

FLINT AUTO WORKERS READY TO STRIKE

Natalia Testifies Jackson Saw Trotsky Only Twice In His Private Office

Believes He Led Attackers On May 24

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 7—Natalia Trotsky gave her statement today to the judge investigating the murder of Trotsky.

She declared that she is of the firm opinion that the assassin, Jackson, was the one who persuaded Robert Sheldon Harte, Trotsky's secretary-guard, to open the outer door when the May 24 attempt to assassinate Trotsky occurred. Harte was murdered by the attackers afterward in order to prevent him from telling who had fooled him into opening the door.

Harte did not know Jackson very well, but he knew him as Sylvia Ageloff's husband, and as one who had made himself helpful to close friends of Trotsky, the Rosmers. Arriving at the door with a story of an urgent message from the Rosmers for Trotsky, and with the other attackers disguised in police uniforms, Jackson could have gotten Harte to open the door.

The Stalinists arrested as participants in the May 24 attack, nine of whom have confessed their complicity, claim that they do not recognize Jackson. Even if they are telling the truth, however, it may be that Jackson was used only for the moment of opening the door and then told to disappear before the attacking band had the opportunity to see him clearly.

Nails Jackson Lie

Natalia also proved that the statement by Jackson that he saw Trotsky alone many times is absolutely false. He was in the courtyard many times, since May 28, the first time he was admitted, but in the house itself only three times, and only twice—including the time he killed Trotsky—was he alone with Trotsky in his study.

Natalia also testified to the interesting point that on the occasions when he saw Trotsky, Jackson spoke a great deal about his "boss"—what a genius he was in business and how lucky he was in the stock market. Natalia deduces from this that Jackson knew that people were wondering what kind of work he was doing, and went to the extreme, so far as Trotsky was concerned, to speak to him about his "boss". The "boss" is of course nonexistent.

Sailors Get Chance To Express Opinion of Allies Committee

The Sailors Union of the Pacific, New York branch, got a chance Monday to express its opinion of the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies.

For on Monday night the union membership meeting got a letter from that committee, signed by one Irwin J. Jaffee, "Director of Trade Union Activities", and by Louis Hollander, Nathaniel Spector, Frederick F. Umhey (of the I. L. G. W. U.) and Jack Altman, Norman Thomas' comrade. The letter asked the S.U.P. officers to sponsor a Trade Union Division of the pro-Ally committee.

Whereupon the sailors passed the following motion unanimously:

"To answer these people in the strongest possible terms, giving them our stand on their program, and informing them we want nothing to do with their committee."

The sailors are scarcely pacifists. But this is not their war. Their war is against all the bosses.



Above are two photos of "Frank Jackson", the assassin of Leon Trotsky. Jackson destroyed all photos in his own possession and tried to avoid having any pictures taken in obvious fear that they might come into the hands of someone who might recognize him and bring his GPU connections to light.

Belgian Legation Stamps Jackson's Claims To Be a Belgian as Falsehoods

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 4—Walter Lorigan, chargé d'affaires of the Belgian Legation here, handed the following official declaration to the press yesterday:

"In the course of the interview that I had Saturday, August 31, with the accused, Jackson Mornard, I arrived at the conclusion that he is not of Belgian nationality, nor does he know Belgium, and that all his statements in this respect are falsehoods.

"I.—The prisoner claims to be a son of a Belgian Minister and to have been born in the (Belgian) Legation in Teheran (Persia). There has not been a Belgian diplomat named Mornard, and the one who represented my country in Persia from 1904 to 1908 was Marec Serstevens, replaced in 1908 by Havenith.

"When I questioned Jackson about other diplomatic posts that his father might have held, he answered that he was ignorant of what they were, a lack of knowledge which is very curious in the part of a son.

"II.—The prisoner said also that he does not know what posts were previously held by his brother who, he had affirmed, was a secretary of consulate—a title which does not exist in Belgium—but Jackson believes that his brother is in Brussels, awaiting disposition and not in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"III.—The prisoner affirmed to me that he had studied in the University of Brussels, in the Faculty of Sciences. I said to him that I had studied in the same university and I asked him if he recalled the names of some professors. He didn't remember a single name.

"IV.—The accused claimed to have studied and finished the courses of the military school in Dixmude—a small city of Flanders where there is no military school. In Belgium discipline is very strict in the Military School, and in spite of that, Jackson claims to have secured permission from it to hear courses at the University of Brussels. It is sufficient to remark that Brussels is 120 kilometres (81¼ miles) from Dixmude.

"V.—Jackson claims to have studied in the Jesuit college in Brussels, 'Saint Ignatius of Loyola'—this college does not exist—that was situated near the forest, on the Waterloo highway. But the Jesuit colleges in Brussels are situated on a very different road.

"VI.—The accused affirms that his mother lived for a long time at No. 1 of the street, 'Chaussee de Havre' in Brussels. No such street exists in Brussels, but there is a 'Chaussee de Wavre'. No. 1 on that street is inhabited by a big store, well known to the inhabitants of Brussels. The accused began by saying that his mother did not live on a store, but seeing undoubtedly the skepticism on my face he added: 'There is a store below, but my mother lived above.'

"VII.—A man who completed the courses of the Military School in Belgium and that claims to have studied in Dixmude—the Flemish part of the country—ought to at the least have an elementary knowledge of the Flemish language. The accused, however, did not understand the simplest phrases that I spoke in that language, and trying his best to answer 'no' ('NEEN' in Flemish), instead answered 'NEIN' in German. Foreigners who have even lived but a short time in Belgium know that 'no' is pronounced 'NEEN' in Flemish.

"The foregoing, as well as some other erroneous answers that the prisoner made, to me as well as to my colleague, Mr. Vanthallit, in the interview that was had with him, are sufficient to demonstrate that he is not a Belgian, and that he does not know Belgium.

"(Signed) WALTER LORIGAN."

Behind the Lines

ANGLO-AMERICAN DEAL GIVES JAPAN
PAUSE IN FAR EASTERN GRABS

by GEORGE STERN

The Roosevelt-Churchill deal to swap U. S. destroyers for bases on British territory in the Western Atlantic has caused the pendulum to swing once more in the Pacific. Japan was all but ready a week or so ago to begin, by invading French Indochina, to capitalize on the prospective German victory in Europe. The Anglo-American deal—or more properly speaking, its profound implications—gave Tokyo pause. Tokyo cannot count right now on the early departure of the U. S. fleet from Pacific waters. It cannot be too sure of the total collapse of Britain in the wake of France. It has consequently to revert to a more cautious policy.

As a first result, the Japanese "ultimatum" to the French Indochinese authorities of a week ago simmered down to "negotiations." The French there, it appears, have already bowed to a Japanese demand for the right to land troops in Indochina and to transport them to the Chinese border. This right the Japanese will hold on to but for the moment are likely to be judicious in their exercise of it.

Secretary of State Hull's strong statement last Thursday warning

Japan not to prove the truth of newspaper reports of an impending invasion of Indochina immediately revealed the new temper in Washington resulting from the destroyer deal announced by Roosevelt two days earlier.

Behind the destroyer-base deal correspondents were encouraged to see the framework of a broad collaboration amounting to what Hanson Baldwin in the New York Times called an "unofficial alliance" between Britain and the United States. To the Japanese this means chiefly the prospect of a U. S. fleet based on Singapore collaborating with British—and probably Dutch East Indian—forces to resist any Japanese pressure southward.

The issue continues to rest, however, upon the outcome of the Battle of Britain, now in the full furious swing of its opening aerial phase. The Japanese admirals and generals probably calculate that in the end they will be able to take over the rich British realm in the East and that they need not rush in until conditions are wholly favorable. They can afford to wait to see how things turn out.

DEAL WITH BRITAIN HERALDS U.S. DRIVE

Acquisition of Bases Marks Entry of U. S. Imperialism Into Expansionist Race

With a deal negotiated behind closed doors and sprung suddenly on both Congress and the American people, the U. S. government has taken a long plunge forward toward its new place in a warring world.

The deal, blandly made public by President Roosevelt on September 3, involved the swap of 50 U. S. over-age destroyers for bases in the Bahamas, in the Caribbean islands of Jamaica, Santa Lucia, Trinidad, and Antigua, and in British Guiana on the northern coast of South America. In addition Britain gave outright to the U. S. the right to bases in Newfoundland and Bermuda.

Relative Positions

The obvious one-sidedness of this exchange serves only to stress the relative positions now occupied by the British and U. S. empires in the world picture. The U. S. has in effect "taken over" strategic control of all British imperial holdings in the Western hemisphere. The virtual alliance with Canada and the acquisition of the bases on British territory to the south carry inevitably the corollary of American political control as well. The U. S. empire has begun its own fresh march toward expansion.

If Britain had to disgorge so much, little Costa Rica and little Ecuador may not be expected to do any less than "offer" to the U. S. land for bases on the strategically located Cocos and Galapagos islands located in the southern Pacific west of the Panama Canal. And as the reaching fingers of American imperialism extend farther out into the Pacific, we may before long expect to see similar "deals" made with Australia, with the Dutch rulers in the East Indies.

Jumping Off Places

What is happening before our eyes with strikingly little public consciousness of the fact is that the rulers of the U. S. are taking over new advance posts of empire from which the ultimate spring to world domination will be made. It is consequently of no little significance that the Roosevelt regime has adopted in carrying out this program a policy of systematically flouting Congress and the broad democratic rights which Congress, for better or worse, is supposed to represent. The al-

liance with Canada and the deal with Britain were both carried out as "executive arrangements." Congress was simply "informed" after the fact. Isolationism was put to rout not on the duly constituted public forum of Congress but by a scratch of the presidential pen. And the loudest isolationists do little more than wheeze and whimper a little because they were not consulted in advance!

Even Willkie was able to make no effective political capital for his campaign out of the presidential action. Willkie is a responsible representative of American big business and he knows that the Roosevelt deal is right in line with the needs and desires of his own bosses. He gave forth only a half-hearted protest over the "methods" employed by Roosevelt but stressed his approval of the deal itself.

Willkie Knows

Willkie knows that if he takes over in the White House he'll have to do exactly the same thing because he knows as well as Roosevelt that the American people aren't going to vote themselves into a war if their rulers give them the opportunity to be heard. They'll have to be dragged into it, led into it by backdoor methods. That's what Roosevelt is doing and that's okay with Willkie.

The destroyer-base deal opens up, in effect, a new and broad phase of the development of American imperialism. It implies the placing of American strength behind British resistance to the German assault. It implies a new partnership in which beleaguered Britain gratefully accepts second place, holding off the Nazi threat while the U. S. prepares to meet and defeat it in its own good time.

Fascist Judge Heads Inquiry Into 'Fifth Column' at Flint

FLINT, Mich.—Some idea of the sort of raw deal workers can expect from "fifth column" investigations throughout the country may be surmised by observing the men conducting the inquiries. A rank example is the secret one-man grand jury inquiry now under way in Flint. The "one-man" is Judge Paul V. Gadola of circuit court.

This is the same Judge Gadola who ordered the arrest of thousands of auto workers in the sit-down strike of 1937. When Gov. Frank Murphy refused to let the sheriff shoot the men out of the plants, Judge Gadola blurted out "To Hell with the Governor." He became known to Flint workers as "Judge Godamit."

Ever since then he has branded most labor leaders as Communists. He has repeatedly called Flint "a guinea pig of Communism", and other words to that effect. He has issued several injunctions against picketing and has arrested workers for "contempt of court" if they still insisted on the right to organize unions and fight for higher pay or better working conditions.

"Judge Godamit" has been for many years a leading member and patron of the Sons of Italy. At meetings of that order he often presided when speakers included representatives of the Fascist League of North America and consuls or vice consuls of the Fascist government of Italy. He has helped dedicate Fascist Italian flags at such meetings.

In his many "Americanism" speeches the judge hurls "Communism" charges right and left. Once in a while, recently, he puts in a gentle poke at Hitler—but he has never been quoted criticizing Nazism or Fascism generally or Mussolini individually.

The kind of "subversive" and "fifth column" activity this judge is looking for is obvious. Under the guise of an investigation for the good of America, and with his authority as a circuit judge, he will "unearth" anything or everything possible to smash organized labor in Flint—in all Michigan, if he can.

He has started slowly and carefully, but whenever there is an appropriate moment for a jingo spree or a red scare sensation, he may be expected to spring something.

Proceedings are secret, which is a double advantage for the judge. He can report to the press whatever he considers good propaganda. He can suppress any facts which he does not consider suitable for workers to know.

During the auto strike he jailed a New York reporter who published an eye-witness account of vigilantes taking a union leader out into the country and beating him up. When he discovered that arresting the reporter only spread the "scop" to other papers, Judge Gadola released the man.

There are thousands of Judge Gadolas in this country. Woe to the workers if they trust these men, or cooperate with them!

One Week Deadline Set For Grievance

FLINT, Sept. 10—The International Executive Board of the United Auto Workers (CIO) was given one week to get the men fired at Fisher Plant No. 1 back to work, or else. That was the decision voted by a membership meeting tonight, in the face of a demand by Reuther, spokesman for the International Executive Board, demanding that the workers go back to work while he negotiates.

Furthermore, a mass membership meeting was set for Sunday to hear the International Executive Board report on its negotiations. A militant spirit is prevailing among the men, and they are determined that those fired by the corporation—seventeen in all so far—will go back on the job or the company will not operate.

Reuther and R. J. Thomas, International president, are playing hatchet men for the company's lockout of the Fisher men, but this is one retreat before company pressure that the men here are determined shall not be put over on them.

(See editorial, page 4)

FLINT, Sept. 9 (midnight)—General Motors Corporation tonight locked out seven thousand UAW-CIO workers at Fisher Body Plant No. 1. As a result Buick is also down. The company provoked a fight by dealing with the discredited and hardly-existent Martin union (AFL). The workers answered by throwing the Martinites out of the plant. Five CIO committeemen were thereupon fired. The whole city is boiling and a strike may result.

FLINT, Mich., Sept. 9—As predicted in last week's SOCIALIST APPEAL, the tension of the speed-up, the whip-hand tactics of General Motors of the past few weeks, have reached the explosion point in this spearhead city of the corporation, and in Pontiac.

In the Pontiac division of GM, the speed-up offensive of the corporation reached such heights that it was met with a form of strike action, a spontaneous refusal to work the higher time standards set by the efficiency experts.

As an answer to this refusal of the men, the company sent men home by the thousands, when the men refused to stretch their nerves and muscles to the breaking point for the luxury and the profit of the DuPont dynasty.

Every day for a week, 6,000 men in Pontiac would report for work. The time-study men would make the rounds with their stop-watches.

"Step up the line, boys. Gotta get out production!"

This familiar command met deaf ears. Hurriedly the corporation executives called an emergency meeting. "Send 'em home. That'll teach them a lesson."

But just as this tactic did not work for the company in Buick in Flint, it was a total flop in Pontiac. Men reported for work, worked the regular speed which had previously been standard, and cheerfully put on their caps and went home when angry GM officials closed down the plant because the speed was not to their liking.

This went on for a full week. The plants had been running about two hours a day. The plans of intimidation did not work. The men stubbornly determined not to give in.

At this point last Friday Walter Reuther sped to the scene. Uppermost in his mind was the word a STRIKE...that haunting devil that keeps the International Executive Board of the UAW awake nights. He issued a statement to the press:

"The difficulties at Pontiac are due to engineering faults and lack of materials."

Workers wondered whom he was trying to fool. The corporation? They knew well enough they had materials. The workers?—they knew too what was going on. They also knew that they could expect no leadership, no inspiration from Walter Reuther and his fellow-lunatics.

The truth was that a struggle was going on. A struggle is what the Reuthers fear the most. They don't want to recognize it even when it is a reality.

Strike Sentiment Strong
All that can be learned about the Pontiac situation, as this is being written, is that by all signs, the men have agreed to work for the time being, the company has agreed not to close the plant, and the union and the corporation will negotiate time standards. It is a sure bet that the men will not quietly take a kind of settlement that requires them to step up their speed, whether their leaders in the UAW tell them it is for "National defense" or not.

Struggle In Flint
In Flint the GM corporation has continued its speed-up ef-

forts. In addition to the tactics used last week—laying men off several hours as a disciplinary move—the company tried some new ideas this week. Things have become especially tense now in Chevrolet.

This week Baldy Mathewson, well known militant Committeeman of Chevrolet Plant 6, was told he was to be transferred. This meant that he was to be separated from his men, his plant, the place where he fought for the men who elected him to represent them. On consultation with Chevrolet leaders, he decided to refuse the transfer. The next day HE WAS FIRED OUTRIGHT.

This creates an explosive situation as has existed in the Flint plants for many months. The arrogant and flagrant flouting of union bargaining procedure; the outright firing of a leading unionist; the refusal to settle grievances; the vicious speed-up—these things are piling up thick and fast and demand action.

Ranks Want Action

The rank and file of Chevrolet by all evidence is sick and tired of the do-nothing policy of the UAW tops. At their last meeting militant committeemen, stewards and union members voiced their demands for a policy of action. Many pointed out the fatally restricting character of the GM agreement, described how it holds up bargaining, stalls off the settlement of grievances.

UAW-CIO Representative Livingston, Walter Reuther's trouble-shooter, tried at the Chevrolet meeting to defend the GM contract, to excuse the inability of the leadership to force bargaining, to settle the mountain of grievances. He left the Chevrolet workers dissatisfied.

More and more there is heard from militant stewards, committeemen and union members the demand that General Motors be given its 60-day notice of termination of the contract—as provided in the agreement, and that the union proceed to fight for and get a real agreement.

In actuality, this is the only way to solve the problem of the hamstringing of negotiations on grievances.

What the UAW needs is a new, militant, fighting leadership, leaders of the rank and file who are looking for decent working conditions, and are not busy scraping and bowing in search of government posts as "National Defense" recruiting sergeants.

WORKERS' FORUM

Write to us—tell us what's going on in your part of the labor movement—what are the workers thinking about—tell us what the bosses are up to—and the G-men and the local cops—and the Stalinists—send us that story the capitalist press didn't print and that story they buried or distorted—our pages are open to you. Letters must carry name and address, but indicate if you do not want your name printed.

UNION PAPER PROVES BOSS PARTIES FAIL, BUT THEN STOPS!

EDITOR.

In a recent issue of the AFL organ here, the St. Paul Advocate, Aug. 1, there were two editorials, the one warning the workers about Roosevelt and his anti-labor policies, and the other characterizing the Republican party for what it really is. The editor pointed out that labor should not forget that Roosevelt sanctioned the WPA cuts, does not oppose the "anti-trust" anti-labor drive, and that it is the same Roosevelt who is speeding this country into war. The editor also proved, what all workers know, that the Republican party is still the party of Big Business; and he conclusively demonstrated that the two parties look so much alike that one needs a microscope to see the difference.

After having done this good job of demonstrating that the Democratic and Republican parties are the parties of the bosses, he concludes that we should quit this hollering for a third party because that would muddy up the waters.

"Can you see any sense to such reasoning? To me it seems that the only answers that can be given after we discover that the two old parties are boss dominated, is that labor enter the political field and come out for that openly. Why this belly-crawling before these so-called "friends" or "enemies" in the old parties?"

J. A.

TEXT OF ST. PAUL "UNION ADVOCATE" EDITORIAL

The St. Paul Union Advocate's August 1 editorial on Roosevelt, referred to by J. A. in his letter, has been sent in by two other correspondents also. It is well worth reprinting. It is entitled "Let Labor Face the Facts." Its full text follows:

Labor is reluctant to give up its idols.

Labor wants to go on believing that President Roosevelt is still the champion of the underprivileged; that he is still the advocate of peace; that he is Labor's friend.

Let Labor look at the record. Labor wanted the prevailing wage scale provision retained in the 1939-1940 WPA enactments. At no time did President Roosevelt indicate a like interest. As a matter of fact, Colonel Harrington, Mr. Roosevelt's personal appointee, appeared before the house and senate committee to demand that the prevailing wage clause be eliminated. Under the Woodrow amendment, which Mr. Roosevelt never protested, the prevail-

ing wage scale was eliminated and the sustenance wage scale substituted. Mr. Roosevelt signed the bill without comment.

When a lot of misguided WPA workers in Minneapolis struck against the wage cut authorized by the Woodrow amendment, a New Deal district attorney demanded and secured indictments against scores of the strikers. The FBI, under direction of a New Deal attorney general, rounded up the prisoners and paraded them in chains through the streets of Minneapolis. When Labor protested, Mr. Roosevelt revealed his lack of concern by declaring at a press interview "you can't strike against the government." When Labor leaders and central Labor bodies petitioned the government to temper its justice with mercy for the convicted strikers a personal representative of the President appeared in court and declared "you can't strike against the government." Scores went to jail and every plea for clemency was denied. Finally the President was asked to pardon the prisoners still remaining in cells and Mr. Roosevelt denied them clemency.

Let Labor face these facts and quit alibiing.

Let Labor consider the fact that Mr. Roosevelt—and not congress—sought appropriations totalling two billions of dollars for preparedness and that within a year he has upped these demands to four billion dollars. Let Labor remember that it was Mr. Roosevelt who proposed the income tax increases and the sales taxes to pay for these war preparations. Let Labor remember that it was Mr. Roosevelt—and not congress—who suggested the conscription of boys and girls for military training. Let Labor remember that the so-called Burke-Wadsworth universal conscription proposal now before congress was written at the specific request of Mr. Roosevelt. And lastly, let Labor remember that at no time has Mr. Roosevelt raised his voice in condemnation of the M-Day plan which will give the United States a military dictatorship the day it is invoked by the President.

Let Labor remember that the first acts of Mussolini and Hitler were to destroy the trade union movements in those two nations. Dictators are opposed to union wage scales because union wage scales have a way of keeping up the morale of workers. A union man feels a lot more independent than a non-union worker. Let Labor remember that "you can't strike against Mussolini" in Italy. And let Labor remember all ways that conscription is the tool of totalitarian dictatorships and the forerunner of despotism.

These are facts. Let Labor face them regardless of how much they cut human pride and shatter temporary idols.

CONVENTION OF CIO ELECTRICAL WORKERS SHOWS DECREASE OF STALINIST INFLUENCE

By AL MARTIN

CLEVELAND—The United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, potentially one of the most important and strategic unions in this country held its convention here over the Labor Day weekend. The U. E. is one of the CIO unions, that got its base and most important growth during the hey day of the CIO—1936-37. As a result of the tremendous impetus given the labor movement as a whole during that period by the steel workers, the U. E. was able to establish itself in its most important bases—General Electric and Westinghouse—relatively without a struggle.

In the period that followed, the U. E. was able to establish itself and grow without any of the great national struggles that characterized the development of the unions in Auto, Steel, Maritime, Rubber, its struggles, while sometimes very bitter, such as in Maytag where the National Guard sent the workers back to work at the point of bayonets, have been, however, few and far between.

In the past couple of years the union has been more dependent on pressure campaigns and the labor board than on strike action. Developing in such an atmosphere the union has not been able to generate anything like the rank and file enthusiasm of the United Auto Workers. Nor has it, in spite of the many contracts it has signed, been able to develop anything like the wage standards set in Auto and Steel.

In general then the average member has tended to be more or less apathetic to the union, except when a militant struggle has developed here or there. This situation worked out at first very well for the Stalinists. Coming into the union at its inception, and being the most experienced and articulate, the Stalinists found it quite easy to dominate the union. This, taken together with the fact that they were able to split the International Association of Machinists and come into the U. E. with a sizeable group in the east, placed them in a position of absolute hegemony over the U. E.

James Matles, the leader of the machinists, took the strategic post of organizational secretary which placed the Communist Party in a position of complete dominance of the organizational setup in the International. Einspack, another Stalinist, became secretary-treasurer. James Carey, puppet secretary of the CIO duplicated that role in the U. E. as President, except in the one case he was and is a puppet for John L. Lewis, in the other he was the willing prisoner of the Stalinists.

Stalinists On Way Out

Thus the Stalinists were in a position where they could have built a powerful citadel of strength in one of the most important industries of America. Yet nothing like this has taken place, and in this union where they had complete control, they are today facing a situation where their influence is definitely on the wane. They have thrown it all away by their false policies. The Stalinists are and have been always ready to cynically sign contracts which set standards lower than open shops and thereby make a hundred times more difficult the job organization. An example of this type of contract is one negotiated at the Mergenthaler Linotype corporation in New York, where in spite of the fact that the plant inevitably must receive millions of dollars in government contracts, they accepted a contract which actually calls for a wage cut, in spite of the fact that workers are paid higher wages for similar work in open shops.

But to organize on a militant basis is not only the way to go forward, it is the only way to preserve the union. The powerful J. E. Westinghouse, R.C.A. and large machine building plants fully intend to crush any and all unions whether they are militant or not. They have on their side the whole apparatus, the anti-trust laws, the labor board, the police and if need be the Army. Only militant action can save the U. E. as well as all other unions. Far from preserving themselves by playing safe, the Stalinist bureaucrats have endangered the union's resistance.

It is with such a background that the U. E. convention had to meet and deliberate. Yet in spite of all the vast problems facing the union the answers were not there. The Stalinists in spite of the fact that they were only a small minority at this convention, were able to get by, chiefly because the opposition had no program or organization.

Opposition Still Confused

The opposition leaders—Matthew Campbell of the powerful Springfield G. E. local, Al Coulthard of Lynn, Mass. of the R.C.A. plant in Camden—understand only one way to fight the Stalinists, that is super-patriotism and red baiting; they lack an organization program that could expose the Stalinists; and so were in absolutely no position to make their opposition understood by the membership. And this in spite of the fact that they were op-

posed to the Stalinists, not only for reactionary reasons which reflect capitalist pressure, but also for progressive reasons, namely Stalinist stifling of rank and file leadership, etc.

The C. P. succeeded in outmaneuvering this opposition on all of the political questions. On conscription, the one issue on which a divided vote was taken, the Stalinist position carried 435 to 195, as opposed to a resolution introduced by Campbell denouncing the Burke-Wadsworth Bill but leaving the question of conscription open to be decided "in time of emergency by the organized labor movement."

Stalinists Insecure

Thus on all controversial questions the Stalinists outmaneuvered the opposition. Yet their victory wasn't real, because the convention clearly established one thing, that Stalinism in the U. E. is on the wane, that an opposition with a program could easily give them a knockout blow.

James Carey who has been taking pot shots at the C. P. in his column in the U. E. news kept silent at the convention, obviously waiting for a more favorable opportunity. Like any union bureaucrat he will take no chances unless he is absolutely sure he can win.

The period following the convention inevitably must see the crystallization of a real rank and file opposition in the U. E. R. & M. and the development of a new and better leadership coming from the ranks. An opposition based on a program of union accomplishment, a campaign for the 35 hour week, minimum wage scales, organization of the unorganized, and in the development of rank and file leadership, an end to Stalinist domination.

Trotsky Memorial Meetings In Detroit, Cleveland, Etc.

Stevens Speaks In Cleveland

CLEVELAND, Sept. 6.—David Stevens, Secretary of the Ohio District of the S. W. P., was the main speaker at the Trotsky Memorial Meeting here tonight at the Hotel Allerton. Comrade Stevens described Trotsky's life "from that day on which he assumed the presidency of the first Soviet in world history, the Petrograd Soviet of 1905. He urged every member of the audience to read the "confession" found on the murderer, as the best evidence that the crime was committed by the GPU.

Cleveland workers were very receptive to the several thousand copies of the memorial issues of the APPEAL which were distributed. During the Labor Day parade of the CIO unions, some Stalinists tried to rough up one of the girls distributing the APPEAL aloft and proclaimed: "God, these people are right!"

Preis Speaks In Flint And Toledo

TOLEDO, Sept. 6.—Art Preis, well-known leader of the famous Toledo Unemployed League, spoke last night to a meeting in honor of Leon Trotsky at the Hotel Secor.

The well-attended meeting, one of the best ever held by the Toledo Branch of the S.W.P., also heard Trotsky's voice on a recording, and saw motion pictures revealing intimate details of Trotsky's life in Coyoacan.

Detroit Meeting Success Despite Move To Block It

DETROIT, Sept. 4.—In spite of a "red scare" attempt to prevent the Trotsky Memorial Meeting here, a large and determined gathering met here tonight in Doty Hall, as originally scheduled.

This afternoon the Detroit Branch of the Socialist Workers Party received a communication from the owners of the hall arbitrarily cancelling the renting of the hall because the meeting was for "reds". The afternoon paper carried this announcement of cancellation, so that many workers thought the meeting was not to be held.

However, with the aid of a prominent labor lawyer, the management was forced to live up to its agreement.

In spite of these obstacles, a large crowd of auto workers and other sympathizers met to hear Jules Geller, Secretary of the Michigan District of the S. W. P., deliver a moving address on the life of Leon Trotsky and its meaning for the working class. It was one of the most successful meetings yet held in Detroit. Fifteen thousand leaflets had been distributed previously at Detroit plant gates.

The recording of a speech by Trotsky was heard. Movies of Trotsky's life in Coyoacan were shown by one of his former bodyguards, Chris Andrews, who spoke briefly on that side of the great revolutionist's character which is little known—his lovable personal qualities as revealed to those who lived in close con-



Vincent R. Dunne delivering the main address at the Minneapolis Trotsky Memorial Meeting.

tact with him in the house in Coyoacan.

FLINT, Michigan, Sept. 8.—A Memorial Meeting for Leon Trotsky was held last night in the Carpenters Hall in the Pencil Building. Flint auto workers, veterans of the great sit-down strikes, heard Art Preis of Toledo speak on the meaning of Trotsky's life, and point out that wherever a worker stood up against the oppression of the boss, wherever a striker stood firm and angry on the picket line, there Trotsky still lived.

While a stool-pigeon reporter for a local vigilante outfit hurriedly made copious notes, Preis emphasized the determination of the Fourth International, founded by Trotsky, to continue without interruption the struggle of the oppressed working class against the boss class.

Later, movies of Trotsky's life in Coyoacan were shown, during which the stool pigeon and his personal guard withdrew, evidently understanding the contempt and hatred which the class-conscious workers of Flint have for their kind.

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio, Sept. 9.—Sixty persons were present at the Trotsky Memorial Meeting held here Sunday afternoon at the Central Auditorium. David Stevens, Ohio District Secretary of the S.W.P., delivered the main address. A large quantity of books and pamphlets by Trotsky were sold to a number of workers.

AKRON, Ohio, Sept. 9.—In spite of the small size of the SWP branch here, a sizeable meeting was arranged which was addressed by D. Stevens. A fine spirit of determination was evident throughout the audience who were very attentive while the speakers outlined the great contributions that our fallen leader had made to the education of the workers.

Charles Cooke

The Newark District of the Socialist Workers Party joins with his wife and children in mourning the death of comrade Charles Cooke, militant Negro steel worker and unionist, who saw in the party and the socialist re-organization of society the only solution for the problems of the working class and the Negro people.

His passing away means a genuine loss to the party, and one which will not soon be replaced. His willingness to learn, his desire to help, his disciplined attitude—all learned the hard way, over a period of many years in factories in which he sweated away his life to make profits for bosses—were an inspiration to all who knew him.

The party pledges to carry on the fight to which he devoted the last years of his life.

SELLING THE APPEAL

Reports of nation-wide activity with the memorial issues of the APPEAL are only now beginning to reach the office. An excellent report from Boston gives a living example of how party strength can be mobilized around an issue, to bring the party's position to the workers. We quote:

BOSTON, Mass.—"On the report on how we handled the 5000 APPEALS—

"On Monday, the branch meeting night, all comrades were told to be at the headquarters every night. Unemployed were told to be there at 11 a.m. every day. Every night during the week we covered house-to-house in the working-class districts, including Dorchester where the C. P. has a large section; Roxbury same as above and stronghold of the S. D. F. and S. P. for years; West End Boston (where we had good results in our house-to-house APPEAL campaigns, finding the workers more advanced than in other sections); South End Boston, where all the national groups are found—Arab, Jewish, Irish, Polish, Lithuanian, Italian, Greek, etc.; and the Negro Section of Boston, where almost 1000 papers reached this important section of the working class.

"Also we covered the waterfront, reaching seamen, longshoremen, Negro stewards, etc. We hit subway entrances where workers were on their way to their jobs.

"On street assignments, we yelled the headlines and added others ourselves. We picked one place where the C.P. headquarters are located, and saw many C.P.'ers, selling the APPEAL to some of them.

"We spread the APPEAL throughout the radical debating circles on Boston Common, and elsewhere. We reached workers

entering the factories, and everywhere on the streets.

"As an estimate we figure that with widespread leaflet distribution announcing the memorial meeting in addition to our special APPEAL work, about 15,000 people were directly contacted. We estimate that 40,000 people in Boston knew our position on the death of Comrade Trotsky and knew that Stalin was the killer.

We received news stories in four Boston papers and many others heard of the APPEAL and the meeting, and the party was put in the limelight. We have spread our ideas and program to many new workers, and it may well bear fruit in the future."

SUBS COMING IN

Subscriptions continue to come in, slowly, but steadily. Fifty-nine were received during the past six weeks, with Minneapolis, as usual, far in the lead. (We hope soon to publish a report from Minneapolis on how they do it.)

Here is the compilation:

Minneapolis	13
New York City	8
Chicago	7
California (State)	5
Connecticut	3
Omaha	3
Pittsburgh	2
Youngstown	2
Lynn, Mass.	2
St. Paul	2
Los Angeles	2
Philadelphia	2

And one each from Quakertown, Washington, D. C., Detroit, Cleveland, Allentown, Rochester, Kentucky, Illinois, Idaho, and North Dakota.

Join the Socialist Workers Party

Argentina Land Scandal Exploited by Fascists

By QUEBRACHO

BUENOS AIRES, August 29 (by mail)—The latest events here, of which the cables must have informed the U. S. public, are nothing more than a new stage in the struggle between the two camps of the bourgeoisie linked to the two imperialist camps in the world war.

The fascist elements in the Senate began an investigation of the purchase of some land for the army in El Palomar, knowing that this purchase involved grave irregularities, which the fascists desired to utilize to eliminate from the cabinet the Ortiz group. President Ortiz represents the pro-Anglo-U.S. "democratic" group, and his removal would give vice-president Castillo the chance to reorganize the cabinet with the pro-Nazi-Fascist elements with whom he is connected.

And it produced the effect which its initiators desired, seeking as they were to discredit the democratic regime. In the land affair there appeared to be implicated important government functionaries and deputies of various parties, including the so-called popular parties, like the Radical party. The affair produced a profound impression in the country, and was utilized fully by the "nationalists" and the Nazi-fascists, who went into the streets calling for the resignation of Ortiz, crying, "Down with the thieves!", and with their chief, General Juan Bautista Molina at their head, announced every day a coup d'etat, in a veritable "war of nerves" designed to confound the masses of the country.

"Democrats" Recover, Fight Back

But the result of the Senate's investigation, grave as it was, and which at the beginning left disconcerted the "democratic" Anglo-U.S. camp, did not suffice to force that camp to flee. It recovered after a while, and understanding the aim which the fascists were pursuing, also went into the streets to support Ortiz and to cry: "Long live democracy!" and "Democracy—yes, fascism—no!", etc.

Meanwhile President Ortiz, feeling himself involved by the Senate investigation and seeking to recover the prestige that he may have lost, sent a spectacular resignation to Congress; at the same time General Molina was arrested and, on the other hand, one of the popular deputies compromised by the land business committed suicide.

Ortiz' resignation produced among the people an impression even more profound than the Senate affair; and various demonstrations were organized by the Radical party, by the Anglophiles of "Argentine Action"—and by the Stalinists, who passed at this point over to the "democratic" group in one of those sudden turns ordered by their bureaucrats (they had been viciously anti-Ortiz until the day before, indistinguishable in their policies from the Nazis.)

These pro-Ortiz demonstrations continued during several days, demanding the refusal by Congress of the Ortiz resignation. Also the Confederation General del Trabajo (General Labor Federation General del Trabajo (General Labor Federation of workers in Argentina, with a membership of 300,000 and controlled by the railroad union heads (the railroads are owned by Eng-

land), organized a great meeting of "democratic affirmation and American solidarity" in support of Ortiz, at which appeared among the spectators the secretary of the U. S. Embassy, by special invitation.

As a result of all this, Ortiz came out strengthened; but this has been of little use to him, for he is ill (of diabetes, and had previously to all this turned over his executive powers to Castillo) and unlikely to return to take charge of the government.

So that in spite of everything his ministry felt itself obliged to resign and, now, vice-president Castillo, unquestionably inclined to the Nazi-fascists and who was largely responsible for the obstructive attitude of the Argentine delegation at the Havana Conference, and whom the Rome press says is planning to establish a government that will bring the country toward the totalitarian axis, is forming a new cabinet.

At the time of writing these lines, everything indicates that the cabinet will be a compromise between the two struggling camps. This, far from resolving the situation which is convulsing the country, does nothing but postpone the solution. It is evident that with Castillo in charge of the government, the "nationalist" and Nazi-fascist sector will have greater prerogatives, as can be seen by the freeing of General Molina, ordered by Castillo, as well as the freeing of the Nazi leaders recently arrived in Argentina and who had been arrested.

Castillo is certain to give greater freedom of action to the group called "Argentine Affirmation", organized in opposition to the pro-Anglo-U.S. "Argentine Action"; incidents between the two take place daily in the streets, in the schools and universities, and in theaters and other public places.

The present situation, therefore, signifies nothing more than a momentary truce in this battle. It leaves as real as ever, on the one side, the danger of a seizure of power by the "nationalists" together with the Nazi-fascist "fifth column" (which is particularly important in Argentina and is well armed), and on the other side, also a seizure of power carried out under "democratic" slogans, which would openly place the country in the imperialist war on the side of England and the United States.

Confronted by these two alternatives, the strategy and tactics of the revolutionary proletariat, we believe, should be the following: in case of an attempted seizure of power by the "nationalist"-Nazi-fascist sector, the working class should place itself, arms in hand, at the side of the "democratic" sector in the fight against the fascists.

When, however, the United States proceeds to disembark troops in our country—as it will certainly do and for which Roosevelt has just obtained U. S. Congressional authorization—ostensibly to collaborate in the fight against fascism but in actuality to turn Argentina into a battlefield of the inter-imperialist war, then the revolutionary workers should take a stand against both camps. For the North-American troops will not have come to liberate us from Hitler but to subjugate us to Wall Street.

BOOKS and PAMPHLETS

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Whither France	cloth .75	160 pages
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In Defense of the Soviet Union	.10	40 pages
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The Negro Struggle

by Robert L. Birchman

THE DEATH OF JESSE THORNTON

Jesse Thornton, a negro farm worker, about 27 years old, was living in Laverne for about five years. It's the county seat of Crenshaw county, Alabama. Jesse and his wife were running a chicken farm for a white man. They were known as hard workers.

That Saturday—the day the farmers gather in the county seat to barter and trade and talk—Jesse came downtown to a Negro barber shop. Afterward he stood outside the barber shop, talking with friends. Down the street came a police officer. Jesse said softly to his friends: "There comes Doris Rhodes, boys."

But the cop had been looking at them as he came along, and he overheard Jesse. "What did you say?" he asked sharply.

Jesse hesitated. He knew where he had made his mistake. He tried to rectify it. "I said there goes Mister Rhodes," he said.

"No you didn't," said the cop. You left off the Mister. I heard you. You're just a lying nigger."

Jesse bristled. "All right, I did say Doris Rhodes." That's all he ever had a chance to say. Rhodes knocked him down with his blackjack, picked him up by the collar and started off to the jail with him.

Near the jail door Jesse tried to get away. But stones struck him as he did so, he stopped, and Rhodes had him again. A crowd was quickly gathering, from it had come the stones. A buddy of Rhodes, Nolan Ellis, came along and took Jesse by the other arm. As they walked along with Jesse between them, the crowd followed on their heels, ugly. Jesse feared his end had come.

He broke away again and kept going, though five shots were fired at him. He sprinted for nearly three-quarters of a mile. The loss of blood bore him down and he sat down in a field. A white woman nearby saw him take out his handkerchief and mop the blood from his face.

Soon the mob was nearing the field. Jesse tried to move on. Sheer exhaustion slowed him, finally made him just stay where he was, and the mob overtook him.

It was one of those new streamlined, hushed-up lynchings.

From beginning to end the whole thing hadn't taken more than 25 minutes. Jesse was shoved into a small truck and carried off to a "dead-end" street in the town; dragged some paces from there into a swamp. Then the shots.

Members of the mob then went to City Hall where they talked with Mayor T. McKing. Maybe it was at his advice that they went next to the Negro barber shop, learned where Jesse had lived, and went there. "Where's Jesse?" they demanded of his wife. When she said he was in town, they threatened her if she did not tell the "truth". Later that night, they took her out in a car where they kept her practically all night, threatening her life if she revealed anything.

That was Saturday, June 22. The next Friday Stephen Thompson was fishing. Coming along he scared up a drove of vultures. When he came to where they'd been he saw what they'd been eating and pulling at.

The town officials had Negro prisoners make a box, took them to the scene where Jesse's half-decomposed body lay, ordered them to put it into the crude casket, carry it to a Negro cemetery and dig a grave and bury it. After it was all over, somebody told Jesse's wife.

Jesse was the fifth Negro lynched this year. The fifth, that is, where an investigation—this one by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People—was able to establish the facts. At least four others are known about, but not yet investigated for lack of funds. And who knows how many more? Now that the lynchings don't call the county together to make a big show, but murder speedily within the hour of the "incident".

Senate Majority Leader Barkley refuses to bring up the Federal Anti-Lynching Bill. Because consideration of defense measures "is more important" at this time.

RACE RIOT DANGER IN TOLEDO

TOLEDO, Ohio — A proposed WPA housing project here for white families in the Negro district is stirring up a wave of racial antagonism which may well end up in a race riot.

The Future Outlook League, basing itself upon the most exploited and oppressed among the Negroes, is demanding the complete elimination of the entire slum area along John R Street. Failing this, they want no slum elimination whatsoever. The CIO, opposing this one-sided program, has challenged the Future Outlook league to justify its position in a debate. This debate may end up with the CIO and Future Outlook league fighting each other.

Despite the justified mistrust of Negroes toward the WPA housing program, which has eliminated only 2 1/4% of the more than 20,000 "sub-standard" homes here, nevertheless a policy of fighting the CIO instead of cooperating with it will boomerang back on the Future Outlook League. The stand—either the elimination of the entire John R Street area or no slum elimination at all—will degenerate into a stand against cleaning up one-half the area. And this latter stand may find a picket line of white workers, content for the moment with eliminating one-half of this slum, breaking up a picket line of black workers from the Future Outlook League.

But if the militancy of the Future Outlook League—its mass meetings, demonstrations and picketings—is geared into a concentrated attack against those responsible for slum conditions: Big Business and Government, it will find the CIO and other progressive groups, white or black, on its side, accepting concessions as they are won, and continuing the fight for more.

C. P. Lies on Trotsky Murder Exposed; Daily Worker Manufactures 'Statement'

Goldman Shows How Lie Machine of G.P.U. Is Operated

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 5—A typical Stalinist technique of distorting the facts about the murder of Trotsky was exposed today in a statement issued by Albert Goldman, Trotsky's attorney. The statement said:

It will, I am certain, be of great interest to the Mexican people to learn how American Stalinists in charge of institutions that furnish information to the American tourists and to a section of the American press (mainly Stalinist press) distort the truth about the murder of Trotsky and attempt to cover up the responsibility of Stalin's GPU.

A statement issued by "Mexican Labor News" appeared in the Mexico City Daily Bulletin published by Jack Hunt. The "Mexican Labor News" is edited by one Harry Block of the Workers University of Mexico, an individual who consistently follows the Stalinist line. The statement is an excellent example of the distortions and fabrications that all Stalinists recouse to.

The subject matter of the release is the statement by the C.T.M. (Mexican Confederation of Labor) dealing with the appeal of President Cardenas to the workers of Mexico on the question of the position of political refugees in Mexico and of the murder of Trotsky.

The release begins with the declaration that "the death of Leon Trotsky has by no means put an end to the mystery that surrounded the Trotsky case, nor has it in any way cleared up the mystery of the two attacks on the exile's life, the second of which was successful."

May 24 Guilty Known

Absolutely no one who is not a friend of the GPU could possibly claim that there is any mystery whatever about the assault on Trotsky on May 24. The whole world knows by this time that every one of those detained in connection with the assault is a Stalinist, and that only a few of them have not confessed. Nor is there anyone, outside of Stalin's GPU, its defenders and friends, who could possibly claim that there is any mystery connected with the murder of Trotsky. It is a fact, known and accepted by the whole world that Raymond, Jackson is an agent of Stalin's GPU.

It follows as night does the day that those who attempt to deny that fact, or issue statements about the murder ignoring that fact, convict themselves of consciously attempting to cover up the real authors of the murder. They also convict themselves of supporting the circle of those who made the intellectual preparation for the GPU attack.

Naturally, I would say that this

Trotsky's Guards Would Give Lives To Keep Assassin Alive -- To Talk

By E. ANDERSON

MEXICO CITY — On the day that Jackson was brought to the scene of his crime, in order to re-enact the tragedy for the Mexican judge and the police, all of Trotsky's guards and secretaries were requested to disarm, and the arms were placed in a room and padlocked. The Mexican authorities feel strongly their responsibility in preserving the life of the man who can reveal the mechanism of the complicated and sinister death machine operated from Moscow.

But the guards of Leon Trotsky, far from making any attempts upon the life of the assassin, are ready to risk their own lives to save his, for, given time, they feel that questioning him will provide clues to reveal completely the GPU masters whose instructions he followed.

Jackson, the clever and skillfully trained professional assassin, carried out his instructions successfully; he murdered the great revolutionary, Leon Trotsky, whom Stalin feared and hated. But something went wrong with the rest of the plan—Jackson neither escaped nor was he killed. He lived to be taken into police custody. Now it is necessary for the GPU murder ring to close in upon the man who knows too much and who can reveal everything to the world which watches and waits...He must not be questioned too long nor too closely.

The only question is—how soon and by what means? Certainly the time is not far off, for every day that Jackson remains alive is another day of tormenting fear for the GPU that he may slip and reveal the truth. Even at this moment, in their hidden places, we can picture the GPU heads planning the means for Jackson's death. They never depend upon one method—one might fail, and as in the case of the attacks upon Trotsky, they strike immediately with the next weapons they have already prepared.

applies as well to the heads of the C.T.M., who issued a statement in which nothing at all is said about the responsibility of the GPU for the murder of Trotsky. But this is a matter which will be dealt with elsewhere and at some other time.

Nails False Statements

According to the statement of the "Mexican Labor News," the "secretaries of Trotsky immediately took advantage of the situation to blame progressive labor circles in Mexico for the murder." This, of course, is a cynical falsehood. The secretaries of Trotsky blamed Stalin's GPU and named those people who have been consistently defending the actions of the GPU as merely responsible for the plot. These people can be no stretch of the imagination, be designated as "progressive."

We shall not discuss the false assertion made in the statement to the effect that Jackson was a member of Trotsky's organization and high in Trotsky's confidence, for nearly a year. According to Jackson's own testimony, he was not a member but undoubtedly he succeeded in deceiving Trotsky and many of his friends, as to his real identity and mission.

Do the falsifiers expect that a GPU agent would be instructed by the GPU to inform Trotsky and his friends of his real identity and mission?

"It is generally believed," asserts the writer of the statement, that "when the veil is finally re-

moved from the mystery surrounding the Trotsky case, the solution will be found in the intricate struggles among the Trotskyists themselves." This statement is not only vicious but utterly stupid. Even those who are slightly acquainted with the history of the socialist movement know that there have been innumerable splits amongst revolutionary socialists on questions of political doctrine, but that not until the advent of Stalinism were falsehoods, violence and murder introduced as a method of political struggle.

It is highly significant that the same people who are now trying to cover up the GPU by attributing the murder to a political struggle within the Trotskyist organization, were also anxious to convince everybody that the assault on Trotsky on May 24th was organized by Trotsky himself. It was only after the arrest of well-known Stalinists in connection with this assault, and the discovery of the body of Robert Sheldon Harte, that these friends and agents of Stalin's GPU became silent about the theory of "auto-assault."

Nothing will help the agents and friends of the GPU. The whole world is too firmly convinced of the truth that directing the hand of the murderer of Trotsky was Stalin through his GPU. The venal friends and agents of Stalin can do nothing to eradicate this truth.

Stalinist Organ Attributes Quotation To Mexican Labor Confederation Which Is Proved To Be a Fabrication

By WALTER ROURKE

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 8—We rubbed our eyes in bewilderment when the Sept. 3 issue of the DAILY WORKER arrived from New York, carrying a big story about "organized labor" in Mexico sharply condemning President Cardenas for his statement pointing to the Stalinists as the murderers of Trotsky.

We compare, below, the DAILY WORKER story with that which appeared in EL POPULAR, the newspaper published by Lombardo Toledano, head of the C.T.M. (Mexican Confederation of Labor):

DAILY WORKER Sept. 3 (Headline) MEXICAN UNIONS SHARPLY CONDEMN CARDENAS FOR ANTI-LABOR INCITEMENTS.

Organized labor in Mexico today vigorously condemned President Lazaro Cardenas for his statement attempting to smear the Mexican labor movement, the Mexican Communist Party and by inference the Soviet Union because of the assassination of Leon Trotsky...

The statement of the Confederation of Mexican Labor...declared that Cardenas' utterance "makes the nation's head appear as a man who changed his revolutionary path and at the end of his term justified the criticism of reaction by mouthing concepts not expressed in his previous declarations."

Not once did the statement of the C.T.M. mention either the Communist Party or the Soviet Union. Not once did it have anything but praise for Cardenas' statement and for Cardenas himself.

The crude invention of the Daily Worker was needed for consumption in the United States. And so—as Stalinism does whenever it has to—the Daily Worker simply invented what it needed. What is a little case of forgery to these killers!

In the existing atmosphere here it would have been impossible for Toledano and the C.T.M., executive committee to say what the Daily Worker quoted them as saying, despite the fact that Toledano remains, today as always, the tool of the Stalinists. His own membership would have repudiated him, for despite all the Stalinist tentacles in the C.T.M., the membership as a whole undoubtedly agrees with Cardenas in placing the responsibility for Trotsky's murder on Stalin's GPU. Here, where the facts are known, where every Mexican worker knows the murderous three-year campaign against Trotsky conducted by the Stalinists, and knows the Stalinist af-

EL POPULAR, Sept. 3 (Headline) FRANK ENDORSEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT BY THE C. T. M.

(Quotation from the statement of the C.T.M.) "...the National Committee of the C.T.M. considers the statements made by the President of the Republic, General Lazaro Cardenas, just, strictly in keeping with our laws and perfectly based on the purest revolutionary morals regarding the responsibility and placing it on those who participated in the crime perpetrated against Leon Trotsky..."

(The actual quotation) "Finally the National Committee of our Confederation wishes to raise its protest against the counter-revolutionary elements which have attempted to capitalize to their own advantage on the statement of the President of the Republic, making the nation's head appear as a man...etc."

filations of those awaiting trial for the May 24 attempt on Trotsky, etc., not even the official press of the Communist party, La Voz de Mexico, dares to use against Cardenas the language of the N. Y. Daily Worker.

The whining tone of the official Stalinist "defense" is sufficiently indicated by this paragraph from the statement of the Central Committee of the Mexican Communist Party, printed in the latest issue of La Voz de Mexico:

"If investigations prove that one or more members or sympathizers of the Communist Party intervened in the preparation or execution of the attacks against Leon Trotsky, violating our fundamental principles, they will be expelled from the party as elements very dangerous to the working class."

In this situation, it was undoubtedly by agreement with the Stalinists that Toledano issued the fawning statement asserting his complete agreement with Cardenas. Control of the C.T.M. is too valuable a weapon in the hands of the Stalinists for them to risk losing it by attacking Cardenas at this juncture.

Housing Crisis To Be Part of War Boom

As the war armaments program slowly gets under way, the problem of housing the armament workers begins to loom. Recollections of the frightful housing conditions in shipbuilding and steel centers, munitions areas, etc., during the last war, and the resultant dissatisfaction of the workers, are troubling both government and war-industrialists.

However, the proposals being made to solve this problem, the various commissions now studying the housing problem in connection with the war industries, are simply a repetition of identical moves made during the last war—and will get no further than the same moves got last time.

When the war boom got going in 1916, the workers drained from the central and middle-western states and brought to the eastern industrial centers found no place to live when they arrived. The cities to which they came had been, even under normal conditions, tenement-infested, overcrowded. With the sudden influx, living conditions, became utterly unbearable.

Tenements which had been condemned and awaiting destruction were reopened and put back into service, although they were manifestly unfit for human habitation. Ramshackle old houses were "remodeled" into "apartment" houses. Shacks were thrown up, made from junk heaps. Most of these dwellings had either no sanitary facilities at all, or were so poorly equipped that they were literally disease traps. It was quite usual for ten to twelve families to use one toilet. Health standards fell as fast as rents rose.

The workers, dissatisfied with the hovels they had to live in as well as the unbelievable rents they had to pay, deserted their "high paying" jobs and moved, again and again, hoping to find decent living quarters in another city. But they always found the same horrible conditions. They continued to move on, however, hoping against hope.

The consequent labor turnover was phenomenal. Normally an industry expects, at worst, about a 300% change in its employment lists per year. During that period in many places the rate was 100% per week. It wrought havoc with the armament program, and became one of the chief worries of the government.

Vain Attempts to Solve Situation

The government sought one way to ease the situation by decentralizing industry, letting contracts throughout the middle and far west. This had sharp limitations. Shipbuilding and steel centers, etc., could not be moved. Moreover, wherever contracts were let, these smaller communities simply repeated the pattern of the industrial eastern cities. Rents skyrocketed as landlords charged all the traffic would bear.

By 1918 the government was attempting to encourage industry to build houses for workers, setting aside, as a beginning, 10 million dollars for that purpose. The Army and Navy spent some 35 millions to build dwellings for government shipbuilders.

Early the same year a commission was set up to study the problem and it recommended:

1. The creation of an organization with enough permanency and broad-enough powers to borrow and loan money to industry for housing purposes.
2. Financial aid directly to industry for housing construction.
3. The decentralization of industry in letting government contracts.

Little, however, had been done in any direction to alleviate, much less to solve the problem, before the war ended.

Why Nothing Will Be Done

A moment's thought will explain why. Mr. Smith, holding a government contract and unable to keep production up to the level required by the government order, might have been frantic at the thought of his enormous labor turnover. He would have liked to cut down that turnover. But to build cheap and good housing? No! For the same Mr. Smith, as often as not, owned some rickety tenements, or was a stockholder in a bank deeply rooted in real estate. Or if Mr. Smith didn't have these interests, the equally opulent and influential Mr. Jones had those interests, and the need of Mr. Smith's workers for housing was not a problem to Mr. Jones but a golden opportunity to cash in on their need by making them pay good money for bad housing.

A real housing program to insure adequate housing for the workers must necessarily mean war against the landlords. No housing program, no matter how conciliatory to private landlords, has ever satisfied the landlords. For the landlords will not accept any sane basis as "adequate compensation" for surrendering their tenements and permitting new public housing to replace the old death-traps—especially when the prospect is for an influx of workers who will be forced to pay any rent demanded of them!

But no capitalist government can war against the landlords. For the landlord is, generally, another corporate designation for the banker, industrialist, businessman. Through the mortgage network the banking system is inextricably linked in its interests to the real estate interests, and can mobilize all sectors of business enterprise to do its bidding.

We can flatly predict in advance, therefore, that no matter how troubled the various administrators are, no matter how scared they are of a repetition of the 1916-18 labor turnover, no matter how much they would like to remove this sore spot of housing, they will not do so. Removing this sore spot would involve removing its parent—capitalism.

And that, needless to say, will not be done by a capitalist government. The frightful overcrowding of 1916-18 is about to be repeated in even more terrible circumstances.

Government Report Shows Profits On Arms Deals Are Soaring Sky-High

By SAM MARCY

A confidential government report now secretly circulating among top notch officials in the Roosevelt government, states that the profits of the capitalists thriving on war orders for the first half of this year are 50% higher than the comparable period of 1939 and is approaching the peak reached in 1929.

This information comes from an authoritative Washington dispatch to the Journal of Commerce, a Wall Street daily, in its July 15 issue. When one remembers that the year 1929 marks the period when capitalist profits reached their highest peace time peak in American history, we get a fair idea of what an orgy of profiteering the bankers, industrialists and munition makers are already having at the expense of the toiling masses of America.

The report also reveals that production in the light goods industries is about the same as 1939. This is a most revealing bit of information, since production in the light goods industries reflects the purchasing power of the people. For instance, the government report indicates that the same amount of textiles, shoes, and automobiles (for consumer purposes) were produced this year as last year.

This simply means that the masses of people have not earned more this year than last and consequently have not been able to buy more this year than they did last year. This is borne out by

the fact that the index of retail sales for the first six months of this year is only 8% above that of last year, which was a low year, and already the buying by wholesale distributors of consumer goods has dropped about 35% below the buying of last fall, which indicates that they, the wholesalers, do not expect a rise in the purchasing power of the masses.

All of this merely proves that the so-called National Defense Program, which the people are asked to believe is a patriotic enterprise in the interest of all classes of society, is merely a means for pumping millions into the pockets of the bosses while the rest of the country remains in the same poverty-stricken condition it was in before.

A graphic example of how the big bosses manage to clean up millions of dollars on war orders was furnished by the War Department when it awarded a contract to the Chrysler Corporation for the mass production of tanks. Here is a case where the government—or rather the Chrysler motor magnates \$53,500,000 for tanks. But in return Chrysler will only give \$23,500,000 worth of tanks. The other twenty million will go for plant and equipment. That is, the Chrysler bosses will obtain the location of the plant, build and equip it, and then transfer the title of the plant to the government. So the government will

be the landlord of the plant and the Chrysler Corporation the tenant.

How much rent should the Chrysler Corporation pay for approximately 113 acres of land, a floor area of about 800,000 square feet, where it will be able to employ between four thousand and five thousand men? How many millions? Exactly one dollar a year! Yes, one dollar!

The government is landlord to thousands of small home owners—under the Home Owners Loan Act. They pay rent. Thousands of these homes are foreclosed every month because of default in the payment of interest on mortgages which the government holds. To forestall foreclosures and evictions, these small home owners created many organizations, which sent delegations to Washington in the hope of obtaining some relief. After months of lobbying and negotiations, all that was obtained was a reduction in the interest rate from 5% to 4 1/2%.

Such was the attitude of the capitalist government to the plight of the millions of small home owners. How different was the attitude of the government to K. T. Keller, president of the Chrysler Corporation, who went to Washington to negotiate with William S. Knudsen, Defense Commissioner in charge of purchasing and production. As one motor magnate to another, they found common interest in plundering the government, or rather

the people who pay the taxes.

But the example of the Chrysler Corporation obtaining a rent-free plant is not likely to be an isolated case—but rather the general rule.

It seems that the contract between the War Department and the Du Ponts, whereby the government is to finance the building of a \$23,000,000 powder plant, is another example. Only here we do not know what the rental is, inasmuch as the rental was not disclosed. But it is hardly likely that the Du Pont representative would drive a worse bargain with Defense Commissioner Knudsen than his colleague from the Chrysler Corporation.

Suffice it to mention that for the first half of 1940 the E. I. Du Pont de Nemours Co. earned about \$17,500,000 in profits from its investments in the General Motors Company. This is significant in view of the fact that Knudsen, who is Defense Commissioner, is also the head of General Motors. The fact that Knudsen resigned from General Motors before assuming his position in the Defense Commission ought to deceive no one. He may have resigned his post, but he still has huge stakes in General Motors; so, too, has Du Pont. The profits in this company is their main concern, not patriotism.

"We cannot assent to allowing our own patriotism to interfere with our duties as trustees (of stockholders)."

Who were the stockholders? The Du Ponts! So, when Du Pont states that it is his duty to his stockholders to prefer profits to patriotism, he is voicing the true sentiments of the industrialists, bankers and munitions manufacturers. Such is the true role of America's Sixty Families in launching the so-called National Defense program. It is a program calculated to accumulate billions of dollars out of the intense exploitation of the workers, farmers and lower middle class.

A great deal of confusion is deliberately fostered by the press to the effect that the army and navy staff are in bitter opposition to the effort of the capitalists to reap millions out of the armament program. Nothing could be further from the truth! The attitude of high army and navy officials was accurately expressed by Captain C. W. Fisher of the Navy Department during the course of testimony before a House sub-committee on May 16th, 1940. Here is what he said:

"In these perilous times, Mr. Chairman, we should make the government business most attractive."

How attractive can be seen from the administration-sponsored bill to wipe out the previous 8 per cent limitation on ship and aircraft profits. But even that is only the beginning.

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Fight with the Socialist Workers Party for:

1. A JOB AND A DECENT LIVING FOR EVERY WORKER.
2. OPEN THE IDLE FACTORIES — OPERATE THEM UNDER WORKERS' CONTROL.
3. A TWENTY-BILLION DOLLAR FEDERAL PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING PROGRAM.
4. THIRTY-THREE—\$30-WEEKLY MINIMUM WAGE—30-HOUR WEEKLY MAXIMUM FOR ALL WORKERS ON ALL JOBS.
5. \$30 WEEKLY OLD-AGE AND DISABILITY PENSION.
6. EXPROPRIATE THE SIXTY FAMILIES.
7. ALL WAR FUNDS TO THE UNEMPLOYED.
8. A PEOPLE'S REFERENDUM ON ANY AND ALL WARS.
9. NO SECRET DIPLOMACY.
10. AN INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY.
11. WORKERS' DEFENSE GUARDS AGAINST VIGILANTE AND FASCIST ATTACKS.
12. FULL SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY FOR THE NEGRO PEOPLE.

Crisis in Auto Plants

The lid is off in Flint. The immediate incident which blew the lid off—a company provocation at Fisher Plant No. 1, brazenly trying to resurrect Homer Martin's corpse of an AFL "union", followed by firing seventeen UAW militants—is but a minor incident. By itself it would scarcely have aroused the masses of this auto worker center to the point where they are ready to close down every plant in the industry. The latest incident is but the culmination of a basic collision between the auto workers and the corporations over fundamental issues.

Wages, working conditions, the union's right to limit speed of production (i.e. the speed-up of the workers), the union's right to real collective bargaining—not in the empty formality of signing a contract, but in enforcing the contract in the plant—all these fundamental issues are involved in the present crisis between the UAW-CIO and General Motors in Flint.

If the deadline of one week set by a Flint auto workers' membership meeting Tuesday night for settlement of the immediate grievance is not met by the company, and a strike results, it will spread far beyond the plants immediately involved, and it will from the first day be fought for far more than reinstatement of the seventeen men fired.

If the strike comes now, the very logic of the situation will demand that the auto workers should not narrowly limit their strike demands to the immediate incident which provoked it, but should fight the strike out for all the many grievances which have accumulated.

The corporation's strategy is to wear down the resistance of the workers with bitter fights over minor issues. Each time it provokes the men, rousing them to a pitch of struggle; then the corporation has the invaluable aid of the Reuther-Thomas leadership of the UAW, which steps in and makes a rotten compromise, one which undermines the union a little further, which lets the men down with a feeling of defeat, and simply paves the way for the next corporation move against the workers. If this process is permitted to continue for any length of time, the back of the workers' resistance will be broken, and the corporation will be victorious over the men if they try a last desperate stand at the end of this process.

That is why every decent militant in the UAW wants a show-down NOW. Put an end to the corporation offensive! Put an end to the accumulation of grievances! Get rid of the rotten grievance procedure which gets no settlement of any grievances, and in its place establish a method whereby every grievance arising is quickly settled to the satisfaction of the union membership.

By now it has become clear to the naked eye that the Reuther-Thomas leadership neither wishes nor is it able to lead the auto workers to defend their rights against the corporations. The Reuther-Thomas clique does not take its orders from the men whom they are supposed to represent. They take their orders from Sidney Hillman. And he takes his orders from the National Defense Council of which he is a member. And that Council is in the hands of Knudsen—the head of General Motors! If Knudsen and Hillman have their way, the UAW-CIO will be reduced to the level of a company union.

Fortunately for the auto workers, Knudsen and Hillman have a long way to go before they even begin to achieve their aim. That is demonstrated by the splendid militant spirit of the Flint auto workers during these weeks. They have shown that the spirit of '37 is not dead.

No faith whatsoever in Knudsen-Hillman's office boys, Reuther and Thomas! That is the beginning of all straight thinking today for the auto workers.

If fight we must, then let us have a show-down fight—that should be the guiding thought of the auto workers of Flint and Detroit.

Hershel Grynzspan

The greater tragedy of the war itself shrouds from the public consciousness the smaller tragedies that follow in war's wake. Yet sometimes the fate of these lesser individual victims illuminates the whole broad canvas of human agony.

Such is the case of Herschel Grynzspan, the Jewish youth who two years ago shot a German diplomat in Paris and touched off the bestial pogroms against the Jews in Germany.

Grynzspan, caught by the tide of war in a rotten French prison, has been handed by the Vichy rulers over to the mercies of the Nazi conquerors for their final vengeance.

The hapless Jewish boy, driven to his act by the blind desperation of his persecuted race, was freely given the friendly sympathy of civilized people throughout a world horrified by the Nazi pogroms. But "democratic" rulers of France kept Grynzspan in their dungeons, unwilling to mar the "harmony" of the post-Munich honeymoon by bringing him to trial.

He was still there when the German tide reached Paris. Together with other prisoners, he was taken to the south. The Nazi conquerors demanded his flesh and the French rulers—the "democrats" of yesterday, the guardians of the hallowed principle of political asylum—dutifully handed him over to the Gestapo at Toulouse.

"Nothing—" adds the news dispatch—"has been heard of Grynzspan since."

And nothing will be heard of him living any more. For the name of Grynzspan is thus added to the endless list of the millions handed over by the "democratic" leaders of "democratic" France to the iron grasp of the Fascist conquerors. And soon, indeed, French Jews are themselves to feel the weight of the new regime set up by the "democrats" of yesterday. Like the Italians, the men of Vichy will before long follow in the footsteps of the Nazi masters in this as in other things.

The final fate of Grynzspan also helps re-evaluate the attitude taken at the time of his deed by the Stalinists. While the whole world rang with sympathy for the young Jew, the Stalinists tried to smear him as a "Trotskyist" tool of the Gestapo. Since then the Stalin-Hitler pact has provided the reason. Even then, in the days just after Munich the Stalinists were more interested in turning the wrath from the Germans by muddying the pitiful Grynzspan than in denouncing the Nazis for their brutality.

It was a short road for Grynzspan. His way was not ours but we could sympathize with the desperation that led him to seek in direct action some means of breaking through the iron ring he felt around him. We'll break that ring, but only through uniting in struggle the workers and oppressed people of all countries against the makers of war, against the Fascists and the "democratic" liars and hypocrites.

Browder's Alibi

In Mexico, where the facts about Stalinist responsibility for the murder of Trotsky are well-known, the Stalinist organization and its stooges can only whine pleadingly in answer to President Cardenas' statement pointing at them as the murderers.

In the United States where the capitalist press has seen fit to report practically nothing about the Stalinist band arrested for the May 24 attempt on Trotsky, and the facts uncovered during the last few weeks about the GPU connections of the assassin, the Stalinists are a little bolder. Thus Earl Browder answers President Cardenas in the *Sunday Worker*, September 8:

"In this critical moment in Mexico's history, President Cardenas chooses to make slanderous public statements against the USSR, in connection with the death of Trotsky at the hands of one of his own intimates. What motive could induce Cardenas to adopt this obvious and cheap Trotskyite slander? Clearly, it is a gesture of appeasement toward Wall Street and the Mexican reactionary camp."

This pseudo-radical attack on Cardenas by Browder is an implicit threat of withdrawal of Stalinist support from the Mexican government in its struggle against the semi-fascist Almazan movement. No one can be surprised at such a change. If Stalin can become Hitler's satellite, the Stalinist organizations would consider it a small price to help the Almazan group take over Mexico, if in exchange they could be assured that the Mexican government's investigation of the murder of Trotsky would be erased.

But as an answer to Cardenas, Browder's attack is worthless. It does not even hint at the facts on which Cardenas based his statement. These facts have never been published in the Stalinist press in this country.

Among these facts are: The confession of their complicity of nine Stalinists arrested for the May 24 attempt. The fact that David Serrano, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Mexico, has been in jail since June, awaiting trial as an organizer of the May 24 attack; and that another Stalinist, Mateos Martinez, has confessed that Serrano commissioned him to buy the police uniforms used by the attackers. The fact that David Alfaro Siqueiros, fugitive from justice as the actual and admitted leader of that attack, is a Stalinist, head of the Mexican equivalent of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion, from which he recruited the gunmen he used.

We'll stop with these facts for the moment. Let Browder explain them!

Stalin's New Labor Laws

Longer Work-Week, Direct Wage Cuts, Chaining the Workers To the Factories Like Industrial Serfs; But the Younger Generation Leads A Bitter Resistance to the New Laws

By JOHN G. WRIGHT

On June 27, 1940, simultaneously with the news that Rumania ceded Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina to the Soviet Union, Stalin tersely informed the world, through his official news agency, the TASS, that new labor laws were in effect in the USSR.

TASS confined itself to the statement that the 7-hour day had been replaced by an 8-hour day, and that industry had shifted from a 6-day week (5 working days, one day off) to a 7-day week (six working days, one day off).

The 7-hour day was one of Stalin's trump boasts, served up as irrefutable proof of the "victory of socialism in one country" and the "transition to communism." Stalin himself used to discourse at great length upon it.

As a matter of fact, the 7-hour day did not at all flow from the successes of industrialization. It was originally introduced by Stalin as a political measure, serving as a weapon in the early days of Stalin's struggle against Trotsky and the Left Opposition.

Now comes official admission by Stalin that another of his world-publicized achievements was nothing but a fraud.

STALIN'S LABOR LAWS OF 1938

But the abolition of the 7-hour day and the 6-hour week is only one item in a new body of anti-labor legislation.

The goal Stalin pursues by his new laws is not a new one. It is identical with the goal envisioned by him in his legislation of December, 1938: turning Russian workers into a species of industrial serfs, binding them to the factories, making it impossible for them to leave their jobs, and in this way extricating his regime from the convulsions of its economic life, the inability to fulfill plans, the chronic shortage of goods etc.

The 1938 laws were the bureaucratic solution to the economic impasse in which Stalin's regime found itself on the eve of the second world war. These laws depended for their effectiveness on the exercise of the bureaucracy's economic power, i.e., firing, threat of unemployment. But the opposition of the masses frustrated the bureaucratic calculations. The acute scarcity of labor, the ease with which employment could be obtained, made it actually possible for the mass of workers to utilize Stalin's own legislation against Stalin's own aims.

His official press is now compelled to admit that the Soviet workers, prohibited by the 1938 ukase from leaving their jobs voluntarily, engaged in the practice of deliberately violating the 1938 laws and then "fleeing" that the administration enforce these laws, i.e. fire them from the jobs, thereby "freeing" them to seek employment elsewhere, not infrequently in a different department of the very same plant!

YOUTH FIGHT AGAINST STALIN

The guarded statistical data of Stalin's press indicate beyond any doubt that the labor turnover reached its peak precisely in the months following the 1938 decrees; that productive levels have fallen sharply; and that, most important of all, the leading part in this muted struggle against Stalin's regime is being played by the youngest generation of workers, i.e., those who passed through the Stalinist school, who know nothing of the period of the Civil War and of the October days, and who have just entered industry.

The alarm and fury of the bureaucracy is expressed in brimstone editorials against "a certain section, namely 3-4% of young workers and employees who have recently entered industry; who are seeking to profit from the absence of unemployment which has been destroyed by the Soviet power; who are abusing the patience of the Soviet government by running from factory to factory, undermining discipline, refusing to toil honestly, disrespectfully deporting themselves toward the observation of regulations established by law and approved by the people" (Shvernik's report to the Ninth Plenum of the Central Council of the Russian Trade Unions).

The June, 1940, laws are Stalin's solution to the economic impasse, further aggravated by the demands of war time economy, the vast losses during the Finnish campaign, not to mention the economic commitments to Hitler. The aggravated situation demands an intensification of bureaucratic pressure, the only remedy the bureaucracy knows or can apply. The need now is for new penalties. For these, Stalin has to dig deep into his police armament.

SAVAGE PENALTIES IN NEW LAWS

The new laws make it a crime against the state for any worker to leave his job, come late to work, skip a single work day, fail to produce his daily quota or "norm".

Any attempt to leave one's place of employment, even a mere request to be allowed to seek employment elsewhere, is a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term of 2-4 months.

The penalty for arriving late to work, skipping a work day, or otherwise "dawdling" on the job is equally unprecedented in the history of labor legislation. Any one charged with these "crimes" is subject to a sentence of 6 months penal labor at the place of his or her employment, i.e., the factory, mill, mine or office. In addition, up to 25% of the criminal's regular wages are withheld. The exact period of time over which these wages are to be withheld is not specified in the ukase. It is to be assumed that these sums will be withheld for at least the duration of the sentence. Thus Stalin has turned every enterprise in the Soviet Union into a forced labor camp, or work-jail. The ukase decreeing all this was published in all the Russian papers on June 26. It went into effect on June 27. Kalinin countersigned it, issuing it in the name of the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council of the Soviet Union.

It was accompanied by a supplementary ukase,

in the name of the People's Commissars and countersigned by Molotov, establishing drastic wage cuts.

As Shvernik explained: "In order to further strengthen the defensive power of their fatherland the working class of the USSR must go forward to necessary sacrifices."

"The lengthening of the working day is most closely bound up with the question of wages," continued Shvernik. "An objection may be raised that the proportionate increase of the working day must be accompanied, if you please, by a similar increase in wages. It would be absolutely incorrect to pose the question in this way. Were we to permit an increase of wages proportionate to the increase of the working day, then there could not even be talk of any necessary sacrifices. But we are precisely talking about this, that the working class and the entire intelligentsia must make those sacrifices which are indispensable for the defense of our fatherland." (Bolshevik, No. 11-12, June 1940).

The section of the ukase pertaining to piece-work wages reads:

"That the norms of output be raised and piece-work rates be lowered in proportion to the increased working day."

It might appear at first glance that this implies only an indirect wage cut, that is, a worker may now work longer hours and be paid less per piece but his wages remain the same as before. Not so. In reality, a direct wage cut is involved.

A 14% WAGE CUT!

The "increased working day" includes not only the "extra" hour each day but also an "extra" 8-hour day in the week. A worker now receives the same wages for six days of work and one day off as he did for five days work and one day off. In other words, if the meager wage formerly had to cover six days of existence, it must now be stretched over 7 days. A wage cut of one-seventh.

Workers on monthly or weekly salaries are similarly situated. Let us take a period of 42 days which best illustrates the difference between the two systems. If hitherto there were in this interval 7 weeks and 7 paydays (on a 6-day week basis), now there are only 6 weeks and 6 pay days. But on each pay day the wage received is the same as before, otherwise, according to Shvernik, there would be "no sacrifice". Therefore each worker must now sacrifice one week's wages in every seven.

Thus, in one and the same operation, the Russian workers must not only labor 48 hours in place of the previous 35 hours, but they also find their already miserable standard of living sharply lowered. And this, on Stalin's "threshold to Communism"!

That Stalin's own press, under the ten-fold censorship that has prevailed since the signing of the Stalin-Hitler Pact, is forced to speak out so openly is in itself incontestable proof of the unfolding struggle of the Soviet workers against Stalin's regime.

FIRST RESULTS OF NEW LAWS

The first consequence of the new legislation was the cutting down of the labor force in every enterprise in the Soviet Union. With the "increased" productivity per worker, less workers are now required. In the reports published in the Pravda 40 and 50 per cent cuts in the labor force are not uncommon. This is done, in part, in order to overcome the acute shortage of labor from which Soviet industry is chronically suffering; at the same time, the bureaucracy no doubt hopes thereby to accumulate a labor reserve from which to draw in order to replace those workers who are jailed, and as an added pressure on the recalcitrants already employed.

As Trotsky predicted, under the blows of the war crisis, facing its first real test, the bureaucracy is compelled to strip off its veil and reveal its true self to the masses.

How are the Russian workers reacting to the new legislation? Here too the Stalinist press involuntarily supplies us with facts that disclose the deepening crisis.

The ritualistic paeans in the press glorifying the new laws and promising miraculous results (there was even an attempt to raise the slogan "The Third Stalin Five Year Plan in Four Years") were almost immediately followed by fulminations against "rotten liberals" who hesitate to enforce the new laws and who "patronize floaters and laggards". This attack is aimed against the public prosecutors and the directors of plants and heads of departments who have been invested with "undivided authority" and "sole responsibility." The Pravda for July already carries reports of severe jail sentences meted out to prosecutors and to directors of industry who "failed" to exercise their new authority. The real explanation for this "hesitancy" lies obviously in the pressure from below which is being counteracted from above by increased lashing of the apparatus.

The Komсомол (Russian Y. C. L.), an organization now reportedly comprising 10 million Russian youth, is under fire and is being held responsible for the misbehavior of the young generation of workers. Its apparatus is being purged.

It is the dread of this development that impelled Stalin to hasten at all costs his long planned assassination of Leon Trotsky. The Fourth International, founded and led by Leon Trotsky, alone has the political program for the Russian workers, and their brothers the world over. By assassinating Trotsky, Stalin hopes that he has now decapitated the world movement, and especially the politicalization of the opposition in Russia which has now assumed mass proportions, which is developing a young leading cadre but which is still groping for a political program. Today, however, the waves of the rising deluge are lapping at Stalin's feet; tomorrow the tide of the resurgent workers of the Soviet Union and the whole world will engulf him,

More Messages On the Death Of Leon Trotsky

In addition to those messages received by the Socialist Workers Party and Natalia Trotsky on the death of Trotsky which were previously published, the following are among those that have been received:

"Meeting under auspices Edinburgh Workers Revolutionary Socialist Party sends warmest sympathies pledges continued struggle for world socialism in which Leon Trotsky died."

"T. AIT"

"EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND"

* * *

"Despite political differences we had had with Comrade Trotsky we express our profound condolences on the murder of this outstanding revolutionist and condemn the Stalinist assassin machine. Be assured of our full cooperation in class struggle activity against bourgeois and Stalinist terror."

"HUGO OEHLER"

"REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS LEAGUE CHICAGO, ILLINOIS"

* * *

"We share with you your immense sorrow at this irreparable loss. Courageous and worthy companion of Trotsky, we assure you of our invincible determination to continue and to carry to the end the work of his life."

"IKD"

"INTERNATIONALIST COMMUNISTS OF GERMANY"

* * *

"Profoundest sympathies. Deeply shocked by Stalinist perfidy. Blow felt internationally tremendous historic loss. Trotsky will never die."

"FOURTH INTERNATIONALISTS"

"CAPETOWN, SOUTH AFRICA"

* * *

"Deeply shocked by hideous crime and terrible loss. We shall go forward."

"GOODLATE"

"WPISA"

"Workers Party of South Africa)"

"CAPETOWN, SOUTH AFRICA"

* * *

"South African friends and sympathizers deeply regret passing of great and inspiring leader thinker writer heroic fighter for rights of man in all countries. His name will live in our memories."

"KLENERMAN"

"JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA"

* * *

"On behalf of our many English friends express deepest sympathy and mourn with you loss of dear comrade and leader. Revolutionary greetings."

"HUGO DEWAR"

"LONDON, ENGLAND"

* * *

"Regret loss. Will go forward."

"ROPER"

"AUSTRALIAN FRIENDS SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA"

* * *

"Condolences and solidarity in your sorrow that is shared by people in every land."

"LEO MALGRECKI"

"BERN, SWITZERLAND"

* * *

"Spanish emigrants of Coatzaocalcos, affiliated to the C.N.T., U.G.T., F.A.I., P.O.U.M. and Republican parties protest the GPU assassination of Leon Trotsky. We are with you in the sorrow of your friends and the International proletariat."

"BY THE DELEGATION"

"ALCON AUGILAR COSTA GIROMELLA MARIANO COATZACOALCOS, VER. MEXICO"

* * *

"Deeply deplore dastardly assassination of Leon Trotsky. His life's work constitutes mighty historical achievement. We salute his memory."

"NATIONAL COUNCIL"

"INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY LONDON, ENGLAND"

* * *

"I condemn with utter indignation and hatred this greatest crime of Stalinism, a crime perpetrated through foreign agents and Mexicans—to our shame. I remain with the firm conviction, which is confirmed by the great personality of Trotsky, who will be recognized and justified by all coming history—that the stature of humanity will rise majestically out of this heap of ruins and treason which today dominate the world."

"CONCHA MICHEL"

"MEXICO"

* * *

"The depth and bitterness of what we feel makes it all the more incumbent upon us to express ourselves in a practical way, and to let nothing interfere with that, as he would have wished. Please associate us with any message of loyalty and sympathy to his wife and to his closest friends. The wording of which we can leave, as we must, entirely to you, since in all our ideas as well as our personal feelings, we are at one with you."

"It is no mere phrase to say that we write with broken hearts. Any one of his true friends would rather have lost his own life. But it would show a lack of real appreciation to indulge in mourning and tears, or in bitterness alone. Lacking the power (a reference to censorship) to use such concrete phrases as you might use, I can only refer to the legend of the Phoenix—which in and through our labors will take on a new meaning."

"PADDY"

"DUBLIN-IRE"

"(FOR THE IRISH SECTION OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL)"