

Stalinist Antics in California

LOS ANGELES—

An unemployment council was organized here and at one time it had 1200 members. But suddenly the order came to "dissolve the council: Have every one join the T.U.U.L." A meeting of the 1200 was called to tell them the good news and to elect delegates to the Unemployment Convention in Chicago. But where were the 1200—for only 50 showed up.

And really what was the use of coming to the meeting! Who did not know in advance that what happened will and must happen. Eva Shaffran read a list of nominees and they elected this list for there was no other to elect.

Is there any wonder, after a council of 1200 members was reduced to 50 who joined the paper unions of the T.U.U.L., that at the September 1st demonstration some two to three hundred Party members, Y.C.L. and Pioneers were out while not one unemployed worker out of the 150,000 in L.A. took active part in it. The Stalinists say that this is due to police interference—but why were the masses not afraid of machine guns on March 6 when the Unemployment Council was still in existence?

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The cloakmakers are on strike, 400 out of 500 of them, and the decision of the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union is this: All those working in shops where the Right wingers are in the majority—go out on strike; all those who work in shops where the Left wing is the majority—remain at work! And although the strike is being conducted by the arch-reactionary Breslau of New York, and the police seem to be in cahoots with Breslau to permit picketing, and although we know that the I.L.G.W.U. strike is more of a strike to organize the bosses and sell them unionism than it is for the workers—the double bookkeeping of the Left wing remains ruinous. Strike and scab at the same time! The Left wing never was and never will be built this way. —B.B.

A Persecuted Socialist

The New York *Telegram*, semi-official organ of Heywood Broun, socialist candidate for Congress in New York, publishes the following heart-breaking account of the murderous brutality with which the New York police are attacking the noble socialist defenders of the working class. The Communist leaders are sent to prison. Here's what happened to Broun when "arrested for picketing" in the Fifth Avenue garment workers' strike:

"Broun went along but not as the officer had expected. He hired a cab and took the policeman with him, directing the driver to proceed to the E. 51st St. station . . . Magistrate Ford on Levy's (Broun's attorney) motion, dismissed the complaint.

"I got a big kick out of reading your column about my friend, Judge Brodsky," he said to Broun.

"I'm very glad you did, said the polite opponent of Brodsky.

"Then to prove that no one held a grudge, Broun and the policemen posed for photographers. Broun's arms were around the cops . . ."

We patiently await the account in the next issue of the *New Leader* to learn whether Broun and the cops sang the "International" or just "Sweet Adeline".

Weisbord's Statement

In the last issue of the *Militant*, an omission was unfortunately made in the beginning of the final installment of comrade Alber Weisbord's statement. The omitted section read as follows:

"An analysis of the present situation cannot be complete or correct without a thorough study of all basic international questions. Only the movement headed by L.D. Trotsky has stressed the necessity for a truly international point of view, has fought the tendencies of national socialism, and has made such an international viewpoint the prerequisite warp and woof of every sectional thesis. The Left International Opposition (Trotsky) alone has correctly fought the opportunism embodied (1) in the theory of socialism in one country, (2) in the Anglo-Russian Trade Union committee affair, (3) in the Chinese Kuo Min Tang adventure. Nevertheless in view of the recent international events, it is necessary to make an independent analysis here of the chief international situations."

Our National Tour

Good Meetings for Saul in Mid-West Cities

Comrade George Saul, who has just reached Chicago by this writing, has been having a number of successful meetings in his national tour for the Communist League. Beginning in Denver, comrade Saul organized three street meetings virtually by himself. All of them were highly successful, and at the end of the third, many workers in the audience asked him to continue holding the meetings. Comrades of the official Party asked many questions which comrade Saul answered thoroughly. As a result of the Denver meetings, a beginning has been made in the work of organizing a local branch of the League. Proceeding to Kansas City, comrade Saul spoke at three meetings there also, one of them in a hall on the subject of "Class Persecutions in the South", the other on a prominent street corner, and the third with the local members of the League. Saul's visit to K.C. had a lively effect upon the local comrades who write enthusiastically to the national office about the interest that has been awakened, among new elements as well as among old-timers.

In St. Louis, comrade Saul spoke before a meeting of the Workers' Alliance,

Quotations That Somehow Do Not Tally. . .

"Stalin is not a dictator. He is the foremost leader of the Russian Communist Party, indeed, of the world revolutionary movement. He is 'the best pupil of Lenin', the clearest Marxian of the present day. Stalin enjoys great prestige. This he has won by his life time of splendid revolutionary service. Especially has his work been outstanding since the death of Lenin in 1924"

Wm. Z. Foster, *Daily Worker*, October 2, 1930.

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"Comrade Stalin, having become general secretary, has concentrated an enormous power in his hands. And I am not sure that he always knows how to use that power with sufficient caution. . . . Stalin is too rude, and this fault, entirely supportable in relations among us Communists, becomes insupportable in the office of general secretary. Therefore, I propose to the comrades to find a way to remove Stalin from that position and appoint to it another man who in all respects differs from Stalin only in superiority—namely, more patient, more loyal, more polite and more attentive to comrades, less capricious, etc."

—Lenin in his "Testament", January 4, 1923.

"Hugo Oehler deserted his post in the South at a difficult moment without notice and simply disappeared. When discovered later in Chicago, he was found in a pathological condition suffering from hallucinations, which was the only factor saving him then from expulsion from the Party. He is suffering from a serious case of paranoia. His conversion to Trotskyism is a by-product of his mental breakdown. The case of George Saul differs somewhat; he ran away from a six months' sentence on the chain gang in Carolina, covering up his desertion by leaving the Party and announcing himself as a Trotskyite."

—Statement by Earl Browder, *Daily Worker*, July 29, 1930.)

The Left Opposition and the Chinese Events

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to the level of a national movement is possible only by connecting the struggle for land, against tax-oppression and the burden of militarism, with the ideals of the independence of China and the sovereignty of the people. A democratic expression of this connection is the plenipotentiary National Assembly. Under this slogan the Communist vanguard will be able to unite around itself the vast masses of workers, the oppressed small townspeople and the hundreds of millions of poor peasants, for an insurrection against foreign and native oppressors.

The organization of workers' Soviets can be attempted only in presence of an obvious rise of the revolution in the cities. Meanwhile we can only get ready. To get ready—means to gather strength. At present we can do it only under the slogan of a consistent, courageous, revolutionary democracy.

In the meanwhile we must explain to the advanced elements of the working class that a National Assembly is for us only a stage in the revolutionary road. We are steering our course towards the dictatorship of the proletariat in the form of the Soviet system.

We do not shut our eyes to the fact that such a dictatorship will put before the Chinese people the hardest economical and international problems. The Chinese proletariat constitutes a smaller part of the population of China than the proletariat did on the eve of the October Revolution in Russia. Chinese capitalism is more backward than Russian capitalism was.

and another public meeting arranged by the Communist League branch. A lively discussion took place at these gatherings, with comrade Saul elucidating the position of the Left Opposition on the important problems of the movement, and in particular on the perspectives for the trade union movement in the United States. As a result of the second meeting, eight workers made application for membership in the League.

In Springfield, Illinois, en route to Chicago, comrade Saul met with a number of Opposition comrades and leaders of the Left wing miners' movement. Throughout the whole Southern Illinois territory, the once powerful Communist and Left wing movement has been thoroughly shot by the ruinous policies of the official Party. Efforts will be made now to assemble the Left wing forces again for concerted action. Some gratifying developments may be expected in Southern Illinois in the near future.

From Chicago, comrade Saul is to visit Detroit, Cleveland Youngstown, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia before coming to New York.

"It is significant that during the year and a half of bitter struggle in the South during which our organizer at Bessemer City, Ella May, was shot through the heart and killed by a mill owners' mob, during which our organizer George Saul was sentenced to the chain gang for attempting to hold a meeting; while another of our organizers Ann Burlak, now faces the electric chair at Atlanta, Georgia, for merely protesting to the police against the breaking up of a meeting, that during this entire period there has not been a single desertion of importance from the defense struggle under the leadership of the International Labor Defense."

(—Statement by the I.L.D., J. Louis Engdahl, secretary, *Daily Worker*, September 22, 1930.)

But difficulties are conquered not by illusions, not by a policy of adventure, not by hopes of a Chiang Kai-Shek, nor of a "democratic dictatorship". Difficulties are conquered by clear thinking and a revolutionary will.

The Chinese proletariat is coming to power not in order to resurrect the Chinese Wall and under its protection to build a national socialism. By conquering power the Chinese proletariat will conquer one of the most important strategic positions for the international revolution. The destiny of China, as well as the destiny of the U.S.S.R., can not be considered except in relation to the revolutionary movement of the world proletariat. This is the source of greatest hopes and the justification of the highest revolutionary courage.

The cause of the international revolution is the cause of the Chinese revolution. The cause of the Chinese revolution is the cause of the international revolution.

THE PROVISIONAL INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF THE COMMUNIST OPPOSITION:

Rosmer, Landau, Markin
Russian Left Opposition (Bolshevik-Leninists):

L. Trotsky
Communist League of France (Opposition):

A. Rosmer
United Left Opposition of the German C.P. (Bolshevik-Leninists):

K.Landau
Spanish Communist Opposition:

Andrade, Gorkin
Belgian Communist Opposition: Hennaut

Communist League of America (Opposition);

Shachtman
Communist Left of Austria: D.Karl, C.Mayer

THE MILITANT NEEDS AID!

A couple of months ago, the *Militant* announced that during the summer period it would be compelled to go back to semi-monthly publication, after which it would resume its weekly appearance. The summer months have drawn to a close and we are anxious to make every effort to publish the *Militant* as a weekly once more.

With its initial appearance, the *Militant* set itself the aim of reaching the workers with the truth. To tell the workers the truth about the capitalist system and the capitalist class is to liberate them from the mental slavery under which they live. To tell the truth about the situation in the revolutionary and labor movements is to liberate them from the illusions and deceptions practised against them by false leaders. To analyze and foretell events, by the teachings learned from Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky, is to help arm the working class in its fight for final emancipation. The *Militant* has one this systematically and with perseverance.

We have already accomplished a great work in clarifying the ranks of the revolutionary movement. But the big tasks we have set ourselves have only been begun. We are not deterred by the difficulties, nor by the malicious slanders of our adversaries in the labor and Communist movements. The powerful apparatus and machinery they possess cannot overcome the which the strength of the *Militant* lies.

The coming months will be filled with events of international importance. The class struggle grows more intense in China, in India, the Soviet Union, in Germany and Austria, in the United States and elsewhere. The *Militant* will strive to the utmost to inform its readers truthfully about what happens and analyze and interpret these events from the revolutionary point of view. In this country, it is a work that the *Militant* alone is doing.

But its semi-monthly publication is a great handicap. Our paper was created and maintained for almost two years by the efforts of a small group of rebels. Upon their shoulders has been placed the burden of support. Very little effort has been made to appeal for assistance to the militants outside our organization.

We want to re-establish the weekly as soon as possible. Towards this end, a fund must be created that will secure its regular publication. Every reader and friend of the *Militant* can and should contribute to this fund. Financial support can be rendered in two ways:

Send in a donation immediately as your share; or

Pledge and pay a sum regularly every month for the next six months. Twenty five to fifty cents a week (\$1.00 to \$2.00 a month) will not be a burden upon an employed reader, but a few score of such pledges will mean a weekly *Militant*.

We are appealing to every reader of the paper. Respond generously and quickly. The moderate assistance of every comrade added together, will make a Fund that will supply the needed foundation for the *Weekly*. Send bills, checks, or money-orders to the *Militant*, 25 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. Do your share in the drive!

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Communist Party of Austria (Opposition)

Frey

"Internal Group" of the C.P. of Austria

Frank

Czecho-Slovak Left Opposition: W.Kriegler

Italian Left Faction: Candiani

New Italian Opposition: Santini, Blasco

Mexican Left Opposition: Negrete

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