

A. F. of L. Endorses La Guardia

Mayor Rejects Endorsement of Stalinists

Under the leadership of the notorious Joe Ryan and President George Meany, the state convention of the A. F. of L. unanimously endorsed the candidacy of La Guardia, while it voted down all resolutions for unity or conciliation with the C.I.O. This combination of actions is not accidental. La Guardia's police have endeared themselves to the reactionaries by slugging C.I.O. maritime and shipyard strikers. If C.I.O. leaders like Hillman and Dubinsky insist on supporting La Guardia, Joe Ryan has no objections since his gang is the gainer.

The A. F. of L. action was heartily seconded that night, August 26, by Earl Browder, whose news that the Communist Party would support La Guardia was scarcely unexpected. Browder applauded Norman Thomas for being "busily engaged in expelling from his party precisely that group which vociferously demands that he shall run for office at all costs."

Bootlicker

Hailing the La Guardia ticket as "really progressive", Browder declared "we accept that ticket as a matter of united front discipline and will do everything possible to help carry it to victory." The press reports of Browder's radio speech were scarcely on the streets before the head of the "united front", Comrade La Guardia, repudiated Browder's support, declaring the Communists "will get no aid or comfort from me." Whereupon Browder licked the foot that kicked him. "The Mayor's statement seems to be quite sensible, and the Communists have not expected any other attitude from him," said Browder. "He is the candidate of a very broad progressive front, including the majority of the people of the city, and certainly could take no other position."

This is the first time in the history of the labor movement that a party claimed to be in a "united front" while the ticket's titular head denounced it in the press. Not even a Stalinist theologian will resolve that contradiction.

Lovestone Too

Perhaps the most comical grouplet supporting La Guardia is Lovestone's "Independent Communist Labor League. In an effort to win Communist workers revolted by the People's Front policy in Spain and France, Lovestone is theoretically against the Peoples Front. His Workers Age carries a pertinent criticism of the Daily Worker's praise of Roosevelt's Roanoke speech: "Of what good are homilies on the virtues of democracy to the scores of thousands who are being thrown off the work-relief rolls or to the hundreds of thousands who cannot get on? Of what good are polemics against Macaulay to the millions of workers who, as the hearings on the Black-Connery Bill show, are toiling long hours at starvation wages? Of what good are 'learned and luminous lectures on history' to the hapless dwellers in the rat-hole slums of our big cities? Of what good are invocations to 'democracy and more democracy' to the 'little steel' strikers, prosecuted by the federal government, beaten up by the state militia

and shot down by the police."

But Lovestone utters not a word about La Guardia's record on housing, strikebreaking, and relief! Why the distinction between Roosevelt and La Guardia? Very simple: La Guardia is now up for re-election and the labor bureaucrats order their cohorts to line up; and Lovestone hastens to obey.

He even criticizes Thomas for saying that the A.L.P. "fails to meet the test of absolute independence from capitalist parties." "Obviously", answers the Workers Age, "this is a weak and, let us hope, soon-to-be-dissipated remnant of the S.P.'s 'revolutionary' pastime of confronting the mass movement with all sorts of conditions' and 'ultimatums'". Lovestone is against differing with the "mass movement"—his euphemism for the labor bureaucrats—whenever Hillman and Dubinsky crack the whip. That the Stalinists are perfectly correct in characterizing the electoral coalition as a Peoples Front—on this key question of politics in the concrete, Lovestone is silent.

True to form, Lovestone joins the Stalinists in applauding the expulsion of the Trotskyists. "An important element in the situation" says Lovestone "is the frantic efforts the Trotskyites are making to hamper the party from revising its sectarian attitude towards the A.L.P." He advises the "left socialists" that "the fight will have to be carried on two fronts: against the opportunism of the right-wingers and the Stalinists." This formula is also that of the Zam-Tyler group. Since "factionalism and sectarianism" mean to Lovestone any opposition to La Guardia, concretely his advice to Zam-Tyler is to capitulate to Altman on this crucial question. Such is the political program of the Lovestoneites, toward whom the Zam-Tyler group is now orienting.

NOTICE TO PARTY BRANCHES

Please send in names of comrades elected to serve as correspondents to the SOCIALIST APPEAL. Special attention must be given to providing us with timely stories on trade union struggles.

All copy must be in by Saturday.

G.P.U. IN SPAIN BUNGLES PLOT IN FRAMING SOCIALIST

"Trotskyist POUM Aided Franco with supplies, Englishman Reveals," scream the front-page headlines of the Daily Worker of August 31.

"When Frankford discovered the Trotskyist Commander Kopp climbing over the barbed wire entanglement to the fascist trenches with a patrol, the Englishman learned of the regular connection between the POUM officers and Franco's."

Who is this F. I. Frankford, Englishman, who gives such damning eyewitness testimony? Nobody ever heard of him. But the clumsy GPU agents who fabricated this testimony have blundered, as they have so often before. For the "Trotskyist Commander Kopp" who was in the habit of commuting between the Loyalist and Fascist trenches happens to be a Belgian Socialist whose heroic services to the labor movement and the Spanish struggle is a matter of record. An interview with him in the trenches, published in the I.L.P. New Leader of August 13 gives the salient facts.

Georges Kopp is forty-five years old, a member of long standing in the Belgian Socialist movement. When the civil war broke out, he was chief engineer in one of the largest engineering firms in Belgium. In that capacity, he had the use of a first-class laboratory maintained for him by the firm to develop his inventions. He now put his training as a chemist to good use.

It had been usual for him to experiment at night. He circulated the story that he was trying out a new machine, perfecting it by the actual process of manufacture. Actually he manufactured the supplies for millions of rounds of cartridges. Left Socialists organized illegal transport of the materials to Paris and thence to Barcelona.

Kopp soon discovered that he was under suspicion and being watched by the police. He took leave of his four children, (his wife was dead) and headed for the French frontier. The very day that he left Brussels was the day on which the police raided

his laboratory and issued a warrant for his arrest.

In his absence, Kopp was sentenced by the Belgian courts to fifteen years at hard labor; five years for making explosives for a foreign power; five years for leaving the country without permission; five years for joining a foreign army while holding a reservist officer rank in the Belgian Army.

On the Aragon front, Kopp's training soon won him the rank of Commandant. He was twice wounded.

The next episode in the story is told by David Murray in the British New Leader of August 13. During June, George Kopp was called to Valencia, in the reorganization of the militia, and was given a new commission. He was appointed to one of the new divisions forming on the Aragon front. The commission stated that he was a "person of every confidence"—"una persona de toda confianza."

When Kopp returned to Barcelona on his way back to the front, Murray informed him that Kopp's room at the hotel had been searched. Kopp was, however, completely confident that he had nothing to be afraid of. He insisted on returning to his quarters. Within a few minutes of his arrival he was arrested, and still is in jail.

This is the man whom "Frankford" and the Stalinists accuse of working for Franco!

One more "revelation" by "Frankford": "I did not realize at the time that the rifles, machine guns and tanks which we had in such great quantities at our disposal in Barcelona were the very arms which we had so long yearned for at the front; that the real reason for the shortage of arms at the front had been this illicit stocking up of stolen arms by the POUM and certain anarchist elements."

Note that here, for the first time, the Stalinists admit that the Aragon front was denuded of arms; hitherto they have denied the CNT-POUM charges that arming of the Aragon front has been sabotaged. But the

Stalinist alibi is that the POUM kept the arms in Barcelona. Decisive refutation of "Frankford" is provided by George Orwell, well-known English left-wing author and a member of the I.L.P. Contingent on the Aragon Front. Writing in the August issue of Controversy, the Socialist forum, Orwell says:

"As a matter of fact the POUM possessed pitifully few weapons either at the front or in the rear. During the street-fighting (of May) I was at all three of the principal strongholds of the POUM, the Executive Building, the Comite Local, and the Hotel Falcon. It is worth recording in detail what armaments these buildings contained. There were in all about eighty rifles, some of them defective, besides a few obsolete guns of various patterns, all useless because there were no cartridges for them. Of rifle ammunition there was about fifty rounds for each weapon. There were a few cases of hand-grenades and no pistol ammunition. There were a few cases of hand-grenades, but these were sent by the CNT after the fighting started. A highly-placed militia officer afterwards gave me his opinion that in the whole of Barcelona the POUM possessed about a hundred and fifty rifles and one machine-gun. This, it will be seen, was barely sufficient for the armed guards which at that time all parties, PSUC, POUM and CNT-FAI alike, placed on their principal buildings."

One final "revelation" of "Frankford", which will interest the thousands of New York needle-trades workers who know Harry Milton—now returning, finally released after strong workers' protests against his arrest in Barcelona—as a militant I.L.G.W.U. member on the picket lines. "Frankford" darkly refers to "an American Trotskyist going by the name of Harry Milton who made trips to Barcelona from the front with permission of those who were conducting activities against the republican government."

The GPU has blundered again, and what a clumsy job!

Appeal for Spanish Political Prisoners

To the Revolutionists of All Countries!

In the name of all revolutionists of Spain we address you!

With deep indignation we demand your protests against the reactionary suppression by the "liberal" bourgeoisie and its vanguard, the Stalinist bureaucracy.

The freedom, which the best comrades have rushed here to protect, has been changed into prisons of reaction.

In order to tie and bind the forces of the proletariat, the government of the Spanish Republic has prepared espionage trials after the pattern of the Soviet Russian amalgam. Nin, Andrade, Gorkin will all be brought before the secret court martial. Through arbitrary arrests numerous comrades, both men and women, above all Poemists, but also Anarchists, find themselves in Spanish prisons. The official report speaks of 300 imprisonments among the members of the POUM. But we can reckon the number of innocently imprisoned at least 1000. The following foreigners

are innocently suffering the same fate:

Georges Kopp	Belgium
Paul Dobler	Switzerland
Paul Thalman	Switzerland
Katja Landau	Austria
Maurice Stevens	Holland
Ethel McDonald	England
William Krehm	Canada
Julius K.	Poland
N. Foska	Poland
Molinaar	Holland
Duchene	France
Gaston Amiral	France
Witte	Greece
N. R.	Albania
E. H., H. S., K. H.,	
F. S., E. K., H. L.,	Germany
N. S., G. G., F. G.,	
R. M., M. G., H. W.	

We cannot publish the names of the German comrades because we do not want to endanger them or their relatives in Germany. We will gladly disclose to representatives of the emigrant organizations or absolutely trustworthy persons whether certain persons are among the imprisoned.

Unfortunately we could learn only the names of a fraction of the imprisoned foreigners. There are members of anarchist organizations, of the SFIO, of the Jeunesse Socialiste of France, of the American Socialist Party, of Trotsky organizations, of KPO, FAP, of the split-off group of SAP, of the Parti Ouvrier of Belgium, of the Sozialistische Partei of Switzerland, of the Communist League and of the League for a Workers' Party in the U. S. A. etc., etc. Numerous British comrades have already been released. This is explained by the attitude of the British consul who declared that he will not allow British citizens to be imprisoned, in order to gather incriminating evidence later. Most of the other consuls are little or not at all concerned with the imprisoned.

Workers of all countries! It is your duty to defend the innocently imprisoned, you must not leave it to the bourgeois consulates.

There is a grave danger that

they will involve them in some espionage affair with which they have absolutely nothing to do. Out on the streets with demonstrations! Protest to the representatives of the Spanish Republic against the shameful betrayal of your comrades, many of whom have dedicated their lives to the cause of the Spanish proletariat. Send delegations to Spain so that they can be convinced on the spot of the misdeeds of the bourgeoisie and Stalinists. If you permit the present reactionary course in Republican Spain, you will be guilty of the demoralization and weakening of our opposition to our chief enemy, Spanish and international fascism.

Release the best fighters against Fascism! Unmask the real betrayers!

Down with the "non-intervention" of Blum-Eden-Stalin!

Long live the proletarian revolution of Europe!

The Committee of Bolshevik-Leninists of Spain (4th Int.)

Barcelona, July 5, 1937.