

Socialist Appeal

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SOCIALISM WILL BE
TROTSKY'S MONUMENT

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WE BRAND STALIN AS THE MURDERER OF TROTSKY

Trotsky's Fight Goes On Under The Banner Of The Fourth International

Death Follows Brutal Attack

Leon Trotsky, co-leader with Lenin of the Russian Revolution, died in Mexico City on August 21 at 7:30 P. M., victim of a brutal assault by a GPU assassin.

He fought for life for 26 hours after Stalin's hired murderer had driven a pickaxe into his brain.

It was his last battle.

But he did not surrender until he had indicted the monster in the Kremlin as the organizer of his murder. He did not surrender until, in his very last words which he insisted upon dictating before he lost consciousness, he had handed on the banner of the Fourth International to the men and women throughout the world whom he had gathered together in the World Party of Socialist Revolution.

"Please say to our friends," he concluded, "that I am sure of the victory of the Fourth International. Go forward!"

It was characteristic of his great genius that, certain he was dying—immediately after the attack he told Joseph Hansen that "I will not survive this attack"—he devoted his last moments of consciousness to urging forward the activities of the Fourth International.

Equally characteristic was his conduct as he fell under the mortal blows of the GPU assassin and Trotsky's secretary-guards rushed in, arms in hand, and flung themselves upon the assassin.

"Let him live!" cried Trotsky repeatedly. Not out of kindness! But to assure the possibility that from the assassin might be wrested additional confirmation which would help to damn the Kremlin Cain in the eyes of the working class of the world. **The Hand of the GPU**

Thanks to Trotsky's dissection of every available bit of evidence, key participants in the May 24 attempt to murder him are now in prison formally charged with that crime, a number of them having confessed their complicity. Having learned from the unfolding of that crime how Stalin's GPU works, the federal police authorities were quick to recognize its trademark in the successful follow-up to the May 24 attempt.

Col. Leandro Sanchez Salazar, chief of the detective bureau, told reporters yesterday that he is convinced the assassin's real name is Monrod, that he is a Belgian, and that he came to this continent as an agent of the GPU, the Stalinist secret police.

General Jose Nunez, Mexico's chief of police, also said yesterday:

"We are working on the theory that Monrod had accomplices and we are making a minute investigation."

(Continued on page 3)

Leon Trotsky 1879-1940



Just after he was attacked on the evening of August 20, Trotsky said:

"I will not survive this attack. Stalin has finally accomplished the task he attempted unsuccessfully before."

Later at the hospital, just before he lapsed into the coma from which he never revived, Trotsky called Joseph Hansen to his bedside and dictated his final message:

"I am close to death from the blow of a political assassin . . . Please say to our friends I am sure of the victory of the Fourth International. Go forward."

The Socialist Workers Party is planning to hold the funeral of Leon Trotsky in New York City.

"We plan to hold the funeral here," James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the party announced, "to give the working class of New York an opportunity to show their reverence for the memory of this great leader and their hatred and contempt for Stalinism, the gangster machine that murdered him".

Arrangements for the funeral are still in process as we go to press.

Fight Now As Never Before, Comrades!

Statement Of The National Committee

Leon Trotsky, organizer of the Russian Revolution and its true representative, has finally been done to death by Stalin, the betrayer of the Revolution and the mass murderer of the whole heroic generation that made it.

Trotsky was murdered in cold blood by an agent of the Kremlin-Borgia. With his last words Trotsky accused Stalin of the crime, and the whole civilized world proclaims him guilty. To all his unspeakable murders and betrayals Stalin has now added the crowning infamy, the assassination of Trotsky.

STALIN'S HORRIBLE MOTIVE CLEAR

The motive of the murder is as clear as the guilt of the murderer: insatiable hatred of the man whose truth and loyalty to the cause of the workers contrasted so sharply to Stalin's own falsifications and treachery; mad thirst for revenge against the fearless and incorruptible fighter who had exposed and pilloried Stalin before the world; ruthless determination to silence the voice of his accuser on the eve of new abominations and betrayals of the working class of Russia and of the world.

Unable to refute the penetrating analyses of Trotsky, or to answer his devastating criticism, Stalin in desperation finally drove a pick-axe through his brain. In the incredibly horrible manner of the murder itself there is contained a deep symbol of its meaning and its motives: *he struck at Trotsky's brain!*

Stalin has struck a terrible blow at the whole movement for the liberation of humanity. The heaviest disaster that has befallen the workers and all the oppressed, in this time of world calamity, is this destruction of its strongest heart, its greatest brain. The vanguard of progressive humanity is deprived forever of Trotsky's indefatigable labor, his incorruptible devotion. Lost is his wise counsel, the inspiration of his dauntless courage.

TROTSKY'S IDEAS ENDURE AND WILL PREVAIL

But the great fruit of Trotsky's more than forty years of dauntless work and struggle remains imperishable. For Trotsky, who stands on a historical eminence by the side of Marx and Lenin, worked like them not for a day, but for eternity. The richest products of his

genius are preserved in his writings. They constitute both a faultless analysis of the decay of capitalism and a clear program of struggle for the socialist future of humanity.

Armed with these weapons the oppressed of all the world will arise out of the bloody welter of the present society and fight their way to freedom. They have been deprived of the physical presence of Trotsky. But no power on earth can destroy the mighty inheritance he has left behind—the gift of his incomparable genius to the cause of humanity.

Trotsky, conscious that the ring of assassination was drawing ever closer around him, worked indefatigably up to the last hour to add to this inheritance. The last big product of his labor was the Manifesto of the Fourth International on the War and the Proletarian Revolution. This Manifesto constitutes the program and the banner of the impending revolution against the civilization-devouring war and the decaying social system that produced it. No Stalin, no Hitler can destroy that program!

NOT ONLY LEADER BUT ARCHITECT OF REVOLUTION

Comrade Trotsky was not only the teacher of the vanguard of the proletariat. He was also its organizer. He was the architect of the Fourth International, the new international association of revolutionary workers. It is arising on firm foundations in all countries of the world. The Fourth International will be the greatest monument to the memory of Trotsky. It will be the instrument for the final realization of the aim to which he devoted his entire life—the liberation of all humanity from slavery, exploitation and war.

We, his disciples, are overcome with grief at the loss of our beloved teacher, comrade and friend. But we shall not give way to this grief. We shall transmute it into fighting energy. Comrade Trotsky's last testament shall not be forgotten: "Please say to our friends—I am sure of the victory of the Fourth International. Go forward!"

Today we stand with clenched fists at the grave of our martyred leader. Tomorrow we take up the forward march with firmer determination and greater energy. Trotsky is dead! But the party of Trotskyism will live and conquer!

Leon Trotsky Memorial Meeting

Wednesday, August 28, 1940

8:00 P. M.

Hotel Diplomat 108 W. 43rd St., N. Y. C.

Hear Trotsky's last recorded speech.

SPEAKERS

James P. Cannon, Farrell Dobbs,

Antoinette Konikow, Murry Weiss,

There's Only One Way To Stop The Arms Profiteers

An Editorial

Roosevelt and the leaders of Congress from both parties have surrendered completely to the demands of the armament magnates.

That is the plain meaning of the deliberately-misnamed "excess profits bill" which House and Senate committees, with White House approval, are now recommending for enactment into law.

The real purposes of the bill are:

1. To permit the armament companies to deduct from their income, before arriving at the net income on which taxes must be paid, 20% of the cost of new plant or equipment. That means that at the end of five years the companies would have new plants and equipment completely paid off out of the sums received from the government for planes, battleships, etc. They call this pay-off "amortization".

2. To wipe out altogether the profit limitation, embodied in the Vinson-Trammel Act, which limits profits on plane and ship contracts to 8 per cent on competitively bid contracts and 7 per cent on those negotiated privately. Under the "excess profits" bill the sky is the limit!

AFTER deducting the amortization allowance of 20 per cent, and AFTER deducting the "average normal profits" that the companies have been making during the last four years, then the "excess profits" taxes will apply against the remaining income.

Only from 25 to 40 per cent of this remaining income will be taken by the government by these "excess profits" taxes.

The firm of Dow, Jones—Wall Street's analysts—have figured out what the tax would mean to representative big business firms during their best recent year. U. S. Steel would have netted \$89,000,000 instead of \$95,000,000; United Aircraft a net of \$7,447,000 instead of \$9,375,000; General Motors, \$210,500,000 instead of \$238,500,000 net profits, and so on.

WHEN THIEVES FALL OUT

Senator Clarke gave the show away at a meeting of the House and Senate committees, when he asked Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Sullivan:

"Isn't it a fact that the excess profits feature of this bill is merely sugar-coating to get the public to swallow the amortization feature and the repeal of the Vinson-Trammel Act profit limitation?"

"With the President asking for another four or five billion dollars every time he gets back from a week-end trip, \$190,000,000 (the total return on this tax for 1940 expected by Sullivan) is just a drop in the bucket, isn't it?"

"It is to convey the impression that we are soaking somebody to pay for this program, when as a matter of fact it is just a drop in the bucket."

Sullivan, of course, evaded the question. And Senator Clark only asked it because he and a bloc of mid-Western senators were putting pressure on the National Defense Commission to locate plants and grant contracts to mid-West States. They got that assurance the next day, and Clark hasn't said a word since!

SABOTAGE SPEEDED THIS BILL

We have also learned a little—the whole story was told in secret sessions of Senate and House committees, but most of it is still suppressed—about the strongarm methods used by the armament billionaires to speed up their getting this bill.

In order to frighten any slow-moving Congressmen into moving faster for the bill's passage, Secretary of War Stimson last week had to tell part of the truth: that, despite all the money voted by Congress, only 33 planes have been contracted for.

The profiteers simply refused to sign contracts until Congress adopts this infamous bill!

Part of the testimony given at a secret committee hearing by Rear Admiral Furlong, chief of ordnance, has now been revealed. Typical was this telegram from one corporation: "WE PREFER NOT TO OPERATE UNDER VINSON ACT."

Do we have to underline what this means? *The government can conscript tens of millions of young workers and send them to their death. The workers can't say "No". But the profiteers can say No to government contracts guaranteeing them 8 per cent profit!* Why can they do that? Because the government is THEIRS.

All talk of taxing "excess profits" is a fraud and a delusion. There is no such thing.

The only method that would mean anything would be to CONFISCATE ALL PROFITS FROM ARMAMENTS.

But the armament kings would answer that, as they have already answered any attempt to limit their profits, by refusing to take government contracts.

That's why there is only one program in this matter which the workers can support:

Expropriate the armament industries! Take them away from the profiteers!

Let ownership of these industries henceforth be vested in the state, with workers' committees controlling the wages and working conditions!

That's the only way to deal with these bloodsuckers!

THE WAR DEPARTMENT'S "PROMISE"

The people of this country hate and fear the spectacle of capitalists in control of the armament industry and in a position to charge all the traffic will bear.

That's why, in an effort to soothe the feelings of the people, Assistant Secretary of War Patterson announced on August 7 that "one of the major goals of the defense program" is "a permanent munitions industry, owned largely by the Federal government".

It turns out that this is a promise to be carried out only in time for "future crises". For the present, even those plants built by government funds—60 of them—are to be turned over to private corporations on lease, to be run, of course, for profit.

In other words, the War Department's promise of government ownership of the munitions industries is a fraud.

But that's what the people want—to take away the armament plants from the capitalists.

Expropriate the munitions industries!

May Bill Pretends to Protect Homes Of Conscripts---But Does Not

Conscript's Family As Unprotected As Without This Bill

The gentlemen in Washington have been getting reports from their home towns indicating that the conscription Bill in its present form is not quite palatable. The heads of families, especially, who have such obligations as rent, leases, payments on a car, insurance policies, taxes on real estate, etc., cannot see how the proposed army pay of \$21 or even \$30 a month would enable them to meet these expenses. Quite naturally, they do not consider it fair and equitable that they, in the name of Patriotism and National Defense, are taken from their families and allowed only \$30 a month to send home, while the landlords evict their families for non-payment of rent, the finance companies take away their cars, the insurance companies lapse policies, or the tax collector confiscates their homes for non-payment of taxes.

In an effort to pour oil on these troubled waters, a bill, proposed by the War Department, has been introduced in the House by Chairman May of the House Military Committee.

The association of this reactionary's name should make workers look on this piece of legislation with a fishy eye. And, indeed, this is one of the crassest attempts to hoodwink the workers.

WHAT IT "GIVES"

Under the terms of this bill, the conscript would be assured:

(1) That for three months his landlord could not evict his wife and children from his home, giving them time to move into cheaper quarters. But: THE UNPAID RENT WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE GOOD WHEN THE CONSCRIPT FINISHES HIS ARMY SERVICE! This means that when you return home, you will have to pay double rent immediately; the current rent each month plus the back rent you owe. This, of course, will be very easy when you join the ranks of the unemployed after release from the army. . . .

MAYBE YES, MAYBE NO

(2) That the finance company could not seize his car for non-payment of the installments. EXCEPT BY COURT ACTION: The court might order the finance company to return the payments already made—or part of them—in order to regain possession of the car, or make "such other disposition of the case as may be equitable". . . . Please note: the court MIGHT . . . or then again, by inference, it MIGHT NOT!

(3) That his insurance policy would not lapse for non payment of premiums, but would remain in force, up to \$5000, face value. After he got out of the army, he would have to pay up the back premium WITHIN ONE YEAR, to keep the policy in effect. This means that when you return home you will have twice the normal insurance expense during the first year, or else your policy will lapse just the same as though this law had not been written.

TAXES PILE UP

(4) That if he failed to pay taxes on real estate when they

became due, the tax collector could not sell his property, but would wait until he left the military service, when THE TAX WOULD BE DUE WITH INTEREST AT 6 PER CENT. In other words, when you return home, regardless of whether or not you can return to your job, you have to pay the back taxes on your home immediately, plus 6% interest, or your home can be sold by the tax collector.

The bill also provides that in most cases the government would be authorized to deduct part of

the service man's pay toward the obligations he left at home. Instead of being able to send the measly \$21, to your wife and family, the government could see to it that your landlord, insurance company, finance company, and tax collector get theirs first!

KIDDING US ALONG

These are just some of the vicious provisions of this bill. It is a gigantic fraud meant to delude the prospective conscripts into a false sense of security. They will be told that their families cannot be evicted, that the

finance company cannot take away their car, that their insurance will remain in effect, and that their homes cannot be sold by the tax collector while they are in the army.

For their own protection, workers must expose this plan in their unions and mass organizations. This is no help to the conscripts. It is a bill to protect the interests of the finance and insurance companies, the landlords, and the government tax department!

JACK MALONEY AND LOU MILLER BEGIN FEDERAL PRISON TERMS

Lou Miller Writes Inspiring Letter To Farrell Dobbs

SIoux CITY, Ia.—Jack Maloney, organizer of the Drivers Union of this city, and Lou Miller, member of Drivers Local 554 of Omaha, entered federal prisons last week. The other five union organizers are still in the county jail, where they are awaiting commitment papers.

Jack Maloney was committed to Sandstone prison in Minnesota, and Lou Miller to Leavenworth in Kansas.

The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, sitting in St. Paul, recently denied the appeal of the seven unionists from a conviction which was the result of a frame-up engineered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as an aftermath of a drivers' strike in Sioux City.

In 1938. The "G-men", under special orders from Washington, stepped into a local situation, and built up a charge of allegedly damaging a truck into a federal offensive.

Lou Miller, when word came that the appeals court had refused to review the case, sent the following letter to Farrell Dobbs: Dear Farrell:

This is the last letter I shall be able to write you as a free man for some time.

I do, however, take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation of the financial assistance and moral support you and your organization have given me during the past several months in my efforts to secure justice in the high tribunals of this land.

As you know, a decision has been made which seems to be final and under these circumstances there is nothing left for me to do but take the consequence. I want you to know that in spite of the verdict which has declared me guilty, I shall serve time as a free man, in thought.

I have at all times tried to play the game as a true unionist, fighting for those principles which every true union man has in his heart. I do not intend that this letter should in any sense be an epitaph, rather I want to arouse the union consciousness of every working man and woman.

Let the injustice which has befallen me serve as a warning to every ardent unionist to guard against the pitfalls and dangers which may be in his fight for economic freedom. I should then feel that the price which I have been called upon to pay will not have been paid in vain.

Remember me as one making a plea for continued organization, continued courageous leadership and continued fight for justice in the Fraternity of Labor.

LOU.

Sidney Hillman Working With Green For "Unity"

AFL's About-Face on Smith Amendments May Be Part of Deal With Roosevelt

Indications that considerable headway has been made by Sidney Hillman, Labor Coordinator of the government's National Defense Advisory Commission, in his efforts to secure AFL-CIO peace in line with the defense program of the Roosevelt administration, are increasing in evidence.

According to well-informed sources the announcement last week that the AFL Building and Construction Trades Department will be recognized as the sole labor representative on all construction work under the government program, is even more significant than was at first assumed. Aside from being a direct slap in the face at John L. Lewis and his artificially fostered CIO-Construction Workers Organizing Committee this move is now considered as a more concrete step in the direction of AFL-CIO unity.

It is pointed out that shortly after that announcement, another sensational development in the relations between the two labor federations was revealed in the about-face pronounced by William

Green regarding the Smith Amendments to the Wagner Act, before the Senate Labor Committee this week.

Well-Informed Comment

According to a special article in the usually well-informed New York Journal of Commerce of August 16:

"A survey of labor and personnel executive opinion yesterday indicated a wide-spread belief that less antagonism is apparent between the AFL and the CIO currently than at any time since John L. Lewis broke away from the parent labor organization."

The Journal then points to Green's declaration concerning the Smith Amendments as significant in this light, and continues:

"The immediate cause of the AFL's sudden loss of enthusiasm for the Wagner Act amendments apparently was the assurance against CIO raids on AFL craft unions provided by machinery set up recently by the National Defense Commission. . . . The lessening of tension between the AFL and CIO paradoxically is arising out of national defense

emergencies which the Administration and labor observers at first feared might aggravate matters between the two factions."

Hillman's Game

In other words, Hillman is apparently well on his way towards creating the prerequisites for a "labor peace" under the auspices of Roosevelt's defense program. What forms this will take or how rapidly it will be culminated is not as yet predictable.

John L. Lewis and his machine in the CIO—which is opposed to the peace program of Hillman for purely opportunist reasons—still remain a formidable obstacle. But such moves as these two receding actions by Hillman and Green cannot help but cut ground from under the Lewis machine.

Before using the big stick to bring the official labor movement under his pro-war wing, Roosevelt is preparing the ground by maneuvering and horse-trading inside of his ranks. To achieve this end he could not have chosen a better agent than Sidney Hillman. As the recent events indicate, Hillman is doing a good job—for Roosevelt and for the imperialist politics for which the latter stands.

TRADE UNION NOTES

by Farrell Dobbs

Aircraft Unionization Attacked In Advance!

Congressman Martin Dies announces from Los Angeles that he has "uncovered a plot to bring about a general strike in Southern California aircraft factories." His statement comes on the heels of the decision by the St. Louis convention of the United Auto Workers (CIO) to launch a large-scale organization drive in the aircraft industry.

The aircraft CORPORATIONS have been conducting a general strike against the acceptance of government contracts for airplane construction. They demand tax credits to assure themselves of super-profits from the armament program. Dies isn't the least bit worked up about this open-fisted grab by the corporations, but he is always quick to suspicion "subversive activity" among the workers.

He has found seven links in the plants who describe "the (strike) scheme as having a double objective—crippling the national defense program and hindering American aid to Britain." The political "friends" of the CIO (Dies is only the first to speak) are thus preparing to give heavy support to the aircraft corporations in their opposition to the union's campaign.

The UAW leaders will have to muster more guts than they have displayed in the Ford campaign if the organization drive in the aircraft industry is to succeed.

FBI Fingerprint Drive Intensified

The FBI already has many acres of finger-print files in Washington. They have long conducted an "educational campaign" to obtain prints wherever and whenever they could. Lately, this campaign has been vigorously intensified and it is beginning to bear more fruit.

WPA employees working in Army and Navy posts and on "other national defense projects" must have their prints taken. Forty WPA workers on a New York City-sponsored project to "prepare for any war emergency that may confront the city" have also been finger-printed.

The New York City police department has laid down new regulations requiring the finger-printing of night club employees. The unions are fighting this order.

How They Recruited National Guardsmen

Representative Massingale of Oklahoma made a slip of the tongue in the House debate on the National Guard bill. He told how the chambers of commerce in Oklahoma had urged enlistment by high school students and that the National Guard in many instances furnished the best social entertainment for youth. He added that the students also wanted a little spending money. Since they had enlisted only to have a good time socially and to get a

little pocket money, Massingale felt that it was unfair to send them into military service outside the United States.

The good Congressman failed to inform his constituents that most of these boys did not know when they enlisted that they would be used as scabbers, as they were recently when the oil workers went on strike. It seems that he doesn't think it unfair to ask the boys to do a little strike-breaking now and then in return for social entertainment and a bit of spending money.

Green's New Stand On Wagner Act Changes

AFL President Green, appearing before the Senate Labor Committee to testify on the bill to revise the National Labor Relations Act, altered the stand he previously took before the House Committee regarding some of the provisions. The Senate Committee reports Green now says that he acquiesced in the amendments while they were in the House with the idea that those unacceptable to the AFL could be altered in the Senate.

If this is the case, it must be said that Green is guilty of criminal negligence toward his duties as a representative of the AFL workers. The workers get little enough consideration from Congress under the best of circumstances. When all Green's criticisms of the amendments past and present, are added up, he still hasn't got much of a position. The AFL has been so anxious to strike a blow at the CIO through amendments to the National Labor Relations Act that they have blinded themselves to the dangers of the situation they are creating. The National Association of Manufacturers is stepping in with the idea of emasculating the Act in such a way that the amendments will prove a boomerang against the AFL, as well as an injury to the CIO.

But even taking the AFL program for what it is worth, this action by Green means that he abandoned an important field of battle without firing a shot and thus weakened the fighting power of the AFL on this question by more than 50%.

We aren't convinced that Green told the whole story when he gave the Senate Committee this reason for his change in attitude. It has the earmarks of part of a horse-trade with Sidney Hillman, CIO vice president, who is rapidly drifting into open conflict with John L. Lewis. A second factor is the report that Hillman as the "labor coordinating expert" on the National Defense Committee, has arranged for the AFL to have jurisdiction over construction work under the armament program. Hillman has denied this report, but the AFL continues to insist that it is a fact.

If the AFL—Hillman horse-trade is a reality it will introduce a series of new factors into the question of AFL-CIO unity.

Labor Needs Own 'Home Defense' Guards!

Congress is authorizing the President to call out the National Guard for military duty anywhere in the western hemisphere. This Act further concentrates the war-making power in the will of the Chief Executive, after the fashion of totalitarian states, by converting forces, hitherto exclusively reserved for service at home, into an instrument available for military intervention on at least three continents.

There has been almost no attention given to a companion move of even greater importance to organized labor. This is the administration's scheme to mobilize regiments of "Home Defense" Guards to replace the National Guard as soon as the latter enters active service. These plans, already well under way, constitute the most direct threat to the labor movement.

In order to grasp the full meaning of this proposal, it is necessary to understand the role of the National Guard. It was established as a consequence of the great strikes which marked the rebirth of the labor movement during the 1870's. The railroad and other workers displayed so much militant power in these strikes that the bosses were thrown into panic. They required a reliable armed agency of the state to supplement their private Pinkertons and strikebreakers.

Imposing armories were built in the midst of the largest cities as drill-halls and fortresses for these watchdogs of the bosses.

Since that time the National Guard has served its masters well as a Pretorian Guard. Whenever the workers could not be dealt with by "normal" strikebreaking and terrorist methods, the Government, as the executives of capitalist class rule, have been prevailed upon to call out the National Guard and place them at the disposal of the

bosses. Without going back further than the past six years, every worker will remember how the National Guard was used to intimidate or break up union picket lines in the Minneapolis teamster and the national steel, textile, and auto strikes.

Their Main Enemy At Home

The capitalist rulers of the United States are getting ready to wage a twofold struggle against two different kinds of enemies at the same time.

They must have trained troops in large numbers to fight against their imperialist rivals and to regulate the affairs of colonial countries. But the capitalists, who guide themselves by the rule: "the main enemy is in our own country", are also taking administrative and military measures to carry forward their war against the workers at home.

The absorption of the National Guard into the Regular Army leaves a gap in their "domestic" defenses that local and state police can't fill. Therefore the President, War Department and Governors are promoting the organization of "Home Defense" units.

It is extremely significant to note that in his statements to the public Roosevelt did not explain what the "Home Defense" regiments were to defend and against whom. And no capitalist paper was rash enough to ask embarrassing questions which might give the game away.

Incredible tales of shooting parachutists and ferreting out saboteurs and fifth-columnists had to be invented to show the necessity of Home Guards. But, it may be asked, why whole regiments of such guards in every community from the heart of the Middle West to the Atlantic

and the Pacific? Where is the enemy in our midst so strong as to require such forces to meet them?

The answer is obvious to any worker who will reflect a moment about the matter. These Home Guards are being trained, not to protect the mass of people against foreign invaders, individual saboteurs, or isolated enemy agents, but to protect the capitalist minority and to keep down the workers.

Anti-Labor Groups As Guards

This is evident in the way the government has chosen to organize the Home Guards. According to the President's plans, these corps will be built up around World War veterans through such bodies as the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

In most communities these veterans' posts are the mainstay of the most reactionary elements. They are controlled by hardshell small businessmen and loud-mouthed, fat-bellied peanut politicians who snap to attention at the commands of jitter bosses. They have formed the nucleus of vigilante committees in all parts of the country from the agricultural valleys of California to the Ohio steel districts.

The War Department has vested the direction of the Home Guard movement in the hands of these fascist-minded organizations as a matter of careful calculation and capitalist policy. If you have heard or read the speeches of the Mayors, the Chamber of Commerce heads, and the Legion Commanders at the meetings now being held to organize these Guards, you can instantly detect their anti-labor, anti-democratic, and Ku-Klux outlook.

During and after the last war, similar Home Guard units were instrumental in leading armed mobs against "labor agitators". Their formation today will place in every community a body of armed men available again to act against the workers whenever the bosses see fit to unleash them.

What must the workers do about this potential menace?

For Union Defense Guards!

It is important to point out, first of all, that such a situation underlines the absolute necessity for the workers to have their own political organization. If the trade unions possessed their own local, state, and national Labor Party and candidates, they could either vote them into office or be prepared in political debate to expose in time the anti-labor tendency of these Home Guards. In either case, the possibility of these Home Guards getting out of hand could be considerably curbed.

Aside from their own independent political action, however, the trade unions have a way to prepare their defense against possible attack by forming their own Union Defense Guard units. Workers' organizations are entitled to the same rights and privileges as veterans' organizations. Instead of allowing the Legionnaires to monopolize the defense movement, every trade union ought to set about to form Union Defense Guards. They should demand of the government the necessary equipment, training camps, and technical assistance.

Labor's answer to the War-Department's drive to organize Legionaire-sponsored Home Guards should be: **Labor Defense Guards under trade-union supervision and control.**

Leon Trotsky Lives On In Our Program; Ours Is Now The Task To Fight For Its Realization

Death Follows Brutal Attack

Assassin Says "They" Had Threatened To Kill His Mother If He Failed

(Continued from Page 1)

After reporting Monrod's first alibi, that the attack came in the midst of a political quarrel, Nunez dismissed it by saying: "He premeditated the attack on Trotsky, for he went to Trotsky's home with the pick concealed under his raincoat and also carrying a revolver and a poniard (dagger)."

Other Methods Failed

Stalin's GPU undoubtedly resorted to the desperate device of compelling one of its creatures to kill Trotsky without much chance of the assailant escaping, when it became clear that a repetition of the May 24 attempt could not succeed. All weak chinks in the fortifications of the house had been taken care of since May 24. Even an army could succeed only by laying long siege. Hence the method used by Monrod.

The limitless power of the GPU over its creatures was indicated when the assassin cried out, as the guards seized him after the attack:

"They made me do it. Otherwise they would have killed my mother."

No amount of questioning afterward would get him to reveal the whereabouts of his mother. He had recovered his poise and proceeded to act out the part assigned him by the GPU.

To justify Stalin's crime, he had been instructed to say that he "broke with Trotsky" when the latter asked him to go to Russia to commit "acts of sabotage." A thoroughly preposterous alibi, for every person with the slightest understanding of Marxist politics knows that such methods are alien to Trotsky and the Fourth International. But Stalin's arsenal is reduced to such flimsy arguments—and to the assassin's weapon.

Was Long Prepared

Undoubtedly but one of many plots simultaneously being carried forward by the GPU against Trotsky's life, this one had been even longer in preparation than the May 24 attempt. In the latter, participants confessed, direct preparations began some five months before the attempt. In the final attempt, preparations began as long as two years ago.

It was then that Jacques Monrod managed an introduction in Paris to some Americans visiting there who had connections with the Trotskyist movement. He played the oldest game of all: pretended attachment to a girl. He followed her to the United States, arriving here shortly after the outbreak of the war. He himself was careful not to come in direct contact in the United States with the organized Trotskyist movement. He reserved all his chances of escaping detection for one try in Mexico.

There, through his American wife, he secured the opportunity to become acquainted with the Trotsky household by occasional visits. Undoubtedly the information he gathered made easier the work of the assassins' band of May 24. When that failed Monrod was compelled by his superiors in the GPU to do the job himself.

Came With Weapons

With his weapons concealed under his clothes, he went to the house Tuesday at about 5:30 p.m. He met Trotsky in the patio near the chicken yard, where he told Trotsky he had written an article on which he wished advice.

Trotsky then invited Jackson into his study but without previously notifying his secretaries. The first indication of something wrong was the sound of terrible cries and a violent struggle in Trotsky's study. The two secretary-guards who were closest immediately left their posts and rushed to the dining room next to Trotsky's study.

Here they met Trotsky coming from his study with blood streaming from his face. One of the guards—Joe Hansen—immediately overpowered the assassin, felling him with a blow. The other, Harold Robbins, helped Trotsky to recline on the floor of the dining room.

Apparently the assassin had hoped that Trotsky would drop unconscious under the first blow from behind with the pick-axe. Instead Trotsky had struggled as he received repeated blows on his head and throat.

Trotsky thought that first blow had been a bullet. As he lay on the floor he told Joe Hansen: "Jackson shot me with a revolver. I am seriously wounded. I feel that this time it is the end."

Joe Hansen tried to convince him that it was only a surface wound and that it could not have been a revolver. Trotsky would not be convinced. "No," he told Joe. "I feel here (pointing to his heart) that this time they succeeded."

His Final Concern

But not on that fact did Trotsky dwell in those last minutes of consciousness left to him. Not on Stalin's success in murdering him, but on what must now be done by those whom he called upon to carry on the banner of the Fourth International.

At the hospital he asked Joe Hansen if he had a notebook so that he could jot down precisely a declaration. Two things were in it. The indictment: "I am close to death from the blow of a political assassin." And the conclusion: "Please say to our friends—I am sure of the victory of the Fourth International. Go forward!"

That was just before he lost consciousness. When he did, he never regained it. Thereby his declaration became his last words.

We can be sure that he would have wished it that way. If there were to be no more words, then let the last ones be the words of a fighter exhorting those who come after to continue the fight. For that was Leon Trotsky.

Farewell, Leon Trotsky

There are no words in which we can say our farewell to Leon Trotsky, man and revolutionist.

But we reproduce here the words Trotsky found to say on the day he learned of the death of Lenin in 1924, a day of loss equalled in irreplaceability only by the day the terrible words: "Trotsky is dead" crashed in their turn upon us.

The names of Lenin and Trotsky are inseparably associated in the history of the great October Revolution. Today the words of farewell penned by the one are the words of our farewell to the other.

"Lenin is no more." These words crashed upon our intelligence like a gigantic rock falling into the sea. How can we believe it, how can we admit it? The mind of the workers of the whole world will refuse to accept this fact, for their enemies are powerful and dangerous, the road before them long and painful, the task they have undertaken immense—the greatest that history has ever known, and not yet completed. Lenin is necessary to the working classes of the world as perhaps never in the history of humanity has a man been necessary.

The second phase of his illness, more serious than the first, had lasted for ten months. In the bitter expression of the doctors, the organs of circulation were "playing" all the time. It was a terrible game, with the life of Ilyich as plaything. We had reason to expect an improvement, and even complete restoration, as much as we could a catastrophe. All of us were expecting recovery, but it was the catastrophe which supervened. The nerve centers controlling his respiration refused to serve any longer and extinguished the flame of that titanic thought.

And now Ilyich is no more. The party is an orphan. The working class is an orphan. That is what one feels before everything else, on learning of the death of him who was our teacher and our guide. How can we go forward along our path, comrades?

Shall we not wander now that Lenin is no longer with us? No. Leninism remains. Lenin is immortal in his doctrine, his work, his method, his example which live in us, which live in the party he created, and in the first workers state of which he was the head and the helmsman.

Our grief is as immense as our loss; but let us lend a thanks to history for allowing us to be born as contemporaries of Lenin and permitting us to work by his side and be his disciples. Our party is Leninism in action; our party is the collective guide of the workers; everyone of us contains something in him of Lenin. How shall we march forward in our path? With the light of Leninism in our hand. Shall we find the true road? By collective thought and the collective will we shall find it.

Tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, next week, in a month's time, we shall still be saying to ourselves that it is impossible that Lenin is no more. Yes, his death will for long still seem to us unbelievable, inadmissible, monstrous, arbitrary, unnatural. Let the wound which opened in the heart of everyone of us, at the memory of the great man who has disappeared, recall constantly to us that our responsibility has been doubled, let us be worthy of him who taught us. In our mourning let us close our ranks and hearts for new combats. Comrades, Lenin is no longer with us. Farewell, Ilyich, Farewell, leader.

The Biography Of Trotsky Is Part Of World History

The life of Leon Trotsky is written into the history of nearly 50 years filled with world-transforming events. The story of his life is part and parcel of the story of the three Russian revolutions in 1905 and 1917 and of the tremendous events that have since taken place.

Around the life of this titanic figure in the history of man's struggle for liberation, Stalin and his journalistic and professional hacks tried with total lack of success to weave a web of lies and falsifications. The living Trotsky towered ever far above his miserable would-be traducers. The Trotsky who has now entered into memory as well as into history will tower still higher as the heavy pressure of events brings home to greater and greater masses everywhere the revolutionary lessons of which he was so great a teacher.

Lenin's Summary

A succinct summary of Trotsky's political biography appeared as a note to the first edition of Lenin's Collected Works, in Volume XIV, part 2, pp. 481-482, published by the State Publishing House in Moscow in 1921. Here in these few lines, edited under the sharp eye of Lenin himself, were the answers to all the lies and falsifications concocted in later years by the usurpers and betrayers of the revolution.

"L. D. Trotsky, born 1881 (1879), active in the workers' circles in the city of Nikolayev; in 1898 exiled to Siberia; soon after escaped abroad and participated in the Iskra. Delegate from the Siberian League at the Second Congress of the Party. After the

split in the Party, adhered to the Mensheviks. Even prior to the revolution, in 1905, he advanced his own and today particularly noteworthy theory of the permanent revolution, in which he asserted that the bourgeois revolution of 1905 must pass directly into the socialist revolution, being the first of the national revolutions; he defended his theory in the newspaper Nachalo, the central organ of the Menshevik faction published during November-December, 1905, in Petersburg. After the arrest of Khrustalov-Nussar, he was elected Chairman of the First Petersburg Soviet of Workers' Deputies. Arrested together with the Executive Committee on December 3, 1905, he was sent into life exile to Odorsk, but escaped en route and emigrated abroad.

Joins Bolsheviks

"Trotsky chose Vienna to live in, and there he issued a popular labor newspaper, Pravda, to be circulated in Russia. He broke with the Mensheviks and attempted to form a group outside of all factions; however, during the factional struggle abroad he made a block with the Mensheviks and the Vyperod group against the block between Lenin and Plekhanov who fought the liquidators. From the very beginning of the imperialist war he took a clear-cut internationalist position, participated in the publication of Nashe Slovo, in Paris, and adhered to Zimmerwald.

"Deported from France, he went to the United States. On his return from there after the February Revolution, he was arrested by the government of Ker-

ensky and indicted for 'leading the insurrection', but was shortly freed through pressure from the Petersburg proletariat. After the Petersburg Soviet went over to the Bolsheviks, he was elected Chairman and in this capacity he organized and led the insurrection of October 25. Standing member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union since 1917; member of the Council of People's Commissars; Commissar of Foreign Affairs up to the signing of the Brest Treaty, then People's Commissar of War."

As Commissar of War, Trotsky organized and led the Red Army to victory in the Civil War, 1918-22. He formed the Left Opposition to fight Stalin in 1923. He was expelled from the party by Stalin in 1927 and exiled to Alma Ata in 1928 and to Turkey in 1929. Then his odyssey led him to France in 1933, to Norway in 1935, and to Mexico in 1936. And in Mexico, in 1940, Stalin's assassin's finally took his life.

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Leon Trotsky and his lifelong comrade and companion, Natalia Sedov Trotsky

Stalin's Murders Form Long Roll Now

With the murder of Trotsky, Joseph Stalin has completed his program for the systematic extermination of the entire group of leading figures who, with and around Lenin, stood at the head of the Bolshevik Party at the time of the 1917 revolution in Russia.

Trotsky was the last survivor, except for Stalin, of the Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party elected in the year of the revolution. All the others were either murdered or otherwise put out of the way by Stalin and the monstrous machine of the G.P.U.—secret police—upon which he built his power.

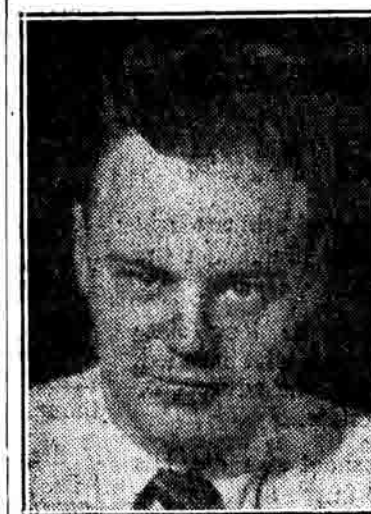
Murder Trials

In a series of fantastic trials staged in August 1936, January 1937, and March 1938, Stalin "legalized" his murder of the most prominent of Lenin's collaborators, among them Gregory Zinoviev, Nikolai Bukharin, L. B. Kamenev, Rykov, Pyatakov, and Christian Rakovsky. Simultaneously in continuous purges the details of which were rarely made public, Stalin disposed of scores of thousands of the best militants of the revolutionary generation of the Bolshevik Party. In addition unknown thousands of his own minions whom he feared were added to the list of those struck down. The entire general staff of the Red Army and Navy, the entire industrial and trade administration of the Soviet State, the governments of the various Soviet Republics, and literally thousands of officers and officials were swept into the darkness of GPU dungeons, never again to emerge.

Stalin had made the "mistake" of permitting Trotsky himself to leave the country in 1928. In the years before Stalin's assassins finally reached the exiled leader, Stalin satisfied his vengeful lust by hounding the members of Trotsky's family to their deaths, one after another.

Family Destroyed

Trotsky's daughter, Nina, denied medical care, died of tuberculosis in Moscow in June, 1928. Her sister Zinaida was driven by persecution of her father and herself to take her own life in Berlin in January, 1933. Their brother Sergei, who shunned politics and contented himself with the life of a scientific worker, was arrested by Stalin in 1937, accused of poisoning workers wholesale.



LEON SEDOV

and disappeared. Trotsky's last son, Leon Sedov, his friend and co-worker, died suddenly in a Paris hospital on Feb. 15, 1938, under suspicious circumstances which pointed to the GPU. The French police, under GPU pressure, refused to investigate.

Trotsky himself was hounded out of refuge in France and again out of Norway under the open and public pressure of the Kremlin on those two countries. In Mexico, Stalin's political henchlings tried to force his expulsion again but failed. His gunmen therefore took up the pursuit. On May 24 this year a band of Stalin's gunmen stormed the Trotsky home and sprayed his bedroom with machine gun bullets. He and his companion Natalia escaped as by a miracle.

Trotsky predicted a new attempt would soon come and despite all the precautions it did come with the fatal results we know. Only Natalia is left now for Stalin's assassins to seek out.

Other Murders

Stalin's use of hired assassins has not been by any means confined to Trotsky alone. Outside of the Soviet Union during the last four years Stalin's GPU has carried out a whole series of political murders and kidnappings of revolutionary militants of the Fourth International and of other sections of the labor movement which opposed the designs of Stalin. In Spain Stalin's GPU gunmen fastened themselves like leeches to the struggling body of the Spanish revolution and drew the blood

of its best militants.

The names of Berneri and Barbieri, anarchists, Andres Nin, of the POUM, Marc Rein, son of the Second International leader Abramovich, Kurt Landau, Austrian militant, adorn this roster. Moulin, leader of the Spanish Fourth Internationalists, was done away with in 1937. Irwin Wolf, former secretary to Trotsky, was kidnapped in Barcelona in September, that same year, and has never been heard from since.

Reiss and Klement
In 1937 Ignace Reiss, a GPU foreign agent, broke with Stalin, reaffirmed his devotion to the workers' revolution, and solidified with the Fourth International. On Sept. 4, 1937, his bullet-riddled body was thrown from a car near Lausanne, Switzerland. Swiss and French police later established the guilt of known GPU assassins, one of whom, Rossi, later went to Mexico.

August Klement, secretary of the Fourth International, was kidnapped in Paris on July 13, 1938. Two weeks later his headless and legless body was fished from the Seine.

To this list Stalin in May this year added the name of Sheldon Harte, the young guard brutally murdered at the time of the unsuccessful assault on Trotsky's home. And now, his crowning achievement, the name of Trotsky himself.

But all the blood shed by this super-Mafia has not succeeded and will not succeed in exorcising the specter that still haunts the Kremlin and the cowering dictator who lives there. He has done away with Trotsky. He cannot do away with Trotskyism.

DRAFTED MEN KEEP SENIORITY UNDER NEW CONTRACT

ST. PAUL, Minn.—Warehouse Employees Union members will retain their seniority standing and receive leaves of absence from their jobs for the duration of their military service, it was established in a rider which the union insisted on adding to the general contract just signed with the employers' committee.

The union, an affiliate of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, recognized that during the last war the returning soldiers were thrown into the streets jobless, and this time they are determined that they will have jobs when they get back.

The union has gone on record several times against the war, calling it a commercial and economic one, and calling on the workers everywhere to fight against the war because it does not benefit the workers. By adding this rider to the contract, the union does not sanction the war. It simply recognizes that the war may soon involve the American workers, and the workers should be protected as best possible.

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Trotsky with Lenin and Kamenev in the Days of the Civil War



Trotsky addressing the Third Congress of the Comintern

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Goodbye, Old Man

Leon Trotsky shone that rare and brilliant light of genius that from time to time illuminates the somber vista of human struggle.

As organizer, warrior, writer, he long since joined that small band of immortals who have led, each in his own time and sphere, the advance of striving men toward a better estate.

Trotsky the revolutionist cannot ever die. His life of devotion and leadership in the fight for human emancipation shall remain forever an example, an inspiration and an endless source of instruction. His written works fill scores of volumes, and with those of Marx, Engels, and Lenin, constitute a veritable encyclopedia of revolution, its history, its lessons, its program.

But Trotsky the man has, indeed, left us forever. The quality of his genius is left to us in tangibles that we know and can touch and can use and can pass on to those who shall follow us in the path of struggle for the world socialist revolution. But the quality of his manhood is bound to become more elusive, as those that knew him and worked by his side in their turn disappear from the scene and their knowledge of him gives way to inevitable legend.

For who in the distant tomorrow will be able to evoke that glinting spark with which Leon Trotsky ignited the hearts of millions of men? Books will tell of his deeds and men will know what he did but they will never grasp the living, breathing reality of the man he was.

He was a man of his age who comprehended within the breadth of his intelligence and his vision all that his age offered, of literature, of science, of art, and of strife. From his towering height he could look down upon his enemies and traducers with the thorough understanding that his superior vision of the future afforded him.

But all his powers of hand, heart, mind, and muscle, were planted firmly among the conflicts and aspirations of men whose cause was his. Nothing, indeed, in men, was alien to him. His loyalty to them was comparable only to the loyalty he inspired in them.

He was no paragon, our Old Man, as we for so long affectionately called him. He had his own quota of faults, else he could never so well have understood the failings of others, even though he seldom sympathized with them. But these were the tiny things in him that enabled us to recognize in him a kindred manhood.

In all the personal qualities important in a man, honesty, conviction, fearlessness, utter lack of cant, loyalty, Trotsky the human being was the equal of Trotsky the organizer, the warrior, the fighter with pen and sword. Not the least of the qualities he leaves as something real in the memories of those who knew him was his scrupulous regard for the total equality of women with men and his understanding of the relationship between women and men exemplified in the perfect love and comradeship of his 40 years of life with Natalia Sedov.

This was Trotsky the man we shall also remember with ever re-kindling warmth as in the times that lay ahead we fight on for the world socialist revolution symbolized for so long and so completely by Trotsky, the revolutionist.

Goodbye, Old Man.

Natalia

Natalia Sedov Trotsky shares with us and with the workers of the entire world the loss of a great leader. But non can share with Natalia Sedov the loss of Trotsky the man, the companion, the comrade, the friend of nearly 40 years.

She stood by Trotsky's side in the years of exile, the years of war, of revolutionary triumph, and on into the final decade of exile, of hardships, persecutions.

She bore Trotsky two sons. These too she lost to the vengeful lust of the monster in the Kremlin. Sergei, a scientific worker, was swallowed in 1937 into the maw of the GPU in the Soviet Union. Leon Sedov, devoted collaborator of his father, met in a Paris hospital in 1938 a death in which the hand of the GPU was plainly discernible. Only Seva, a young grandson, survives with her.

When Stalin's assassins stormed their home in May, Natalia shielded Trotsky's body with her own. When the murderer this time struck him down she was first to reach Trotsky's side. And by his side she remained steadfastly until the end.

Trotsky has left in our hands the banner of the struggle he so valiantly led. He has also passed on to us the trust of his devoted companion. He bade us guard and cherish her well. In his last hours he spoke of her: "Take care of her. She has been with me many years."

This trust, like the first, we shall fulfill. Neither we nor anyone can fill the void in the life of Natalia Sedov. But all that warm solidarity and devoted care can do shall be done to soften the jagged anguish that today is hers.

The Written Heritage

Leon Trotsky was best-known to the world at large as a man of action. As the film of his life unreels in review, he can be seen struggling with the Russian workers against Czarism until he leaps to the chairmanship of the Petrograd Soviet in 1905; tirelessly mobilizing the masses, as orator and journalist, until he prepares them for the October insurrection; organizing, commanding, and bringing to victory the Red Army; and finally fighting against internal and world reaction for the defense of the international Socialist revolution.

Trotsky was all this—and much more. He was not simply an agitator, political leader, warrior and statesman; he was no less brilliant as a pamphleteer, biographer, historian, man of thought and letters. Like Lenin, he mirrored and incarnated within himself the Marxist ideal of the unity of thought and action.

Bernard Shaw, no poor judge, once called him "The Prince of Pamphleteers." He himself, when questioned as to the nature of his profession, styled himself, not without irony, a journalist. Had history permitted, he once confessed, he would have preferred to devote his entire life, and not simply the enforced intervals granted him in exile or in prison, to creative literature.

His talents, the world admitted, were equal to this aspiration. His gifts of expression, his force of logic, his psychological insight, and whiplash irony extorted admiration even from his foes. What a novelist was lost to literature, sighed many a devotee of belles-lettres, upon reading the portraits of the individuals who appear in his History of the Russian Revolution.

Whatever pure literature might have lost, the world of human culture gained by Trotsky's marriage to Marxism. A man of broadest culture and of delicately discerning taste, his interests had a universal circumference. He wrote sheaves of articles and essays on many diverse topics in art, science, manners, morals, housing, sports and military technique, among other matters.

In whatever direction his interests radiated, they were united in a single center. He wrote always from the standpoint of the Socialist revolution. This was the height upon which he stood and viewed the march of humanity through past, present and future. Marxism was the scientific method animating and guiding all his expression in thought and action.

Scanning the many-volumed row of Trotsky's collected works, we can single out his summary of the lessons of the 1905 Revolution, "Results and Perspectives"; his exposition of "The Permanent Revolution"; such works as "Communism and Terrorism" explaining to the workers the significance of the October Revolution and defending it against its traducers; and his monumental "History of the Russian Revolution." At his death he was engaged in completing biographies of Lenin and Stalin.

Just as Trotsky drew upon the classical work of Marx and Engels, so the present and prospective generations of socialist revolutionaries will turn to his works for indispensable knowledge, guidance, and inspiration.

* * *

How the jackals are snarling around the dead lion! We refer to the capitalist press comment on Trotsky. Such voluntary or involuntary admiration that creeps into the columns of reporting or the obituaries is more than nullified (they hope) by the vicious editorials. They can scarcely conceal their glee that the man who symbolizes world revolution is dead.

But many a capitalist editor suspects that his glee may be short-lived. These "educated" capitalists know perhaps better than the others what a heritage Trotsky has left. Like the legendary phoenix, from his ashes he will be re-born. And because of this premonition all the more venomously do they snarl at his dead body.

Why the GPU Used This Method To Kill Trotsky

The desperate method employed this time by Stalin's GPU in its successful attempt to kill Trotsky can only be understood in the light of the obstacles barring the way to a repetition of such an armed assault as that which took place on May 24th and nearly succeeded.

The assassin's assignment was a suicidal one. There was hardly any possibility open to him of escape. But only by that method could Stalin now hope to strike Trotsky. That is why, from among the many GPU agents employed on any number of plans for the assassination, the GPU chiefs had to find one or more agents who could be compelled to carry out this assignment.

If not from other sources, then from the public press in Mexico, the GPU knew that there was no hope of murdering Trotsky by a direct onslaught on his house. That was clear from the reports in the press on August 7th, the first interview with Trotsky since the assault on the house on May 24th.

Although the occasion of the press visit was a statement by Trotsky on new aspects of the search for those of the assassins who have not been apprehended yet, and on the latest developments in the war, the re-fortification of the house so impressed

the reporters that it became the lead of their stories in the Mexican dailies.

El Universal published an account which said:

"The residence is completely changed. Every kind of precaution has been taken against a possible new attack. Whoever passes through the main door remains shut up in a cage until, after a series of electrical and sound signals, lights, etc., the visitor is permitted to enter the garden. This cage system looks much like those used by lion tamers in a circus, with the difference that the sides open electrically."

"We also noticed that the walls that surround the garden have been elevated to an approximate height of six or seven meters."

Harte's Memory Preserved
"On one of the walls of the cage there is a plaque which says: 'In memory of Robert Sheldon Harte, 1915-1940. Assassinated by Stalin.'"

"In strategic places in the garden there are two pill boxes and a blockhouse, in which Trotsky's guards are day and night protecting him against any surprise whatever."

"By these various means, anybody who enters may know for certain that he cannot get out without the permission of those within, or risk imminent danger

of dying riddled by bullets."

Electrified Door

El Excelsior reported:

"Even though on arriving at Trotsky's residence we encountered fewer difficulties than the last time we visited it, we can say that this was due precisely to the fact that the defenses of the house have been enlarged. The great wooden door which previously gave access to it has been converted now into a resistant steel door, to which are connected electrical batteries, whether to open it electrically or in order to electrocute the incautious person who dares to come near it. We do not know."

"Moreover the visitor, once through this door, finds himself locked in a small enclosure, and it requires one of the guards to open another iron door before one can breathe the pure air of the garden and contemplate the residence itself."

"But once in the garden, the visitor immediately observes that the defenses have been extended to the whole house. He views a blockhouse of cement, and then, on top of the walls and at the corners or more strategic places,

he sees two pillboxes, as well as some masons who are at work adding masonry to heighten the surrounding walls."

Police Hold GPU Agents For Previous Attack

As the assassin of Trotsky is being questioned by the Mexican police, the latter already have in their hands a group whom the Mexican police have formally charged with being participants in the May 24 attempt to kill Trotsky, and some of whom have confessed and thereby made clear the responsibility of Stalin's GPU as the organizer of the crime.

Confessions of nine of the participants in the May 24 assault were publicly released in Mexico on June 20 and June 27 by General Jose Manuel Nunez, chief of Mexican police.

Even more important than the arrest of these nine, General Nunez then made clear, was the arrest and formal charging of David Serrano, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Mexico, as a principal in the crime.

THE ATTACK AND THE MURDER OF BOB HARTE

On May 24, 27 desperate agents of the GPU blasted their way with machine guns into Trotsky's sleeping quarters and riddled his bed with a stream of slugs.

By miraculous chance, Trotsky and his loyal wife, Natalia, escaped. For years Trotsky had foreseen this eventuality, as one by one his closest associates and his two sons and daughters were struck down by Stalin, by one means or another. At the first sound of disturbance, the couple threw themselves into a dark corner while one of the gunmen, mistaking the bunched bed clothing for the living forms of his intended victims, tore the bed to pieces with spitting lead.

When the attackers withdrew, it was discovered that Robert Sheldon Harte, young American guard of Trotsky, was missing. At first, the Stalinist press attempted to explain away the assault by smearing the revolutionary character of the missing Harte, and alleging the attempt to be a fake affair, cooked up by Trotsky for publicity.

But the discovery of the body of the tortured and murdered Harte and the arrest and confessions of nine of Trotsky's assailants, have proved to the hilt, if all the evidence of Stalin's political history and methods had not already done so, Stalin's responsibility for the assault.

POLICE ANNOUNCE ARRESTS AND NINE CONFESSIONS

On June 20, the Mexican police announced the arrest of 30 Stalinists and the securing of full confessions from four of the murder gang. On June 27, another police announcement added four more confessions to the mounting list, which was still further supplemented by a ninth confession on July 23. Every detail of the crime, its instigators, preparations, participants and their actions, were thus fully known weeks ago—every fact but one: who was the internal secret agent of Stalin through whom the original entrance into the Trotsky residence was secured? That final question has very likely been answered with the seizure of Jacques Monrod, the latest and most successful of Stalin's agents.

From these confessions—and backed by the material evidence uncovered by the police in the

form of the police uniforms used to disguise the assailants, the weapons employed, and the finding of the body of Harte in the cellar of the house admitted to have been one of the gang's hang-outs,—it was established that the assault was first planned in detail with the aid of two women spies. These, Ana Maria Lopez and Serrano's wife, Julia, established themselves in the neighborhood of the Trotsky home, became intimate with the five Mexican police assigned by the government to guard the Trotsky residence, and secured detailed information on the internal routine and living habits of the home.

ASSAILANTS HARDENED BY GPU WORK IN SPAIN

All the men who participated in the assault were Stalinist veterans of the Spanish Civil War. One leader of the gang was David Alfaro Siqueiros, a Stalinist of fifteen years standing, "colonel" in the Stalinist forces in Spain and president of the Union of Mexican ex-combatants in Spain. Siqueiros, for whom the police have combed Mexico, has been missing since the night of the crime, and there is a strong possibility that the GPU has long since silenced his mouth permanently, as well as the mouths of all on the "inside" of the attempt who could be reached before the police got to them.

Missing with Siqueiros are three other Spanish Civil War veterans sought by the police and described in the confessions as additional directors of the attempted assassination. They are Jesus, brother of Siqueiros, Juan Zuniga Camacho and Antonio Pujol. Several foreign GPU agents, whose descriptions are known and who have been named as the "behind the scenes" organizers, are also being sought by the police.

David Serrano well-known Stalinist leader in Mexico, a member of the Political Central Committee of the Mexican Communist Party, and believed to be the official GPU representative on that body, has been designated by Louis Mateos Martinez, a Communist Party member and one of the confessed assassins, as the individual who had assigned Martinez to secure the police uniforms for the attempt. They had met in Serrano's home for this purpose.

Serrano, when arrested by the Mexican police, denied his connections with the crime and declared himself one of those in the Communist Party who were actually carrying out an investigation to establish the facts in the attack. When this statement was made, Serrano did not know that he was already linked to the crime by Martinez's confession, as well as those of Nestor Sanchez Hernandez and Julia Barradas de Serrano, Serrano's wife.

Julia, a former Communist Party employee who confessed to being one of the two women assigned to spy on the Trotsky home and seduce the police guard for information, reported that Serrano had visited her and their child, Sovietina, the day preceding the attack. Serrano had stated that he had had no connections with her for the previous five or six months.

Siqueiros was named by both

Julia Serrano and her associate in the attack preparations Ana Maria Lopez, formerly a stenographer in the Communist Party district headquarters, as one of the persons from whom they received instructions and to whom they often reported in the headquarters of the Stalinist-controlled Electrical Workers Union in Mexico City. Julia made the direct statement that Siqueiros had told her that the pay of 25 pesos a day which she and Ana Lopez were receiving from Camacho, one of the four missing directors of the attack, was coming from the Communist Party.

HERNANDEZ ONE OF THE ASSAILANTS

Hernandez admitted that he was first induced to join the attempt by Siqueiros, and that Siqueiros and the three other missing assailants organized and led the actual assault. Hernandez made his confession after direct evidence of his implication in the crime was produced by the police, including his satchel containing one of the stolen police uniforms and a revolver taken from one of the police overpowered at the time of the attack. Hernandez is the author of an article, recently published in Lombardo Toledano's monthly magazine "Futuro", which viciously attacked Trotsky.

Among the other actual participants in the attack named in the confessions are Luis Arenal, known in this country for his former contributions to the "New Masses"; Stalinist weekly; the police name him as the murderer of Bob Harte.

The four subsequent arrests and confessions of the chauffeurs which drove the attackers' cars merely confirmed and added details to the previous admissions. Leonardo Tapia Guerrero, Stalinist head of a Mexico City chauffeurs association, seized after he was named and identified as one of the participants, first denied and then admitted his complicity. He corroborated the evidence of the previous confessions and then implicated three of his colleagues, Ramon Gomez Castaneda, Ernesto Bucio Gomez, and Jose Vazquez Martinez. Castaneda revealed that he had received 350 pesos, a large sum of money in Mexico for his part in the Trotsky attack and Harte murder.

UNLIMITED FUNDS, STALINIST LAWYER

The organization of the attack, involving months of preparation, expensive cars and weapons, and large "pay-offs" of each participant was possible only for an organization like the GPU with tremendous command of material resources and trained personnel. The attackers were formed into five bands, one under the command of Siqueiros, the others led by unknowns identified in the confessions as "foreigners."

How closely the Stalinists are linked with this crime is further indicated by the fact that Paven Flores, a lawyer and member of the Central Committee of the Mexican Communist Party, has been assigned to represent Serrano and Martinez.

Those now held by the police, including Serrano and Martinez, are shortly scheduled to go on trial for the murder of Harte and the attempted assassination of

Do Men Enlist In The Army Voluntarily?

By ALBERT GOLDMAN

If there is one proposition that is utterly fantastic and completely false, it is the one propounded by some of the opponents of the Burke-Wadsworth conscription bill to the effect that the United States should continue to rely on the volunteer system for getting soldiers because that system is a democratic one.

We are not, of course, primarily interested in showing the weaknesses of the arguments of the opponents of the Burke-Wadsworth bill. We also oppose that bill, for totally different reasons than those advanced by most of the other opponents, and our shafts are levelled primarily at those who favor the bill.

Nevertheless, when those who oppose the conscription bill advance the idea that the government should continue the policy of voluntary enlistment because it is democratic we are compelled to state very clearly and very definitely that they are either fakers or fools.

John L. Lewis is one of those loud mouths who makes the following propositions: 1. that we should oppose the Burke-Wadsworth bill and 2. that we should first try the policy of voluntary enlistment and if that policy doesn't furnish the army with the necessary number of men then conscription should be resorted to.

The second proposition in reality shows that Lewis and others like him, who have come out for the Maloney amendment providing that voluntary enlistment be tried first, are not interested in democracy, as they claim to be.

For if conscription is undemocratic before voluntary enlistment proves inadequate, it remains undemocratic after that policy has been tried out and found wanting. The real "democrats", if consistent, should oppose the conscription bill regardless of the fact that a sufficient number of people failed to volunteer.

Hunger Drives The "Volunteers"

But is voluntary enlistment democratic? There is a certain plausibility to the contention that it is and in all probability many workers will yield to that argument.

Who, however, volunteers to join the army or navy? Exact figures are not at my disposal as to the social composition of the volunteers, but if anything is certain it is that the vast majority of those who volunteer to serve in the armed forces are of working-class origin. The volunteers come from the poorer classes. They are mainly youth who have no jobs, who become terribly disgusted and downhearted when they tramp the streets for days looking for a job and finding none. Their family surroundings are probably not of the best, because poverty and joblessness are not conducive for a healthy family life.

In desperation the jobless youth joins the armed forces. One of his reasons might be that he hopes to learn some trade which will more likely give him a job after his enlistment period expires. Nine times out of ten he either does not learn a trade or if he does he can't get a job anyway after he gets out of the army.

If there is a son of the more well-to-do who wants to join the armed forces, he does not volunteer. He obtains an appointment to West Point or Annapolis and comes out from these institutions as an officer ready to lord it over every private.

What democracy is there in a system where joblessness, hunger and despair are the real recruiting sergeants?

As "Democratic" As All Capitalism

Voluntary enlistment is democratic only on the surface; when placed under a Marxist examination it is found to have merely the veneer of democracy. In this respect it is similar to a great many of the so-called democratic institutions functioning under the capitalist system.

How often does one hear the enraptured 4th of July orator proclaim the great principle of equality before the law which is supposed to represent the very basis of our democratic institutions.

Let us assume even that His Honor on the bench is an individual of the greatest integrity who will give justice to the poor and rich alike without fear or favor. That is of course a very violent assumption when one thinks of the Tammany judges and other judges dominated by the corrupt political machines. But even assuming that justice will be meted out though the heavens fall, what follows?

Imagine two individuals arrested for a minor offense and fined a hundred dollars a piece. One is a worker making twenty-five dollars a week and the other an executive of some kind making fifteen thousand dollars a year. The latter simply writes a check for the hundred and is out; but how about the worker? He must either stay in jail or else depend on his friends or on the loan shark to raise the fine.

There is formal equality before the law. Both rich and poor were fined an equal amount, but the real inequality is tremendous.

The Negro in the South has the formal right to vote but how about his actual right? He simply has no vote.

The capitalist system is shot full of these formal democratic rights which cannot be enjoyed by the worker because of the real inequalities existing under that system.

It is true that no one compels any individual to enlist in the armed forces of the United States, but in actuality that right not to enlist becomes meaningless to a youth who beholds the alternative of joblessness and hunger.

To insist upon voluntary enlistment as an alternative to the Burke-Wadsworth conscription bill, without at the same time insisting that every youth volunteering should be offered as an alternative a decent job with a decent wage attached to the job, is to be expected from demagogues like Wheeler and Vandenberg; but no one interested in the labor movement should give the least support to such a proposal.

If there is a worker who is class-conscious enough to see the necessity of getting military training he should not volunteer for that purpose. He should demand that he be given military training by his union,