

# Statement of Gerry Allard

## Oppositionist Answers Stalinist Slanders

It is evident that the Stalinists in their campaign against the members of the Left Opposition, know no limit in their flight to perpetrate their erroneous policies. Neither are they familiar with the most elementary line of ethics conforming with the principles of a revolutionist. The recent charges against me, alleging that I testified in the courts of the capitalist class against active fighters of the class struggle are crude fabrications that cannot stand the least speck of substantiation.

Needless to say, the charges are of the most serious kind. For a fighter in the class war to be charged with open conspiracy with the enemies of the working class in attempting to frame up militant workers and send them to prison, is by far the most contemptible betrayal for which there can never be any pardon. Agent provocateur Leopold of the Canadian Royal Mounted Police is one speck of a scoundrel that will be jotted down in the memorandum book of the revolutionary working class. I hurl back in the teeth of the Gebers and Tashes that the allegations are so rotten and lying that it must contaminate the very tongue that irresponsibly frothed these contemptible charges.

### Differences with the Party

Seven workers, members of the Communist Party, have been jailed, indicted and released on bond pending trial, simply because they were active in the fight for the advancement of the interest of the Illinois coal miners. They propagated militantly, the idea that the National Miners Union was the only capable organization that could successfully lead the miners in the struggle against the operators. They appealed to the miners to spread their wild cat strike and to transform it into a national struggle. For these reasons, along with the general program of the Party, they are to be imprisoned for long years, unless the masses of coal miners and the entire American labor movement come to their defense. The attack against these seven Communist workers is a direct attack against the Illinois coal miners and the American labor movement. In the course of the Illinois miners' fight, especially during the "Rank and File" movement in Illinois, I differed very seriously with their policies. I followed the general line of the L. O. in the St. Louis convention where the Left Opposition played a prominent part. The convention rejected the policies of the Left Opposition; nevertheless, we were still a part of that movement and throughout the whole movement we have in a minority position. The pressure of the Left wing forces made the rank and file movement split from both branches of the reactionary miners union. The Party pursued an erroneous policy of sectarianism, trailing behind the whole movement. It was my firm opinion in accepting a minority position in this mass movement that events would confirm the correctness of Communist leadership. The party refused this line. It branded every one officially connected with the rank and file movement as fakers. The rank and file were men fresh from the picks. Even if we knew that the rank and file leadership would eventually mislead the miners movement, due to their short sightedness and lack of understanding the laws of the class struggle; it is not enough just to sit back and say, "I told you so!" My understanding of the correct Communist position is to remain with the masses and show them HOW.

In the unemployment movement starting even before the state hunger march, I was active in the work of the unemployed workers. I was elected to a united front conference a member of the state committee. By chance it developed that sympathizers of the Left Opposition had a majority on the committee. The Party, failing to control the movement they had started, began very neatly to sabotage. Later on, in Bloomington, Illinois, I again was elected by the unemployed workers there on the committee. Some of the Party organizers began to cooperate and as a result BLOOMINGTON WAS THE ONLY TOWN IN THE WHOLE HUNGER MARCH THAT RESPONDED WITH A MASS RECEPTION FOR THE HUNGER ARMY. It developed into one of the best down state units of the whole Illinois unemployment movement. This was not enough, the Party began to start the attack against

me. A secretary was imported to handle the whole situation. No one ever heard of him. He immediately began to take charge with my whole heard cooperation. It was not a week later he had run away with pennies of the unemployed workers of Bloomington and had stolen a check from the boss that I was working for. I had been in the Party for 8 years and there had never been a speck of irregularities along technical lines, but yet the great "leaders" import an agent that virtually ruins months of tedious work to organize a district that had never known Communist organization before.

These are a few of the detail matters that have caused the Party to be sharply antagonistic towards me. These things along with the fact that I am an applicant for membership in the C. L. A. (Opposition).

My recent activities in the miners' convention at Indianapolis and Springfield have also come under the criticisms of the Party. In this manner, I have been in contact with scores of miners and naturally correctness of policy gains sympathy in due time. The Party therefore has planned a campaign to annihilate me. They plan to frame up charges whereby they can force the League to bring pressure down on me. Anything to discredit Allard will be alright, as long as they get him out of the way. These are the only reasons that I can find for the inventions that they are continuously fabricating about my personal conduct as well as political activities. They have ceased to make it a political struggle by indulging in the personal character of their dissenters.

April the 1st a mass protest meeting has been called by sympathizers and opponents of the criminal syndicalist laws. I have been asked to speak and to possibly act as chairman of this meeting. I unhesitatingly accepted the offer as in line with every revolutionary's duty. This meeting will proclaim to the enemies of the miners that we intend to break the terror that is taking place in Franklin County and the right for workers to assemble and hold speeches.

—GERRY ALLARD.

## Pocket Book Workers Prepare for Strike

It is nine months since the S. P. fakers in the pocketbook Workers Union put over their treacherous agreement, in spite of the fact that the workers voted against it. The Right wing misleaders gave away all union conditions — more than the employers demanded, and without a fight. As a result, the union remains today in the most deplorable condition three months before the agreement expires.

After this rotten agreement was signed, a rank and file movement sprang up under the leadership of the T. U. U. L., as the workers revolted and ousted the administration before their term expired. New elections took place which left the administration badly divided. The rebel Left wingers won 14 delegates to the Joint Board, the Right wing elected 16. The rank and file committee elected two of the three business agents, but the Rights elected a manager, secretary-treasurer, two organizers, and one business agent, which gave them a small majority over the rebels. Members were wondering how this divided administration would work. They know that more than half of the administration in control now are the old guard of the Wolinsky, Ship-lakoff gang which were forced out of office a few years ago. They are corrupt and discredited by the membership. How can these two groups work together? Especially when the union faces such serious problems as making the employers live up to the agreement of last June; restoring order and discipline in the union shops; solving the problem of the shops moving out of town; the growth of scab shops; and above all; preparing and mobilizing the workers for a struggle when the agreement expires; and the winning back of the lost conditions which the last administration gave to the employers, without a fight.

At the same time the unemployment situation increases daily in great numbers as a result of which we have today out of 4,500 members, 2,500 unemployed

workers. The rest are working only part time. The employers took and are taking advantage of this situation. They do not live up even to the rotten agreement they signed. They reduce wages constantly. They have introduced the speed-up system. Workers are abused and insulted by their bosses and foremen, when they do work a day or two a week. Inside manufacturers give their work to contractors in non-union shops and let their workers starve, which is against the agreement they signed. This is the condition under which the pocket-book workers slave today.

How is it possible that the employers could get away and not live up to the agreement at a time when there is an "impartial" machinery in the industry?

First, there is the reorganization clause we have had since the last agreement, which was forced on the workers by the betrayers. This clause is a club in the hands of the employers, over the heads of the workers. Under this reorganization clause the employers have a right to discharge ten per cent of the workers during the year, which means five per cent every six months. The employers used this clause as a whip over the workers. It was possible for the employers to speed up the workers, because each worker feared that he would be the one to be discharged when reorganization came around, after the season was over. The employers used another scheme. A few days before reorganization took place, they called the workers into their office and told them if they would take a reduction in wages, they would not be sent away. The workers knowing that there are over 2,500 workers unemployed and that they can't get another job, accepted reductions in wages which amounted to 10, 20 and 30 percent.

Second: the present administration which is known to the workers as the "Fraternal Club" gang, gave the employers a free hand and collaborated with them to bring down wages and undermine the conditions of the workers.

After the employers reduced the wages of the workers, they called the union to a conference and demanded another reduction in wages of 15 percent. The administration was willing to give a 10 percent reduction of wages providing the employers renewed the agreement expiring in June for another year. When the manager reported this offer to a general membership meeting, the workers rejected it. It was decided not to renew the agreement so long as there is the reorganization clause in it, but that the union should prepare and mobilize the workers for a struggle, when the agreement expires. A few weeks later the administration called another membership meeting. At this meeting the "Fraternal Club" administration terrorized the membership and maneuvered to reconsider the decision of the previous meeting. After a lengthy and heated discussion, the "Fraternal Club" gang forced a reconsideration of the decision of the previous meeting. They were victorious once more. All they need is more such victories and the members will do with them what they have done with the last administration. When the administration won their victory this gave them the power to negotiate a new agreement on the basis of a 10 percent cut in wages including the clause of reorganization which the membership so bitterly opposed at the first meeting.

Then our misleaders at the next conference with the Industrial Council proposed to the employers a 10 per cent reduction in wages provided the manufacturers, in turn, prolong the agreement for another year. The bosses politely rejected the offer. They know they can get from the "Fraternal Club" administration 30 per cent in June. This shows how the employers used our practical leaders in an effort to help them destroy the union.

Now when the Right wing leadership have exposed themselves as working hand in hand with the bosses, the rank and file committee have a great opportunity to win over the majority of the workers providing they pursue a correct and clear policy. The numerous blunders of the party and the T. U. U. L. must be avoided by the rank and file committee in the Pocketbook Workers Union.

In June our agreement expires. The bosses, as it looks, have decided to destroy our organization which took so many years of bitter struggle to build. At this moment the rank and file committee have a great task to perform. There are only ten weeks left till June. The rank and file committee must carry on agitation and education and prepare the workers for a militant struggle and for the following demands:

(1) A 40 hour, five day week which is necessary in order to relieve the unemployment situation and bring jobs to an additional few hundred workers.

(2) Unemployment Insurance must be revised and should be paid by the manufacturers only. At present the workers pay from their meagre earnings their part of the fund. The only one who benefits by the unemployment fund is the faker, Dr. Hendin, who was rewarded by the misleaders for last year's "good" settlement. He is still getting his \$75 a week while the unemployed workers are starving.

(3) The rank and file committee will have to see to it that militant picketing should take place in order to stop all the scab ships during the first few days of the strike.

(4) This strike will have to be conducted in a militant fashion not only against the employers but also against the misleaders who are agents of the bosses.

—N. DAVIS.

## Farmer-Laborites in Minneapolis, Minn.

A new page in Farmer-Labor history has been written. Anderson, the Farmer-Labor mayor of Minneapolis has come out with a new proposal on unemployment. Coming so soon after the forcible breaking up of the February 4th Unemployment Mass meeting on Bridge St., in which six workers were arrested and convicted of "disorderly conduct", the solution offered by the mayor should not be surprising to the workers of this city. In a press statement to the Minneapolis Journal of March 7th, Mayor Anderson proposes to alleviate the depression and cut down the expenses of local administration by conscripting workers now receiving charity to do city work such as clearing snow, road repair, etc., for nothing, that is, in return for groceries. This, he claims, would in some measure repay the city for the charity they now dispense.

In examining this proposal, we see that this is nothing more than an attack on the present public works wage scale, and is a measure which the Chamber of Commerce and the organized bosses capitol should draw some political conclusions from this step taken by the Farmer-Laborite, and examine more closely its connection with the general program of the open-shoppers of this city. The radical pre-election speeches, the lengthy promises to alleviate the lot of the workers, have lost some of their appeal in the light of the actual deeds of the F. L. P. administration. The workers of Minneapolis are looking more and more cynically upon a state and city machinery which has consistently acted in collusion with the Chamber of Commerce. Its role as a democratic cloak for vicious attacks of the bosses has become clear to all thinking workers.

This situation is exceptionally favorable for the Communists. Workers are now beginning to understand the correctness of Communist candidates opposing the reformists, and no longer reproach us for "splitting the labor vote". The workers of Minnesota have no interest in the capitalist parties including the Farmer-Labor Party. The coming elections will show more clearly than ever the growing strength and appeal of Communism for the mass of workers in this state.

—SARA AVRIN.

## Left Opposition Activities in the Middle West

The three days of comrade Glotzer's stay in Minneapolis were crammed full of events fruitful for the Left Opposition. The central propaganda meeting was the debate with A. C. Townley of Nonpartisan League fame. Heralded as a fire-eating champion of economic and political reforms, the audience of 150 who gathered at the Labor Lyceum were surprised and amused to hear this exponent of rural radicalism relate a series of stories and anecdotes; entertaining in themselves, but having little to do with the subject at hand: "The Cause and Cure of the Present Economic Crisis." It is needless to say that Townley's series of parables on capitalism and numerous thrusts at the Hoover administration could not stand up against comrade Glotzer's clear-cut Marxian analysis of capitalist crises and the prescription of the proletarian revolution as the solution. Following the meeting a quantity of literature was sold.

A crowd of about the same size heard comrade Glotzer in the afternoon at the Communist League headquarters on "Where is Europe Going?" Here a more serious tone prevailed since the speaker dealt with the burning political world problems of the day. Both these meetings were marked by intelligent questions and enthusiastic discussion. Party members were present, and registered their disappointment in finding no counter-revolutionary content to the meetings by a "dignified" silence. Walter Frank, however, did come forward with his own peculiar brand of the theory of socialism in one country that classes could be abolished in Russia alone which forced the speaker to publicly set him right. A number of "German" pamphlets were sold at this meeting.

A third public meeting was held with about 100 University of Minnesota students at Burton Hall who attentively received comrade Trotsky's views on the present world situation. In this case, however, the University authorities discriminated against the sale of Left Opposition literature. A campus detective shoved his way through the crowd of students lined up to buy, and brusquely ordered the literature off the grounds. We protested the reactionary organizations are allowed to sell pamphlets, that even the Party sold literature in the same hall when Norman Tallentire and Sender Garlin spoke to the University students. To no avail. His instructions were specific. No Trotskyist pamphlets will be sold. With typical stupidity, a Party nitwit, too timid to take the floor in the meeting, nevertheless loudly proclaimed outside to some students how the counter-revolutionary Trotskyites were in league with the University authorities. Several turned away in disgust.

A group of 12 young workers and students assembled on Saturday afternoon, and after listening to comrade Glotzer's message on the tasks of American Communist youth, decided to launch a Spartacus Youth Club in Minneapolis. A committee on preamble and by-laws was elected and a date set for the first meeting of the club; Saturday, March 19th

2:30 P. M. at the Labor Lyceum, 6th Ave. North and Irving. Indications point towards the development of an active revolutionary youth force in Minneapolis.

An account of comrade Glotzer's stay would not be complete without mention of the banquet in his honor held for the benefit of our publishing activities. After a modest lunch, there ensued some lively entertainment, featuring the much heralded **Militant Quartet** as well as one of the "Heavenly Discourse" skits entitled "Denver Prays For Rain". Here the laurels must be handed to the Dunne boys, Grant and Miles, as well as to Bill Curran for their dramatic and musical contributions. Glotzer spoke on his visit with Trotsky and the work of the League and brought a rousing collection for Left Opposition publications.

A special organization of the Minneapolis branch was held with comrade Glotzer Monday night where he reported on the work of the European and Chinese sections of the Left Opposition and the International Secretariat. The practical tasks of the Minneapolis League in the coming period were laid out and discussed.

The net financial result of these meetings was a bit over fifty dollars. The political results are positive; organizational, excellent, Minneapolis is looking forward to the next national tour.

## Opposition Greeks Answer «Empros»

The "Empros", the Greek organ of the Stalinists in America is carrying on a one sided struggle against the **National Herald** but overlooking the necessary exposure of the **Atlantis**.

In our **Manifestos** last November we attacked this one sidedness and we warned the Greek workers of this faulty and dangerous procedure of the Greek Stalinists, which they are still pursuing in spite of the protests by many party members and sympathizers.

In the current issue of **Communists** we took up the slanders of the standardized type which was the only reply the Stalinists could give to our criticism of their failing. We told the Greek workers that the real supporters of the **Empros** are not the Stalinists who direct its policies at present but all the workers and especially the Left Oppositionists who fought within the ranks of the party before they were expelled. We still fight for its correct orientation on the questions of the class struggle and remind the Stalinists that they are not the private owners of the **Empros**. We demanded again that they must attack the **Atlantis** the royalist and pseudo-labor paper, in a more bitter way because this sheet exploits the radicalization of the Greek workers. It is doing its utmost to prevent them from joining the fighting ranks of the Communists. The Stalinists refused to attack the **Atlantis** believing naively that they can utilize this paper in their struggle against the **National Herald**. But they were sadly disappointed and surprised when this royalist sheet refused to write a single line in defense of comrade Christides, the business manager of the **Empros**, when he was arrested.

The **Atlantis** is a class conscious bourgeois newspaper and in case of choice naturally will support the **National Herald**. This the Stalinists could not understand, unfortunately, not for themselves alone, but for the working class, which expects leadership from the columns of the **Empros**. The titles of the exposures against the **National Herald** were written in the typical liberal-American fashion which misleads and confuses. It strengthens the conceptions of bourgeois justice, and at the same time strengthens the patriotic traditions of the ideal Greek State. How otherwise can be characterized the titles: **Tatamis before the Hellenic Justice**.

Upon the arrest of comrade Christides the Stalinists issued a manifesto appealing to the Greeks of America as if the Greeks in America were all members of the working class they forget that whenever the Greek workers, whether food workers, furriers or of any other trade, attempted to reduce their 12-14 hours workday or 7 day week, the Greek bosses did not hesitate to use gangsters or any other conceivable medium of strike breaking against these very Hellenes.

A Communist paper should always expose every lackey of the capitalist class the **National Herald** and any other organization or individual of the capitalist class is firmly united with the entire structure of their system.

Whole precious columns of a Communist paper are devoted to prove that according to the rules of the Greek orthodox Church the editor of the **National Herald** should not be allowed to maintain his priesthood and to prove that other priests violated this. All these may sound incredible but still they are facts in spite of their paradox. We fear it will continue until the Greek party members as well as the entire party membership demand vigorously in a real Bolshevik manner to get an account from these bureaucrats.

The Greek Bureau of the Communist League of America (Opposition) will not allow itself to become the football of the **National Herald** or of any such bourgeois agency as the Stalinists became the instruments of **Atlantis**. They will continue to follow the Marxist-Leninist line and will not compromise with any kind of capitalist lackey.

In the **Communists** we have urged every worker to support the **Empros** which is in peril from the attacks of the capitalists.

## «The Militant» Needs YOUR Help Now!

With this issue of **The Militant** the subscription drive will be one third over. It is a logical time to review what has already been accomplished and say what remains to be done.

The standing of new and renewed subscriptions, and new bundle orders is as follows: New York—12; Minneapolis—2; Chicago—1; St. Louis—1; Miscellaneous—11; New bundle orders—Chicago—2, Newark—1.

This is a small increase over last week's report. Thus far the drive can be characterized by the contradiction between the technique of the drive which has been theoretically worked out and its results. We are aware of the low level of the labor movement generally, of the Communist movement, too, and the enormous impoverishment of workers, but we are equally aware of the inducements offered subscribers and the absolute necessity for increasing the circulation of **The Militant**.

We must put **The Militant** on a sound financial basis. First of all we must increase its circulation and thereby its political influence. We must stress and stress again that comrade Trotsky's writings appear in it; that with each new subscription or renewal, the subscriber, especially the new subscriber, may add to his library one of the earlier works of comrade Trotsky, viz.: with each \$2.00 subscription or renewal, for one year of fifty-two issues, a free paper bound copy of **The Permanent Revolution**, or a free one year subscription to **Young Spartacus**; with each \$1.00 subscription or renewal for a half year of twenty-six issues, a free copy of the **Strategy of the World Revolution**; with each 50c trial subscription of thirteen issues a free copy of any of our 10c pamphlets. These premiums apply, only during the period of the drive which ends on June 1st.

During the period of the drive only we also offer a special subscription rate of 25c for eight issues. (There are no literature premiums with these subscriptions. This offer should be a very great inducement to subscription getters. Surely almost any class-conscious worker who is not totally unemployed can afford 25c for a two months' subscription. This offer should result immediately in a large increase in subscriptions.

In addition to getting new subscriptions we must renew expired and expiring subscriptions or each new subscription will be balanced by an expiring one in which case we will have a financial credit and political debit.

It is also absolutely necessary for us to increase the news stand and book store sale. Stands which will carry **The Militant** must be shown their advantage; the paper appears regularly; their profit is 2c per copy; for unsold copies they receive full credit by simply clipping

the date line of each unsold copy and mailing it in.

We must also organize free mass distribution wherever workers gather or can be reached, of "sample copies" of back numbers furnished free by the national office. Each copy is stamped sample copy. This indicates to the reader that subsequent copies are to be paid for. These free mass distributions must be followed up by sales of current issues. Any comrade may order a number of such sample copies for distribution. Each order should specify the number and the orders should be limited to what can actually be distributed. The order should also specify for what group or meeting the distribution is intended so we can ship appropriate issues and ship them in time.

Finally we must build in every city where we have strength or influence a staff of **Militant** builders. They must work on the idea that one of their special tasks is to continually bring in subscription, renewals and bundle orders; not as an occasional duty but as a steady consistent task. The staff and record thus far is as follows: L. Basky—1; R. Sacharow—1.

We believe that if all of the points in these notes are taken into account and acted upon with the necessary energy and speed we can successfully build the circulation of **The Militant** to a much higher figure than it enjoys now.

The first score in the drive between the rival teams of the Minneapolis branch for **Militant** subscriptions and renewals was made by comrade Curran who nonchalantly strolled right into the rival camp and got a sub from one of its members, Dunne by name. The latter clan swears vengeance and from all indications will yet make a showing in the contest. The Curran clan has the advantage of some heavy hitters in the shape of Hedlund, Coover and others. This does not in any way imply that the Dunne team has no persistent pluggers. It merely says the proof is in the pudding, which, we know, is in the eating.

An interesting feature of the entire contest is the wager made between the teams. The losing team agrees to make a banquet for the benefit of **The Militant** at which the winning team will be the guests of honor. Every member is on his pins for action.

The weekly standing of the teams will be registered in the organizational columns of **The Militant**. So watch the **Militant** for results!

## «Soviet's Challenge» at the Acme Theatre

The Acme Theatre, 14th Street and Union Square, is now presenting the Soviet film, "Soviet Challenge", an extraordinary and exclusive showing of a picture not seen here before. The picture is based on "The 5th Year" and was produced in the U. S. S. R. by Proletkino. The film shows the progress and achievements in the Soviet Union. On the same program the Acme Theatre will present an added feature, "Songs of The Cossacks" This is the first time this singing picture of the Cossacks has been shown here.

A special feature of "Soviet's Challenge" shows Trotsky at work.

## New York Classes

The first three lectures of comrade Shachtman's series in the **History of the Communist International** have proved so successful that if the present successive increase in attendance continues. It will be necessary to take a larger hall. The attendance now is over fifty.

The fourth lecture, to be held on Wednesday, March 30th, will deal with "The Struggle for the Conquest of the Masses"—the Third Congress of the Comintern in 1921. Workers attending this lecture would do well to prepare for it by reading comrade Trotsky's **Strategy of the World Revolution** advertised elsewhere in **The Militant**.

**SWABECK'S CLASS IN MARXISM**  
The class taught by comrade Swabec in Marxism continues its instructive application of the teachings of Marx and Engels to the fundamental problems of the revolutionary movement of today. The class meets regularly every Thursday evening at 8 p. m. in our headquarters at 84 East 10th St.  
The class is still open. The remaining sessions can be taken by registering at once.

**MINNEAPOLIS WORKERS OPEN FORUM**  
Every Sunday at 3 P. M.  
1530 East Franklin (at Bloomington)  
SUBJECT FOR April 3rd  
"RESULTS OF THE MINNESOTA FARMER LABOR CONVENTION"  
Lecture by V. R. Dunne  
Admission Free Everybody Welcome  
QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION  
Auspices: Communist League of America (Opposition) Minneapolis Branch