

EDITORIAL NOTES

EVIDENCE MADE TO ORDER

The trial of the gangsters, Coll and Giordano, on murder charges, which resulted in the acquittal of the defendants, throws a glaring searchlight on "justice" as it is administered in New York.

Victims of the frame-up system of American justice are not always so fortunate. The police in this case made the mistake of picking on real gangsters with money and influence.

The police frame up their victims all the time as a matter of routine, as a habit. We have seen the revelations of the Seabury investigation regarding women framed as prostitutes.

The stage was all set for a speedy railroad by the time-honored methods in the case of the indicated marine workers, Soderberg, Bunker, and Trajer.

This interest is growing and is being organized. But not fast enough. If we work harder, if we extend our fight on a broader front, if a real movement of the working class comes to the support of the prisoners, they will be liberated.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROBLEMS

The appearance of a Greek organ of the Left Opposition in America, and the projected early publication of a Jewish paper, will no doubt extend the propaganda effectiveness of our movement to a considerable extent.

Foreign language speaking workers constitute an important—even if not the most decisive—section of the American proletariat. To carry the message of Communism to them and to unite them with the native workers in a single movement is a task that American Communism has stumbled over more than once in the past.

The problem is political, first of all. Organization difficulties, which have in the past assumed tremendous importance, flow from the political essence of the question.

The strength of the Left Opposition, in all of its manifestations, is the strength of its ideas, its granite foundation of

principle. Every special language grouping or propaganda expression must be built from the very start on this conception. It follows from this that all of our language papers, as well as all other propaganda mediums, are organs of a single National Committee.

The right wing of American Communism is also having an experience in this field. In the contrast between that experience and ours can be seen the contrast between a movement that lives from day to day, as best it can, and a movement that goes by principle.

"There is a distinct tendency to treat the struggle of the Lithuanian Opposition as if it were an isolated 'Lithuanian' fight. The fundamental political struggle... is almost completely neglected."

Well, what do you expect? Of course they leave aside the big questions and devote themselves to the comparatively petty "national" issues to catch the support of people with transitory grievances.

Such exhibitions cannot happen in the Left Opposition. The Revolutionary Age also criticized the manifesto of the Communist League in the Greek language—but from an opposite standpoint.

The manifesto, it said, talked too much about the Anglo-Russian Committee and the Chinese Revolution, and not enough about the so-called "Greek" questions.

WHERE DID THEY LEARN?

Honor to carpenters! Union Local 2090 of New York. This is the first union to respond to the appeal of the Marine Workers Defense Committee and to vote a donation for the expenses of its work.

This act of solidarity was not performed without an internal struggle. Of course nobody flatly opposed the idea of helping union men to defend themselves in the capitalist court.

Militants in the labor movement who have served their time on various occasions in the fight to gain trade union support for persecuted workers have grown familiar long ago with the technique of obstruction to this work.

This, as has been said, is the well known strategy of the reactionary bureaucrats. But here we have "the vanguard of the proletariat" resorting to this hypocritical shrewdness.

—J. P. C.

THE NATIONAL TOUR

The balance of the schedule for the National Tour of comrade Arne Swabeck is as follows: Balance of schedule follows: Cleveland, Ohio.....January 5th

A Sojourn With Comrade Leon Trotsky

— Five Weeks in Kadikoy —

Kadikoy is an Anglo-American resident suburb of Constantinople, twenty minutes by boat from the Pera quarter of the city and located on the Asiatic side of Turkey, where the Bosphorus flows into the Marmora Sea.

Comrade Trotsky has been living here for almost a year—since the lamentable fire destroyed his home of exile on the island of Prinkipo. The present house is a simple two-story, wooden-frame dwelling, that boasts of no historic pre-occupants.

We arrived at the house early in the morning and after making our identity known gained admittance into the house. In a few moments we found ourselves in the workroom face to face with the leader of the International Left Opposition.

A subject of intense interest to every revolutionist, one that came first to our lips and which our American readers undoubtedly are anxious to learn about is the state of comrade Trotsky's health.

Particularly in hot weather do I succumb to spells accompanied by terrific fevers which forbid me from continuing my work. If it were possible to live in a climate where the heat were not so intense it would help considerably but, as things look now, I must consider Turkey my home for some time to come.

We observed particularly, during our stay, the enormous energy of comrade Trotsky. While we were there he was completing the last chapters of the second volume of the "History of the Russian Revolution" (The first volume will be out in February, published by Simon and Shuster Company).

America absorbs a great deal of comrade Trotsky's interest. To him the United States symbolizes capitalism at the height of its development. "This period sees America assuming the leadership of the capitalist world," he told us. He continued: "While it is not excluded that America can rise out of the present crisis and attain its former strength, she will have to do this at the expense of the rest of the world."

"But in spite of this we have reason to be hopeful for the American working-class. The effects of the crisis have a tremendous influence in shattering their bourgeois and petty bourgeois longings, which came as a result of the stupendous rise of American capitalism during the almost uninterrupted growth of industry there. But America has passed that 'golden era'. I think that it is correct to say that from now on her development will be a far more difficult one, made at the expense of the rest of the world and in particular through increased persecution of the working class at home.

We learned from the comrades there that the fire destroyed almost every thing. It broke out late at night and before much could be done, it spread through the entire house. All that was saved from the ruins were the archives, Lenin's letters and documents. His library consisting of 2000 read and annotated volumes and clippings were burned. The clothes belonging to the entire family were destroyed and \$150.00 in cash was burned. "But even so," comrade Trotsky said smilingly, "it could have been very much worse."

the revolution. The world character of economy, plus various combinations, can push the United States to the upper portion of the list. I have spoken on this same question to the American comrades before. The problem, however, assumes even more importance now.

"A great deal depends upon the preparations made by the Communists for the struggles of the future. The Comintern heretofore refused to recognize the role of American Imperialism and only after a criticism by the Opposition made a belated turn about face. But it is absolutely necessary for the Communist to realize the role of American capitalism, to see its development and prepare for the future?"

Jokingly we asked comrade Trotsky whether he would like to come to the United States to live. He expressed a real desire to be here, but replied: "I think it is best to wait until the revolution and I trust that you comrades will push a little faster to accomplish this."

Comrade Trotsky is deeply interested in the youth movement. Repeatedly he asked us questions regarding the youth in the States. "Have you any youth in the Opposition?" "What kind of youth activity have you been carrying on?" "What are the possibilities of organizing a youth movement supporting the Opposition and training, educating and preparing the cadres of youth for the future?" He expressed himself as follows: "It is absolutely necessary that the Opposition concentrate on winning the youth to its support. Unlike the thoroughly corrupted bureaucrats, it is quite possible to win large sections of the youth to the Opposition. They are less corrupted and are more susceptible to the ideas of the Left Opposition. We must concentrate especially upon winning them to our banner. They will become a tremendous reserve for us. I should really like to see efforts made in this field of work. The steps already taken by the National Executive Committee in promulgating youth work through the issuance of Young Spartacus and helping to create the Youth Clubs will find a favorable support from comrade Trotsky. He is especially interested in our efforts in this field of work."

America is not altogether strange to him. He asked about the role of the Socialist Party in the present crisis. "Does the Socialist Party take an active part in the struggles of the workers in the present crisis? Are they really making efforts to build their organization? Do the workers support the anti-working class activity of the Hillquits and liberal muttonheads of the Thomases? American Socialism has not changed its reformist approach to the problems confronting the proletariat. It remains a constant danger to the working class."

In connection with the Socialist Party, comrade Trotsky asked about the role of the Jewish workers in this country. He told us that it was quite possible to win their support. But for this it would be necessary to publish our literature in the Jewish language in order to make it accessible to them. "Yes, you should not neglect the Jewish worker. He will be a great help to you and the American comrades should try to attract them to the Opposition and win them to the support of our ideas."

Comrade Trotsky takes a deep interest in the minutest tasks of the Opposition. He asked many questions about the Militant, which he regards very highly. "The Militant must be maintained as a weekly at all costs. It is a powerful weapon and no doubt is your strongest phase of work". He questioned us regarding its sales, whether it was read by the members of the Party, what our financial condition is, and numerous other questions regarding the existence of the Lovestone group and the activity of the Party. He often repeated the absolute necessity to win the Party members. "They are most important," he told us, "and for this you must organize your Party factions. They must be active bodies, participating in the life of the Party. We must not lose sight of the fact that we are a Party faction, and our future depends directly upon the whole future of Communism and the Party."

"We found comrade Trotsky in good spirits despite the extreme hardships of his exile. He must write in order to live and this in a sense is a handicap in that it does not allow him to concentrate all his thoughts and energies on the International Opposition. We talked about life in Turkey, and often his humorous though tragic sides would come in for discussion. The fire that broke out almost a year ago destroyed his library and a box of valuable clippings that were collected over a period of years. Comrade Trotsky is planning a book on the International Situation following the completion of his present work. It was for this that he had been collecting material. "When we first arrived, I made inquiries regarding a library in Turkey, which I might be able to use in my work. But unfortunately, I learned that such an institution was not to be found in Turkey. After the fire, I sent comrade Frankel to the National University of Stamboul requesting the use of the school library. They were anxious to help, but found that impossible because the university did not have a library which I could use. So you see that I am really handicapped in this sense."

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Comrade Frankel related the following incident to us: "Shortly after the fire we engaged a room in a nearby hotel. All of us felt dejected and were very much disturbed by the irreparable losses of the fire—all except comrade Trotsky. No sooner were we settled, when he laid his manuscripts out on the table, called the stenographer over and began to dictate chapters of his book as though nothing at all had happened during the night."

Upon news of this loss, books were sent to Trotsky from different parts of the world. These help to rebuild the library that he lost. Books on economics, history, politics and labor movement are especially needed and welcomed by him. In this article we appeal to our comrades, sympathizers and anybody who is interested, to communicate with us in regard to rebuilding the library of comrade Trotsky.

Comrade Trotsky is much troubled by the situation in Germany. He regards the situation there to be decisive in its influence on the whole trend of events internationally. "A victory of Fascism in Germany would have disastrous effects everywhere," he told us. "The Party does not realize that should Hitler come to power he would destroy the Party and the Labor movement. But instead of that it plays with the situation in a most criminal manner. It recalls to my mind the period of 1923 when Brandler and Company capitulated. Then the Party followed behind events instead of leading the proletariat in the struggle for power. From all appearances the Party is continuing the very same course today. The Opposition must do all in its power to prevent this attitude of the Party from continuing. This is one of our chief tasks. We must make the Party realize that its task at present is to organize the working class resistance to Fascism and prepare for the revolutionary struggle."

From Germany we went on to a discussion on the situation in the Soviet Union. We asked comrade Trotsky just what effects the world crisis would have on the Soviet Union. Comrade Trotsky was of the opinion that "the world crisis will have severe repercussions there. It appears now that the five year plan is experiencing a number of difficulties about which we warned long ago, but the relation of economy on a world scale to national economy will cause a crisis

Successful Banquet for Press Held in Mpls.

MINNEAPOLIS—The first of a series of events, which marked comrade Swabeck's visit to Minneapolis, the banquet held for the benefit of the Militant and the forthcoming Jewish organ, Unser Kampf was held on Saturday, December 26 and was unanimously considered a success.

After an excellent dinner of over 50 comrades and Left wingers, comrade Carl Cowl, the chairman, gave greetings in the name of the Left Opposition and then introduced comrades Carl Skoglund and Vincent Dunne who made appropriate remarks befitting the occasion. Albert rendered some violin selections, and then comrade Miles Dunne favored the audiences with a few monologues. Comrade Avrin next read Trotsky's farewell remarks upon Lenin's death. "Farewell, Ilyich!" and then delivered a speech on Lenin. Comrade Arne Swabeck then spoke on the tasks and duties of the Communist movement and dealt particularly with our press. In response over \$60.00 in cash and pledges was collected, as well as a number of subscriptions to the Jewish paper, Unser Kampf.

The cash contributions were as follows: Vincent Dunne, \$10.00; Carl Skoglund, Louis Roseland, S. Zalmanoff, Ladies Auxiliary of the I. W. C. and L., each \$5.00; Hoberman—\$1.50; comrades Averbach, Malinsky, Chas. Johnson, Lucatsky, J. Schwartz, Pat Rogers, Frank Glaser, Grant Dunne, Miles Dunne, Carl Cowl, Avrin, Fanny Barach, Lessin, M. Schwartz, Moglebsky, Labitsch—\$1.00 each; Clem Forsen Bertha Sauer and others—50 cents each.

The Committee is grateful to all those comrades who worked to make the banquet for the Left Opposition a success.

DEBATE IN MINNEAPOLIS

"RESOLVED THAT COMMUNISM CAN EMANCIPATE THE WORKING CLASS" Affirmative: V. R. Dunne, representing Communist League of America (Opposition.) Negative: Jean Spielman, representative of the A. F. of L. Printing Trades. Time: SUNDAY, JANUARY 3rd, 1932 at 3 P. M. Place: WORKERS OPEN FORUM HALL, 1530 EAST FRANKLIN, (corner of Bloomington). Questions and Answers From the Floor Admission: FREE

of the five year plan and only increase the economic difficulties of the proletarian dictatorship. Even now, while Stalin and Litvinov speak of the possibilities of the peaceful development side by side of Socialism and Capitalism, the capitalist powers only work to make matters more difficult for Soviet Economy. For the Opposition it means more determined efforts than ever.

"The captulators find things more difficult than ever. Those who were influenced by the step of Radek and the other older comrades, and who sincerely felt that a change was taking place in the policy of the Party, found themselves returned to exile shortly after they were taken back into the Party. Radek tries to establish himself in the Party by continuously denouncing the Opposition and renouncing every principled idea that he ever held. It has become the most vicious of them all. Most of the captulators do not exist politically. They have sold their ideas for the right to return to the centers to enjoy the existence of "marked men". The genuine Oppositionists remain steadfast. There are many thousands in exile. It is hard to estimate how many. Official figures will tell nothing. Those in exile are forced to go through terrific persecution and in spite of the extremely unfavorable conditions of work (lack of writing materials, lack of books, periodicals, relations with other Opposition colonies, or with the Party itself) exhibit a fearlessness that should encourage every Oppositionist. There are in exile today between three and five thousand young Oppositionists as well as a few thousand old Bolsheviks. In the Party ranks there are currents of Oppositionists everywhere. Stalin thinks that by his severe repressions he can stamp out the Opposition. But he can never do this in spite of everything that he does. The Opposition lives because its ideas are the ideas of Marx and Lenin. Because their ideas are the ideas of the October Revolution."

It was not easy to part when the time came to leave. But there was no other choice and we made ready to go. The thought came often to us: What a horrible crime Stalinism has committed to the revolutionary movement. The exile of comrade Trotsky is a terrible blow to the Russian Revolution and to the Communist International. Trotsky in Turkey is Trotsky endangered. The nest of white-guardists in Constantinople and in the Balkan countries always loom up as a constant threat to the life of our leader. The great handicaps in the work, his health made more aggravated in this country, his general separation from the centers of the movement, are not easy to overcome. Comrade Trotsky keeps on fighting. The greatest tribute to him is to build the International Left Opposition and to carry on the historic fight against Stalinism—that virus which has brought these conditions upon the Communist movement—and thereby to regenerate the International Communist movement for the conquest of proletarian power.

—ALBERT GLATZER.

Attention! Minneapolis Open Forum

Among the lecture arranged for forthcoming weeks at the Minneapolis Forum are the following:

All meetings, unless otherwise mentioned are at 3 P. M.:

Sunday, January 10, 1932: "Tom Mooney and the American Frame-Up System;" Speaker: Carl Cowl.

Sunday, January 17, 1932: "Imperialism; What Next?;" Speaker: Vincent R. Dunne.

Sunday, January 24, 1932: DEBATE: "Socialism versus Communism". Speakers: O. P. Victorian, representing the Socialist Party against Carl Cowl representing Communist League of America (Opposition).

Sunday, January 31, 1932: "The Proposed Railroad Wage Reductions;" Speaker: C. R. Hedlund.

All these lectures and debates will be held at the Workers Open Forum, 1530 East Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn. The Admission is free.

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