

NEW MILITANT

Official Organ of the Workers Party of the U.S.

VOL. 2, NO. 4 [WHOLE NO. 56]

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1936

PRICE 3 CENTS

Jugoslav Communist Escapes from Siberia; Bares Anti-Bolshevik Terror of Stalin

A STATEMENT OF FACT ON STALIN'S TERROR, ON MR. HEARST AND THE SUNDAY WORKER

ON OCTOBER 19 the NEW MILITANT printed the revelations of A. Tarov—Bolshevik-Leninist who escaped from Siberian exile—on Stalin's persecution of revolutionists in the Soviet Union.

Three months later, on Sunday, January 19, William Randolph Hearst, without authorization or permission from Leon Trotsky, or his American literary agents, or from us, lifted the Tarov article and Trotsky's comment on it, from the NEW MILITANT and printed it in his chain of anti-labor rags.

On the very same day, the Sunday Worker, in true Hearstian style, blared forth headlines to the effect that Leon Trotsky is an agent of Hearst, and a promise to reveal at a later date the price received for them.

There is not a modicum of truth in this slander learned from the gutter methods of Hearst himself and employed against all revolutionists. It is

meant to be a smoke-screen to divert attention from the revelations of Stalin's terror against the Leninists.

Before the entire labor movement we challenge the corrupt scribblers of the Daily and Sunday Worker to prove their assertions.

Furthermore we challenge them to disprove one single charge made in Tarov's article.

On our part we charge the Stalinists with furnishing Hearst with ammunition against the revolutionary movement.

This they do by persecuting, torturing, yes! and even murdering genuine revolutionary internationalists in the Soviet Union, men who have fought and bled in the Russian Revolution and in the Civil War and against foreign intervention.

So long as this Thermidorian repression continues, we take no responsibility for whatever effects their publication may have. The stigma for this rests upon Stalin's gangster clique as

does the almost medieval torture of the Bolsheviks in the Soviet Union.

On our part we will not be silent when revolutionists of unimpeachable integrity and years of service and sacrifice to the working class languish in jails, solitary confinement and concentration camps.

We propose to publish authentic information as broadly and as widely as our means permit until such a time as an aroused labor movement throughout the world will force Stalin to call a halt to his criminal course.

In this issue we publish new revelations of the persecution of Communist opponents of Stalin in the Soviet Union. The article of comrade Ciliga shows that foreign Communists as well as Russians are imprisoned and hounded by Stalin for factional reasons.

The workers of the world must know these facts.

Revolutionists Held in Jails, Solitaries and Concentration Camps

Three Loyal Hungarian Stalinists, in Conflict with Bela Kun, Clapped into Jail

(Copyright, Jan., 1936, by New Militant Publishing Co. Reproduction in whole or part without permission from the publishers forbidden.)

The author of the following letter, former member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia, comrade A. Ciliga, spent five and a half years in solitary confinement and in Stalinist exile. Comrade Dr. Anton Ciliga is at the present time not connected with any political organization.

December 9, 1935

Dear Comrades,

You have requested me to give you IMMEDIATELY, even though briefly, information on my own case, on the Russian Bolshevik-Leninists and on the penitentiaries and exile in general. Bearing in mind that the exigencies of the case demand speedy information, I will try to reply as best I can to your request, even though it may be to the detriment of a rounded-out picture. But I hope, in a following letter, to fill in the gaps of this communication.

I begin with the fate of the group to which I myself belonged.

In the month of May, 1930, a group of Yugoslav communists who were in Russia on a mission for the Yugoslav Communist party, were arrested at Moscow and at Leningrad by the G.P.U. The group was arrested for connection with the Trotskyist opposition. Three were incarcerated in solitary confinement in the penitentiaries of Verkhn-Uralsk for three years: 1) Stanka Dragulich (Russian surname, J.V. Kovalev), former member of the C.C. of the Yugoslav C.P., leader of one of the most important Yugoslav organizations in the city of Zagreb; 2) Mustapha Deditch (Russian surname, Victor Solovjev), former secretary of the Trade Union Committee of the Province of Herzegovina, at Mostar; 3) Dr. Anton Ciliga, the author of these lines, former member of the P.B. of the C.P. of Yugoslavia, editor of the legal central organ of the party, "Borba," at Zagreb, and foreign representative of the C.C. of the party.

A comrade, Stephan Haeblerling (Russian surname, V. Suslov), former member of the party Committee of the province Volevodina (formerly South Hungary), at Novi Sad, was exiled for three years to the Ural. A score of our friends were exiled to, and placed under surveillance in various corners of European Russia.

Two Russian comrades, connected with us (Victor Zankov and Oreste Glibovsky), were also sent to the penitentiary of Verkhn-Uralsk on November 7, 1930; we were not mentioned in the list of prisoners which was published in the Bulletin of the Russian Opposition No. 19, as the list was drawn up in October, 1930.

Comrade Tarov, who escaped from the U.S.S.R. (see his letters in the NEW MILITANT of Oct. 19, 1935), mentions our group, but because of the similarity in the names of the two countries, he made an error regarding our country of origin and wrote "three comrades from Czechoslovakia" instead of "three comrades from Yugoslavia."

Another inaccuracy, concerning myself, slipped into his letter. He writes: "One of them, former member of the Executive Committee of the Communist International, a devoted partisan of the Fourth International." My position on the Fourth International is certainly correctly stated, but I was not a member of the E.C.C.I. I was a member of the party delegation under the E.C. and I was assigned to work in the Balkan Secretariat of the E.C.C.I.

In the summer of 1931, my comrades and I participated in the hunger strike which lasted 18 days and in which over 150 prisoners participated in the penitentiary of Verkhn-Uralsk. The hunger strike was provoked by rifle fire from the guards directed at the prisoners, one of whom, Gabo Esayan, who was standing peacefully at his window, was wounded. The strike also had as an objective the improvement of our famine rations. The atmosphere of terror and the famine rations drove two prisoners (Vera Berger and Victor Kravny) insane.

At the end of three years of imprisonment, in 1933, my comrades and I demanded of the Soviet au-

thorities that they allow us to return to our homes abroad. We fasted a long time (23 days) to obtain this demand. The Soviet authorities not only refused us permission to leave, but increased our sentence by two years, without trial and without new charges. (The Soviet laws authorize the G.P.U. to renew automatically and without trial the periods of imprisonment and exile. This law is enough to make one's hair stand on end, but it is on this fact that the entire history of years of political exile in Russia is based.) Following this hunger strike we were taken out of the penitentiaries and were sent into exile in various outlying districts. I had to go to Eastern Siberia, to the city of Yeniseisk; comrade Deditch to Western Siberia, the village of Kolpachevo, department of Naryn; comrade Dragulich, to Saratov on the Volga; comrade Haeblerling was sent from city to city until he reached the Urals. Comrade Dragulich escaped and returned to his home abroad. In 1934 he was arrested on the Russo-Polish border and locked up in the secret dungeons of the Solovietzki Islands, from where, for over a year, no further news has come from him.

Exile Without Trial

When in 1935 we ended the second term of our exile, the G.P.U. this time extended our exile for three years without trial or new indictment. Thus a foreign-born worker or a militant worker who comes to Russia no longer has the right to leave it, he is changed into a species of eternal prisoner if he is dissatisfied with the condition of the proletariat and the general situation in Russia.

I personally was finally able to escape from Russia after two and a half years of desperate struggle in which I found myself continuously between life and death. I succeeded because I had a foreign passport, because I had a family abroad which was able to do something, and because I squarely posed the question: release or death. But my comrades have remained in exile and in dungeons—only active assistance by the European proletariat and by the democratic movement can set them free.

In the penitentiary of Yaroslavl are three members of the political bureau of the C. P. of Hungary. They support the general line of the Hungarian C. P. and of the C.I. but they are opponents within their own party of the Bela Kun group. They were invited to Moscow to discuss the controversial issues in the Hungarian party and were arrested on the spot and imprisoned in the penitentiary of Yaroslavl.

Hundreds of foreign comrades are officially in exile in the Russian provinces and factually in the status of prisoners in Russia, without the possibility of returning to their countries because of their opposition to their party or to the C.I.

On my departure, which was a deportation from Russia, the G.P.U. men robbed me, seized my scientific notes, my manuscripts, and not only my private correspondence, both Russian and foreign, but also my official correspondence with the (Continued on Page 3)

Bakers Union Official Framed in Youngstown

Third Unionist Arrested in Anti-Labor Drive Led By Reactionary City Administration

By GEORGE TRUHAN

YOUNGSTOWN, O., Jan. 21.—The frame-up of trade unionists in Youngstown is being extended by the present anti-union city administration in combination with the open shoppers and the Citizens' Association. Tuesday, January 21, a militant business agent of the Bakers Local 177 was arrested. The warrant was sworn out by a scab named Gilbert Eichenlaub.

The drive on the unions is continuing. That the reactionary labor leaders of the United Labor Congress, under the leadership of Andy Hubbard, are trying to wash their hands of the whole matter is shown by their attitude of passivity and failure to mobilize the labor movement back of the local unions under fire.

On the other hand, in order to get the support of these reactionaries, the leadership of the local unions under fire tends to soften its attack against the various forces that are out to smash militant unionism. They also tend to rely too much on the different politicians who are promising them aid, and promising to fix things up if no noise will be made.

These "Fix-It" friends are the most dangerous enemies of the attacked locals, that is, Bakers' Local 177, and Drivers' Local 377.

City Wage-Cut Drive
This third arrest on the charge of kidnapping and torture is really the result of trying to "fix things up." The new city administration, led by Mayor Evans and Police Chief Olson, spurred on by the Citizens' Association, is out to make a name for itself. It also wants to divert the minds of the people of Youngstown from the city's financial condition and its efforts to reduce the salaries and wages of the city employees. At present this takes the form of an attack on the trade unions, especially the Drivers and Bakers who are most militant, and who are the driving force of the fight against wage cuts.

The trials of the three arrested unionists is coming up January 22, but it is understood that they will merely be given a hearing and bound over to the grand jury.

Your correspondent, in digging up material on the situation here, in talking to various business men and city officials, has been met with a smirking smile, a wink and the comment: "We've got to pin this on somebody," because, according to them "public opinion demands it." The newspapers and all city officials take the same attitude.

Boss Spurns U. S. Mediator
The Oles' Market, owned by George L. Oles, the spearhead of the campaign against the unions at this time, even refuses to meet with the U. S. conciliator sent in by the Department of Labor and is still carrying on his open-shop campaign. The unions are picketing the market, especially the Butchers and Bakers, with the support of the Drivers who refuse to deliver supplies.

The Butchers' Union attempted to get an injunction against the Oles' market to prevent them from

Ohio WPA Union Wins Wage Rise

Rapid Growth, Militancy of Union Causes Many Concessions

(Special to New Militant)

TOLEDO, O., Jan. 21.—A promise of a 10 percent wage increase for common labor tentatively approved by the state WPA administration starting February 1, was given by William B. Schumler, Lucas and Wood counties administrator, to the executive board of the WPA Workers Union, affiliated with the Lucas County Unemployed League.

The promised wage increase was secured after six weeks of an intensive drive during which hundreds of WPA workers have flocked into the union.

A number of concessions have been secured in the way of improvement of job conditions, including the obtaining of shelter-houses on open jobs, fuel for fires, etc. Meanwhile, the union is redoubling its campaign to reduce the number of work hours per month from the present 132 to 120. The 132 hour schedule represents a slight reduction of six hours over the one in effect up to January 16, a concession won in the past week by the union.

Militancy at High Point

Grievances on the job are mounting, and the WPA workers here are showing a desire for organization and a militancy never displayed before. Five different crews of workers have walked off jobs in a body during the past three days led by union members, have organized in the union headquarters, elected committees, and battled out their grievances. Daily the headquarters are jammed with workers who represent entire projects who

(Continued on Page 2)

Utilities Brotherhood Hits Edison Layoffs

WPA Teachers Form Union In Minnesota

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 18.—The Minnesota Emergency Teachers Association held its first annual delegated convention today in the Men's Union on the University of Minnesota campus. Sixty delegates, with practically every county in the state represented, were in attendance.

The convention adopted a constitution, declaration of principles, elected officers and an executive board of fifteen members, and laid down a plan of organization for the coming year.

Officers for the coming year are W. W. Norris, Minneapolis, president, and Dorothy Holmes, St. Paul, executive secretary.

The declaration of principles calls upon the M.E.T.A. to establish the closest relationship with those forces in Minnesota which are seeking to build a state-wide WPA organization, and to help this new organization to bring. (The next state-wide conference of WPA, relief organizations and trade unions will be held in Minneapolis Feb. 8-9.)

The declaration also binds the M.E.T.A. to establish immediately fraternal relations with all other similar federal teachers' groups in other states, in order to work out a common program looking towards the establishment of a permanent adult education project by the federal government.

Teachers on federal adult, workers, recreational, nursery, arts and crafts, and National Youth Administration educational projects are eligible for membership in the Minnesota Emergency Teachers Association.

Lays Power Tie-up to Undermanned Crews at Power Houses

Charges that the Consolidated Gas-Edison system has dismissed 300 more employees within the last week, and that it is thus "continuing the policy of cutting labor forces which was largely responsible for the power tie-up on Jan. 15," were made today by Mayor LaGuardia by the Brotherhood of Utility Employees.

This information was conveyed to the Mayor in a letter signed by Martin A. Wersing, president of the Brotherhood's New York regional board. Copies of the letter were sent to the several official bodies which are investigating last week's failure of electricity supply.

"All evidence in connection with the power tie-up serves to confirm the opinion I voiced at that time," Mr. Wersing's complaint declared, "... that it was due to drastic weakening of the system's maintenance and inspection forces through wholesale 'lay-offs'."

Fired for Organization Work
"The Consolidated-Edison system continues also to discharge workers with excellent records because of their union activities. One case in point is that of P. B. Ewing and Stephen Sosoy, energetic organizers for the Brotherhood of Utility Employees, who were fired last Friday. Ewing is secretary of our Equity Local 100, which has jurisdiction over Manhattan and the Bronx.

"Both men were chemists for the Consolidated Gas Company. Sosoy had been employed there seven years, and Ewing five years. Both had exemplary records. When they were dropped they were told by a company union delegate that Vice-President John Stilwell of the company had said that under no

(Continued on Page 2)

Morgan Coined Gold out of Workers' Blood in 1917-18 -- with Wilson's Aid

By ARNE SWABECK

In the investigations by the Nye Senatorial Commission of the part played by the House of Morgan in the last world war, the fact—previously so well known to Marxists—that the real cause of America's entrance into the war was furnished by the interests of finance capital, has now become clearly established. The quest for profits by the great financiers determined, in each decisive instance, the policy of the Wilson administration. Their fear of the loss of hundreds of millions, already invested, together with the fear of cutting off profits and prosperity for American business finally decided the issue.

The voluminous evidence introduced into the committee hearings

should remove all doubt of this fact even in the minds of the greatest sceptics. Viewed in the light of the present Roosevelt neutrality policy all this evidence should receive added attention.

On several occasions the President has chided the Wall Street bankers. Two years ago we had the Pecora investigations. Today the Roosevelt administration sponsors the Nye committee hearings. We were told that its purpose was to "take the profits out of war."

Object of Investigation
No doubt this is still accepted widely amongst the masses as a genuine objective of the investigations. To this extent they serve to strengthen illusions in regard to

the "peace" policies pursued by the Roosevelt administration. As such they are also quite in accord with the general methods of the New Deal schemes. In a bourgeois democracy governmental policy to be successful must have popular mass support. This is something the Roosevelt administration understands particularly well. Therefore the New Deal policy was carried on under such slogans as: increasing the purchasing power of the masses; safeguarding their collective bargaining rights their minimum wage, limitations on working hours, etc. Likewise the war preparations in the Roosevelt system must have popular slogans, such as: taking (Continued on Page 4)