

Stalinist Uses Sleight-of-Hand Trick to Prove That Lenin Opposed Soviets

By James Casey

Ku Kluxers, after lynching a sharecropper and burning his home, always place the blame "on the unions, the Reds and the foreigners." And the Kluxers always commit their deeds "to safeguard our country and uphold the noble ideals of 100 per cent Protestant White Americanism."

What accentuates the seriousness of their foul acts is that misinformed people succumb to their super-patriotic propaganda and applaud "the drive against the Reds and foreigners to make America safe for Americans."

Yet our native terrorist group-lets cannot claim a monopoly on this "Stop Thief" method of perpetrating crimes and shifting the responsibility on others.

Witness with what gusto the Stalin regime is imprisoning, exiling and shooting workers and Old Bolshevik leaders by the thousands and placing all the blame on the "Trotskyites," but whereas the Kluxers kill for the sake of Americanism, the Stalin hangmen do it in the name of Lenin and for Socialism.

Thus wholesale murder is glorified with made-to-order resolutions, adorned with the cloak of Justice and Lenin's works are willfully, shamelessly and wantonly distorted. The defiled picture of Lenin is then offered up to the population to cover up the regime's bestiality.

Latest "Crime": Belief in Soviets

As an example, the Daily Worker appears on November 9th with a brand new form of attack on the "Trotskyites" for "their crimes." The latest crime of the Trotskyites is that they still believe in Soviets! What awful people! According to Harrison George in his grossly misnamed "Column Left" only "nit-wit Trotskyites who never read, never understand or ignore Lenin" still believe in that outdated, outworn theory of Soviets—a theory which, according to the Stalinist writer, Lenin discarded as untenable way back in 1917.

Citing the days when Lenin fought the Provisional Government, while he was in hiding in Finland, George writes in his column: "It was then, too, that Lenin wrote that superb treatise 'On Slogans' which nit-wit Trotskyites never read, never understand or ignore. It urged that, 'This slogan—transition of all state power to the Soviets was correct during the whole period, now irrevocably gone, from March 12th to July 17th. This slogan has clearly ceased to be correct now.'"

George goes on to say: "One can imagine cafeteria Trotskyites of today, had they been there, bursting with moral indignation at Lenin's 'betrayal of Leninism.' Sounds very profound, doesn't it? Stalinist arguments a l w a y s sound formidable until they are examined and confirmed with facts.

How a Quotation is Distorted

The sentence which the Stalinist writer quoted from Lenin on state power is correct, every word of it. What is wrong however, is that this single sentence was cunningly and knavishly lifted out of the context to completely deceive the reader, revise Lenin and help to build up another alibi for People's Frontist class treachery.

What the Daily Worker writer, who is also a well-known Stalinist leader, failed to explain is that Lenin at that particular

writing was denouncing the Soviets controlled by the Mensheviks of whom Ambassador Trotsky was an outstanding leader, and other counter-revolutionary scum. In a word, Lenin was at the moment condemning the People's Frontist treachery of his day.

Can the Stalinist writer explain how it happened that he, who attacked Trotskyists for not reading or ignoring Lenin, himself conveniently omitted the following up his quotation from Lenin's "superb treatise." For Lenin, after assailing the counter-revolutionists and their controlled Soviets, wrote:

"Soviets can and must appear in this new revolution, but not the present Soviets, not organs of compromise with the bourgeoisie, but organs of a revolutionary struggle against it. That even then we shall be in favor of building the whole state after the Soviet type, is true. This is not a question of Soviets in general, it is a question of struggle against the present counter-revolution and against the treachery of the present Soviets." (P. 49 Chap: "On Slogans," Book I Toward the Seizure of Power.)

And if the Stalinist leader had continued reading Lenin, he would have found that in an article called "Answers," written scarcely a month after the one "On Slogans," Lenin, in answering Kerensky's Public Prosecutor, pointed out that one of the charges against him was that he expressed confidence that "Our Slogan, 'All Power to the Soviets' must, and will, conquer despite all the zigzags of the path of history."

His little abortion of Lenin's teachings, George entitled "When Lenin Hid in A Haystack." Yet the Stalinist writer well knew that the Title should have been: "When We Stalinists Hide Lenin in a Haystack."

Why the Sudden Outburst?

In this connection there is considerable doubt whether George really believes that Trotskyites never read Lenin. There can be no question, however, of the Stalinist leader's firm conviction that his Communist Party readers are not familiar with Lenin and, further, that they are happily-misled victims of the Stalinist art of deception and falsification.

The question naturally arises: Why the sudden Stalinist outburst against the Soviets?

Is it possible that Stalin and Browder and George have suddenly discovered, after twenty years, that Lenin had been opposed to Soviets and that the Soviet type of state is contrary to Marxism-Leninism?

Or, more horrors: Has the Stalin regime sensed that the Soviets were jammed full of Trotskyites, making their liquidation a matter of first importance?

And just to refresh the memory of the Stalinist leaders, who seem to have forgotten completely that history existed before the rebirth of the People's Front two years ago: Do they recall a book with the title, "Soviet America"? It was written by the chairman of the Communist Party, called

for an America of Soviets and, on its publication in 1933, was acclaimed as a masterpiece by the Daily Worker.

Is Harrison George now ready to admit that William Z. Foster is also a nit-wit Trotskyite, who should be made to sign one of those familiar "confessions" and be executed within twenty-four hours?

We repeat: Why have the Soviets fallen out of the Stalinist grace along with commissars, ambassadors, scientists, authors, educators, editors, news service managers, tourist directors and tens of thousands of imprisoned workers?

Reason for Latest Attack

Actually, the reason for the latest form of attack on the Trotskyites is not hard to discern.

The Stalin regime already has held its last Soviet Congress. There will be no more—under the Stalin regime.

From the first outbreak of the fascist counter-revolution in Spain, the Stalinists fought with might and main against the establishment of Soviets in that country. The Spanish workers are not ready for Soviets, the Stalinists said, while they flocked to the support of one bourgeois government after another, murdering militant workers and selling out the masses of the people to European imperialists.

In China the Soviets, for which millions gave their life-blood, have been liquidated to become a special district of the Kuomintang nationalist regime at a time when it was most necessary to mobilize and solidarize the workers and peasants in a revolutionary struggle against Japanese imperialism.

What "Democracy" are they Fighting For?

And in America Stalinist spokesmen are taxing their lung capacities, while their publications are consuming gallons of printers ink in a holy crusade for "democracy."

Their rationalizations notwithstanding, the Stalinists admit that the "Democracy" they are fighting for is not of a Socialist type—but the democracy that fosters unemployment, evictions, the clubbing and shooting of workers on the picket line and imperialist war—the democracy of Wall Street.

Party Activities

Ohio Party Plans Active Workers Conference In Cleveland on December 5th

By Blake Lear

The Socialist Party of Ohio (Left Wing) will hold its third active workers' conference at Cleveland on December 5th. The Russian and the trade union question will be discussed.

At the last conference, held in Akron on November 14th, the formal pre-convention discussion was opened with Blake Lear reporting on the Spanish question and Robert Stiler on the problems of organization and party building.

There being no differences of opinion expressed upon the question of Spain, the major portion of the discussion centered around the questions of organization and party building, since it was considered that these questions are among the most important confronting the revolutionary tendency today.

The general conclusions reached were (1) that there must be an intensive and serious overhauling of the party organism organizationally, (2) that we must put our face to the factories, and (3) that a thorough, serious, and planned campaign among the most militant and politically conscious of the members of the C.P. must be instituted.

In the report and in the discussion, the following points were developed:

(1) The establishment and functioning of literature, educational, agitprop, financial, hall, and other committees, with regular meetings; the keeping of minutes, the delegation and checking of responsibility generally; the adoption of branch budgets with dues systems, the organization of sympathizers, and regular financial reports; regular and closely organized fraction meetings; the establishment of shop papers; frequent and well plan-

ned and publicized open meetings; etc.

(2) The setting of our face toward the factory. Here the rapidly-moving events in the mass industries were analyzed; it was shown that with the C.P. working hand in glove with the trade union bureaucracies, the deepening of the depression; the growing disillusion of the workers in a straight trade union struggle, and the necessities which the coming war will impose, we must intrench ourselves in the unions. The Socialist Appeal must contain articles written from the field upon the basis of which workers may be won to us. And the articles must be written in their language. There must be more analysis of the American scene. The C.I.O.-A.F. of L. struggle; the Roosevelt program; Labor's Non-Partisan League; the deepening depression; the beginning strike wave.

(3) The initiation of a real campaign within and without the C.P. To this end literature must be sent to their best militants; personal contacting and long, patient discussions must be engaged in. Pamphlets dealing with the American scene, naming and describing specific incidents must be published. The C.P.'s calendar of crime must be made known to all. Sympathizers must be worked upon. The C.P.'s structure is beginning to shake; we must hasten its collapse.

The effect of these conferences in establishing contact with comrades throughout the state, in working out unified plans for entire industrial areas, in exchanging experiences, and in heartening the membership, make the system of active workers' conferences one which can be applied with great fruitfulness by the comrades in the other sections of the country.

200 Hear Harry Milton Speak On Spain in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 19.—Two hundred workers attended the mass meeting held here last Sunday for Harry Milton, recently returned volunteer in the International Brigade of the P.O. U.M. fighting the Fascists in Spain. Comrade Milton's talk was forcefully presented and well received by the audience.

Despite the fact that the C.P. issued a leaflet asking that all union members boycott the meeting of the "union-wrecking Trotskyites," there were not only many unionists present, but a spokesman of the Stalinists felt

constrained to take the floor in defense of the C.P. position, which the speaker castigated for its counter-revolutionary role with a wealth of first hand evidence.

A Clarityite spokesman also rose to defend the Right Wing Socialist position. In a feeble attempt to reply to Milton's exposure of the ridiculous and shameful line contained in the Clarityite N.E.C.'s resolution on Spain, Nathan, who spoke for it, declared that the description given in the resolution of the Largo Caballero government as a "provisional revolutionary government" was merely "an unfortunate phrase which had crept (!) into the resolution."

Representatives of the opposition in the Proletarian Party and of the I.W.W., as well as a number of non-party workers also participated in the discussion. Several excellent contacts were made. From the political point of view especially, the meeting was extremely successful.

Christmas Eve Dance

Friday, December 24th, at 9 P. M.

IRVING PLAZA

15th STREET AND IRVING PLACE

Tickets: In Advance 55 cents — At the door 75 cents

For Sale at: Labor Book Shop, 28 East 12th St.

AUSPICES: Convention Arrangements Committee
Socialist Party (Left Wing)

