

NEW MILITANT

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The Sacramento Appeal

Six weeks ago our comrade, Norman Mini, refusing to accept the mercy of the court, was sentenced to San Quentin for the crime of organizing workers into a union. Along with seven members of the Communist Party, he has been imprisoned for one to fourteen years. The Judge refused to set bail pending appeal, and Mini is now prisoner 57606 in San Quentin. His conviction was the result of an illegal horse-trade in the jury room, forced upon jurors who wanted to acquit him and other defendants, but who succumbed to the pressure of reactionary propaganda and reactionary fellow-jurors. The conviction is not simply "illegal" in a technical sense: it is a crime against labor's right to organize and defend its economic interests, and against the democratic rights of the people at large.

Reactionary elements are delighted with the verdict. William Randolph Hearst sees it as an example for other regions to follow, and is advocating the adoption by every state of laws which will make it possible to imprison union organizers just as Mini and his fellow-workers were imprisoned. Labor should show no less consciousness of the meaning of this verdict than do the anti-labor forces: reaction has won a victory and a fight must be made to regain the lost ground.

Through the Non-Partisan Labor Defense, which handled his trial fight, Norman Mini is going to appeal his conviction. An able attorney, armed with the affidavit given to the Non-Partisan Labor Defense by Juror McIntire and revealing the illegality of the verdict, can make a powerful argument for a reversal. If he makes his argument against the sounding board of a great mass movement of protest, the appeals court of California will think twice and three times before it sustains the railroad-verdict of the Sacramento court.

At this time there comes news both good and bad about developments in the appeal struggle. The trial fight was carried on almost entirely as a California issue. For a long time the Communist Party and its instrument, the I.L.D., had sole control of the defense. During that time, the prisoners were kept in the county jail although bail was readily available, and publicity about the case was sabotaged. All this because a number of the prisoners were guilty of disputing the authority of Sam Darcy, District Organizer of the C. P., and one of them, Mini, even challenged the authority of the Communist International.

Not until the N.P.L.D. entered the case, hiring a lawyer for Mini and providing bail

for Jack Warnick and Caroline Decker, did the Sacramento case become known outside California to any wide extent. When the New Militant began to print a series of articles about it, the Daily Worker was compelled to give the case some publicity.

The N.P.L.D. held Sacramento defense meetings in New York, Chicago and Boston and won trade union backing for the defense in a number of cities. Nevertheless, the struggle was largely confined to California.

It is heartening, therefore, to learn, as is reported in our news columns, that the N.P.L.D. plans to make the Sacramento appeal a national issue. It properly should be: Hearst has proclaimed it to be one and nobody can deny that the imprisonment of workers for organizing and holding certain political beliefs is an action which calls for nationwide resistance of all workers and honest democratic elements. The fact that the N.P.L.D. has called a conference of national organizations will be good news to all real friends of the Sacramento prisoners. The Workers Party, of course, will support the struggle on a national scale. The fact that the Socialist Party, through its National Labor Secretary, has appointed delegates to the forthcoming conference is additional reason for hoping that a really broad and powerful defense fight can be developed.

On the other hand, the attitude of the I.L.D., while no surprise to anyone acquainted with C.P. policies at this stage is far from being good news. These wreckers apparently are not through with their sabotage of the Sacramento struggle. They have studiously ignored invitations to the forthcoming conference, and give every reason to suspect that in the appeal fight they will follow the same splitting tactics which they introduced into the trial fight. True, the West Coast Stalinists, who for months denounced Norman Mini as a stool-pigeon, now have been forced to back-water to the point where they characterize him as "an honest, misguided class prisoner." But these vandals kept class prisoners who were in their own party in the county jail for six months, and they certainly will not hesitate to wreck the whole appeal struggle if it suits them to do so.

The record of the I.L.D. in the Sacramento case is thus far one of the most shameful in all labor defense history. Its splitting of the united front in California hamstrung the statewide campaign, as has been testified by the Northern California Civil Liberties Union, the California Socialist Party and other elements which aided the defense. Its treachery to Mini called forth the earnest protests of Jack Warnick, union leader and acquitted defendant who has now been expelled from the Stalinist swamp for the crime of "Trotskyism," i.e., for refusing to knife in the back a fellow-worker and fellow-defendant.

If the I.L.D. wrecks the possibility of building a nation-wide, multi-partisan, aggressive defense movement on behalf of the eight Sacramento defendants, it will bear the responsibility for whatever disasters may follow. The Workers Party pledges itself to fight to the finish for a unified movement and a militant struggle for liberation of the eight victims of the California plunderbund. We call upon all party members to publicize the Sacramento case in their localities and to stand by for directives for concrete work to build the defense movement.

Letters to the Editor

When Gold Turns to Mud or a Letter The Daily Worker Failed to Print

Editor New Militant: The other day Mike Gold wrote a whole column in the Daily Worker telling all about the letters he receives, there is one he didn't mention. Maybe the New Militant can use it. —G. A.

Board is correct or not. The Communist Party did not have one single member on the water front, stated Sam Darcy. This is just prior to the general strike. Not that it makes any difference, but I still believe that Lenin was right when he said: "Less bourgeois sophistication, more proletarian honesty."

Mr. Mike Gold c/o Daily Worker 55 East 13th Street New York, N. Y. Dear Mike Gold: Your series of articles in current issues of the Daily Worker in re Trotsky prompts me to write these lines.

I have been following your stuff for several years, both in the Communist press and books. Politically I've always thought you were a second grader. Since I read your articles in the Daily Worker in answer to a "young Philadelphia worker," I know you are politically haywire.

What are you trying to do? Make good for the "mistake" you made in stating that the Communist Party had little to do with the San Francisco general strike? Does the spanking you received from the Daily Worker editorial board compel you to make good by becoming the foremost literary assassin of Trotsky and Trotskyism?

Broken Bone Stuff You're swell when it comes to writing about broken bones, blood, heroic breasts and thunder, but when you enter the field of polemics you sound like George Bungle explaining Einstein's theory of relativity.

Your recent faux pas in regards to Scott Nearing only goes to prove that you are very gullible. There you had to eat 46,000 copies of your column. Perhaps it is not too improbable to predict that you will one day retract a lot of the things you are saying about the analysis and program of the Left Opposition.

What you said about the San Francisco general strike and the G. P. is true. The same admission can be found in the June 1934 issue of the "Communist," an article by Sam Darcy. You who pretend to be so courageous, silently accepted the falsity of the Editorial Board's statement. To date you have failed to state whether the

Mike's Union Sq. Miners When I started out as a kid in the coal mines of Illinois some Jugoslavians Communist presented me with a copy of "The Damn Agitator and Other Stories." The Agitator story was good, but the "Breaker Boy" was a pile of junk and rot. At that time you insinuated that adult miners were a bunch of morons who tried to seduce a young miner by having him spend his first pay on booze and whores while his mother wept at home. I've lived in a coal mine and near one all my life. I know the cultural backwardness of the mining folks. But I've never seen the morals of coal miners descend so low as the spectacle I've observed at New Masses balls and other bohemian revelries. Probably when it comes to morals and plain decency coal miners handle young people with more decency than your type.

A case in point: I was going home the other night accompanied by the president of my local and his 16 year old son. We stopped to get a glass of beer. While we went in the boy refused to enter. His father stated that he should not enter the saloon. We came out five minutes later, the father had a nickel bar of candy for the kid. This proves that coal miners in their primitive ways don't want their kids to go into saloons any sooner than they have to.

Learn a Few Things, Gold Now on this Trotsky business and "A young Philadelphia worker." You write as if he were the only young man in the United States who has guts enough to doubt the correctness of Stalin's role. In the Illinois coal country you can go into scores of towns and meet young coal diggers who probably know more about Stalin's socialism in one country, the Chinese experience of 1927, etc., than you do, despite the fact that you have all the facilities

to research at your disposal. We have seen the policies of Stalin and his American counterparts work out in the field of struggle. We tried for years through countless methods to get rid of Lewis and his cohorts. We tried to build a clean union. Many times we were on the verge of doing the job only to be stifled by the bureaucracy of the C. P. in New York and Moscow. Countless numbers of us who were members of the C. P. were expelled without trials or the permission to issue a statement. We were expelled with the same dirty work a la Lewis.

Just Not Recognized Since then we've gone out and kept up the struggle. We've seen several of our fellows shot down like dogs. Six of them, all young men, are now in prisons of Illinois serving life. The Daily Worker has never mentioned one line about this. Anything that is connected with Trotskyism is condemned irrespective of how great the struggle is.

In the Illinois coal fields, Minneapolis, Toledo, etc., the bosses called us sons of bitches. The Communist Party seconded the motion all the way through. You are on the wrong road, Mike Gold. Your devotion to the cause is not questioned. But you are doing the work of retarding progressive revolutionary action.

Something Fishy Here While you're at it you might as well feel sorry for about five hundred young Illinois coal diggers who feel the same or perhaps are more enlightened than the Philadelphia comrade. The tide is going to turn. The switch of the C. P., over night, from trade union isolation to "build the A. F. of L.," and the policy from "a labor party is counter-revolutionary," to "a labor party will expedite the road to revolution," is fishy. It proves more than anything else that the C. P. membership today is new and inexperienced and that the remaining old guard are nothing but a bunch of goose steppers. This is rightly proven by the fact that the repercussions within the C. P. over such a crazy policy has been null and void. Were it a real Communist Party built on and living up to the Leninist tradition there would be plenty hell within the C. P. over such a shift. When labor fakers juggle the hell out of funds and public responsibilities, when the trade union movement refuses to join the C. P. in a L.P. venture, all you'll have left is a mess of pottage. Yours in disgust, GERRY ALLARD.

Progressives To Meet in N.Y. Needle Trades

NEW YORK.—A conference of progressive groups in the needle trades is called on June 8 for the purpose of organizing a progressive center. Such a conference that could lay down the main lines to be followed by the various progressive groups, and a center that would coordinate the work of the progressives, are long past due.

Situation in the Industry What we have now in the needle trades is an offensive of the bosses. This offensive has been developing gradually. The appetites of the bosses have been whetted by the almost unbroken chain of defeats suffered by labor throughout the country as a result of the cowardly and treacherous conduct of the A. F. of L. bureaucracy. With the revocation of the NRA the bosses have gained enormous self-confidence. The best illustration is the attitude of the cloak bosses. They demand a revision of the agreement negotiated in 1933 in face of the rising cost of living and unabated unemployment.

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Leaders Split Canton Strike

(Continued from Page 1) of the strike. This development came after a week of militant struggle by the workers whose heroism was unexcelled by that of any strike group since the inception of the NRA. When the first strike was called at the Berger Manufacturing Co., a subsidiary of the Republic Steel, 350 out of 400 workers answered and formed picket lines which company thugs and armored trucks tried to smash, sending 40 workers to hospitals last Monday. Grimly determined to win, the strikers reformed their lines as soon as the tear gas cleared away.

Five plants walked out in sympathy strikes during the next two days of last week as indignation arose over the continued company attacks. The workers came out under the slogan of "Avenge the Massacres." So strong was sympathy with the strikers following the outrages, that city police arrested four thugs one morning and fired at a company car when the strike breakers began the fifth assault on the workers.

Then city authorities proclaimed a virtual martial law on the strike scenes and declared they would hold a vote for the strikers to see if they wanted to continue. Meanwhile influence of the rank-and-file was isolated to two "outlaw" lodges of the A. A. under Clarence Irwin's control and while they boycotted the vote, other unionists went to the polls with tacit permission of the leaders who criticized the strike as a "wildcat" since official A. A. approval hadn't been asked or given.

In this manner was labor's forces split since today found more than half the workers going back into the plants while others who maintained a picket line were berded about by heavily armed police. Attempts of local union leaders to set up a general strike committee had been foiled by the bureaucrats and this marked the beginning of the split. The division of the "leadership" on boycotting the vote, further widened the breach and now the return of many strikers to work has apparently broken the back of the strike.

FRANKFORT, Ky. (FP).—The seven Harlan miners, framed for the murder of mine guards in 1931, are still in prison although Gov. Ruby Laffoon has paroled several hundred men in the past few months on the recommendation of the department of public welfare. Among the pardoned men were some convicted of murder, manslaughter and robbery, but Kentucky's governor seems to think that striking is the greatest crime.

THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THE YOUTH

With the above slogan as its watchword the Spartacus Youth League has launched a movement which is rapidly spreading from Coast to Coast. Since the National Convention of the S.Y.L. in December, 1934, the membership of our organization has more than doubled! New branches are cropping up everywhere; others are gaining steadily.

The task before us is indeed colossal. No less is involved than the dangers of war and fascism. How can they be coped with except by a revolutionary youth organization which will vaccinate the youth of the nation against this virus of capitalism? This is the goal of Spartacus whose revolutionary clarity stands out against the bankruptcy of the other working class youth organizations.

Most vital of the needs of the S.Y.L. in this regard is a newspaper which appears regularly. Shortage of funds has prevented the regular issuance of "Young Spartacus," the 8-page monthly of the S. Y. L. Every month missed and every issue skipped, let us remind our friends, is another opportunity lost.

We appeal to the readers of the New Militant to transform their certain moral support into actual contributions for "Young Spartacus." We are confident that you will respond to the call of our growing movement. Friends, don't delay. Send all donations to Business Manager, Young Spartacus, 55 East 11th St., N.Y.C.

NPLD Appeal In Sacramento

(Continued from Page 1) Juror an affidavit impeaching the verdict which is likely to play a major role in the appeal. The N.P.L.D. is now preparing to hire an attorney for Mini's appeal and to organize a public protest against all the convictions. It is supplying Mini with funds for commissary purchases and with literature. Letters from Mini to members of the N.P.L.D. reveal that while he has received some of the literature, the New International, monthly organ of the Workers Party, has been denied him. A protest is being made to Warden Holohan at San Quentin.

Mini and the other Sacramento prisoners in San Quentin are assigned to the jute mill, the prison's toughest job. They are manufacturing sacking sold by the prison to the Associated Farmers, an organization of bankers and corporate land-owners behind the Sacramento prosecution. This work has been assigned because of the political nature of the "offense." The N.P.L.D. urges all workers to write to Mini, addressing him at San Quentin, California, by name and number: Norman Mini, Box 67606.

The letter was sent to the I.L.D. on May 8 by the N.P.L.D., over the signature of Herbert Solow who represented the N.P.L.D. in California throughout the four-months Sacramento trial. A second letter was sent May 15, but the I.L.D. has ignored both. According to a statement issued yesterday by Felix Morrow, temporary secretary of the N.P.L.D., that organization will continue to press for united action and will do all in its power to avoid the dangers which disunity creates.

"If the I.L.D. adopts a split policy," Morrow's statement declares, "it will be responsible for weakening the whole fight. The response of the S.P. and the support of the W. P., the attitude of many unions, make it plain that a real movement can be rallied in support of the prisoners. "On the legal side, the best way to get all the prisoners an able legal staff at the least expense, is through joint legal work. Our West Coast correspondent reports a rumor that Leo Gallagher will handle the appeal for the I.L.D. We have not yet selected an attorney. By arrangement with trial Attorney Goldman, Gallagher entered notice of appeal for all the convicted workers. Whether or not there is a unified front in court depends entirely on the attitude of the I. L.D. If it is serious in its professions, it will attend Monday's conference and work for unity."

S. Y. L. Takes Leap Forward Mid-West Conference Shows

CHICAGO, Ill., May 14.—Inaugurating a Spartacus Youth League district in the middle west, 22 delegates, representing 125 members in four Spartacus branches and one nucleus, convened in Chicago on May 11 and 12. The main task before the conference was the setting up of a district apparatus in the form of a Regional Committee and a Chicago Resident Committee. The Resident Committee elected at the mid-west conference is composed of Irving Bern, Al Garber, Yotta Barshefsky, Sid Scott, Karl Kaspih, Nathan Brown, Sam Shapiro, Dave Grubman and Ben Goldberg. The out-of-town members of the Regional Committee are Jim Cross from Gillespie, Herman Beck from Detroit and Herbert Passin from Champaign. Alternates to the committee are Dan Golden, Marion Landau and Hy Stone from Chicago and Baxter from Gillespie.

That the Spartacus Youth League is rapidly transforming itself into a mass organization was clearly pointed out by the delegates to the conference. Chicago was represented by 17 delegates, Gillespie with two delegates, Detroit with one delegate, Champaign with two delegates, and the Indiana Harbor nucleus with one delegate. Minneapolis and Waukegan with Spartacus nuclei were absent.

Grows in Outlying Territory In the report on the district Irving Bern stated that the Chicago organization gained over 35 members since the first of the year; added another club to the Chicago branch, which now has six clubs in the city; and was directly responsible for the creation of the branch at Champaign as well as the Indiana Harbor group. The discussion showed that 103 mem-

bers are enrolled in Chicago, 6 in Champaign, 8 in Gillespie, and 8 in Detroit. Three months before no branches existed in Champaign, Gillespie, or Detroit. The opening report was delivered by Nathan Gould, National Secretary, who recorded similar growth of the Spartacus nationally. Comrade Gould pointed out that the S.Y.L. has had a 144 percent increase in membership since January 1 and that an active National Committee, which issued bulletins and circular letters, now exists. The delegates greeted with enthusiasm the information that the National Committee initiated a call for an international youth conference of youth organizations moving toward a new youth international which is to be held in December in Paris.

Table R.O.T.C. Motion On the most important political point confronting the conference, the endorsing of the National Committee slogan "Abolish the R.O.T.C.," the delegates decided to table the question until they would be in a position to commit themselves on the point. The majority of the representatives felt that there was inadequate information and inadequate discussion on the question. Instead the conference recommended that the National Committee set up a commission to do some research on the R.O.T.C. and that a wide-spread discussion follow in the Spartacus.

Joe Giganti, the Workers Party representative to the SYL, made the report on the relation of the Party to the youth. After an inspirational report on the situation confronting the youth internationally, Comrade Giganti pointed out that the Party must pay particular attention to the youth. In the Chi-

cago local of the W.P., he stated, the Party has correctly reacted to the necessity of building and assisting the Spartacus Youth League.

Report from Gillespie Jim Cross, a member of the National Committee who has built a union of the youth working on relief jobs in Gillespie, reported on the unemployment situation. Tremendous possibilities for the Spartacus open themselves in the Illinois Workers Alliance. A limitation of time, however, prevented any discussion on the point which was turned over to the incoming regional committee.

To the tune of the "International" the conference ended. Aside from the regional conference the Spartacus Youth League recorded the most active week-end of activity in its history. On the evening of May 11 an affair was held to welcome Comrade Gould back to his home town and to provide sufficient funds so that he would be able to continue his tour across the country. Over seventy-five people attended the affair at the West side headquarters where twenty dollars was raised. Fifteen dollars was given to Comrade Gould and the remainder was used to pay the expenses and to feed and house the out-of-town delegates.

Gould Speaks at "Y" The following evening, after the adjournment of the conference, Comrade Gould spoke at a mass meeting in the Central Y.W.C.A. on the "Future of the American Youth." The meeting was the largest in the history of the Chicago S.Y.L.; over one hundred twenty-five attending. raised, Gould receiving \$27.50. Arrangements are being made for another affair when Nathan Gould returns in the middle of June.

Relief Administrator Harry Hopkins got \$10 a minute for a talk near Chicago. He will pay unskilled workers near Birmingham

A Holy Father

His tongue is starched with silver, his hands adorned with gold; an iron cross leans on his navel, his Holiness is bought and sold. The air—a spiritual accessory navigates his elocution; the Catholic gentlemen—including the Ministry invest in Retribution. The radio—it's humble soul licks at his chatter and chaffs; while used to promulgate a stern role its virtues include some laughs. The Corporations bewitch with Ad's the working folk and unemployed; gaining with prizes the fervent lads who shoots the guns and save their' Joys. The men of god—go their way filling the sinners with a little more sin, shrewdly appraising for a turbulent day when martial needs begin. They preach from pulpits to the flock assembling death—when war begins; protesting verily, 'indeed it's a shock' 'the earth's not freed from sins.' 'Holier than thou' is the Corporation—paying his Holiness—the dividends; sanctimonious prelates of all persuasion, who kill with the Christ their chest suspends. Christ is love and their souls are money, their heavens blend with usury; brethren of the word that is the forked honey the workingman is his enemy. His tongue is starched with silver, his hands adorned with gold; an iron cross leans on his navel, his Holiness is bought and sold. —ANON.

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