

Letters from the Militants

A VOICE FROM PRISON

Sing Sing Prison,
Ossining, New York,
February 12, 1929.

Dear Comrades:
I have received your letter and also the editions of the Militant and you don't know how happy I was when I read about the wonderful work our Group is doing. Dear Jim, when I read about the deportation of L. D. and about the way the Thermidorians and the Caesars of the present regime in the C.P.S.U. are doing with the Lieutenants of Lenin and the leaders of the October, it made my blood boil, but as L. D. has foreseen this very tactic of theirs before it is not surprising to us. Lenin said in 1923 to remove Stalin from his present position and that he will in time split our Party. Lenin was the first one to predict and foresee that. Lenin said that this cook will feed us a peppery soup and he will yet break the Party. Later, after Lenin's death, this same Stalin collected all those that were against Lenin in October (in those days when deeds counted and not words) like Zinoviev, Kamenev, Rykov, etc., and to his collection he added the "theoretician" and phraseologist, Bukharin, who was out of the Party in 1918 at Brest Litovsk, propagating against Lenin by saying that Lenin is misleading Russia and will bring it to ruin. Together they started the attack against those that stood with Lenin side by side at all times in all emergencies from 1917 until his death.

In this country Pepper's boys started the pot boiling first with the miners, then with the endorsement of Panken and the Socialist Party then with the sending of Communist Party members into the S. P., then with the textile union and most of all the main, important task is now to obey the Master's voice in the liquidation of the Trotskyites. They are so eager in doing it that they will end up with the expulsion of all the proletarian members of the Party and remain with the City College of New York Boys like Weinstein, Miller, Wolfe, Benjamin, Weinbord, Lovestone, Ragozin, Trachtenberg and a few more teachers, lawyers and petty-bourgeois. When Pepper goes through with those he will be able to repeat those words that he wrote in 1918 against all Bolsheviks.

Now I will conclude with the words of Lenin plus a little of my own: Watch these cooks for they will feed us with peppery soups. They will ruin the Party.
I remain yours for the victory of the Opposition and the health of L. D.
Maurice L. Malkin.

(NOTE: Comrade Malkin has been transferred from Sing Sing prison to the prison at Comstock, New York. Together with him went the two other needle trades workers: Leo Franklin and Sam Kurland. All comrades are urged to write to him regularly at his new address: Maurice L. Malkin, No. 10061, Box 51, Comstock, New York.)

A LEAGUE MEMBER ON THE NEW YORK MEETING

To the Editor of the "Daily Worker"
Dear Comrade:
The occurrences at last Tuesday's Trotskyite meeting held at the Labor Temple will repay the scrutiny of Party and League members. The disgusting spectacle enacted as a consequence of Party tactics was surpassed only by the putrid report of the affair which appeared in the next day's issue of the Daily Worker. If nothing else was accomplished, it gave conclusive proof that certain Party elements have nothing more to learn from capitalist teachers as far as gangster methods and maliciously false newspaper reporting are concerned.

All the allegations in the Daily Worker article give quite the opposite of the truth. In all cases the disturbances were provoked by Party or League members. The first blow of the evening was struck at the ticket-taker by one who alleged himself to be unemployed and tried to force his way into the hall. Most ridiculous of all is the accusation that the presence of police was due to a telephone call from Cannon asking for police protection. In adjourning the meeting, the chairman explained that the reason for adjourning at that time was due to the presence of police. The Daily Worker article omits to mention this but declared that the adjournment was forced by the departure of the audience. I have been present at many a Party mass meeting, however, which was considered a success, and which did not have more of an audience than was present at the adjournment of the Cannon meeting.

The success of a Communist movement is not based on a policy of distorting facts or obscuring issues. The movement thrives only to the extent that workers are presented with the facts and given a sound ideological basis. There are enough capitalist agencies thru which the minds of workers are doped with falsehoods. The Labor Temple meeting is not important in itself, but there is something seriously wrong with the sort of tactics that were employed. These same tactics are having their deplorable effects in all Party and League units. A comrade is not even permitted to present an opposing stand on vital questions, and if he votes according to his conviction, he is conveniently expelled.

I protest against such tactics and in doing so I know that I am expressing the attitude of many members who are not yet prepared to speak openly.

Paul Green, member Y.W.L.
FROM A DETROIT COMMUNIST
Detroit, Mich., Feb. 9, 1929.

Dear Comrade Cannon:
I wish to inform you that I was expelled from the Workers Party for holding certain views regarding Trotsky. Two years I have been fighting to express my views and I was suppressed. The Party removed me from all activities and on February 3, 1929, I was expelled.

After a thorough study of both sides, i.e., Stalin and the Opposition, I came to the conclusion that the Opposition is more capable of applying Marx's and Lenin's

teachings to the world situation and Russia in particular. To my understanding the Opposition is the real Bolshevik group. I am organizing an Opposition group; there is a large field to work on and I need information regarding its organization. For that reason I would like to keep in touch with you. I regretted very much that I missed the opportunity to arrange a meeting for you when you were in Cleveland a short time ago. If you intend to come to Detroit, please let me know so that I will arrange a well-attended meeting of workers who sympathize with Trotsky's views. I am sure you will find them very promising supporters.

They have requested for all kinds of literature that will enlighten them about the present situation in the movement. There is a big demand for the book "The Real Situation in Russia" by Leon Trotsky. A lot of these books can be sold here. I read that book, and I think it will clarify some comrades who are misled by Stalin.
Comradely yours,
Alex Schriber.

COPIES OF FIRST ISSUE OF MILITANT WANTED

All readers of the Militant who have on hand copies of the first issue dated November 15, 1928 are urgently requested to send them to us. Even single copies will be greatly appreciated as our file copies were stolen in the burglary conducted by the professionals hired to do this job by the Central Executive Committee of the Party.

NEW EXPULSIONS

On the eve of the Party Convention, which is to mark the fake "internal consolidation" of the Party, we have to record numerous other expulsions of active workers from the Party for their support of the Platform of the Russian Opposition. Behind all the hypocritical buncombe about "Party unity" the campaign of expulsions and Party-splitting is continuing in full blast. New expulsions about which the Militant has recently been informed are as follows:

- BOSTON**
I COOPERSTEIN.
- NEW YORK**
HAROLD ROBBINS, Young Workers League.
JOHN JUSTIN, Young Workers League.
SAM WATTS, Young Workers League.
GEORGE CLARK, Young Workers League.
MAX WALDMAN, of the Furriers' Union.
- ST. LOUIS**
ELMER McMILLAN, Communist candidate for Mayor.
MARTIN PAYER, Acting sub-district organizer.
- H. L. GOLDBERG.**
CHARLES MAHLER, Young Workers League.
E. CARLSON, Young Workers League.
- DETROIT**
ALEX SCHRIBER.
JULIUS ROSEN, Section Agit-Prop Director.
- RICHMOND, CALIF.**
ROSA POWELL.
- WILLISTON, N. DAKOTA**
A. C. MILLER, first Communist legislator in U. S.
- BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA**
SARAH F. J. LINN.
- TORONTO, CANADA**
S. QUAELEL.

WHO ARE THE EXPELLED COMMUNISTS
VINCENT R. DUNNE—Member Western Federation of Miners, 1905; joined I.W.W. at foundation; in I.W.W. actions in Missoula, Spokane, Seattle, Fresno and San Francisco. Participated in I. W. W. strikes and free speech fights, 1906-8. Served sentences in Seattle and Los Angeles for street speaking. Worked in lumber camps, mines and construction camps in Idaho, Washington, Montana, California, Texas and Arizona. Member of strike committee of Saw Mill Workers at Bogalusa, La., 1908. Express wagon driver and messenger for Northern Pacific, Wells Fargo, Adams Express, discharged several times for organizing workers, finally blacklisted and forced out of industry. Active in Mooney Defense fight and in Friends of Soviet Russia. Charter member Minneapolis Office Workers Union, financial secretary and delegate to Central Labor Union, 1922-24. Removed from office and expelled from C.L.U. for Communist activity by order of Executive Council of A.F. of L. in 1924. Secretary of 12th Ward Farmer-Labor Club (Minneapolis) 1924-8. Removed from office for fighting F.L.P. bureaucrats and labor fakers Shipstead, Cramer, Weir, Starkey, Landeen, etc. Expelled from union November 11, 1928 for opposing Shipstead as Senatorial candidate, just three days before expulsion from Party. Joined Workers Party, held minor offices, secretary Minneapolis C.C.C. for three years. Member District Executive Committee, 1923-8; of District Poleom, 1926-28; member District secretariat, 1927-8. Delegate National Convention, 1927. Delegate to every convention of Farmer-Labor Federation and Association. Member of National Party Election Campaign Committee, 1928. Communist candidate for Congressman in 1928. Expelled from Party, November 14, 1928.

HELEN JUDD—Secretary of North Side English branch of Socialist Party in 1919 and helped to swing it into Communist Party when William F. Kruse, J. Louis Engdahl, Victory Berger, Adolph Germer, Seymour, Stedman and others were trying to hold it in line for the Socialists. Indicted in the Palmer Raids, held under \$10,000 bonds. Secretary of Local Chicago, National Defense Committee, for two years, while Party was underground. Afterward active for several years in forming pioneer groups. At the time of second expulsion by William F. Kruse, was secretary of Nucleus 31, one of the largest and most active in Chicago, and also a member of the Control Committee of District Eight of the Party.

A MINNEAPOLIS MILITANT

Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Comrade:
Our Communist work is going on in Minneapolis despite the expulsion, slander and finally the fascist methods to which our Party has degenerated in District Nine. Bureaucratic, gangster and suppressive methods workers have to be fought whether in our Party or in other workers' organizations.

A short time ago, in fact on the evening of the same day on which I was notified by the little bureaucratic Devine, District Organizer here, that I was expelled from the Party, the pamphlet entitled "Emotion Hides Communist Trickery" issued by Green and Morrison of the A. F. of L., was read before my union. I took the floor



OSCAR COOVER

Slugged by Lovestone-Foster gangsters at Minneapolis meeting.

and in an 18 or 20 minutes talk exposed the lies, innuendo and cheap trickery contained in the pamphlet and also explained what we Communists stood for in the unions, as well as our final aim, the necessity for our democratic-centralized form of organization, the dictatorship of the proletariat, etc., etc.

Probably our Party bureaucrats will claim this is counter-revolutionary work but just the same it helps to clear the minds of the workers. Their saying we are not Communists doesn't make it so, and I am satisfied that by the time this fight is over we will have it made it so hot for the little bureaucrats of the Communist movement that they will never again dare try the suppression of real Communists or their platform honestly put forth.

With Comradely greetings,
OSCAR COOVER.

Proletarian Youth Against Gangsterism

A STATEMENT TO DOWN-TOWN UNIT NO. 2, YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE OF N. Y.

At the Tuesday night (February 26) meeting of the Opposition to protest the deportation of Trotsky, we saw the kind of activity that the officials of the Party and League carry on against the Opposition. A big squad was sent down to the meeting by Bert Miller, the organization secretary of the Party in New York. They did not come in order to argue or discuss the issues intelligently or in a manner that would convince workers of the correctness of the Party position. On the contrary, they came there only for the purpose of breaking up the meeting by violence and physical attacks on the supporters of the opposition. We are absolutely convinced that such activity can only bring the greatest harm to the movement and help to discredit it before the eyes of the workers. It will bring about a situation where the cops and dicks will become the judges and final settlers of all disputes in the ranks of the movement and the working class. We are absolutely opposed to such tactics.

We believe further that a real discussion of the important issues, should be conducted, especially for the young comrades in the League. Such a discussion can be worth while only if both sides of the issues are clearly presented to us, and all the material made available for study and discussion. All we have had so far is the pamphlet by Bertram D. Wolfe on the "Trotsky Opposition" which didn't teach us anything. Otherwise we simply become automatic hand-raisers who endorse everything that the Party and League Officials instruct us to do. We propose the immediate opening of such a real discussion and the end of the kind of work that the Party carried on at the Tuesday meeting.

- JOE BURTON, member of Executive Board, American Association of Plumbers Helpers.
MAC KUDLER, member of Executive Board American Association of Plumbers Helpers.
IRVING SPREIREGEN, vice-president, American Association of Plumbers Helpers.
JOSEPH FOX, League unit-Industrial Committee.
HAROLD ROBINS.
JEAN TISHMAN.