

# SOCIALIST APPEAL

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## Labor Aroused By Midwest Murder

### Economic Crisis Grows With More Lay-Offs And Rising Cost Of Living

By James Casey

The new capitalist crisis has definitely arrived.

Wall Street and its press are calling it a "business recession," while New Dealers, Stalinists and other faithful healers of the decaying "democracy" are frantically looking about for panaceas.

Meanwhile, American workers and farmers are being lashed, buffeted and overwhelmed by this latest economic typhoon.

Here is a condensed word picture of the situation:

(1) Industrial activity has declined for the thirteenth consecutive week, according to the New York Times business index, and there are no signs of any immediate upward trends.

(2) Retail prices have soared 42.8 per cent as compared with the figures of April, 1933.

(3) Clothing costs have jumped 30 per cent for the same period.

(4) Rents have risen 40 per cent over the housing costs in January, 1934.

#### Jobs Drop

(5) Factory employment has dropped 5 per cent during Oct. in New York State, according to the State Department of Labor figures, while many Federal projects have been eliminated, thus adding to the number of jobless. Federal data on the number of unemployed are not available, but the government census now being completed will provide an approximate, though not an accurate figure.

(6) Relief expenditures have been cut by \$152,416,000 for the first nine months of the year, as compared with the 1936 total. Payments for all types of public assistance from Federal, State and local funds, wages under the works program and subsistence grants under the Farm Security Administration totaled \$1,685,401,000. This is a woefully inadequate sum, many members of Congress having admitted the need of two-and-a-half to six billion dollars to meet the national emergency.

(7) Stock market prices, which serve as one of the many barometers of general trade trends, are again toppling as in the period directly after the October.

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### WHO KILLED PATRICK CORCORAN -- WHY?

By James P. Cannon

Minneapolis — The atrocious murder of Pat Corcoran, Secretary-Treasurer of the powerful Teamsters' Joint Council, has once again brought the turbulent labor movement of Minneapolis into the center of national attention. Once again the keenest interest and concern of progressive labor circles from coast to coast have been aroused in this stormy outpost of labor in the Northwest, the pace-setter for the country. The forces of organized labor cried out with one voice for the apprehension of Corcoran's assassins. At the same time the dark forces of reaction, and their dubious agents and stooges, couldn't wait for the body of the martyr to be lowered into the grave before they began to sing in chorus, with a suspicious unanimity and enthusiasm—as though the song had been rehearsed and the parts assigned beforehand—for a police investigation of the trade union movement of Minneapolis.

For everything there is a reason. Here, on the ground in Minneapolis, the facts and the reason are clear for all to see. Who killed Pat Corcoran, and why? And who wants to cover up the crime and shield the criminals, and why? The search for the truth in reply to these questions, can proceed intelli-

gently only on the basis of the main facts standing in the back-ground of the murder. These can be established approximately as follows:

#### 1. Advance of the Unions:

Minneapolis, once the open-shop colony of the Citizens' Alliance, is today the best organized city in the entire country. One must go to San Francisco for a near-comparison. The famous slogan of the 1934 strike, "Make Minneapolis a Union Town", has been realized in action.

And these unions are not fly-by-night paper organizations. The Minneapolis unions are real unions, tested in struggle, militant in their methods and capable of enforcing their demands. The "teamsters" who drive trucks and other automotive vehicles in this great distribution center of the Northwest are the dominating and inspiring force in the movement. From a membership of a few hundred men, four years ago, the driving trades in Minneapolis now embrace twelve thousand organized men. The same leadership directs a total of twenty-five thousand men in a joint council extending out into all the arteries of commerce over five North Central states tributary to the Twin Cities.

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### Rejects G.P.U. Plans to Smear Union Leaders

MINNEAPOLIS, Nov. 28. — While organized labor here closed ranks to fight for a thorough investigation to find Pat Corcoran's murderers, the boss press and the Stalinists joined hands to smear the labor movement with charges of union gangsterism as the source of Corcoran's death.

### Thousands Pay Last Tribute To P. J. Corcoran

Ten thousand union workers paid their last tribute to Patrick Corcoran on Saturday, November 20, in funeral services acknowledged by the daily press to have been the largest ever held in this part of the country.

In an unprecedented move, the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council called a Holiday during the time of the funeral, and from 9 A. M. to noon no trucks or cabs moved in the city.

Delegations were present at the services from General Drivers Locals affiliated with the five-state North Central District Drivers Councils, of which Corcoran was chairman. Among the cities represented with drivers' delegates were Duluth, St. Paul, Willmar, Austin, Rochester, Brainerd, St. Cloud, etc.

In issuing the call for the stoppage of work, the Joint Council stated that "no member of the Teamsters Joint Council jeopardizes either his job or his standing in the union by observing the holiday." The membership of the driving crafts responded to a man to the call.

Over a hundred local labor officials acted as honorary pallbearers at the funeral. The church was packed to the doors half an hour before the ceremonies began, and thousands of workers stood outside on the steps during the services. Active pallbearers and ushers were drawn from the ranks of the various driving crafts. The procession to the cemetery tied up traffic for over an hour.

The capitalist press of the twin cities, Minneapolis and St. Paul, have attempted to raise a lynch spirit against unionism. Their animus is clear. Minneapolis drivers are 95 per cent organized and have inspired similar organization in other industries. Under the lead of the Minneapolis locals, a North Central District Drivers Council was set up a year ago to push the union in five states. A few months ago, the St. Paul locals joined this powerful council, and thus spelled the end of employer domination in St. Paul too. Twenty-five thousand drivers are united in the council.

#### Boss Press Leads Attack

The St. Paul Daily News, always an unrelenting foe of labor, is leading the pack in viciousness. Under the hypocritical slogan of "That is terrorism, not unionism," it is daily linking Pat Corcoran's death to "gangsterism" in the labor movement. Columns are devoted to references to "labor czars, levying tribute through violence," as the background out of which came Corcoran's murder.

The real interest of the Daily News is unconsciously revealed in a passing reference, in an editorial of November 19, to the power of the drivers: "It is apparent that the truck drivers' union is strategically the most effective labor weapon in this or any other community. It can paralyze almost any business." For this reason, this organ of the bosses tries to smear the drivers' unions.

#### Stalinists Follow Suit

Repeating word for word the slanderous charges of the boss press, the Stalinists here have called a meeting which is described, in their leaflet, as a "mass public hearing on gangster-

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