

Five Communists Framed

Unite Working Class Forces for May Day Demonstrations

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Youth Conference for May Day, called by the Young Communist League of New York refused to seat the delegates of the Youth Section of the Communist League of America (Opposition) on the ground that they were "renegades"... The idocy of the Party leadership evidently knows no bounds. It leads to further isolation of the Communists from the labor movement, and lowers steadily the prestige of the Communists in the eyes of the workers. Among other things, by rejecting the delegates of the Left Opposition from official participation in the May Day demonstrations, the Party objectively plays the game of the bosses, who are indeed pleased to see the Communists forces divided.

It is imperative to unite all possible forces for May Day. The slogan of the United Front remains valid as the means to rally the workers and their organizations with their various economic and political views for a united and solid demonstration. The issues around which to unite the workers are many: 1. The solidarity of labor against capitalism. 2. A struggle on behalf of the unemployed, taking the form of demands for: work or compensation, the seven hour day and five day week, social insurance, abolition of the speed-up system, the unity of the employed and unemployed workers, the establishment of wide-scale credits to the Soviet Union by the U. S. government as a practical means to aid the unemployed at once, and recognition of the Soviet government by the United States. 3. A militant campaign for full civil liberties—unrestricted free speech, free press and assemblage for the workers—now being ruthlessly taken in various ways from the Communists and other workers' groups by the capitalist class. 4. A broad campaign to mobilize the working class against the repressions of the workers and their organizations by the employing class and the government. 5. Mobilization of the progressive and Left wing movement for the organization of the unorganized masses into labor unions. 6. To rouse the masses for the Defense of the Soviet Union.

There are a few of the immediate issues around which to rally the workers on May Day. A prerequisite is the unity of all Communist elements to conduct a campaign along these lines.

The slogan of the official Communist Party for a mass political strike on May Day is without validity under the prevailing conditions. As promulgated now by the Communist Party, its only results will be to mislead the workers, particularly the Communist workers and sympathizers, about the true situation today. Its inevitable failure will only bring discredit to the slogan and to the Party. Phrase-mongering is the most dangerous game for revolutionaries.

In New York, reactionary organizations of World War Veterans and similar groups have secured Union Square for May Day and propose, with the full support of the Police Department, to prevent the workers from their accustomed use of Union Square for working class demonstrations on that day. Here is another direct offensive of the capitalists and the government to smash and limit the workers' and Communist movement.

May Day is Workers' Day; Union Square on May 1st, by usage and tradition, fought for and gained by years of determined organization and struggle, belongs to the organizations of the working class. The Communists and the Left wing must appeal to the masses of the workers against the insolent provocation of the reactionary forces, the militarists, the White Guardists—against the whole gang of anti-labor elements with the New York City government in the forefront. The Party cannot fight this battle alone. It must appeal to the masses. Upon the volume of support which the masses give to this appeal, clearly manifested beforehand, depends the question whether the Communists should accept the challenge to fight for the Square on May Day, or make a temporary retreat before

stronger forces of the enemy. All efforts in the next days must be concentrated in going to the masses with this issue.

The Hoover government and the capitalist class continue to do everything in their power to hide the facts about mass unemployment; to lie about and distort the situation of prevailing misery; to cover up the failure of capitalism to solve the unemployment crisis as well as other ills of capitalism.

Reports are given in other columns of the Militant of the huge profits during the past year made by the numerous corporations throughout the country. Of course, the workers got, instead of profits, low wages, long hours, speed-up and then—joblessness. The census reports now being compiled by the United States government itself indicate that in round figures there are 7,000,000 unemployed workers in the United States. The panaceas of the bourgeois apologists and agents for unemployment have proved just nothing. Frances Perkins, the State Industrial Commissioner of New York, now hopes for a solution in the "next quarter century"! Other apologies for capitalism are equally valueless for the needs of the workers now without a job and the means of livelihood.

Vaster trade relations with the Soviet Union, extensive credits to the Soviet Union by the U. S. government, should be vigorously put forward by the workers, by the Communists, as practical measures to alleviate the unemployment situation in the United States and thereby also to aid the development of the Five Year Plan of the Soviet Union. Of course, no measures under capitalism can solve the unemployment problem which develops out of the system of capitalism. The basis for the complete elimination of unemployment can only be laid under a Workers' Government, a Soviet system. But it must be impressed upon the workers that broad economic relations with the Soviet government are one of the ways to aid the present situation, and that demands must be made upon the U. S. government accordingly. It is particularly unfortunate that the official Communist Party does not utilize this concrete proposal as a major slogan in the unemployment campaign.

In New York a small demonstration against the murder of the anti-fascist, Carlo Mazzola, took place in Union Square on April 12 under the auspices of the Socialists, at which anarchist representatives also spoke. Mazzola was killed by one of Whalen's policemen at an anti-fascist meeting in Cooper Union. The Communists were not permitted to participate officially in the memorial services and anti-fascist demonstration. For this the socialists deserve the severest condemnation for dividing the workers and refusing to unite all working classes forces against the fascist and their murderous acts. A United Front movement against Mussolini, against Fascism is capable of organization and development. Those serve Fascism who refuse to permit the unity of workers' forces and organizations in demonstrations, meetings and movements against Fascism. That is the manner in which the Socialists acted at the Union Square meeting. Honest anti-fascist workers who think the Socialist Party is the enemy of fascism should ask the question why the most militant fighters against it were excluded from the demonstration. —M. A.

Φ

EASTON, Pa.—(FP)—Hulmeville Hosiery Co. has applied for an injunction against the South Langhorne local of the Hosiery Workers Union, to prevent picketing of the plant. About 65 workers are on strike, following the lockout of several workers.

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LYNN, Mass.—(FP)—Union carpenters here have adopted the 5-day week, in an attempt to provide work for the unemployed. There is no change in the wage sale. The agreement between employers and the union expired March 31.

DISPATCHERS NEED SHORTER HOURS

CHICAGO—(FP)—Nystagmus may be the ailment that will help train dispatchers to a shorter workday and workweek. Nystagmus is not a welcome assistant but it insists nevertheless. It is the name for a pathological condition of the eye and is believed to afflict dispatchers because of their eyestrain as well as nervous strain of their exacting duties, made much more onerous by speeding up of trains and by substitution of the telephone for the rail telegraph in many offices.

Dispatchers belonging to the American Train Dispatchers Assn. are now being examined medically not only regarding their eyes but generally as the basis for new wage and hours presentations to be made in new negotiations with the rail bosses. Men at New York, Birmingham, Ala., and Omaha have been examined as sample lots and others are in line.

Wage boosts of 27 cents a day to \$10.00 have been won by union dispatchers on the St. Louis-Southwestern.

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WASHINGTON GOVERNOR PARDONS CROOKS, REFUSES WOBBLIES

SEATTLE—(FP)—While Gov. Hartley declares he is not empowered to free the Centralia prisoners, Prosecutor Charles W. Greenough of Spokane charges that the state parole board acts "under orders of Gov. Hartley."

"Convicts are being paroled faster than they can be convicted because members of the board act under orders of the governor."

Advocates of the release of the eight Centralia prisoners are glad to see Hartley's alibi that the matter is "entirely in the hands of the Parole Board" punctured by such a "respectable" witness.

Atlanta Threatens Death to Communist Organizers

ATLANTA, Ga.—Charges involving execution or, "if the jury recommend to mercy", 5 to 20 years imprisonment, under a post-civil war statute regarding "inciting to insurrection", have been returned by the Atlanta grand jury against M.H. Powers, and Joe Carr, Communist organizers. They will be held without bail. At present they are out on \$1,500 bail on charges of "unlawful assembly" and distribution of "insurrectionary literature", which involves a penalty from 5 to 20 years.

Their "offense" was holding Communist meetings of white workers and Negroes together, advising them to join forces in the struggle against boss oppression, and to defend themselves against lawless attacks by police and lynching by private citizens.

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\$50,000 MINIMUM BUDGET FOR YOUNG N. Y. BANKER

NEW YORK—(FP)—You can't save on \$50,000 a year. That's the experience of a young New York banker, under 35, writing in Fortune. The Park Ave. apartment alone costs \$7,000 a year, he writes, and house expenses are \$650 a month. The nurse gets \$120 a month, the cook \$90, the maid \$80. Theatres and night clubs take at least \$1,400 a year, the doctor grabs \$2,250, the wife must have \$5,000 for clothes. The summer house expenses run to \$5,185 for three months.

Other little expenses, including charity, run the total up to \$48,475, the irreducible minimum. The young banker hopes, when his income runs to \$75,000, to be able to save some money.

"A great writer has here set forth his fantastic life in such a way as to make me wonder why people still read novels, or even write them. The book begins like Hamsun, and closes like a third act." . . . Emil Ludwig.

My
Life



Leon
Trotsky

IN exile on an obscure Turkish island Trotsky writes the story of his fantastic life—his country boyhood, his revolutionary passion, his friendship and work with Lenin, his seething participation in the brooding plots that transformed Czarist into Communist Russia, his leadership of the Soviet Army, his opposition to Stalin, and his banishment.

Trotsky avoids theoretical discussion. He describes the events which and characterizes the men who brewed a mighty drama of world history in our own times—the transformation of somnolent Holy Russia into a country of experimentation, ethical and economic. Trotsky has a flair for narrative, a power in description, shrewd humor, even when the joke is on him.

Born in a remote village in Little Russia, he was arrested at nineteen as a revolutionary and spent two years in unspeakable Czarist prisons. He was exiled to Siberia, escaped, wandered through Switzerland into Paris and London, and then returned to Russia for the unsuccessful revolution of 1905. Prison again, exile again, an incredible escape by reindeer. The war came, Paris, expulsion to Spain, and forced deportation to New York, and then—the revolution! Power, tremendous power, as the directing head of an army. Intrigue, dissension, Lenin's death, and a conspiracy, and Trotsky began his third exile. At fifty, as he writes his autobiography, he is marooned on an island, on "a planet without a visa."

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