

# New Stalinist Frame-up Hits China 'Trotskyists'

## Chinese Bolshevik-Leninist Exposes Lies in 'Daily Worker' Dispatch

By Li Fu-jen

The following statement on the latest frame-up against "Chinese Trotskyist agents of Japan", reported in a Shanghai dispatch to the Daily Worker, is made by comrade Li Fu-jen, member of the Executive Committee of the Bolshevik-Leninists (Trotskyists) of China. He is of course in a position to speak authoritatively on the Stalinist frame-up system which is now being extended to China.—Ed.

According to what purports to be a cable dispatch from Shanghai printed in the Daily Worker of October 5, the hand of Stalin's G.P.U., dripping with the blood of murdered revolutionists in the Soviet Union and in Spain, has now reached into China.

The dispatch reports the uncovering of "a Trotskyist plot to knife the Chinese defense against Japanese imperialism in the back by a putsch in Kwangsi province." Police, it is stated, nipped the alleged plot in the bud by arresting "the entire membership of the local Trotskyist group," which, in familiar language, is declared to be "made up principally of bandits and other shady elements."

### Frame-Up Apparent

That we are confronted here with another G.P.U. frame-up is apparent from the entire text of the Daily Worker story. We are told that the Trotskyists were headed by Wang Kun-tuh, "who had wormed his way into the executive committee of the Kuomintang organization in Kwangsi during the period of anti-Communist terror that swept China after 1929."

No person named Wang-tuh is or ever has been a member of the Communist League of China (Bolshevik-Leninists). Nor has any member of the League ever been a member of the Kwangsi executive committee of the Kuomintang or any other Kuomintang organ. I state these facts as one having personal knowledge of the League's membership and activity.

Even more decisive is the fact that there is no organization of the Communist League in Kwangsi province and there never has been.

The Stalinist practise of dubbing sundry persons (especially its own agents provocateurs)

"Trotskyists" is sufficiently well-known in China and other countries. If "Wang" exists at all, the inquisitors of the Kuomintang, with the help of G.P.U. agents (for the Stalinists and the Kuomintang are "allied" again) will doubtless secure from him a "confession" implicating the Chinese Bolshevik-Leninists in a plot to sabotage China's defense against Japan. The methods of the G.P.U. are so stereotyped as to be easily recognizable.

The supposed Wang, moreover, would have had no need to "worm his way" into a Kuomintang organ in the period between 1929 and 1937. For it is admitted even by the Stalinists that the Kuomintang regime at that time pursued what in effect was a pro-Japanese policy. A pro-Japanese plotter could have joined Kuomintang bodies easily and pursued openly the Kuomintang's own pro-Japanese policy within the party ranks without any fear of evil consequences.

### "The Leading Newspaper"

Step by step, the Daily Worker reveals the Stalinist frame-up, or attempted frame-up, of the Chinese revolutionists. "The leading Shanghai newspaper, Hsin Ching Jih Pao," it declares, "called for the rooting out of the Trotskyist traitors."

"At a time when the entire nation is united in war against our mortal foe," the paper is quoted as saying, "this despicable gang of Chinese Trotskyists are taking advantage of the sending of troops to the battlefronts to organize a plot in the rear. Is it not clear at whose orders these Trotskyists perform their deeds... In the name of our country's future, in the interests of resistance to the aggressor, the Trotskyist spies and traitors must be destroyed."

# Lasser Helps C. P. Drive To Undermine Militancy Of Unemployed Alliance

For many months there has been indignation in the ranks of the Socialist Party, particularly among the unemployed, concerning the pro-Stalinist and anti-Socialist attitude of David Lasser as head of the Workers Alliance of America. Two weeks before the last meeting of the National Executive Committee, the Socialist League of Local New York decided it was time to call a halt, and a document outlining Lasser's actions was drawn up and presented to the NEC; in addition, Frank Trager in his report as Labor Secretary spent a considerable length of time on this same question. But Lasser belongs—is a leader—of the Altman-Thomas faction.

The Socialist Party has set up a committee to "investigate" David Lasser and weighted it down with the burden of Murray Baron, who "was going to be in Washington next week anyhow". The committee will undoubtedly be encouraged by the polite "tsk, tsk's of the more genteel members of the NEC and will probably bear in mind that stalwart "disgraceful" of Roy Burt. Then

The first fact to be noted here is that until the middle of April this year there was no newspaper in Shanghai known as the Hsin Ching Jih Pao. If such an organ has since appeared, it can be nothing else but the organ of the new Popular Front in China, that is, of the Stalinist-Kuomintang coalition. This supposition is borne out by the language quoted above. No bourgeois newspaper, much less a leading bourgeois organ, uses the canned language of Stalinism to castigate the "Trotskyists." The language is unmistakable as that of a Stalinist or Stalinist-controlled paper.

It may well be, however, that the Daily Worker story foreshadows a frame-up against the organization of the Bolshevik-Leninists in Shanghai.

Just as in Spain the Bolshevik-Leninists have been in the forefront of the fight against fascism, in China the Communist League has been the consistent advocate of intransigent struggle against Japanese imperialism for China's national liberation. And just as in Spain our comrades are framed up by the G.P.U. on charges of "conspiring with Franco," so in China the Bolshevik-Leninists are accused of being "agents of Japanese imperialism." In both instances the Stalinists lie. And they know that they lie.

they will most assuredly discover that it's all a Trotskyite plot against "our David".

And they'll be right. We have carried on a consistent campaign for a militant class struggle program in the Alliance, for democracy in the organization, for Socialist action by those who called themselves Socialists. And it must be said that the rank and file of the Socialist Party have worked with us, despite the opposition of Jack Altman.

When the Unemployment Councils, which were Stalinist controlled, merged with the Workers Alliance, which the Socialist Party had built up, Lasser had one of two paths open to him: to go along with the Communist Party, since they had a more numerous and disciplined machine than he had, or step into a minority position and carry on the fight against them. Lasser chose the first method, for it was in this way that he could keep his position as national chairman.

### Lasser Goes The Whole Hog

At the recent National Workers Alliance Convention in Milwaukee Lasser put himself squarely in the camp of the Communist Party, supporting their resolutions and giving preference to Communist Party members in the elections for executive board members.

The orientation of this convention, incidentally, was to remove all those militant elements who had been carried over from the merger. A desperate attempt was made, and it was successful thanks to Lasser's aid, to bring the unemployed completely under the domination of the liberal C. P. politicians, to remove all embarrassing militancy, to destroy the vitality and political consciousness by which alone an unemployed movement can grow. By presenting a program of legislative action as primary, and mass action only if "absolutely necessary", the C. P., with all due respect to constituted authority, would jockey the unemployed into position as a pawn in its jigger game of compromise with Roosevelt.

### Sabotage Struggle

The Stalinists at the convention played a very dangerous game, one that could very easily have been exposed had there been united socialist action. They came here, to a convention of unemployed workers facing the most drastic reduction in WPA rolls yet attempted; to a convention which ostensibly had as the main point on the agenda a big march on Washington—and deliberately set out to sabotage this primary point. They were able to postpone the march into the distant future, not even setting a temporary date; finally seeing to it after the convention that the march took place when Congress had already adjourned. Surely the Alliance representatives in Washington, Herbert Benjamin and "our" David Lasser, know enough congressmen by this time to be informed in advance as to when Congress is planning to go home.

### Revolt in the Ranks

Among the militant members of the Alliance, an open revolt took place. In New Jersey, where one of the strongest state organizations had been built up,

and where they had not come under the bureaucratic control of the Stalinists, the State Executive Board, composed of a majority of non-party members, passed a resolution disaffiliating from the Workers Alliance because of its do-nothing policy and its attempt to bring the state organization under Stalinist control by "exporting" leadership to them from the national office.

Lasser knew what was going on; he was informed of everything that had taken place. He knew that the Socialists on the State Executive Board (John Spain and others) had voted to remain in, had tried to convince the other members that this was the only correct policy for the present time. But David Lasser, usually a very slow moving fellow, was immediately galvanized into action. A long and slanderous letter went out from the National Office, and again it found its natural roost in the columns of the Daily Worker. So well had Lasser learned the form and content of a Daily Worker editorial staff member that the letter needed no more introduction than two or three sentences quoted directly from the document.

### Lasser's Stalinist Phrases

"A small group of malcontents and disrupters... activated by personal or group interests... attempting to stab our movement in the back at a time when we are fighting the battle of ten million unemployed. The charge of 'no democracy' is merely a smokescreen to hide the splitting activities of those who... are acting as stooges for our enemies..." And then he goes on to talk about the right to "honest" differences of opinion. On this point, it is pertinent to quote from a recent document on the New York Workers Alliance situation, signed by Brendan Sexton, and, since the CP leadership acts identically both on a local and national scale, this should give some idea of the deliberate falsehoods of Lasser.

### Sexton's Testimony

"Power has been concentrated in the hands of top committees, which make all the important decisions and convert the membership into mere pawns to be shoved about at will... Special taxes are handed down by the top committees without adequate discussion... Disruptive tactics have been used by the political majority in N. Y. C. to stack locals having a different political tendency in order to take control away... etc." And what conclusion does this statement draw? "Such violations of the principles of democracy and freedom from political domination... constitute the most serious danger to the existence of the Workers Alliance by driving rank and file members away, by preventing struggle for the basic economic needs of the unemployed, and by creating a condition of disunity when it is vitally important to work together..."

Sexton was right when he said that in order to be a leader in a Stalinist controlled organization one has to completely "sacrifice organizational and personal integrity." That is what Lasser has done. Needless to say, the Thomas-Altman-Tyler faction's "investigation" will not unduly disturb Lasser and his Stalinist bedfellows.

# The A. F. of L. Convention

(Continued from page 4)

Secondly, and of very great importance, though the C. I. O. movement is fundamentally the more progressive of the two, the leadership of the C. I. O. is at bottom on a par with the leadership of the A. F. of L. in its devotion to capitalism and its general class collaborationism. This becomes more openly apparent as the C. I. O. goes beyond its embryo stage and gets established in certain industries: a fact long ago demonstrated in Lewis' own union, and now becoming open in, for example, the Auto Union. The C. I. O. bureaucrats are just as quick to make any kind of shady deal with the bosses or the government boards as are the A. F. of L. bureaucrats.

In addition, there has been an absolute lack of any kind of democracy in the C. I. O. organization, even a greater lack than in the A. F. of L.—though two years ago that might have seemed impossible. These two features combine to disillusion the workers, to make them less confident

that their salvation lies with the C. I. O., and to suggest to them that the choice between the two organizations is not perhaps of crucial importance.

Thirdly, the C. I. O. movement has been seriously handicapped by the prominence of the Stalinists in its set-up, a factor bound up also with Lewis' general opportunism, an opportunism that often leads to the irresponsible. The Stalinists, having on their side no sense of responsibility whatever toward trade unions, and being interested in them solely for the sake of forming People's Front's and using them as recruiting bases for the coming war, necessarily run any union into the ground when they get their hands on it. The deals which have handed the attempted Maritime organization to the Stalinists, which have given them such a place in Steel, in the white collar unions, and many others, combined with the positions won by the Stalinists previously (Furriers, etc.), have militated heavily against the C. I. O. movement as a whole.