

PRICE  
2  
CENTS

# THE MILITANT



Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

Published weekly by the Communist League of America (Opposition) at 126 East 16th Street, New York, N. Y. Entered as second class mail matter, November 28, 1928 at the Post Office at New York, N. Y. under the act of March 3, 1879.  
VOLUME VI, NO. 52 [WHOLENO. 199] NEW YORK, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18 1933 PRICE 2 CENTS

## Probation for Food Workers

### Stalinist Expulsion Order Revoked Under Pressure

The framed-up expulsions of James Gordon, Sec. Pappas and Sylvia Weiner from the Food Workers Industrial Union for the crime of "Trotskyism" (1) were revoked at the last membership meeting of the union at which the Stalinist inquisitors who put through the ouster of the "trial committee" were compelled to make a shameful retreat under pressure of the protest movement which was rising in the ranks not only of the Left wing workers in general, but even of members of the official Communist party. Instead of being formally expelled, the three comrades are now put on probation.

A whole squad of Stalinist functionaries from the Trade Union Unit League—headed by Sam Neis, were in attendance at the membership meeting in order to supervise the discussion, procedure and execution. They had hoped that the original expulsion order could be put over without creating much of a stir, and that they would thereby be rid of three militants whose impeccable record in the union they were quite prepared to ignore completely in view of the fact that these Oppositionists had become a thorn in their sides, fighting their bureaucratism and their disastrous policies at every turn.

This plan came a cropper, however, when scores of workers, especially in the food and needle trades industry, made it perfectly clear that they intended to carry on a determined fight in behalf of those expelled and against those who so criminally kicked them out, going so far as to take one of them off her job simply because of her political views.

With the protests of these workers ringing in their ears, the Stalinist officials were compelled to reverse the decision of expulsion arrived at by their own party faction and present to the membership meeting a "recommendation" from the New York T. U. L. Council that the expulsion action be revoked and the three comrades put "on probation." "Expulsion," explained Neis to the meeting, "is too good for these individuals. We don't want to make heroes or martyrs out of them."

**Purpose of "Probation"**  
When Gordon, in the course of an impassioned indictment of the bureaucrats and their course, demanded to know the precise nature of the "probation," the Stalinists refused to make any explanation at all. Gordon and Weiner both declared that they would accept no conditions. They were not guilty of any crime against the interests of the trade union or labor movement, and the charges concocted by the bureaucrats either had to be substantiated—which was impossible—or to openly withdrawn and squashed. The purpose of the so-called "probation" was, however, made clear by the Stalinists in an incoherent manner. Their courage having failed them, and having been compelled to withdraw the expulsions in the face of the indignation of Left wing workers, they are now seeking to accomplish the same end without the censure of the formal action. "We're going to make life miserable for you in this union until you're forced to quit," was the illuminating observation of one of the machine-men.

The final action taken by the meeting, the bulk of which was under the disciplinary domination of the party—like most of the C. P.-controlled unions—has been reduced in essence, as has follows:

**Graduated "Sentences"**  
Comrade Gordon was put on probation. Comrade Weiner was also put on probation, and the job from which she had been removed in the party "Coops" restaurant, was returned to her, also "on probation." Comrade Pappas, who could not be present at the meeting because he was in the hospital, is to be forced to accept a "withdrawal card" from the union—which is a "polite" way of effecting his expulsion. Pappas, besides the crime of "Trotskyism", must also pay for the fact that his physical condition has been undermined by the loss of health and blood in dozens of militant battles of the union against employers, gangsters, and police. Rarely does even the most reactionary union in the country permit itself so cynical and brutal measures against a militant who has sacrificed as much for the working class movement as has Pappas. Gordon was given a bare five

## Tag-Day for Terzani Defense This Week—End in N. Y. C.

To all Labor Organizations:  
**FELLOW WORKERS:**  
The United Front Terzani Tag-Day Conference, held at 94 Fifth Avenue, Saturday, November 11th, decided on the following addresses as the Regional Headquarters for the Tag-days. On the 17th and 18th the United Front Committee will sit to issue collection cans and receive all organizations from the collectors of all cans participating in the Tag-day.

**Addresses of Headquarters**  
**Brooklyn:**  
Williamsburgh:  
289 S. 3rd Street  
**Floresburg:**  
844 Utica Avenue  
2239 Church Avenue  
**Brownsville:**  
219 Sackman Avenue  
**Bronx:**  
9 W. 170th Street  
809 Westchester Avenue  
2700 Bronx Park East  
792 East Tremont Avenue  
**Boro Park:**  
1377-42nd Street  
**Brighton:**  
1113 Brighton Beach Ave.  
**Manhattan:**  
7 East 15th Street  
100 W. 72nd Street  
2005-7th Avenue  
94 Fifth Avenue

1148 St. Nicholas Ave.  
**Queens:**  
30 Flushing  
b206-27th Street  
Near Queens Plaza  
Long Island City.  
**Downtown Brooklyn:**  
157 Montague St.  
**Hensonhurst:**  
87 Bay 25th Street  
**Coney Island:**  
2202 Sherfield Ave.  
333 Bedford Ave.

The necessity of every labor organization and every worker giving the fullest support to the Tag-day cannot be over-emphasized. Terzani goes to trial November 27 and the results of the trial will ultimately affect every worker in America. Regardless of our union affiliation or political allegiance we must combine our forces at this time to defeat the common enemy of all mankind. The best way that we can do this at this time is to give the maximum support to the Tag-days, November 17th and 18th.

Call at the Regional Headquarters that is nearest to your home, get a collection can, contact every worker in your neighborhood and ask them to contribute toward the defeat of Fascism. Bring your membership card for identification. Have the representative of your organization get the collection cans for distribution from your local center.

—TERZANI DEFENSE COMM.

## A. Bellussi Deporting Imminent

### Quick Action Needed to Save Anti-Fascist

The decision against Anthony Bellussi has been upheld and his immediate deportation to Italy has been ordered by the Department of Labor. The danger of this militant being delivered into the hands of Mussolini's hangers on is now most imminent. Heroic efforts will have to be made in the next days to save him from this fate.

All that is left now—since the deportation order has been confirmed—is to secure for comrade Bellussi the right of voluntary departure to another country, to find another country which will admit him and to provide him with passage money.

This right of voluntary departure has been granted by the Department of Labor in similar cases and, if the proper efforts are made, it should be secured for Bellussi. Also, in other cases, the International Labor Defense had secured permission for deportees to enter the Soviet Union and has provided the expenses for the journey. Only two weeks ago a case of this kind was reported in the Daily Worker. No more has been made to extend this solidarity to Bellussi, and, we can be sure, none will be made.

As the final hour draws near it becomes absolutely clear that if he has to depend on the U. S. D. Bellussi will be handed over to the Fascist butchers. Although he is not a member of the Left Opposition, Bellussi is regarded as a sympathizer and was arrested on a charge of distributing the Militant. For that "crime" he is receiving a double punishment: Deportation by the U. S. Government and sabotage of his case by the Stalinists. The bail fund of the U. S. D. was not available for him up till the present day, although he has been in jail for months, the Daily Worker has not printed a line about his case.

To leave the fate of Bellussi in the hands of these cynical saboteurs would be a crime. We must act independently without delay to save this sterling militant from the danger of torture and death in Fascist Italy. A defense committee is cooperating with the American Civil Liberties Union to secure a delay of the deportation and permission for him to enter another country. Efforts are also being made to secure his temporary release on bail. We hope for success in our efforts. Your help is needed. Send funds to the Bellussi Defense Committee, J. P. Cannon, Secretary, care of the Militant, 126 East 16th Street, New York City.

## Socialist Mayor Promises Cheap Government

An interesting incident of the recent elections is the election in Bridgeport, Conn. of a socialist to the majority and an entire socialist city administration. Whether this rebirth of municipal "socialism" in another city besides Milwaukee, indicates a change towards radicalism in the moods of the masses or whether it is the triumph of good clean government is not within the province of this article to answer. Significant it is, however, that whatever causes motivated the majority received by Jasper McLevy, the new socialist mayor, his statement to the press must be received with jubilation by the solid citizens of Bridgeport.

No red threat of expropriation hangs over the heads of the property interests of this New England city. The first socialist administration to be elected in Bridgeport, McLevy makes it quite clear, is out to bring "economy" into the city finances, to save the taxpayers money. The unemployed and striking workers are not even mentioned by implication.

"I intend," says Jasper McLevy, ranking socialist, "to administer the affairs of the city with common sense and sound business judgment." This statement approximates the post election effusions of Mayor La Guardia or any successful Republican of Democratic candidate. It means balance the budget and if it fits into the financial pattern then the bothersome unemployed will get a look in.

"I intend to rehabilitate the financial and social life. I will introduce civil service and the merit system in the Police and Fire departments." Don't be astonished if the workers aren't mentioned, and the cops get attentive consideration. This is a socialist talking.

"I have no obligations." No, not to the working men. "If necessary I will go unhesitatingly out of the party to fill key posts." No doubt a banker would make a better administrator of the city finances than an exploited proletarian.

"I realize that I cannot introduce socialism by a municipal victory, but we can sweep clean the city government and lay the foundation for a good, sound, constructive administration."

Take note of this municipal socialism. It has great potentialities... for the bosses.

## In the Fascist Inferno

The story of an Austrian miner, Alois Hohenreich, is published in the Volksblatt of Linz. Hohenreich had migrated to Germany to look for work, as he had been unemployed for some time. He reached Zwilchau in Saxony where he had been promised a job, to start June 18th. On the day before, he was arrested on the grounds that his papers were not in order and that he was a spy who intended to send unfavorable reports back to Austria. He was carried back and forth between a concentration camp and several prisons. He entered because of this he was brought to a cell where he had been held previously, on June 29th. There he stretched out on a table with three Storm Troopers holding him down, while three other Storm Troopers belabored him with rubber cudgels on his back, seat and arms. After forty-five blows he fell off the table, one Storm Trooper standing with his foot on the back of his neck so that he could not defend himself at all, while another held him by the hand and threatened him with a revolver, declaring that he would be shot immediately if he uttered a sound. While on the floor he was given another ninety blows with the rubber cudgel. In addition to this and a rain of cuffs on the ears, he was spat upon and called an "Austrian swine."

On June 30 he was released after he was forced to sign a statement that he had no cause for protest or complaint concerning detention. On July 5 he reached Austrian territory where he was examined by a doctor who found ample evidence of the treatment which he had received.

## Hitler's Secret Police in Terror Campaign

The following report is taken from a news item in a London newspaper:  
**From a Special Correspondent**  
A new and sinister organization—Hitler's Secret Police—is now coming to the forefront of the news from Germany.

Wielding far greater authority than the chiefs of the ordinary police force, and bowing the knee to none but Captain Goering, the drug-addicted Prussian Premier, their excesses are causing a reign of terror in Germany.

No one—not even a Nazi—knows whether he is safe from them. Not only do they wage uncontrolled war against the opponents of Hitler but they also provide the Nazi leaders with a handy instrument for settling private feuds.

The Secret Police are composed of men, hand-picked by Captain Goering.

**Riddled With Bullets**  
One of their chief roles is that of executioner. Day after day, reports reach London from Germany of the body of this man or that being found riddled with bullets.

The official "inquiry" that takes place almost invariably comes to a sudden stop. It is found that the murder is the work of the Secret Police—and there is nothing more to be said.

The Secret Police hold their own "trials" at their various headquarters.

The prisoner—previously beaten to ensure his docility—is sentenced regardless of the accuracy of the charges.

**They All Die**  
Prisoners tried by this new Star Chamber are whisked off to the concentration camp at Oranienburg, near Berlin, the most dreaded of all camps.

The mortality among prisoners here is so great that it is reported from Berlin that the camp will be shortly closed, not from motives of humanity, but because the death-rate exceeds the supply.

Rising at 5 A. M., the prisoners have 15 minutes in which to wash and dress. Work, under the rule of the whip, lasts till midday, when a "dinner" of cabbage and potatoes is served. More work follows till 7 P. M., when tea with bread is provided. Eight o'clock is bedtime, and so the days pass in an animal sort of existence.

No one in Germany has yet heard of a prisoner coming from Oranienburg alive.

**NAZIS INVESTIGATED**  
Clarence Hathaway, of the New York Daily Worker, presented damaging evidence, incriminating prominent American reactionaries, before the investigation of Nazi activities in the U. S. A., begun on November 15 in Washington, D. C. by the Dickstein (Congressional) Committee.

Hearings were disrupted by a head-on collision between Hathaway and Rep. Focht, who called the former an "anarchist."

Open sessions of the investigation were postponed to Dec. 4.

**SAVE TOGTLER AND DIMITOFF!**

## Lovestone Evades Challenge

On October 18, 1933, the following letter was sent to the Lovestone group by special messenger:  
"Dear Comrades:  
"Some time ago there was an exchange of correspondence between your organization and ours concerning the arrangements for a debate at which the fundamental differences dividing us would be discussed in public. For a number of reasons, the debate did not materialize at that time.

"With this letter, we renew our proposal for a debate between a prominent representative of your organization and a spokesman for ours. We are prepared to have our committee of two meet with a similar committee from your organization to discuss all the details involved, such as the subject-title of the debate, the speakers, the date, the financial arrangements, etc., etc. It appears to us that there is a growing interest in those questions upon which our respective organizations take opposing stands. A public debate would not only draw several hundred workers but would serve to clarify many of the problems now confronting the Communist movement in this country and throughout the world. We might add that we are especially inclined to have the debate take place around the question of your position and ours

## Emancipated Children

One of the greatest boasts of the NRA is that the new deal has eliminated the curse of child labor from American industry. The "Brain Trust" is willing to concede that wages have not been raised as high as was necessary or hours as low as called for—but the abolition of child labor is the accomplishment of the generation and Roosevelt.

What is to happen to these children released from bread-winning and factory-killing toil? Mrs. Perkins, crusader against child labor and secretary of labor had the following to say at the Baltimore Hotel before the women's division of the Crusade for Children on Oct. 30, 1933:

"That means," she said, "that there are six million children in want and in hunger, not through any fault of their own, but because the bread winners of their families are out of work."

How make restitution for these little victims, whose bones are rickety from hunger and the lack of sunlight and fresh air? Abolish the system greedy for the huge profits wrung out of the toll of children? Or if that is too radical pass an unemployment insurance

## Wave of Repression in China; Left Opposition Threatened

Peiping.—About a month ago we sent you a letter in which we gave a rough description of conditions here. Now, however, the situation in North China is changing rapidly. The conditions for revolutionary activity have become more difficult than they were a month ago. The first maneuver of General Ho Yin-Chin, the right hand of Chiang Kai-Shek, upon his arrival in Peiping was the destruction of the C. P. and the organizations affiliated with it and the suppression of the anti-Japanese fighters.

**A Wave of Arrests**  
In a short time mass meetings were forbidden, several party militants were shot, a wave of arrests spread everywhere, three comrades of the Left Opposition and many important leaders of the party were arrested. Practically all the party organizations in North China (including Peiping, Tientsin, Pootin, Shantung, etc.) are annihilated.

An important fact: Many of the party members who but yesterday slugged our comrades as counter-revolutionaries have been converted by Ho Yin Chin and are joining the Blue Shirt Fascist clique. All these gentlemen are saying today: "Only the 'Three Principles' and the Kuo Min Tang can save China from imperialist attack.... The Communist party is a foe... we must crush it."

The party organ, Red Flag, analyzing this trend of capitulation, concluded: "It is inevitable that in the process of the revolutionary

## Big Sums for War Purposes

movement some members pass over to the camp of the enemy." This is an indication of how blinded are the bureaucrats in face of a critical situation.

There can be no argument as to whether capitulation is inevitable in the revolutionary movement. But at present it is not a question of a handful but of a current, a movement! This movement is taking place while the bureaucracy is at the helm of the party.

Some months ago the Red Flag wrote: "About one hundred workers (2) have joined the Communist Youth League in one month! About ten workers a day!" While they howled with glee over the quantity, the quality was ignored, party education was trampled under foot and the Communist party was consequently transformed from a vanguard of the proletariat into a mass organization. The current of capitulation is the result of this policy.

**The Left Opposition Fights On.**  
Recently a rumor has been spread around that the Police Department is planning to destroy the Left Opposition just as it has destroyed the party. This is quite possible. The burden of oppression of the ruling class is great but we are continuing our fight, never tiring, never faltering.

Please send us some of the new books which you have published, such as "The Oily Road", etc., etc. With Communist greetings,  
**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**  
Peiping, Sept. 24, 1933.

## Huge Appropriations for Military Revealed

"Uncle Sam's" War and Navy Departments are very busy. All western ports are being engaged. Recruiting offices are open and the pick of the unemployed are being accepted—mostly college graduates. New barracks are being built in nearly all government towns and military posts, enlarging their quarters for officers and men. Contracts for ammunition have been let to several large companies including Chase Brass & Copper Co., Inc. of Waterbury, Conn. and the Bridgeport Brass Co. These contracts average \$3,000,000 apiece. General Electric got a contract for \$5,000,000. Doubtless the regular arms companies like Winchester, Remington, Savage, Western, DuPont, etc., also received large orders but no complete figures are available. (All figures given here are as of Nov. 9th).

**Huge Army Contracts**  
Contracts have been let for Coast Guard, Radio and Air Corp Stations, Air Corp Hangars, research laboratories, ordnance warehouses, auxiliary barracks, magazine and shell houses, military police barracks, and chapels. These contracts amount to at least ten and a half million dollars, fully 90% being for new barracks. The reports are scattered and not clear but evidently from 500 to 600 new barracks are going up in regular army camps entirely apart from the Conservation camps for which no figures are given here.

Plans are also in progress for a detention farm in Michigan owned by the Dept. of Justice and for border "inspection" stations along the entire Mexican and Canadian boundary lines.

New contracts totalling the same amount as those already let,—\$10,000,000,—are being awarded to outstanding contractors daily. The capacity and adaptability of factories for making ammunition is thoroughly known and orders for each one according to this knowledge are lying in War Department files ready for immediate release. "Uncle Sam" is concentrating on the army and navy and these he is concentrating on the West coast. Fort Sam Houston, Texas,—gets over one and a half million dollars for new barracks. The Munson, largest dirigible in the world, has been transferred to California.

**Hundreds of Millions For War**  
All this expansion of the military machine is in addition to the shipbuilding for the Navy which runs into many hundreds of millions, many of these hundreds of millions (both for the Army and the Navy) being labelled for public consumption as NRA and "Public Works" projects. Compare this with the fact that cities most urgently in need of federal assistance for building projects cannot obtain it from the Public Works Administration because a city seeking this help must first turn over bonds for 70% of the cost of an undertaking and many cities cannot do this because of tax delinquencies and heavy debts to bankers.

With the collapse of the NRA the government has an excellent excuse for enlarging its war machine: it puts men to work and money into circulation. War itself will be a heaven-sent boon bringing new markets and "prosperity" for "all". Capitalism will have its roast pig if it has to burn its own house down.

**Rushing War Preparations**  
But at present there is no immediate war crisis and no need for ballyhoo. Even "preparedness" bloodhounds must be satisfied. All is quiet; without batting an eye or apologizing to any one the government is rushing its war preparations, far outstripping other items of its Public Works, NRA and "Conservation" programs which serve as bait to public hopes for jobs and wages, peace and better times. Yes, not only will we have better times; we will celebrate. On the first fair day there will be an international picnic.

—MARTIN BEARDSLEE.

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