

Defend the Philly Militants! - Organization Notes -

Several weeks have elapsed since the arrest of comrades Goodman and Morgenstern of the Philadelphia branch of the Communist League, under the notorious Flynn Seditious law of the state of Pennsylvania. It will be remembered that the two comrades were arrested for distributing the leaflet on unemployment issued by the National Committee of the League, calling for a solid united front of workers and jobless around the slogans of the six-hour day without reduction in pay, unemployment insurance paid by the bosses and administered by the workers and—the demand that the government extend long term credits to the Soviet Union, as a concrete step toward creating jobs for thousands of unemployed. The International Labor Defense from the first showed great reluctance in giving any aid to the two Left Oppositionists. It was only after a few pressing inquiries from impartial rank and flers that the I. L. D. bureaucrats began to take the affair seriously, pussyfooting all the time without taking a definite stand and refusing to consider the case together with those of the other class war prisoners.

Recently two local branches of the I. L. D. have sent in demands for information on the case to the national office of the defense organization. A member of the National Committee of the International Labor Defense, comrade Gerry Allard of Illinois, has also protested against the shameful discrimination shown against our comrades.

In reply to these inquiries and protests, the officials of the organization give the lame excuse that the case was "handled apart from the I. L. D." and that "the I. L. D. . . . as a class struggle organization, does not enter into any compromises [!] with any other organization". This is both falsehood and rot. Comrades Morgenstern and Goodman themselves went up to Ross, the local organizer of the I. L. D. and presented their case to him. Furthermore, at the anti-Sedition conference called by the I. L. D. on March 1, our comrade Whitten presented the case openly and fully, under a barrage of abuse from the bureaucrats, led by Engdahl, who were conducting the meeting. These are the facts. The I. L. D. for its part, although it promised to take up the defense of the two Opposition fighters, has failed to make any serious attempt in this direction. From our comrades we learn that under pressure from the workers in the ranks of the organization, they have finally agreed to handle the legal side of the matter. A more outrageous, a more cowardly evasion of elementary revolutionary duty has seldom been witnessed.

The International Labor Defense was built on a class struggle basis. It is its

The position of a Communist should be to propagate the ideas of Communism and not hide them. To win over the masses and not united fronts purely for the sake of united fronts, by applying correct Leninist tactics.

Resume:

1. The split in the fraternal organization was a blunder and has done great damage to the revolutionary movement.
2. The attitude to the I. W. O. is the same as to the other fraternal organizations, allowing a more liberal attitude in certain cases, because of a more radical composition of the membership.
3. Class conscious workers when joining a fraternal organization should give preference to those where the membership is more backward and thereby be of greater service to the movement.
4. A relentless struggle against the opportunist Right wing (Lovestoneites) and liquidators of the Communist movement.

I am sending this statement to the **Militant** because, after reading the appeal to the Red Needle Trades Workers and the appeal on Unemployment, I have come to the conclusion that only the Communist Left Opposition (Bolshevik-Leninists) has given a correct Marxian evaluation of the objective conditions and followed it up with Leninist tactics. Only people fired by a revolutionary zeal, armed with the knowledge of Marxism and Leninist tactics, directed by the co-worker of Lenin and the theoretician and leader of the revolutionary movement, Leon Trotsky, can produce such a wonderful periodical as the **Militant**, which is a source of knowledge for thinking Communists.

I hope this statement will serve as a basis for a discussion on this important problem and that you will give due consideration to it, the result of which I hope, will be a thesis on the work in fraternal organizations which will serve as a guide to every revolutionary worker. Neither the Centrist leadership of the party nor the Right wing liquidators can give the proper solution for the problem confronting the revolutionary workers. —J. B.

task to defend workers as soldiers in the class struggle. To pretend that the I. L. D. bureaucrats are carrying out their duty by offering a lawyer to represent the workers involved within the confines of capitalist law, is to be betray the very principles on which it was built.

The Left Opposition will not look on passively. It will demand that the case of Goodman and Morgenstern be brought to the attention of the broad masses of the American workers together with those of the other Communists under indictment by the capitalist courts. It will demand the right of Left Oppositionists to be defended as class fighters, who need not alone strictly legal protection in the confines of the bosses' courts, but the mass support of the revolutionary workers in transforming their case, together with that of Lawrence, Ryder, Lynn and the other Communists struck by class justice, into a large defense movement to arouse the workers of this country against the designs of the boss government to drive the revolutionary labor movement underground. The fight of Pelz, Lawrence, Lynn, Ryder, Goodman and Morgenstern to present the views of militant Communism before the oppressed and exploited toilers of America must take the form of a broad united front of all workers' organizations standing on the standpoint of the class struggle. It must rally as one solid, fighting proletarian phalanx large masses of American workers to prevent the capitalists from drawing the noose tighter about their necks and to go over to the victorious offensive against them. To transmute the factional struggle that has its proper place in the internal struggle of the party, into an organization that occupies itself with the class defense of all workers hit by boss rule is to drive a wedge into the fighting front against capitalism. It must not be tolerated. And it will not be. Despite the bureaucrats, the class struggle united front of the workers, in defense of all their vanguard fighters will be achieved.

Communist workers! Demand the class defense of Goodman and Morgenstern from the Stalinist officials of the I. L. D! Help shape a firm front of all militant workers against the attempt of the government to railroad Lawrence, Ryder, Goodman, Morgenstern and the other class fighters!

Clem Forsen, St. Paul TUUL Head, Expelled

Following the presentation of a statement to the membership of the Communist Party in the Minneapolis district, comrade Clem Forsen, organizer of the Trade Union Unity League in St. Paul, and active party worker for years, was expelled by the party bureaucrats for his solidarity with the statement, which reviews concisely the position and development of the party and the Comintern for the past period, comrade Forsen wrote in part:

"I am especially appealing to all members whom I have worked with in the past years and with whom I have struggled for the correction of gross evils and conduct, carried on by a narrow and impudent bureaucracy, to take an accounting of past events in the party and the revolutionary movement in the past years, then to take up a study of the platform and program of the Left Opposition, thus learning the correct answers to the many questions that constantly arise in our work in the party, which all the propaganda of the official party does not answer. The party must come first. Every revolutionary worker must have the greatest concern for his party. Without a correct party program and policy, our class shall be led to defeat after defeat, and the punishment for its defeats shall fall heaviest upon our party. No worker Party member should allow himself to be provoked by conditions in the party to quit the party and drift into a state of inactivity and apathy towards the class struggle . . .

"Lack of success due to incorrect policy leads the bureaucracy to make arbitrary demands for results upon the lower functionaries. The membership carries the burden of failures from policy. The mass organizations do not grow. Extensive apparatus is set up, the masses expected to fill the ranks do not respond. The party members must fill the ranks and do the work. Over-organization, over-work of the activists follow. Chronic organizational crises in all parties exist. New members lay down and quit. Old members answer stringest demands with evasions, bluffs that years of faction struggle have taught them. The results are that there is apathy and dullness in the life of the units. There are chronic outbursts of disgust and anger, petty intrigues and other corruption. Lack of serious political discussion and work con-

THE SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE

The subscription drive has not yet gained its full momentum, though this week's report shows a great improvement. It is important to bear in mind the approaching inactivity of the summer months, and to double our efforts in behalf of this campaign.

That the getting of subscriptions for **The Militant** is not a difficult task, has been proven by comrade Goldberg of St. Louis. He sent in 14 subscriptions at one time. What can be done in St. Louis by one member, can surely be duplicated by the larger branches. But we regret to report that the larger branches are falling far behind. Chicago comes next. This branch secured 7 new subscriptions since the last report, while New York got only 2. Minneapolis, as always, is working hard. They have 5 new subs. to their credit.

The total in favor of the drive is 60 new subscriptions and renewals.

The branches must get seriously busy. Every member should become a subscriber or get one new subscriber. The list of expirations should be visited by our members. The New York branch must wake up.

ORGANIZATION PROGRAM

Organization progress can again be reported from most of our branches. New members have been admitted in Minneapolis, Philadelphia and New York during the last two weeks. From the appearance of orders filled at our headquarters, the branches in Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago and Minneapolis have been particularly active in literature distribution; the orders filled for the last two mentioned have run into several hundred pamphlets for each.

In the Illinois mine fields our comrades have taken up active work trying to apply our policy and build the Left wing forces in the present new union movement. With assistance given from the center it became possible to have a couple of our comrades, who are coal miners tour the state. In addition Comrade Oehler is also making a tour. This work was made possible only through a special effort on the part of several of our branches, New York alone contributing \$90.00 for this purpose.

In Minneapolis the labor movement is witnessing quite some unprecedented police persecution. All Communist meetings and demonstrations have been ruthlessly broken up. Our branch, however, has succeeded in taking up leadership toward more active worker resistance. It has raised the issue of right of free speech, carried it to the trade unions, and has succeeded in getting several locals on record to fight back in an effective manner. Our members are even being charged by the Stalinites with the "unforgivable crime" of busting into workers united front conference:—in this case one organized by the I. L. D. Unfortunately the Stalinites are failing even to give proper support or to endeavor to maintain mass contacts.

The Kansas City branch has adopted an ambitious program to be carried out by May 1st. It includes securing renewals from every present **Militant** reader, securing five new yearly subscriptions, increase the bundle sales from 20 copies to 50 and collecting for the Expansion Program \$125.00. It is already in the course of fulfillment: the bundle order has been increased, the subs. are coming in and we have received for the Expansion Program so far \$50.00 (reported in previous issue)

The total receipts for the Program of Expansion were:

A Friend		
(N. Y. C.)	25.00	1,750
A Shoemaker		
(N. Y. C.)	1.00	
Al Glotzer		1,500
(N. Y. C.)	5.00	
Geo. Saul		
(N. Y. C.)	1.75	1,250
T. Bolsnert		
Los Angeles	10.00	
Minneapolis		1,000
branch	60.00	
New Haven		750
branch	5.00	
Chicago		
branch	11.00	
	118.75	500
Previously reported	346.00	250
Total to date	\$464.75	

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