accused by Dies

International organizer for the National Association of Die Casting Workers, Balint was in Washington today. He is there for a hearing before the National Defense Mediation Board on the threatened walkout at the aluminum company. He is named Communist affiliation in an answer to the Dies committee.

"It's all a dirty pack of lies," Balint retorted in Washington today. "I have no police record of any kind and I consider myself a citizen of this country. I never brought here as a small child. I simply filed an application to satisfy any doubts others may have."

Balint at first said he was born here, then hesitated and acknowledged his birth in Hungary. "But I never was arrested in Illinois," he asserted. "I never served time anywhere for anything."

According to findings of the Dies committee, Balint "has been a member of the Communist Party for years." He was said to be a Communist delegate to the Steel Workers Organizing Committee convention in 1937 and received orders on how to carry out the Communist program there.

Tight-lipped FBI officials refused comment on the case today except to say Balint is under investigation. They were brought into the case shortly after the first of the year.

In his citizenship petition Balint said he came to America in 1920. He said he was born in Nagy Geleocz, Hungary, April 12, 1912, and married Yolanda Bakus of Cleveland at Ripley, N. Y., Aug. 31, 1938.

Witnesses on his citizenship plea were Edward S. Crudele, labor attorney who ran for mayor of Garfield Heights last November, and Jack



Alex Balint . . . investigated

Felins, president of the C. I. O. central body here. They swore they knew Balint since 1937 . . . that he is attached to the principles of the Constitution . . . that he is qualified in every way to become a citizen."

## Fired by S. W. O. C.

However, Balint's record shows that he was fired as an S. W. O. C. organizer in 1937 during a "Red purge." He is known as an "agitator" to the Cleveland Police Department, according to retired Inspector John Savage.

Federal investigators also have been told that Balint once was a teacher at a youth's Communist school on Woodhill road. The die casting union which he heads here

has been branded a "Communist labor organization" by the Cleveland League for Justice magazine "police" circulated this week.

"We stopped his becoming a citizen," John P. Moran, editor of the publication, asserted.

"We learned of his attempt and notified immigration officers. Balint is nothing but a Communist and ought to be deported."

## Former Steel Worker

Records show Balint was married in 1938 and is father of a son whose birth certificate lists Balint's birthplace as Indianapolis, Ind.

Work records at the Republic Steel Co. show Balint was employed there as a chipper from 1934 to 1935. He certified on the Republic record that he was born in Youngstown in 1910 and that he was an American citizen.

Federal authorities said that Balint disclosed his Illinois prison sentence to them, when he fled for citizenship. Inspector Savage said he learned of the record shortly after the first of this year.

"Balint came to Central Station around Christmas," Inspector Savage said, "seeking a letter from police showing he was an honest citizen. He said he wanted it to help obtain a Government job in Washington. I didn't know then he served time. Evidently he was just fishing around to see if we knew."

It is known that FBI officials already have turned their report over to the Labor Department in Washington. Whether Balint permanently will be denied citizenship of what other action might be taken could not be learned. "But we're going to take real good care of him," one official said.

Balint is 29 and lives at 2921 E. 81st street.

labor question, revealing that he has received between 400 and 500 letters and telegrams from local and international unions pledging their wholehearted support in the defense effort.

He disclosed one letter from the general executive board of the teamsters' union, handed him yesterday by President Daniel J. Tobin.

The letter said: "We again repeat that we hereby pledge ourselves and solemnly promise to follow your leadership and that of your associates in this dark and fateful hour which confronts us and endangers the civilization of the world; and we further promise that—come what may—we and our people, those whom we represent, are prepared to make any sacrifice demanded of us for the preservation and continuance of this freedom, based on justice and humanity and on the brotherhood of man."

Mr. Roosevelt said that Tobin left his office yesterday to hurry to New York and Pittsburgh with firm determination to end labor tieups sponsored by his own union in those two cities.

President John L. Lewis of the C. I. O.'s United Mine Workers called a meeting of the union's policy committee to consider Mediation Board recommendations for ending the three-month-old soft coal dispute which has threatened to prevent a new tonnage of bituminous mining.

Balint, Alexander,  
Hungarian Communist agitator, Cleveland, O.  
Pres. June 6, 1941

The U. M. W. and the coal operators were given until next Monday to either accept or reject the recommendations.

The board's recommendations for ending the soft coal dispute were substantially the same as the agreement already reached between the union and northern operators. They eliminated the 40 cents a day differential which southern operators have insisted be retained.

The proposed agreement, to be effective until March 31, 1943, provides a \$7-a-day scale for all day rate workers in the Appalachian field; an increase of tonnage pay from 11 to 12 cents a ton but retention of the 15-cent-a-ton differential favoring southern operators; elimination of the so-called "reject clause," previously given up by northern operators but which southern operators wanted retained, and a 10-day vacation with \$20 pay per worker each year.

The board recommended acceptance of a clause prohibiting the discounting of script used by some operators in lieu of cash. It recommended that any increase in current rentals for company-owned houses be taken up for adjustment by local committees.

