

SOCIALIST APPEAL

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SOCIALIST PARTY IS SPLIT IN NEW YORK EXPULSIONS

"La Guardia Socialists" Oust Left Wingers At Rump Meeting of Central Committee

By a vote of 48 to 2, with 18 not voting, the Central Committee of the Socialist Party, Local New York split the party by railroad-ing through the expulsion in block of 52 leading members of the left wing, at a rump meeting held on the evening of August 9. Eighteen of the delegates to the Central Committee meeting denounced the entire gathering as illegal and refuse to participate in its high-handed delibe-

rations.

Prior to the meeting, the Altman-Thomas-Valenti clique of "La Guardia socialists" had suspended the charter of three left wing branches, thus unseating their delegates, and had also refused to recognize a number of other left wing delegates duly elected by their branches. The most ruthlessly arbitrary measure were thus taken to assure the two-thirds majority required

for expulsion.

The 52 already expelled are only the first batch scheduled for expulsion, since an additional 70 left wingers have been brought before the packed "Grievance Committee" on the same trumped-up charges. These 70 do not exhaust the number of the party members listed for expulsion, for the Right wing bureaucracy in control of the New York administration has openly announced its intention of kicking out every supporter of the left wing, which means more than 450 comrades in New York alone.

Farical Hearing

The expulsions climaxed a cynically farical "hearing" before a committee dominated by Altman faction leaders who, in their caucus meetings, had already voted for the expulsion of the so-called "Trotskyists". The charges themselves were made on the basis of a blanket "conspiracy indictment", which did not even attempt to accuse the individuals named for acts of indiscipline, but were limited to the charge of "associating" with an organization, namely, the Appeal group, whose interests were allegedly inimical to the Socialist Party and in violation of its discipline. Demands by the defendants that each individual be presented with specific charges against him, for specific actions, were arbitrarily denied—an action unprecedented in the party and virtually without precedent even in ordinary capitalist courts.

The "Grievance Committee" devoted no more than four hours to hear a case involving the party

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LaGuardia Sell-out in S.P.

In 1936 the great bulk of the workers in this country were hitched up to the Roosevelt bandwagon. It wasn't quite as easy a job as in the good old days. Jim Farley and the rest of the Democratic machine politicians could not have pulled it off by themselves. They had to get help from the whole crew of labor bureaucrats, both A. F. of L. and C. I. O., and from the gang of liberals and Popular Frontists, home variety. In a number of States they had to change the Democratic label, in order to keep the workers' votes in the Roosevelt column: Farmer-Labor Party in Minnesota; Farmer-Labor Progressive Federation in Wisconsin; American Labor Party in New York.

Within the working class movement, the reformists either went along directly with the Roosevelt machine, as did the Social-Democratic Federation, or supported it indirectly, as did the Stalinists and Lovestoneites. Only

the Socialist Party fought an independent campaign.

Class Lines Sharpening

But now, in 1937, the lines have become even sharper. Throughout the world, the international crisis of capitalism is breaking out openly into revolution and war. In this country, the working class is surging forward in a new class militancy. At all costs the bourgeoisie and its henchmen have got to keep the workers from moving toward the revolutionary position of independent Marxist politics.

In this task the labor bureaucrats, reformists and Popular Frontists have the chief part to play. Indirect support of capitalist candidates, parties, and politics—such as was given Roosevelt last year—is no longer enough. They have got to go over directly to schemes for keeping the workers chained to the capitalist order.

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WHY WE ARE PUBLISHING THE SOCIALIST APPEAL

"As a further indispensable instrument in our fight, we are undertaking the immediate publication of the "SOCIALIST APPEAL" The solemn decision under which the APPEAL suspended publication at the time of the Chicago Convention has been brazenly violated. The internal discussion organ has never appeared; and has, in fact, been voted out of existence by the N. E. C. at its Philadelphia meeting. The official press is a purely factional press from which we are systemically excluded. The Left wing is expected to stay muzzled and now, with mass expulsions, to remain silent about the crimes committed against it. We refuse to be muzzled! The APPEAL is our answer to the gag-laws and the split drive. Every revolutionary consideration demands its immediate appearance as the militant and uncompromising spokesman and banner-bearer of the Left wing."

From the Manifesto to the Party Membership.

G P U Lynches Andres Nin

The Stalinist assassins are making good on the threats uttered a few months ago in Moscow, that they were going to exterminate the "Trotskyists and uncontrollables" in Spain, just as they judicially murdered the Old Bolsheviks in the Soviet Union.

The news has just seeped out of the Spanish censorship that Andres Nin, the leader of the POUM (Workers Party of Marx-ian Unification), was lynched by the Stalinists in the private prison of the G. P. U. in Madrid about the middle of July. His body, together with four other unknown corpses, was found in the outskirts of the capital.

Together with Juan Andrade, Julien Gorkin and most of the other leaders of the POUM, Andres Nin was arrested in June by the Stalinist special police and transferred hastily to their private dungeons in Madrid. They were held on the absurdly hideous accusation of being "agents

of Franco".

Committee Finds Frame-Up

A committee of prominent English and French radicals who proceeded to Spain last month to investigate the frame-ups, found that nobody, save the Stalinists, put any credence in the charges. We quote from the report of this investigation made by the well-known French syndicalist, Robert Louzon:

"Vasquez and Montseny (leaders of the National Confederation of Labor) find the arrest of Nin and others scandalous, and their position, as Vasquez has just defined it in a speech, the proofs of which we saw, is this: If there are spies in the POUM, as there probably are in all the anti-Fascist parties, let them be punished, but that does not give the right to exterminate the POUM as an organization.

"In addition, he informed us that the CNT now has eight

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Who Is Financing the Right Wing Split Drive?

Who is financing the expulsion drive against the left wing that has been launched in New York and nationally by the Thomas-Altman right wing?

We charge that the Thomas-Altman caucus is raising a slush fund of thousands of dollars for the purpose of financing its fight to split the party by the expulsion of the left wing and to hand it over the counter to the ALP La Guardia bureaucracy.

We charge, further, that the Thomas-Altman caucus is raising this fund from sources which are not only outside the party but which, in the past period, have been violently hostile to the party.

In substantiation of these charges, we submit the following

facts:

At a secret caucus meeting held on the evening of Monday, August 2, 1937 in the home of Norman Thomas, at which the latter was present together with Jack Altman, Aaron Levenstein, Hal Siegel, Girolamo Valenti and about a score of other leading members of the right wing caucus, the question of financing the drive against the left wing was taken up. At this meeting, a large collection was taken up from those present.

During the discussion of the "financial question", Girolamo Valenti, editor of the Socialist-and-Stalinist controlled Italian daily Stampa Libera, proposed that a committee be selected to approach the leaders of the In-

ternational Ladies Garment Workers Union and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers in New York for confidential contributions of money for the right wing drive to kick the left out of the party. Valenti stated that he was confident that a sum of anywhere

Next issue: The Socialist Appeal will print an article dealing in detail with the activities and connections of the notorious G. Valenti, right wing stalwart, and of the shady deals he has made for years with Tammany Hall politicians, with the Communist Party leaders and with the bureaucracy of the New York needle trades unions.

between \$5,000 and \$10,000 could be obtained if it were gone about in the right way. The right wing leaders decided to leave the matter entirely in Valenti's hands.

It should be made clear that it was not a question of SP members in the unions mentioned, but of the old line leaders, heads of the ALP, the constant opponents of the left wing in the labor movement and of the SP in particular.

Valenti has always been an agent of these bureaucrats and his moral standing in the Italian labor movement of this country has a corresponding value. Valenti has been financed time and again by the right wing officials of these unions, with money which he has accepted just as readily

as the funds provided for the sustenance of La Stampa Libera by the Communist Party. When Valenti expresses confidence in his ability to raise funds from the indicated sources for the Altman-Thomas group to fight the left wing with, he knows just what he is talking about. When the right wing caucus gives its approval to the raising of this fund, it knows just what it is doing and what it is doing it for. And when the needle trades bureaucracy contributes money to the Altman-Thomas faction, it too knows exactly what it is doing and why it is doing it.

Now, what has the party membership to say about this scandalous deal put over behind its back.

MASS MEETING

Protest the lynching of Andres Nin in Spain!

SPEAKERS

James P. Cannon—Carlo Tresca
Max Shachtman—Liston M. Oak
James Casey

AT IRVING PLAZA HALL
15th St. & Irving Place
FRIDAY, AUGUST 13th, 1937
Auspices: Socialist Party, New York.
East Side Branch