

RADIO REPORTS

February 23, 1954

LEWIS COMMENTS ON STATUS OF LABOR DEPT. AID

Fulton Lewis, Jr., at 7:00 P.M. over WADC (Washington) and MBS Network:

"Mr. Eisenhower has another little problem facing him when he gets back to his desk, the revolt in the Labor Department on the part of an Assistant Secretary by the name of Spencer Miller, an appointee of his own, but during the tenure of the former Secretary of Labor, Martin Durkin, who resigned.

"The new Secretary of Labor, James B. Mitchell, several days back asked for Mr. Miller's resignation on the grounds that he had not performed satisfactorily at several international labor meetings which he attended, and that some of his speeches, one in Geneva and one at a meeting in the Far East, had embarrassed the Administration.

"It seems that Spencer Miller is a long-winded, highly talkative lawyer from New Jersey who is referred to as a Franklin Roosevelt Republican but who actually was given the job of State Roads Commissioner under the Democratic Administration of former Governor Charles Edison, which hardly sounds Republican.

"He played very closely to the CIO in New Jersey, got his appointment as Assistant Secretary under Durkin strictly on his own. He was not recommended by Senator Smith of New Jersey and sources close to Senator Smith say that he is no protege either of theirs or of Senator Hendrickson of the same state.

"Spencer Miller contends that his resignation was asked for not because of anything he said that embarrassed the Administration; rather because of a campaign he claims to have been conducting between Communistically inclined labor attaches at American missions' clean-out all over the world.

"Administration leaders lift very sceptical eyebrows at that claim, however, state that, aside from his own almost unending talk about it around Washington, there is no evidence of any accomplishment in that direction.

"His job in the Department of the Labor is in charge of international labor affairs, thus these attaches would be under him.

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"Our information is that, upon receiving a request for his resignation, Spencer Miller marched himself to the White House to confer with Presidential Assistant, Sherman Adams, or claims that he did so. He likewise claims that Sherman Adams told him the White House had no knowledge of the requested resignation and that it is strictly the responsibility of Secretary Mitchell.

"There upon Mr. Miller marched back to the Labor Department, announced that he was refusing to resign, and that's where the matter stands now, awaiting the return of Mr. Eisenhower."