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Labor Leader Slain In Minneapolis

Coming Trials To Reveal Secret Plans of G.P.U.

By Leon Trotsky

COYOACAN, D. F., Nov. 16.—In France and in Switzerland sensational trials are imminent over the criminal activities of the G.P.U. upon the world arena. The inquiry is apparently being conducted with energy. A series of facts have already been conclusively established. One of the new facts is the painstaking preparation of an attempt upon the life of Leon Sedoff, my son living in Paris.

The Swiss woman, Renata Steiner, has made a precise deposition on this affair totally confirmed by the evidence. As an agent of the G.P.U., Renata Steiner participated, as is known, in the assassination of Ignace Reiss near Lausanne. But during more than a year before this assassination, Renata Steiner and a Russian White Guard accomplice, Smirensky, were occupied in shadowing Leon Sedoff: they prepared the stealing of my archives and attempted the kidnapping of Sedoff himself. Smirensky and Renata Steiner rented an apartment next door to that of Sedoff (Rue Lacrocellle 28) so that the respective balconies were only three feet apart from each other.

On November 7 of last year, Smirensky, together with other agents who will be named in time, stole 143 pounds of my archives stored by Sedoff with the Institute of Social History. The crime remained unsolved in spite of the fact that the French police did not have the slightest doubt that all threads led to Moscow.

Planned Assassination of Sedoff

In January of this year, the G.P.U. terrorists tried to arrange a trap for Leon Sedoff at Mulhouse (Muehlhausen) analogous to the one they arranged for Ignace Reiss in Lausanne. Under the name of my Swiss attorney, who is occupied with a suit over slanders made by the G.P.U. intern, the conspirators repeatedly urged Leon Sedoff by graph and telephone to come to Mulhouse for a conference.

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Trotsky's Cable to Premier Chautemps
NLT CHAUTEPS PRESIDENT-CABINET; PARIS.
IN AFFAIRS ASSASSINATION IGNACE REISS
MY STOLEN ARCHIVES AND ANALOGOUS
CRIMES PERMIT ME TO INSIST ON NECESSITY
SUBMITTING TO INTERROGATION AT LEAST
AS WITNESS JACQUES DUCLOS VICE-PRES-
IDENT CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES OLD GPU
AGENT.

TROTSKY.

Stalinists Seek Frame-up of Leaders of Local 544

"Minneapolis: Watch the Fingers of the
Frame-Up Artists!"

—See Editorial, Page 4

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—The murder of Patrick J. Corcoran, Secretary-Treasurer of the Minneapolis Teamsters' Joint Council, who was prominently active in the organizing of the labor movement for years, has aroused the greatest tension that has existed in the trade union movement of the Northwest for a long time.

The cold-blooded assassination of the union leader is all the more significant in view of the announcement made by Minneapolis Alderman Albert G. Bastis that he had notified the police, some

time before the killing of Corcoran, about information at his disposal indicating that not only Corcoran, but William Brown, president of the General Drivers' Union, and the three Dunne brothers—Vincent, Grant and Miles—organizers of the union, were slated for killing.

While the assassin or assassins have not yet been apprehended, the police declared that they have

Patrick J. Corcoran



already questioned two suspects. Meanwhile, the Teamsters' Joint Council has offered a reward of \$10,000 for information leading to the apprehension of the criminal. The Council issued a statement placing the responsibility for Corcoran's murder upon anti-labor elements, and declared:

Teamster Council Statement

"Pat Corcoran has led an uncompromising fight against Minneapolis employers and has unquestionably by his unswerving

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Industrial Lay-Offs A Challenge To Labor

All indications in the national scene point to a wholesale offensive against the living standards of the American workers, both in the industrial as well as in the political field. The past week has witnessed a further sharp drop in employment figures, organized threats on the part of the bosses against the incipient resistance of the workers to this trend

and a marked tendency on the part of Congress and the Administration to act more openly than at any time since the inception of the "New Deal", as the direct agency of the capitalists in their efforts to unload the burden of the on-rushing depression upon labor's shoulders.

At the United States Conference of Mayors, held in Washington last week, it was established that "in numerous localities employment totals have fallen off between 10 and 20 per cent" in the last few months alone. In the highly industrialized regions, the percentage is held to be even higher. If we are to take steel as an example of the trend, lay-offs of a far wider scope are in prospect. Compared with the beginning of the year, steel production has drop-

ed from 90 per cent to 35 per cent of capacity.

Lay-offs are Planned

Yet, as the editorial writers in the capitalist press point out, there is no sign of a crisis in the banking system; interest rates remain low and no indications exist as yet of an overdevelopment of the capital goods industries. At the same time, the financial pages overflow with notices of dividend payments.

Why, then, the sharp drop in employment totals? Spokesmen of the United States Chamber of Commerce provide the precise answer. "If a recession is on the way," the New York Times correspondent quotes them, "the thing to do is to retrench on the payroll as sharply as possible for the moment and get over with it." (Times, November, 21, 1937.) In other words, since the depression is on its way, make the working class the shock absorber. Let the brunt be borne by labor! There is the strategy of the bosses in a nutshell.

Linked up with this strategy, follows an onslaught on the gains made by the trades unions in the past period, the wholesale attack on agreements fought for on the picket lines, the abolition of seniority rights and so on. That is why the bosses are especially alarmed at the militancy of the auto workers in Michigan and the rubber workers in Ohio, who have begun to reply to the lay-off campaign with sit-down strikes.

Mobilizing Against Militants

Politically, the first expression of the sharpness of the coming clash between capital and labor has been the mobilization of the National Guard in Ohio and similar preparation in Michigan and in other sections, as a reply to the spontaneous outburst of sit-downs. However, the political expression of the attack is not confined to such crass examples. Of far greater consequence is

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