

# Letters from the Militants

FROM SING SING PRISON

Ossining, N. Y., January 20, 1929.

Dear Jim:—

I have written one letter to my people in which I sent regards to you, Marty, his wife, Max and Billy. Now, Jim, I am only allowed to write two letters per week for my first ten days here, but I want you to understand that I am still, and will continue to be, as hard with the Opposition as the iron bars are in here, and you can just imagine how hard they are.

I want you to tell the boys to write and tell me how things are on the outside. I mean Party affairs and most of all you should surely write. Also send me the Militant and the Daily Worker, and get in touch with the I.L.D. and have them send me some books which must come directly from the publishers. Send me all the books of Trotsky, and also Lenin's works. I have intentions of making a little library here of my own. And anything that the comrades will send will be very much appreciated in this line, but they must come from the publishers. Also send me Labor Unity and the Labor Defender.

My regards to the whole bunch and tell them to write. I have received a letter from Comrade Stone and thank him very much. My address is No. 81542, 354 Hunter St., Ossining, N. Y. Don't forget my Number, 81542.

MAURICE L. MALKIN.

(Note:—Comrades throughout the country are urged to write to comrade Malkin at the above address, giving him all possible news of the movement and the struggle in general. Letters from comrades on the outside are practically the only means whereby our class near prisoners maintain their contact with the movement.—Ed.)

FROM A NON-PARTY MILITANT

Chicago, Ill., January 14, 1929.

Dear Comrade Cannon:—

Since you and comrades Shachtman and Abern resigned from your offices in the I.L.D. I have felt like asking a hundred questions. I am a radical but have never belonged to the Workers Party. Am secretary of a branch of the I.L.D. here and have been active in many workers' fights for some years.

The strange part of the controversy between yourself and the Party is that the latter seems to be afraid to let your side become known through its press and otherwise. You are continually denounced as traitors and whatnot but just exactly why, we on the outside have never been able to find out. I know that since you and Shachtman are out of the I.L.D. it seems to be going to pieces, and I know that the Daily Worker is not as good as it was with writers like Dunne, O'Flaherty, Swaback and yourself.

I have heard you speak many times and am personally acquainted with Shachtman. It seems incredible to me that you would deliberately turn counter-revolutionary and I refuse to believe it. I want to know your side and Trotsky's side, and why is it so hard to find out the truth about your views? So I enclose 25 cents in stamps and ask that you send me the Militant for as long as the amount will pay for it. Also if you have any list of your own and Trotsky's writings please send it.

Numerous I.L.D. members here have seriously criticized the removal of you and your comrades from the I.L.D. to me but needless to say they were not Party members. I could not help but notice the straight-forwardness of your joint article in the Daily Worker regarding your removal. I will not lose faith in Jim Cannon and our Max till I have mighty good proof and all charges against them are true. Let's hear your side!

Yours for the Revolution,

WALTER P. SUKUT.

AN EXPELLED MINER

Frederick, Colo., January 12, 1929.

Dear Comrades:—

Hugo Oehler, district organizer of the Rocky Mountain section gave me the news of my expulsion. He said the Polcom wired him to that effect. I was not surprised but felt somewhat hurt as to the extremes of the Lovestone machine as the leaders of our Party. I never dreamed that a Communist Party could falter so weakly into the hands of the present bunch of fruit merchants, shoe-string salesmen and bourgeois-styled politicians who have the almost unconditional support of the C.I.

I assume I have committed several sins in Party work as well as League work but never did I forget my revolutionary duty. By sins I mean at different intervals I showed signs of apathy towards internal duties but never did I fail to carry out as effectively as I could the mission of our Party. The path that I have had to go through has been thorny.

My entrance into the struggle by having every school in Illinois shut their door in my face caused me a great deal of humiliation in the eyes of the ignorant masses, but never since that time have I equivocated or flinched as a Communist. Then through the Farrington fight, the Zeigler fight, many duels in local unions where we clashed time and time again, faithfully carrying on our work against the reactionaries, culminating in the heroic attempt of a handful of our comrades through the "Save the Union" struggle that rocked the foundation of the Lewis machine. The continuous sabotage of Lovestone elements (Bedacht, Devine and Hankin) in the Illinois field, criminally handicapped us all the way through. They would at any time crush the opposition's achievements whether it was in external or internal work. Their jealousies exceed their Communist integrity. They are so callous they make the A.F. of L. officialdom feel childish.

I know that self-sacrifice is necessary to every Communist. It is a primary teaching to the early beginners in our movement. I do not for one moment regret my hard bumps, they are insignificant compared to some of the American leaders, let alone the leaders of the Russian Party. But I take it that these small things should be considered in their full meaning when a comrade is to be expelled. It is the work of an irresponsible, jealous and adventurist minority that expels us from the Party. They have already exposed themselves quite plainly when they stoop to such hideous burglary as in the Cannon robbery. They are so ignorant, they are so shameless that they readily admit openly in public their robbing of Cannon's

apartment. Never, under any circumstances, will I enter the Communist Party of the Lovestone group without protesting violently this despicable act of the present Lovestone machine.

I met Rudolph Shohan,—I cannot call him a comrade, because he is not. Shohan is the big Lovestone man in District No. 10. He says to me as if addressing a subject: "Comrade Allard, have you appealed from the C.E.C. decision?" I replied: "Appeal to whom, to the Lovestone group?" Then point blank I asked him if he agreed

## THE EXPELLED

The Party bureaucrats have now thrown overboard even the slightest touch of tolerance towards differences of opinion in the Party. They are determined upon a course which will lead only to the splitting of the Party and the retention of its control by the opportunists. Every week brings new casualties of the "ideological campaign" against "Trotskyism" in all sections of the countries. Workers who have given long years of devoted service to the revolutionary movement are being expelled or suspended from the Party by the corrupt little clique of leaders only because they dare to express their agreement with the platform of the Russian Opposition or to oppose the expulsion of those who take this position. Below we give the names of another group of expelled comrades in addition to those published in previous issues:

### CANADA

A. CHAMBERS, Sec'y, Toronto Y.C.L. Agit-Prop.  
M. BERNSTEIN, Y.C.L. National Trade Union Dept.  
H. PANITCH, Y.C.L. National Trade Union Dept.  
J. PAGURICK, Sec'y, Y.C.L. branch.  
B. KATZ, expelled member of A.C.W.A.  
J. LEDERMAN, member of Needle Trades Ind. Union.  
I. DERTCH, unemployed worker.  
H. CLARMAN, member of Cloakmakers Union.  
J. GORLITSKY, Canadian Painters Union.  
H. DISENHOUSE, factory worker.  
E. ZAGLIN, millinery worker.  
H. BARON, apprentice.  
J. JALDOFSKY, apprentice.  
R. SCHWARTZ, Cloakmakers Union.  
L. HOFFMAN, Cloakmakers Union.  
A. ROSE, Cloakmakers Union.  
J. ROTH, Raincoatmakers Industrial Union.  
L. STARKMAN, Cloakmakers Union.  
C. GOLDBERG, Millinery Wks. Union, local chairlady.  
J. LUTSKY, Carpenters Union.

### CHICAGO

LEON MUSSEL LILLIAN BORGESON  
REBECCA SACHEROW JACK COHEN  
OLIVER CARLSON, founder Y.C.L. in United States.

### COLORADO

GERRY ALLARD, leader of National Miners Union.  
NEW YORK CITY  
HARRY STONE, member of Y.W.L.  
LOUIS STONE, member of Y.W.L.  
LEON DENENBERG, refused admission into New York League because of support of Russian Opposition.

### CLEVELAND

LEO GLEISSER, member district agit-prop committee.  
J. OPPER, teacher at Workers School.  
MORRIS ABRAMS.

### WHO ARE THE EXPELLED COMMUNISTS

CARL SKOGLUND—Member organized labor since 1905. Joined Social Democratic Youth League of Sweden, 1905-12. Participated in military strike of 4,000 soldiers, punished by solitary confinement, 1906. Organized first union in small town paper mill, 1909. Chairman of local strike committee during general strike of 190,000 workers in 1909. Delegate first district convention for election of candidate to Rikstag, made secretary of convention, 1910. Blacklisted and came to America, 1912, joining Socialist Party in 1914. Member of I.W.W. from 1917-21. Led local campaign in big Mooney strike movement of 1918. Delegate from Minnesota to Socialist Party convention on left wing slate, 1919. Helped organized Railway shopmen of Great Northern, Northwestern, Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, 1917, and member of Brotherhood of Railway Carmen since then. Led "illegal" shopmen's strike in 1919. Chairman of Great Western and Pullman Shopmen's Strike Committee, 1922-23. Blacklisted and barred from industry as a result. Expelled from Minneapolis Central Labor Council for Communist activities on instructions from Executive Council of A.F. of L. in 1924. Delegate to every state convention of Farmer-Labor Federation. Joined underground Communist Party in 1920, member of its D.E.C. up to liquidation of underground. Helped found Workers Party and member of its D.E.C. from inception. Delegate to famous Bridgman convention, and to three national conventions of Workers Party. Industrial Organizer of Minnesota district continuously since 1922. Member of National Railroad Amalgamation Committee January of 1928. Member of Political Committee of Party, 1928, and delegate to national nominating convention in same year. Expelled in Minneapolis, November 14, 1928.

OSCAR COOVER—Joined International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, 1906, and International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, 1907. Member of Socialist Party from 1904-7. Joined underground Communist Party in December 1919, helped organize Workers Party in 1921. Delegate to Central Labor Union of Electrical Workers in Springfield, Mo., 1907-8, and Central Labor Union of Minneapolis from 1912 to 1924 when A.F. of L. fakers ordered his expulsion for Communist activities. Re-elected to C.L.U. and Minneapolis Building Trades Council in January 1928. Member of Minneapolis Party D.E.C. in 1922-3-4-7-8. Member of Political Committee of District at time of expulsion. Communist candidate for representative from 29th Legislative District in 1924. Local secretary of Railroad Shopmen's Strike Committee in 1922 and blacklisted and barred from industry as a result. Delegate to State Federation of Labor from local union and to all conventions of Farmer-Labor Federation and Association. Expelled from Party November 14, 1928.

with the dirty work of his faction in robbing Cannon. He emphatically replied, Yes. I nailed him quite effectively. He did not know what to say but said: "Comrade Allard, you are not yet ready to come back into the Party."

He is lousy, this guy Shohan. I am enclosing a copy of charges preferred by Allard, Bojinoff and Allard, leaders of the Colorado miners against Rudolph Shohan which the C.E.C. has never acted upon. Other charges against him are many.

I may be fired shortly if the solidarity of the miners in my pit does not hold. I have pulled two strikes already. Both were somewhat victorious. But the boss is after me. I have already a "notorious" name in these parts from the coal companies. Perhaps we will have to leave. If we return to Illinois I will try my best to go to Chicago for a thorough conference with our fellows. I wish you would see our shack here in the desert wasteland of Colorado's coal fields. Our living is meek like the masses. When we are one of the masses we cannot be exempted from the brutal oppression of boss rule. It is a satisfaction to know that the Social Revolution is in progress towards the inevitable change.

GERRY ALLARD.

### FOR OPEN DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

New York City, December 15, 1928.

James P. Cannon and Comrades of the "Opposition":—"As for the ordinary worker in the Party ranks who has no faction behind him, his right to open his mouth ceased long ago."

(Cannon, in The Militant of Dec. 1st.)

Not so long ago, while a member of the Party, I found myself in a similar predicament. Having had the opportunity of participating in two Congresses of the Comintern, it may safely be assumed that I thereby gained a greater understanding of the fundamental principles, the tasks, and the basic problems confronting the Communist movement. I, however, like yourself at present, found myself confronted with a bureaucratic barrier, (and at that time you were one of them) that successfully blocked my efforts to gain a hearing for the viewpoint of those I represented. Nevertheless I was not inclined to attack the Party merely because of the short-sightedness of certain of its functionaries.

Whether my viewpoint (which was shared by many others) was correct or not, is beside the point. Likewise, the correctness of your ideological position is not the main issue. The most important phase of the present controversy, as I see it, is whether or not honest differences of opinion shall have the right of expression and discussion within Party circles.

While I believe that a decision once arrived at through discussion, should be accepted by all, I contend that a Communist Party MUST permit full and free discussion of fundamental principles and strategy. Far more harm is done and more energy wasted in smothering an opposition than in exposing deviations, if such they be. A Communist Party divided against itself, and factions openly warring against one another, must indeed make the powers-that-be chuckle in high glee. As a matter of fact, such a situation as has at present developed arouses suspicion in some minds whether it has not been deliberately fostered for the sake of weakening the Party and diverting attention from the more important things that require our attention.

Tremendous tasks still lie ahead of us in America, and Party errors of the past have greatly handicapped the development of the American movement.

I am not particularly concerned about your personal success, for I fear that were the tables reversed, you would be doing the same as those now in power and control.

I do, however, wish you all success as the dynamic factor within the Opposition which is at the moment striving for inner-Party democracy. I believe the determined stand taken by the Opposition will lead to a clarification of the issues and will lead to the adoption of a Communist strategy for the American movement that is more adaptable to the needs and realities of the day than the tactics of recent years, the responsibility for which you must partly shoulder.

Fraternally,

JOS. E. KUCHER.

## Fight the Splitters with a Weekly Militant

The resolution of the Minneapolis group demanding the weekly publication of The Militant, broadening its scope into a general organ of the class struggle, has been followed by the adoption of similar resolutions by the Chicago and New York groups. We are fully in favor of this forward step and consider it an absolute necessity of the struggle to purge the movement of bureaucratic corruption, which is the expression of opportunist politics, and the fascist manifestations which accompany it.

The means to finance the Weekly Militant are not at hand, but they must and will be secured. It is a question of the militants comprehending fully the great historic responsibilities resting on them and stealing themselves for the utmost sacrifice.

We have decided tentatively to commence as a weekly with the issue of Feb. 15. Whether this will be possible depends upon the response with cash and weekly pledges received from local Opposition groups, and individual supporters within the ensuing period. Send your answer now!