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The Johnson Bill and Credits to the U.S.S.R.

The Johnson Bill barring the purchase or sale in this country of bonds or securities of governments in default on their debts to the government of the United States has been interpreted by the Attorney General as including the Soviet Union in the category of defaulters because of the traditional refusal of the Soviet to pay the loans made to the Czarist and Kerensky governments. The ruling will make it difficult for the Soviet to get credits here for the purchase of machinery and necessary materials.

The United States knows it will never get even the better part of the colossal sums its rivals owe it under the head of war debts. To pay them is a sheer impossibility. Roosevelt is trying to put a squeeze on them to get better trade terms, to force down the enormous tariff walls which impede the flow of exports from the U. S.

Purpose of the Loans

With the Soviet Union the question stands somewhat differently. The loans to the Czar were used for the brutal suppression of the workers and peasants. The loans to Kerensky were a mite of the golden flood the U. S. poured into the treasuries of the Allies of whom it considered Russia one, to beat German imperialism to its knees. The Bolsheviks served notice before they came to power that they would repudiate the loans and they kept their word. Moreover against these claims which the United States makes against the Soviet there stands for settlement the costs, insofar as they can be calculated, of the invasion of the territory of the U.S.S.R. by the allied imperialists, including the U. S., the murder of peaceful workers and peasants, the

pillage of crops and livestock, the devastation of cities and towns, the destruction of railroads—the immense havoc wrought by the attempt to satisfy the rapacious hunger of insatiate capitalism for the Soviet market.

The Russian Market

The appetite of the U. S. profit-makers has not decreased with the years. On the contrary, it has grown apace as its difficulties in getting markets multiplied. The crisis has whetted it now to the keenness of a razor-edge. Every market is doubly, triply, ten times as important as it was. Among the markets of the world the land that runs eastward from the Polish border to the Pacific Ocean and southward from the Arctic Circle to China, India, Persia, Turkey and the Black Sea is certainly not the least.

What it can mean to Wall Street which is rising from a sick bed to smite the world can be seen in the Commerce Department's foreign trade figures for March. Exports to the Soviet Union which can absorb—on favorable credit terms according to Litvinov's figures at the London Economic Conference—one billion dollars in machinery, materials and the products of light industry, were less than a million dollars, a little more than one half of one percent of the total export for the month. Compare this with the export to little Cuba, wracked by a social and economic crisis—about four and a half million dollars, four times as much!

Soviet Union Needs Credit

What trade would mean to the Soviet Union should be obvious from Litvinov's figures alone. The

SECOND STRIKE WAVE UNDER THE N. R. A.

A second powerful strike wave is in the making. From the Atlantic to the Pacific, from Maine to the Gulf of Mexico strikes are now in progress, involving longshoremen, automobile workers, iron ore and copper miners, coal miners, textile workers and many others.

These strikes have penetrated deeply into the industrial South, centering in Alabama. New strikes can be expected to break out soon in the steel industry as well as where the main supply of iron ore is produced, in the Messaba Range. The ardent attempts of the auto bosses, their labor boards and their labor agents to confine the strikes in that industry to a minimum "so as not to interfere with the orderly progress of the industry", as Mr. Collins puts it, will hardly succeed. The American workers are getting into a fighting mood. The splendid militancy already displayed by the many new recruits in the trade union movement is something quite unequalled in recent American labor history.

The strike wave now in the making is likely to break all previous records.

Pitched Battles

In the Alabama strike area Negro and white workers fight together shoulder to shoulder. Pitched battles provoked by company thugs, police and national guards, have resulted in several killings and many injuries. But the casualties were not all on the side of the workers. The governmental authorities are now straining every possibility to raise a red scare. Workers' meetings have been banned and an injunction is issued against picketing. Still the striking ranks are solid against the campaign of suppression, defying the murderous attacks.

Quick work has been made of scabbing everywhere in these strikes by powerful picket lines. In Seattle, Washington longshoremen raided eleven ships and took the scabs ashore. On all of the struck piers teamsters have refused to handle

scab cargo and railroad workers have declined to lend their services. In Butte, Montana teamsters, blacksmiths and electricians joined the copper miners in a solid strike front. In the southwestern bituminous area strikes are spreading and picketing is included in defiance of the militia which has been called to protect scabs.

Two Strike Waves Under NRA

The first strike wave since the inauguration of the New Deal rose to its highest point last September. According to the figures of the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which are obviously inadequate, there were in that month a total of 180 strikes involving 235,071 workers, with a total number of man days lost of 3,642,431. This strike wave subsided, reaching its lowest point in December last year. But these figures, even at the high point, may be dwarfed in comparison to what is now approaching.

The first strike wave represented

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New Court Battle For Freedom of Mooney

A petition upon behalf of Tom Mooney for a writ of habeas corpus has been filed in the District Court of the United States for the Northern District of California, Southern Division at San Francisco. The counsel filing the petition are Frank P. Walsh, New York City, John F. Finerty, Washington, D.C., and George T. Davis, San Francisco, California.

The basic grounds of the petition are four in number. The first ground is based on the language of the Supreme Court in the Frank case, 237 U.S. 309, where the Court said at pages 327 and 328: "In fact such questions are presented under the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment though sometimes discussed as if involving merely the jurisdiction of some court or other tribunal, in a larger and more accurate sense involve the power and authority of the state itself. The prohibition is addressed to the state; if it be violated, it makes no difference in a court of the United States by what agency of the state this is done."

Under this ground the petition alleges that the then District Attorney of San Francisco, Charles Fickert, and his assistants, obtained the conviction of Mooney by the knowing use of perjured testimony, and that the knowing use of such testimony by them as an agency of the state, constituted such misuse and abuse by the State of California of the process and procedure of the trial court, as under color of due process and procedure, in fact and in law to deprive Mooney of his liberty without due process of law in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

The remaining three grounds are based on the language of the Supreme Court of the United States in its recent decision in the Scottsboro case, Powell v. Alabama, 237 U.S. 45, where that Court said at page 67:

"The fact that the right involved is of such a character that it cannot be denied without violating those 'fundamental principles of liberty and justice which lie at the base of all our civil and political institutions,' (citing cases) is obviously one of those compelling considerations which must prevail in determining whether it is embraced within the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment."

It should be understood in connection with this petition that the Attorney General of California, after Mooney's conviction and the discovery of the Oxman perjury, immediately confessed error on Mooney's appeal to the Supreme Court of that State, and asked that Court to set aside the conviction. The Supreme Court of California held, however, that under the Constitution of that State the courts are denied the power to set aside or modify a judgment in a criminal case except for error of law in the proceedings of the trial court, and cannot set aside a conviction because of the subsequent discovery and proof that the evidence upon which the conviction was obtained was perjured.

First Appeal to U. S. Courts

It is the position of Mooney's Counsel that the Federal courts must free Mooney unless those courts are willing to hold that it is consistent with due process of law for the State of California, merely because that State has provided no judicial process by which Mooney can be freed, to continue to imprison Mooney for life after that State has admitted Mooney's conviction was obtained by perjury, and the perjury has been proved.

This application for a writ of habeas corpus in the United States District Court is the first attempt made by counsel for Tom Mooney to present the merits of the Mooney case to the courts of the United States as distinguished from the local California courts.

Trotsky Remains Without Place of Asylum; Nazi Paper Demands Banishment to Distant Island

Comrade Trotsky is still without a place of asylum. All attempts to secure entrance to another country than France have so far failed. Meanwhile reaction continues its furious campaign of incitement against him. We reprint verbatim below a provocative attack published in the Nazi paper *Deutsche Wochenchau* and republished in the Paris reactionary journal *Le Matin* April 22:

TROTSKY BEHIND THE TROUBLES IN FRANCE
The Old Firebrand Organizes the Insurrection in Western Europe.—Secret Headquarters in Paris.—The Myth of the Harmless Trotsky.—Extracts from Appeals to Civil War Addressed to German Communists.

Under this headline the *National-Socialist* weekly, the *Deutsche Wochenchau*, publishes the following interesting article:

Communist propaganda in France, as daily dispatches indicate, finds a more and more favorable ground every day. Everywhere the Communist boldly raises its head, commits carefully prepared acts of violence against right wing elements. Witness the incidents in Paris, Thionville, Henin-Lietard, Lyon. An indisputable Communist danger is rising in Western Europe. Even now, Radek, the strategist of world revolution, rejoices in the *Pravda* on the "favorable perspectives for Communism in France". The foreign press, in the same vein, points out that the "most dangerous factor for unrest in Europe, Leon Trotsky, now residing in France, is one of those who holds the keys of this Communist menace." "We are in receipt of the following astonishing article from our collaborator, Walter Korodt, who has spent a great deal of time in fighting Bolshevism:

When the announcement was made several months ago that the "red butcher" Trotsky alias Leib Bronstein, had received the right of asylum in France and had taken up residence in Royat, the world press asked this question: Why has France which had proscribed to this man the right to set foot on French soil, not to speak of protection, when he made his trip from Marseilles to Copenhagen in November 1932, suddenly considered him as a not inconvenient guest?

Besides Trotsky had once before been expelled from France for Bolshevik activity, in 1916 when he edited the Russian emigrant paper, *Nashe Slovo*, in Paris. Despite that, the hospitable doors of France are opened to this political firebrand, one of the greatest in history, and who certainly has not become less harmful since 1916. What is the clue to this mystery?

This is what it might be: When M. Trotsky arrived in France he made special efforts to impress upon public opinion "that in the same manner that he had abstained from all activity in Prinkipo, where he was located up till then, he would similarly abstain in France. He would really be nothing else than a man retired from all political activity, isolated and devoting himself

to nothing but personal literary endeavors."

This attitude, of a seemingly harmless character, found its denial soon after the arrival of Trotsky in Paris. Knowingly, Rosenfeld and his Communist colleagues publicly complimented the French government "for having called to their country the greatest of anti-fascists at the very time when it is necessary to fight the National-Socialist regime in Germany by every means. The exceptional capacities of this man in times of stress will render precious services in these struggles."

In this manner the reasons they receive this vicious opponent of National-Socialist Germany will be explained. This explanation is of prime importance for Germany.

For France the presence of Trotsky is not quite so simple, for this red refugee has revealed himself to be a double-bladed sword.

Communist propaganda, to the sorry surprise of the secret police (Surete Generale), has been increased in a considerable and dangerous fashion since the presence of Trotsky in the country. So much so that the French ministers had to hold a secret conference where they examine the Communist question.

The Solitary Writer Seeking Refuge What Was Found in a Neukoelln Barrack

The writer of these lines has had the opportunity to investigate the secret activity of Trotsky and his agents. That took place during one of the actions of the S.A. (Storm troops) against the principal agent of Trotsky in Germany, Anton Grylewicz. On this same occasion they found the names of Bolsheviks situated in other European countries as agents of Trotsky, and all the correspondence of the Trotsky group in Germany, named "Bolshevik-Leninist", was found classified and hidden in a barrack of boards in the colony of barracks, Neukoelln, near Berlin and which belonged to the Communist Grylewicz. It is impossible to give a resume of the documents of Trotsky and Co. which were found, for they consisted of correspondence with nearly all countries. A few examples will suffice to show that Trotsky, even though banished on the Isle of Prinkipo in the Aegean Sea, was never the solitary writer looking for refuge.

His desire to be received in France becomes more understandable with these secret papers of the Neukoelln barrack at hand. They prove, in fact, that in Paris, 45 boulevard de la Villette, the "Administrative Secretariat of the International Left Opposition" is located and another bureau of the Trotsky agents on the rue de Milan. It is from there that the "International Bulletins" are sent to all the countries of the world in the languages of these countries in order to furnish instructions to each group for the Bolshevization of the country where they are located. For example, the American police will be happy to learn that the Trotsky group is located in New York at 126 E. 16th Street under the name of "Communist League

of America". Propaganda for all English speaking countries is issued from here.

Trotsky Undermines Germany!

That goes particularly for Germany, in which Trotsky placed the "greatest hopes" up till March 1933. Unceasingly Trotsky from his place of exile carried on the struggle against the national socialist movement of Germany. And he gives veritable instructions of civil war to his agent Grylewicz. We read for example on page 21 of a pamphlet: "Each factory must become an anti-fascist center with its own leader. They must possess a map of the Fascist concentrations and other Fascist organizations in each city and in each section". At the end of this text Trotsky arouses the German Communists with this warning: "There is little time left".

Trotsky attaches particular importance to the formation of a common socialist-communist front. In order to measure the seriousness of the civil war actions of the Trotsky agents it is necessary to particularly notice their exchange of letters with the assassin bands of the Berlin commune, called the "sections of house protection". In Grylewicz' home there was found a file of directives for the conduct of these murderous actions. Trotsky himself writes to Grylewicz that "the time has come for the revolutionary group, that is for ours" and he remains "with the best Communist greetings, your Trotsky". In another letter Trotsky fulminates against the "Brown Pest" and says to pass over to attack. The Trotsky group in Hamburg receives a secret circular on this occasion, "instructions concerning the actions of the masses."

After these few extracts on the illegal activity of the great Bolshevik leader, it should be understood why M. Trotsky, in 1929 needed to come to Germany for a cure. Our republicans, Red Front, Reichsbanner intervened very warmly at this time in order to secure for him the right of asylum. And the *Vossische Zeitung* for March 10, 1929 wrote these very emotional lines: "In Istanbul, among rows of books a man waits for weeks, a man who desires a rest. Trotsky wants to come to Germany. And the cry in the entire world: he wants to live in Germany. At bottom this is not a bad advertisement for this country. He appreciates, he says, our physicians. This is not a bad compliment for our science. He believes, he says, in the virtues of our thermal sources, he says: 'I am sick, but not to death, only let me meet my German physicians.' That M. Trotsky had not renounced the making of the world revolution which he always worked for with the assistance of his agents scattered in every country is proved by the documents cited above. But there are also police reports in numerous European capitals which announced in the past weeks of numerous arrests of Trotsky agents in possession of considerable sums. Let us finish then with the myth of the poor writer Trotsky and let them send this political firebrand into exile on an island of a distant ocean.

N.Y. Youth Conference Against War

BULLETIN

In San Francisco a meeting of the representatives of the Young Peoples Socialist League, the Spartacus Youth Club and the Young Communist League is to be held to consider a common demonstration on May 30 against war and Fascism. In other cities the Y.P.S.L. and the S.Y.C.s are conducting similar activities.

New York City—Last Sunday's conference called by the Youth Section of the American League Against War and Fascism (Stalinist) accepted the proposal of the Youth Committee for the May 30th Demonstration Against War and Fascism for a joint manifestation on Memorial Day. It was agreed that the joint arrangements committees would work out the definite slogans and details of the joint action.

On Tuesday evening, when the two committees were to meet, the Committee of the American League Conference informed the other group that it will be permitted to participate in the arrangements or the details of the demonstration at the meeting of the American League committee. The latter would elect their own chairman, arrange the agenda, etc. This attempt to make it appear that the Stalinist conference was in charge of all arrangements and that other groups may affiliate to it was definitely rejected. It was made clear that what was wanted was a joint meeting. Finally this was granted and a mutually acceptable chairman accepted.

Slogans of the Day

After the discussion of objectives the slogans for the demonstration following slogans were accepted: Against Imperialist War and Fascism; Protest the Persecution and Murder of the Anti-Fascist Fighters; Against the May 31st N. Y. Naval Maneuvers; Protest the Murder of the Cuban Masses by the Agents of American Imperialism, etc. The Committee for the May 30th Demonstration (Yipsels, S. Y. C.s, Lovestonettes, S.L.L.D., etc.) proposed three additional slogans: For the Release of Thaelman and Torgler; For the Freedom of the Four Deported Young Germans; and Protest the Beatings and Arrests of the Yipsels last May 30 at the Memorial Day march of the American Legion. These three slogans were rejected on the ground that the points were too particular—no names should be mentioned so as to avoid partisanship! This was a not very clever way of avoiding

the issue of the four deported German youth!

The Y.C.L. representative stated that the more general slogan would also imply a protest in this case. It was finally agreed that the disputed slogans would not be the slogans of the entire demonstration but only of those organizations which accepted them.

Point of Conflict

The real point of conflict was again revived in new form: was there to be a joint demonstration in the complete sense of the term, or was one conference to affiliate to the Stalinist conference. While favoring a joint demonstration, the Stalinists insisted on either retaining the name "National Youth Day" or permitting the American League conference to call it such in its literature. The other conference opposed this with the proposal that a mutually acceptable name be adopted, which is not connected with merely one section of the youth movement; that the common leaflet state the fact that the two conferences (by name) were working in a joint committee for the demonstration.

The delegates of the Committee for the May 30th Demonstration stated that a principle question was involved: To accept the name "National Youth Day" would mean joining the Stalinist conference, accepting the so-called traditions of this day (much of which it cannot agree with). To have no common name for the demonstration and permit the Young Communist League and other organizations to call it "National Youth Day" in their literature would create confusion and inevitably lead to a disharmonious demonstration which would nullify the entire purpose of our common action: The display of unity against imperialist war and Fascism.

No Agreement Reached

No agreement was reached on this question. The Y.C.L. announced that its conference would go ahead with the details of its demonstration and if the other conference reversed its decision it could join in the march and demonstration! The Committee for the May 30th Demonstration replied that it was ready to meet with the committee of the American League at an early date if the latter could find its compromise proposal acceptable.

At the time of this writing there is still hope that a common agreement will be reached which can start a new phase in the American labor youth movement; genuine united front action against the common enemy!

Max Shachtman

Speaks On AMERICA TODAY

Friday, May 18th 8 P. M. IRVING PLAZA HALL 15th Street and Irving Place

—CARLOS HUDSON.