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## Police Murder Steve Katovis

### Naval Conclave Shows No Unity

More than one week of the London Naval Conference has already passed by without much more being accomplished towards the "limitation of armaments", than the coming to the fore of a number of conflicts and disputes between France and Italy, Japan and England and the like. In face of the obvious striving of each of the imperialist powers involved to hold as much strength as possible against its nearest rival gives the lie to all the pretensions of the diplomatic pirates to "disarmament".

#### Italo-French Conflict

The first part of the conference, as soon as it gets down to "work", will be the developing conflict between Italian and French imperialism for Mediterranean power. Italy is playing hard for support from the United States for parity with France, which will give Mussolini a bigger advantage in his attempts to become an even stronger Mediterranean force. The contention of Italy is that its naval strength as compared with that of France should be estimated not so much on the basis of the present situation and relations of forces, as on the "prospective" position of Italy. In other words, Italy has in mind such an extension of its imperialist interests as will place it on an "equal plane" with France in the immediate future. How this virtually unconcealed declaration of Italy's belligerent intentions can be reconciled with all the high-sounding phrases about permanent peace in the Kellogg Pact naturally remains unexplained by the imperialist statesmen.

There is very little if any prospect that a "satisfactory" agreement between the two Mediterranean rivals will be reached at this conference. The past history of imperialism indicates the contrary, that is, that decisive questions of power are only delayed temporarily around imperialists' discussion tables and are determined definitely in actual warfare.

Another rift in the conference lute is the attitude of Japan, which is seeking agreement on its cruiser proposals. Japan is dominated by fear of England's position in the Orient and wants to be in a better position to counteract British imperialist progress by adding to its own cruiser strength. At the same time, it has raised the "delicate" question of merchantmen, which was passed over with vague words at the Washington conference. The Japanese point out that there is nothing in the Washington agreement that prevents merchant ships from mounting guns greater than six inches providing they are built in a manner that makes this technically possible.

#### Merchantmen Limitation Hits England

There is no doubt that the United States is far from displeased at this question being raised, for a delimitation of the use of merchantmen in war time (regardless of the fact that they would be used—agreement or no agreement) can only serve to handicap England. That is because England possesses, in merchant ships of 4,000 tons or more and a speed of 15 knots, about 3,150,000 tons compared with only 880,000 American tons and 250,000 Japanese. The exclusion of merchantmen would therefore give America a theoretical advantage of some 2,700,000 tons. Needless to say, England will balk like a mule at such a proposal.

### Green Stabs Marion and Gastonia

A Federated Press dispatch from Richmond, Va., reports that in a speech there William Green, president of the A. F. of L., disclaimed all connection and responsibility of the Federation with the Marion strike situation, where six strikers were massacred by company thugs, or with Gastonia, where six workers face life long imprisonment in a frame-up over the killing of a cop. Green's role in the labor movement has rarely been expressed more brazenly than in this incident. He is not only crawling before the Southern mill owners, pleading with them to recognize him as best labor overseer for the bosses, but is deliberately stabbing the Marion and Gastonia workers in the back. His speech gives the Southern reactionaries an open hand.

"So far as I am concerned, you can repeat all the Marions and Gastonias you want"—that is the essence of Green's remarks. Green is presuming to speak in the name of the A. F. of L. Every militant worker in the A. F. of L. must reply by repudiating Green and his crew and driving them out of the labor movement where they are working in the interests of labor's class enemy.

### Communist Worker Shot Down in Cold Blood

Steve Katovis, member of the Building Maintenance Workers Union and the Communist Party, is dead. He was shot in the back by Patrolman Harry Kiritz of the New York police force in a conflict that followed an attempt by police to break up a mass meeting called to express solidarity with the members of the Food Clerks' Union on strike against Miller's Market in the Bronx.

Steve Katovis is the first worker to be shot by the police in a labor struggle in New York for years. The uniformed thugs have received their orders to club and shoot in order to prevent the organization of the rising spirit of the workers. A victim had to be found in order to warn the workers, who are losing their jobs in the industrial depression or having their wages cut, that they can expect any resistance to be met by the most violent and murderous repression by the police. The capitalist class is desperately afraid of the development of a militant movement of the American workers. It will use the most brutal measures to crush even the first signs of such a movement.

#### Savage Attack on Demonstration

The demonstration of the Communist Party at the City Hall following the death of comrade Katovis was the occasion for another manifestation of Cossack Sadism. The police of Mr. Whalen, under whose administration New York's underworld of gambling, bootlegging, racketeering thuggery and general corruption have had free rein, sailed into the peacefully assembled workers with a bloodthirsty fury that has not been equalled in New York since the days of the war hysteria. Participants in

the demonstration as well as bystanders and curiosity seekers were mercilessly clubbed and pummelled by the "brave" police, on foot and horseback, armed with night-sticks, black jacks, brass knuckles and pistols.

Hundreds received at least one or more blows from the police; more than a score were severely beaten. Party leaders who attempted to speak were beaten and kicked while they lay on the pavement. Robert Minor of the Daily Worker had to be treated by a doctor for injuries, as were a half dozen or more others. Comrade George Clark, of the Communist League (Opposition), was beaten about the face and head by a number of police. A virtual reign of terror existed for almost an hour.

The attitude of the capitalist press towards this demonstration of police horrors was characteristic. The Telegram announced: "Curb Demonstration of 1,000 Communists, but Sticks Fall on Many Innocents". That is, the clubbing of Communists is quite in order, but "innocents" (!) must not suffer. The Mirror, the morons' picture paper, could find nothing wrong with the savagery of the police except that it made martyrs out of the Reds and helped to manufacture more of them! And it is no less characteristic that Norman Thomas, repeated the profound subway philosophy in his "protest" telegram to the mayor, of the Mirror. Instead of a call to the workers to protest the police terror and find ways of crushing it, Thomas wired the mayor—placing the responsibility for the cracked skulls and bleeding faces of the workers upon the Communists: "Why unnecessarily gratify Communists' mania for martyrs?"

#### United Front against Police Terror

Not a "mania for martyrs" is involved, but the capitalist and police "mania" for smashing every working class organization. As usual, they begin their attacks upon the most militant section of the working class, the Communists. The assault upon the Communists is a forerunner and an inseparable part of the attack upon the working class as a whole. That is why every worker must help to repulse and defeat this attack. The Communist movement by itself—in the present stage of its numerical and political weakness—cannot successfully defeat the police terror. For that purpose it is essential to set large masses of workers into action. It is necessary to develop a broad movement of the workers and all labor organizations ready to form a united front to drive back the monster of police brutality. The conscious workers, who detest the Cossacks and their deeds, can be rallied for such a movement if they are not repulsed by narrow sectarianism but approached in a spirit of proletarian solidarity. The savagery of the police, who can carry out their jobs with less difficulty when the Communists are separated from the rest of the labor movement can be overcome when the courageous handful of revolutionary workers succeed in rallying the fraternal support of tens of thousands of workers.

This can and must be done. The movement resulting from it will be the best memorial to Steve Katovis, the martyred worker-rebel, and the most effective reply to capitalist terrorism.

## Mexico Breaks with Soviet Union

Following directly upon the United States visit of president-elect Ortiz Rubio, Mexico announced that it had broken all diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. The Mexican diplomatic representative in Moscow has asked for his passports, and preparations are being made for the return home of the Soviet minister to Mexico. The pretext for the break in relations were the Communist demonstrations in the United States during Rubio's visit, in which workers protested against the savage campaign of repression and murder of workers and revolutionists that the present Mexican government has been conducting for the past period.

The break does not come as a particular surprise to those acquainted with the development of relations between Mexico and the United States in the last couple of years. The pressure of American imperialism on Mexico, directly exercised by the House of Morgan through its partner Morrow, who was obligingly made Mexican ambassador by Washington, has resulted in the Mexican puppet government being entrained more firmly behind American finance capital. The resistance to American imperialist encroachments offered by the workers and peasants has been ruthlessly suppressed by both the Calles and the Gil governments. Rubio's present action indicates that he will follow directly in the footsteps of his bought-off predecessors.

The "reasons" given for the break are the hackneyed ones of "Bolshevik propaganda" in Mexico. The fact that Bolshevism naturally grows out of the soil of the class struggle in Mexico as it does in every other country is conveniently ignored by the American-controlled Mexican

government. What it is really interested in, is to give every assurance to its American masters in Wall Street and Washington that it will have nothing to do with the workers republic in Russia.

That the break is part of the international campaign of the bourgeois world, headed by the U. S., to press against the Soviet Union is only too plain. The fact that the Soviet Union has moved to the Left in the past period, under the pressure of the workers and the fight of the Russian Opposition, has been a sad disappointment to the imperialist world which hoped that the movement to the Right would continue uninterruptedly to the point where Russia could be made a colony divided among the imperialist bandits. The intervention of Stimson in the Manchurian situation, the threats of Henderson and MacDonald to break off relations with Russia, the recent intimation from Washington that the present "radical policy of the Soviets makes recognition an indefinitely postponed issue", and the present action of Mexico, are all part of one attempt to force Russia further away from the socialist path and toward the road of compromise with imperialism.

As for Mexico's "reasons" for the break, they become pitifully thin when it is known that no protest at all is made by its marionette rulers against the bold and ruthless "propaganda", both verbal and military that the United States conducts in Mexico 365 days in the year.

WHITTINSVILLE, Mass.—(FP)—Hard times in the textile industry have knocked 75 more workers out of jobs at the Whittin Machine Works. Although the number normally employed is between 3,000 and 3,500 only 2,000 are on the job now.

BOSTON—Benito Mussolini, Italy's leading Fascist, has been invited to speak at the American Legion convention in Boston this year. The American reactionaries feel an international solidarity with their Italian brothers.