

gan state organization would accept this amendment or not.

But this is not all.

Seven members of the N. E. C., having disposed of the Michigan organization, learned in some mysterious way that the elimination of Michigan state alone was not sufficient to change the results of the voting. They decided to suspend all elections on the supposed ground that some frauds had been practiced in the balloting. Where was the evidence of these "frauds"? Do you suppose they were in local New York where Gerber, the "election boss," or his "representative" attended the branch meetings and watched to see that they were not voting for the candidates opposed to the reactionary machine? Not at all! The "frauds" appeared in the fact that the Left Wing branches paid no attention to the "election bosses" and voted as a unit for the Left candidates and the master-opportunists were left without a single vote in some places right under their own noses!

And this is the whole secret of the "frauds." In reality these "frauds" were the cloak of the hideous purpose of the officials: To remain in power beyond the time allowed by the constitution (July 1st). And for the solution of the "great crisis in the party" they decided to call the National convention which will "decide the truthfulness" of the charges. This "truthfulness" will be reported to the convention by Opportunists appointed by Opportunists—"the investigation committee," as they call it. But even this is not the end of the dirty work of the seven reactionists.

When they suspended the party election they noticed, that plenty of Left elements were in the party who might seriously examine the truthfulness of the elections even at the party convention. This was evident to them from the election returns, which were nearly complete. Now, what do you think? Suppose the branches send to the convention a majority of delegates who do not belong to the machine of the master-officials? Would it not be necessary for the seven reactionary members of the N. E. C. to suspend themselves?

Just think of it! Have these men no brains? Do they not reason coolly? All this was said most plainly by George Goebel—the Thirty-Year-Socialist—when the time came for so-called discussion of the protest of seven language Federations against the elimination from the party of the branches belonging to those Federations by the New York local and state executive committees because of adopting of the program of the Left Wing. Instead of discussing what was to be done to the New York reactionaries, committeeman Krafft—that man "who has done nothing and was imprisoned" as was very truly stated by his friend James Oneal, made a motion to suspend the seven Federations "until further notice." And when Comrades Wagenknecht and Katterfeld pointed out the silliness of such "procedure," Goebel said: "I would feel far better if at present moment . . . I were not a member of the N. E. C. But if we do not suspend them (the Federations) they will crowd the convention with their delegates and seize the Socialist Party of America" . . .

And therefore in order that their "glorious work" . . . of "protecting the party from ruin and disintegration" should not be in vain; that the coming convention may surely adopt their resolution by which they eliminated the Michigan State organization and suspended the entire election

of the party; in order to arrange matters before hand so that the convention may be attended by majority of the kind of delegates desired by the reactionaries,—they suspended seven federations with over thirty thousand membership because they favored the left wing.

That these politicians knew that the Left Wing was in existence for over two years is frankly admitted by Goebel, who said that he kept on his files a copy of each manifesto, program and paper of the Leftwingers. It is evident therefore that the Left Wing was tolerated as long as it did not threaten the control of the reactionary machine, as long as their programs were not considered as "offenses" against the party law. Only when the left wing touched the nest of the opportunists did it become a "violation of the party constitution."

In connection with the suspension of the language Federations there was something ridiculous too. The National Constitution says that the language branches under no circumstances should act contrary to the platforms and constitutions of local and state organizations. I asked this reactionary committee: how do you know that the branches of language Federations concur with the resolution of the Michigan state convention forbidding the advocacy of legislative reforms? They may be obeying it under compulsion, because the National Constitution compels them to

## LEON TROTSKY ON THE MILITARY SITUATION

At The Session of The Plenum of The Moscow Soviet.

On April first a preliminary meeting of the Moscow Soviet was held at the Blue Hall of the Soviet House.

### Trotsky's Report

Comrades, you all know that on the eastern front we have had some reverses, which resulted especially in the loss of Ufa. Now we again enter the stage of anxious weeks and perhaps months, and in this tense anxious atmosphere there are born all sorts of anxious rumors. Here in Moscow, people said that the Kolchakists were nearing Kazan, and that Volga would be cut off, and at the beginning of navigation we should be cut off and could not utilize the river for purposes of transportation, etc. I do not wish to minimize the importance of our reverses and defeats. However, I can say with much assurance that on the eastern front there were no catastrophes, and that at the pre-

sent moment much active work is being done toward restoring the crippled front line.

On the southern front and among the French troops in Odessa, and on the Black Sea Front in general, we observe a complete disruption and decomposition, and absolute unwillingness of the French commanders to interfere with our operations. This is explained by the fact that our Red Army has shown its power near the Black Sea and Don fronts. The army is the central point, the focus at which all our weak and strong points intersect. Our strong part is our unexampled working class, the advance guards of which bears things which no other class ever bore, and the support from the best elements of the peasantry. But as regards the conditions of transportation and food service, we have faults everywhere, and our work is met with numerous obstructions. Our enemies throw against us all their reserves. Kolchak threw all his officers schools; Denikin also threw everything he had; Esthonians also received help. If we should also consider the intervention of French and English, which at the present moment is mythical; then we must say that our open and rabid enemies have mobilized everything they have had.

And if we lost Ufa, if we suffered reverses, this must not lower our spirit. We must consider that our front is so big that at some points it may be bent, but there is nothing startling in it. But we must say that between the Kolchak offensive and the attempts at uprisings in Simbirsk and Kazan provinces there is a definite connection. Together with internal and external uprisings, there began to spread monstrous rumors in Moscow and in the provinces. This is one of the mightiest weapons in the hands of our enemies to demoralize our struggle, to weaken our determination and energy.

Now, allow me to give you a brief summary. On the eastern front, after the taking of Orenburg, Ufa, and Uralsk, we lost Ufa, the situation is not bad, nevertheless. On the southern front the situation is fine. In the near future we will be able to develop a complete offensive on that front. On the Ukrainian front we have taken Ochakov and Mariupol; and the fall of Odessa is but a matter of a few days. In the west we are on the defensive, but no great dangers threaten us from that side. On the north front we will send them further to the front.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The National Organization Committee of the Communist Party of America is now prepared to supply temporary charters, application for membership cards, due stamps, membership cards, to organizations endorsing the call for the organization convention on September 1st.

These supplies will be valid until others are furnished following the action of the convention.

Due stamps will be sold to Local at five cents each.

Orders for the above supplies should be addressed to Dennis E. Batt, 1221 Blue Island Ave., Chicago, Ill. Make checks payable to J. V. Stilson, treasurer.

National Organization Committee.

Dennis E. Batt, Sec'y.

obey. Are these branches to be eliminated because they obey the National Constitution?

Thus the "protectors of the unity of the party" have split the party. But are they sure that they will be able to dominate in the coming convention? No. After the session was over, I chanced to speak with Goebel, Holt and Germer. To my question: what are they going to do with those locals of the Left Wing which they "forgot" to eliminate, they replied that they will see about it; they intend to eliminate the Boston and Cleveland locals, "if it is necessary" all Left wingers. Therefore one thing is sure: they will keep on eliminating until there will be no one in the party to oppose them.

Shiplacoff, who "believed in left wing socialism" (so he said), was continually repeating the question: "If there is any other way out . . . if there is any . . . show it to us!" I did show it to him: "keep your noses out of the party's affairs which can be solved only by a convention and a referendum vote, and that will be the best way out. But if that is unpleasant to you, there is another way: go to the Labor Party, which Stedman said he was not afraid to join, and leave the Socialist Party in peace. It will take care of its own interests and find the way out."

These gentlemen no doubt intend to do something of this character. They have proceeded to tie up the property of the party in such a manner that it will pass out of the control of the party membership for a number of years. In the event that the reactionary N. E. C. should lose control of the organization then the property "should not come into the control of the party or one of its factions, but should be a socialist institution for the benefit of American socialism." This statement was made by Goebel.

From the above it is evident that the party "bosses" will hesitate at nothing to retain their control. We may be indeed thankful that they have not machine guns at their disposal as did Herr Noske. The only thing that prevents them from shooting down the opposition is that they have not the executioners at their command. It is quite certain that they are morally capable of it.

No longer must we delude ourselves with the hope that there is any possibility of working harmoniously with them. We have reached the parting of the ways and must sever all connection with them.

Down with the traitors to the working class! Down with the pseudo-socialist misleaders! Long live the Communist Party of America.