

A Page of Letters from the Militants

"HAVE BACKBONE IN PRINCIPLE"

Bethlehem, Pa.

Dear Comrades:

Enclosed find \$2.00 for one year's subscription to the Militant. The more I read the paper the better am I acquainted with the true situation concerning the Comintern, the Russian Party and our own Party in the U. S.

It is a shame how the Party press handles the most important matters and questions of fundamental principles and tactics of the Communist movement. I never thought that a Marxist-Leninist Party could degenerate itself so low through its professional, backboneless puppets, the so-called American "leaders". Well, I am old enough to withstand these shocks and young enough to understand and fight for the correct position in the labor movement.

I am with you 100%. I came from the DeLeon school in which I learned two important things: to have backbone in principles and to be honest about them. I have come to the conclusion that our so-called "leaders" have neither of them.

Yours for self-criticism and organization.

K. CZAPKO.

THE SITUATION IN YOUNGSTOWN

Youngstown, Ohio.

Dear Comrades:

There is a strong and well-grounded suspicion among the comrades of our group here that the four detectives who attended our meeting today and the four uniformed John Laws on the outside were called there by some of the official Party members of this city.

Two of the "official" observers at our meeting threw up their hands and exclaimed: "See, Trotsky meeting held under police protection." However, the chief dick told us what he thought of things before he left.

This chief dick, a burly rummy-faced son of Saint Patrick, told us in unmistakable terms that both Trotsky and Cannon should be led to the whipping post and made to pay for their sins. So who called John Law?

King Israel Amter, the district organizer of District Six, was here last month. When he saw comrade Platinos on the sidewalk talking to two of the Young Workers League members he felt as though the earth trembled beneath his feet. However, Platinos could not see his way to swallow his majesty's peremptory commands and did not hesitate in telling him so. They commands were to keep away from the Workers Hall and so forth. Then Amter also issued instructions to the members here to keep all sinful renegades and counter-revolutionaries away from the hall and especially this Platinos must be kept at a safe distance. But the members have so far refused to obey these instructions. Poor old lady "discipline" is waked and buried!

Comradely yours,

CHARLIE BYRNE

FROM A NON-PARTY REBEL

Dear Comrades:

I am sending you a check for \$1.01. That will be 10 cents to the good. I have been selling the Militant to workers here that are interested in the movement.

Last Wednesday we had the world's biggest liar here. He is the editor of the Ny Tid, the Party Scandinavian paper, and we had a discussion. I took the side of the Opposition. This is the first time it was discussed openly in Jamestown. I have fought the bureaucracy long before you were expelled from the Party and I am not a member of the Party just for that reason.

Yours for the solidarity of the workers.

ARVID S. CARLSON.

GREET'S PROGRESS OF YOUTH

Christopher, Ill.

Dear Comrades:

Your circular calling for the National Conference at hand. I am of the opinion that it is highly imperative. Mainly for a brighter clarification on the perspective of the International Communist Opposition. What the developments are in Germany, France, Russia and elsewhere should, in my opinion, be the trend of our movement in America.

I am highly interested in advances of the youth movement. Much is to be expected from the younger Communists, in my

New Material from Trotsky

As this issue of the Militant goes to press, we have received some extremely important and timely material from comrade Trotsky. The first is an article by the exiled Bolshevik leader which we received via Paris, entitled "The Crisis in the Center-Right Bloc and the Perspectives". The article is a brilliant analysis of the present conflict between Stalin's faction and the Bucharin-Tomsky Right wing, information on which has been suppressed from the membership of the International. The second is an article received directly from comrade Trotsky in Constantinople. It is a letter written March 27, 1929, and addressed to the workers of the U. S. S. R. exposing the demagogic campaign of the Stalins and Yaroslavskys against Trotsky and the Opposition and explaining clearly to the Russian workers and those of other countries the reason for the publication of his series of articles in the bourgeois press.

The Militant will begin printing these articles with the very next issue. Watch for their appearance. Subscribe NOW to the Militant!

estimation. The response of several Y. W. L. members to our cause is gratifying. Especially when the facts have been suppressed from them, it shows healthy signs. Their alertness to the crisis in the Communist movement is a dynamic factor for future political victories.

I have just returned from Colorado and have only fairly reported on the situation to Swaback. The Party appears very much dead with the National Miners Union doing very little work in spite of Corbishly's courageous work. In my next letter I will tell more. In the meantime send me the information on the results of the Party as I am absolutely cut off from all sources of news except the Militant.

GERRY ALLARD.

Paterson, N. J.

AN ANSWER TO GANGSTERISM

Dear Comrades:

Enclosed find one dollar subscription for the Militant. Please include the last two numbers.

I was present at the last meeting held on the 19th of the month, in answer to the first one I attended in February. I wanted to see whether the W. P. would act like organized gangsters.

I am subscribing to the Militant in answer to the Party's

The Expelled

Among the comrades recently expelled by the Party bureaucrats for supporting the standpoint of the Opposition is the following:

New York City

NATHAN BERMAN, Needle Trades Worker

Wilmington, Del.

BOB GREEN, Young Workers League.

Toronto, Canada

JOE SILVER, National Executive Committee, Young Communist League

THE OPPOSITION IN CLEVELAND

Comrade John Brahin, of the Cleveland Opposition Group, spoke on "The Situation in Russia and the Platform of the Russian Opposition" before the members of the *Bildungsverein Eintracht* on April 4th.

Sixty-three Bolsheviks on Hunger Strike in Russian Prison

We have just received an appeal issued in Moscow, February 15, 1929, by the Bolshevik-Leninist Opposition, addressed to all workers and members of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. It deals with the astounding facts of the hunger strike begun February 4 by 66 Bolshevik Oppositionists in the Tobolsk prison (in Siberia). Among them are comrades Dreizer, Gavsky, Grinichenko, Grinshchtein, Raumov, Mino, Bronstein, Marenko, Valentinov, Subrov, Ivanov and others. Deported to Siberia, they were imprisoned in Tobolsk. Their request for shoes and warm clothing was refused. The old Bolshevik Drobnis had both his legs frozen. The prison regime was intolerable. All mail was forbidden the prisoners. They were prevented from buying their own food. No exceptions were permitted, not even for comrade Wainov, who is gravely ill, or for comrade Turmann, who is in the seventh month of pregnancy.

To protest against this shameful regime, the comrades began a hunger strike. Twelve of them, including Drobnis who was twice decorated with the Order of the Red Army, are in a serious condition in the prison hospital.

The lives of all these comrades are in danger! Their only crime was their support to the struggle for Leninism in the Russian Party. The meanest criminals in the Soviet Union are not treated in this horrible manner. Stalin is venting his venomous rage upon these comrades for their devotion to the teachings of Lenin.

The appeal of the Bolshevik-Leninist Opposition calls upon the Russian workers to raise their voices immediately in the factory, in the Party, in the press, to the Party committees—everywhere.

The lives of 63 Bolsheviks who have sacrificed everything for the cause of the revolutionary working class are in the balance! *Protest!*

Gangsterism in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA—A gang of nine Stalinite hoodlums, led by one Steele, brutally attacked comrades Leon Goodman and Bob Green who were engaged in selling the Militant at the Philadelphia Workers Forum where Scott Nearing was lecturing on Sunday, April 7. The two Opposition comrades had been selling the Militant for quite a while, when Steele, a paid functionary of the Young Workers League, together with eight other hoodlums, swooped down and told our comrades "to beat it". Goodman and Green were pushed down the stairs to the sidewalk and then into the middle of the street. Attempts were made to tear the Militants from their hands and when they resisted, the Stalinite heroes (nine against two) began to beat them violently. Comrade Goodman's right eye was cut from a blow with brass knuckles and comrade Green was hit on the back with a club.

Steele, who joined the League from the U. S. Army, has found that the "knock-'em-down-and-carry-'em-out" tactics employed by hard-boiled sergeants and other officers against privates, is quite in conformity with the infamous spirit of gangsterism and hoodlumery brought into the Communist movement by the Stalin clique.

The Stalinites have not yet overcome their chagrin at being so decisively defeated at the Open Forum meeting at which comrade Cannon spoke in Philadelphia a few weeks ago. The gangster tactics which disgrace the movement will be actively resisted by our Philadelphia comrades.

policy. If comrades break through the side doors at comrades' meetings, it is time for all Communists to think. Why does not the Party have open meetings to discuss the differences?

Comradely,

HELEN HORN.

FROM AN IOWA FIGHTER

Kellogg, Iowa.

Dear Comrades:

I have received the last copy of the Militant. I read every word that was printed in this latest copy and gave its contents close consideration. I would be glad to receive it regularly. I do not belong to the Communist Party but I have supported it since its inception and I am, I believe, the oldest reader of the Daily Worker. I took the old Ohio Socialist before the division came at the St. Louis Emergency Convention and I see for the last number of months that the Daily is taking the same course as the Appeal to Reason used to. I am well informed about the revolutionary movement, and I can tell when the movement gets adulterated and when the officials run the Party in an opportunist and bureaucratic manner.

Always yours for the revolution.

I. A. BLASUTCH

Trotsky Cannot Enter Germany

"BERLIN, April 12 (Associated Press)—The German Cabinet after a brief meeting officially announced today that it had declined the request of Leon Trotsky, Soviet exile, for a visa to his passport, which would permit him to enter Germany."

The reactionary German regime of Stresemann and Hermann Mueller has finally made its negative decision on comrade Trotsky's request for permission to enter Germany. The Stalinite press here has maintained a significant silence about this decision. The united front of Stalin with the fascist dictator Kemal Pasha, based on the secret agreement between them to keep Trotsky a virtual prisoner in Turkey, with his life constantly menaced by the White Guard emigres in Constantinople, has been openly extended. This shameful united front now includes the reactionary heads of the German government, Stresemann and the "socialists" Hermann Mueller and Rudolf Hülferding, who have joined with Stalin to keep Trotsky from Germany where he might participate actively in the revolutionary labor movement.

What will the pen-prostitutes of the Stalin-Yaroslavsky school say now about the "counter-revolutionary united front with Trotsky"? They will continue their barrage of lies and slander in order to cover up the abominable unity of Stalin and the bourgeoisie against Trotsky. The truth will inevitably reach the workers.

STATEMENT

OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912.

Of The Militant published twice a month at New York, N. Y. for April 1, 1929.

State of New York, County of New York, ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Martin Abern, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the business manager of The Militant and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Opposition Group, Communist Party of America, 340 E. 19th St., New York; Editor, James P. Cannon, 340 East 19th St., New York; Managing Editor, none; Business Manager, Martin Abern, 340 E. 19th St., New York.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.) Opposition Group, Communist Party of America, New York, N. Y. James P. Cannon, Editor, 340 E. 19th St., New York, N. Y. Martin Abern, Assoc. Editor, 340 E. 19th St., New York, N. Y. Max Shachtman, Assoc. Editor, 340 E. 19th St., New York.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgages, and other holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company, but also, in case where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that these two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

Martin Abern, Business Manager.
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25th day of March 1929. Henry J. Friedman. (My commission expires March 30, 1930.)