

SOCIALIST APPEAL

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High Court Rejects Scottsboro Appeal

Secret Paris Meeting Decides for Early Liquidation of Comintern

Trotskyists To Be Annihilated Is Main Slogan

By Liston M. Oak

On April 21, 1937, there was an historic conference of the representatives of the 17 leading Communist Parties of the world, in Paris. Such conferences have displaced the Congress of the Comintern, which met every year or two until 1928, after which it was seven years before the Seventh Congress which threw Leninism overboard and adopted Menshevism as its guiding philosophy.

...Earl Browder—that "great and beloved leader" of the CPUSA who assures Roosevelt that "he has nothing to fear from the Communists"—was present at the Paris conference. I was in Barcelona at the time, and know that the representative of the American CP in Spain attended. Later Julian Gorkin, POUM leader now in a Spanish Stalinist jail, showed me a full report of the proceedings. (I presume Mike Gold will cite this fact to prove his charge that I am a spy!)

To Dissolve Comintern

There were two main items on the agenda for discussion—or rather, for instruction from the Kremlin, for even among the big shots of the CP there is no longer any discussion, except on how to carry out orders. These two questions were:

1. The physical liquidation of the POUM and other revolutionary opposition to the Spanish People's Front, and the campaign against the "Trotskyite agents of fascism" internationally; and 2. The possible liquidation of the Comintern, and the necessity of finding a substitute for it as a weapon of the Soviet foreign office.

The secretaries of the 17 leading Communist Parties were in-

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Convention Postponed for Wider Discussions

With the publication of the first issue of the internal bulletin this week an animated discussion in the ranks of the left wing socialist branches, in preparation for the national convention, got into full swing. The original plan for the convention—to draw an organizational balance of the expulsion campaign of the La Guardia socialists and their centrist lickspittles—has been broadened into a decision to put all the fundamental problems of the labor movement, national and international, on the agenda.

Owing to the additional time required to elaborate the main political resolutions on these basic questions, and in order to

provide adequate time for discussion by the membership, the convention, originally called for the last week in November, has been postponed until Friday, December 31 at Chicago.

The first internal discussion bulletin, comprising 70 mimeographed pages, is now being studied by the membership. It contains theses and countertheses and discussion articles from various points of view on the problems of the civil war in Spain. Other internal bulletins on American perspectives and revolutionary tasks, on the trade union question, on a basic declaration of revolutionary principles and on the Soviet Union

are to follow in rapid order. Provision is being made throughout the party for the full and free presentation of all points of view in the oral discussion at branch and membership meetings and for the representation of minorities in the convention on a proportional basis. Unlike the practices of the fraudulent "democracy" followed by Altman-Tyler & Co., who know no way of meeting argument and criticism but by "gag laws" and expulsions, the discussion in our ranks is a real discussion and the democracy is a real democracy. By this method of internal democracy the collective opinion of the membership can be recorded

'Liberal' Black Ducks Opinion; Youth Faces 75 Year Sentence

The appeal of Haywood Patterson, leading defendant in the six and a half year old Scottsboro case, was rejected last Tuesday by a unanimous decision of the United States Supreme Court.

The newest Associate Justice, Hugo L. Black, apparently disqualified himself from participating in the decision of the Court, according to the announcement made in the formal orders.

Faces 75-Year Term

Patterson, one of the nine young Negroes framed-up by the Alabama reactionaries and Negro-haters on the charge of rape, has been convicted on that charge four times, has been condemned three times to die, and is now under sentence to serve the barbaric term of seventy-five years in prison.

His appeal against the decision of the lower courts, whipped up to a frenzy of Negro-baiting, was based on having been deprived of the constitutional guarantee of due process of law, because he was refused permission to be tried in a Federal instead of a State court and because the jury was instructed by the judge to find him guilty even if he had not committed rape but had only "conspired" to do so.

That the Supreme Court should cover up the reactionary Southern bearers of "white supremacy", is not very surprising.

"Liberal" Black Ducks

Of considerable significance, however, is the position adopted by Justice Black, ex-Klansman, highly-touted "liberal" and self-asserted friend of the Jews and Negroes. He had an opportunity to express himself clearly against the loathsome frame-up. Black ducked the issue in order not to offend his Southern-cracker friends.

The Communist Party is doubly guilty, by virtue of its suppression in recent years of the mass protest movement, and the surrender of the case to the Tammany attorney, Leibowitz. It is high time to revive the mass movement.