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The Dewey Report

No more vigorous blow has been dealt the Stalinist assassins in recent times than the report of the Commission of Enquiry into the Moscow trials, headed by Professor John Dewey.

It is not only the unchallengeable probity and intellectual integrity of the commissioners that give such weight to their report, but also the fact that none of them shares the political position of Leon Trotsky and the Fourth International; in fact, they are its adversaries.

The hysterical cries of the Stalinist press and spokesmen, the charges that the commissioners themselves are only part of a world-wide plot to overthrow "democracy" on the part of Hitler, Trotsky and the Mikado, are taken least seriously by those who are paid to utter them. As insiders, they are best equipped to know the hideous frame-up system and methods of the G.P.U.

These cries cannot drown out the firm and unassailable conclusions of the Commission which demonstrate the ghastly mockery that has been made of the great ideals of the proletarian movement by those who pretend to represent them in the seats of power of Russia. And though the Commission itself draws no political conclusions of its own—nor was that its purpose or province—its report serves to underline a conclusion which we consider inescapable:

The Stalinist bureaucracy has become a cancer which disgraces, betrays and undermines the great Russian Revolution and its imperishable ideals. Unchecked, the cancer will rot the whole body. In the ruthless removal of this bureaucracy and the restoration of proletarian democracy lies the salvation of the Soviet Union. The Dewey report is another weapon in the struggle to achieve these aims!

Stalin's Victory

The entire world is laughing at the latest Soviet elections, even the Stalinists who pretend to take them seriously.

Only, it is no laughing matter. The elections are a tragic commentary on the decline and degeneration of the Russian Revolution, undermined by a counter-revolutionary bureaucracy.

The "democratic" elections were a travesty, which could be justified only by people with a Hitlerian attitude towards the masses, or those who never saw anything wrong in a trade union when a reactionary machine prevented any minority from contesting an election by presenting its own candidates.

The "nominations" were made in public meetings, and heaven help the person who ventured to nominate a candidate who was not a 100 per cent supporter of the Stalinist machine—for the G.P.U. would not help him. That is why the vast majority of the districts had only one candidate running. Only a totalitarian regime could regard such phenomena with joy and pride. In actuality, it only shows how the bureaucracy has crushed the last remnants of workers' democracy.

The only "right" the Soviet voter had was to cast his ballot for Stalin and those designated by Stalin. He had no right to nominate a candidate of his own choosing; he had no right to run on any platform of his own, regardless of how pro-Soviet it might be; and he had no possibility of voting effectively against the candidates he had pushed under his pencil.

What a revealing light is thrown on the "democracy" of the elections when we read that at the last minute, without the electorate acting or being consulted, "regularly nominated" candidates were withdrawn by a "mysterious" hand and new ones put in, guaranteed the same unanimous vote as those whose place they had taken if the latter had remained.

How significant is the fact that one of the last-minute candidates was born in 1913, the very year in which the man whom he replaced became a member of the Bolshevik party. The old revolutionists, however servile, are being replaced by the representatives of the new and rising strata of Soviet society who want to put the last nails into the coffin of the revolution and restore a regime of capitalist exploitation.

Browder Announces C.P. Purge Coming In U. S.

A purge is being prepared in the American Communist Party.

If it is not as bloody as Stalin's purge in the Soviet Union, it is only because the Browder gang does not have state power.

If officials and members of the American Communist Party are not to be sent to prison or to Siberian concentration camps, it is only because the American purges do not have them at their disposal in this country.

Threat Made Public

In the threat delivered to the recent Plenum of the Central Committee of the American Stalinists, Browder, the party's general secretary, declared (according to the Daily Worker of Dec. 3, 1937):

"Our party is operating today in the midst of the great mass movement. The spotlight is on us. The slightest weaknesses are exaggerated and made use of by our enemies. And let no one think that you can separate personal from political life. You cannot do it; not in leading work in the communist movement. We must create a much keener realization of this fact in all our members. Any manifestations of looseness or penetration into our ranks of bourgeois habits, particularly with respect to personal life, must be rooted out, because it is precisely from such things as this that the enemies recruit in our ranks. It has been an almost invariable result of examination of political degeneration that it almost always is accompanied by personal degeneration. We must begin to examine the private lives of all our leading cadres as a necessary and unavoidable part of the guarantee of the political integrity of our party. And this applies to everybody, from top to bottom. And to the degree that we find problems that cannot be corrected, let us know in advance that there is always a final way of guaranteeing the party against dangers—that is, removing people from responsible positions if they cannot give us a guarantee of their ability to protect the party, to protect its line, to protect its prestige, protect its reputation among the masses. Every member of the leadership of the party has got to contribute positively, making the party's reputation spotless, unattackable among the masses."

A "Uriah Heep"

Browder's announcement that the private lives and conduct of all the Stalinist functionaries are to be investigated, immediately reveals the nature of the frame-ups in preparation. The hypocrisy of Browder's piety is of course perfectly obvious. It is not because of their "Twentieth Century Americanism" that the Stalinist chieftains are taking over the traditions of the Society for the Suppression of Vice, which indiscriminately hunts pornographic postcards and great works of art. The only qualification that Earl Browder has for donning the mantle of the late Anthony J. Comstock or his successor, John S. Sumner, is that part of his character which for years earned him the name of "Uriah Heep" in the Communist Party.

The mind of anyone who is even slightly acquainted with the General-Secretary of the American Stalinists, cannot conceive of him in the position of a moral judge, any more than it could

grasp a Phil Frankfeld, let us say, in the role of Carrie Nation or Pussyfoot Johnson.

No, the whole point of the impending American purge, as is the case in Russia, is that it pursues not moral but political aims. And political aims no less base and reprehensible than the immorality and immodest behavior which Browder pretends to combat.

The Stalinists are intent on making the Communist Party as respectable as possible in the eyes of the American bourgeoisie—to make it entirely acceptable to the ruling class, to prove that it is fully house-broken—anything at all if Wall Street will only decide to join the "democratic front against Fascism". Stalin demonstrates his suitability as a not-to-be-feared ally of the French and British bourgeoisie by physically annihilating every man and woman who to the slightest or remotest degree symbolizes or incarnates the revolutionary ideas that make the October insurrection of 1917 possible. Essentially, that is what is what is being planned for the American Stalinist "cadres".

Their Only Way

These "old-timers", all of them reduced by this time to obliging hacks of the political machine, must be shoved into the background or wiped out of the party entirely. That cannot be done on political grounds, for a political purpose. And what shadow, or even evanescent whisper of a disagreement is permissible in the ranks of the party bureaucracy?

The only way of getting rid of burdensome elements with something of a past, is by framing them up. And since the most loathsome way is the one usually preferred by the wholly degenerated "cadres" of the Stalinist leadership, the frame-up is to be based on the "immoral conduct" of the victim.

We are not among those who hold up the decadent lives and manners of the bourgeoisie as anything like a standard of morality. Nor are we so ignorant as to believe that the wanton, irresponsible Stalinist bureaucrats—from top to bottom and excluding precious few of them—conduct what Browder calls their "private lives" in a way that guarantees them canonization by the Catholic Church. Nor, moreover, are we very much interested in that question; the political lives of the Stalinists are, heaven knows, sufficiently repulsive.

Significant Fact

It is, however—we repeat—political aims that Browder pursues. Highly significant is the fact that in appointing the editor for the new Chicago daily paper of the C. P., Browder went over the heads of a dozen more or less indicated "old-timers"—Weinstone, Minor, Amter, Bedacht, W. Dunne, Don, Gannes (who is morally qualified, to boot), Darcy, Williamson, and others—and selected for the post a man who virtually just entered the party, Louis Budenz.

The purge is coming—for Browder's threat was no idle or accidental remark. Protestations of loyalty, which prospective victims are sure to make, will avail them as little as they did the capitulators to Stalin in the Soviet Union.

Packinghouse Workers Repudiate Fake C.I.O.

MINNEAPOLIS—A smashing blow against the Stalinist attempt to link the progressive labor movement here with gangsterism was delivered at the December 5 St. Paul meeting of the Minnesota State Council of the Packinghouse Workers of the C.I.O.

Contrasting the national C.I.O. policy with the rule or ruin policy of the Stalinist-controlled C.I.O. of this state, the Packinghouse Council unanimously went on record against the Stalinist attempt to dishonor the memory of Pat Corcoran by terming his death the result of gangster struggle for control of the A. F. of L.

The Packinghouse Council is constituted by representatives from all the Packinghouse locals in the state. It represents the only real union locals in the C.I.O. here, outside of the needle trades which also oppose the Stalinist policy. The resolution follows:

WHEREAS, the labor movement is at present divided, and

WHEREAS, such a condition is of benefit only to the enemies of the labor movement and cannot continue without virtual civil war,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Minnesota State Council that we stand definitely for a unified trade union movement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon the Washington Unity Negotiations Conference to make all possible haste in unifying the labor movement on the basis of democratic industrial unionism in the mass production industries.

WHEREAS: The Minnesota State Council of Packinghouse Workers is a labor organization founded on the principles of militant and democratic industrial unionism and on the firm belief that Labor as a class must fight its class enemies,

AND WHEREAS: We fully realize as class conscious workers that Pat Corcoran was slain by the mortal enemies of organized labor and that his murder, therefore, is equally a blow at our section of the labor movement as well as against all labor, and must be avenged by the united struggle of all workers regardless of their affiliations,

AND WHEREAS: We deeply resent the vicious blow struck at all labor in the brutal assassination of Patrick J. Corcoran, militant Minnesota labor leader—a death which we deeply mourn,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the M. S. C. hereby go on record against Corcoran's enemies—the enemies of powerful workingclass organizations—and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we do our very utmost to find and convict those responsible, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we protest against and deplore the erroneous actions of the State C.I.O. Committee and the Hennepin County C.I.O. Council for their policy of interposing and injecting the issue and cry of "gangsterism" in the labor movement of Minneapolis—a policy which we feel is most harmful to the welfare and future of the C.I.O. and a united labor movement—one which can only lead to the destruction of bonafide unionism—and which we feel is certainly in sharp contradiction to the policies of the C.I.O. nationally, especially in view of the fact that George Cole, Regional Director of the C.I.O., at the Coroner's inquest clearly repudiated these expressions of the State C.I.O. Committee and their Hennepin County Council and its newspaper on "gangsterism."

Copies to be sent to: The Unionist, The Packinghouse Worker, and the C I O Industrial Unionist, and to the national and regional offices of the C.I.O.

Adopted unanimously by the Minnesota State Council of Packinghouse Workers, December 5, 1937.

Last Minute Minneapolis News

Important developments in Minneapolis, reported as we go to press, are being held over for full publication for the next issue of the Socialist Appeal. Among them are the following:

1. Teamsters Union wins the strike of the Wholesale Grocery Drivers.

2. Detlaf Wieck, a Stalinist paid official of the Carpenters Union, was removed from office by the indignant membership following a slanderous attack on Pat Corcoran and the Teamsters Union.

3. Capitalist Press threatens a Vigilante Movement against unionism.

4. William Wright, A. F. of L. representative, exploded the "Bridges Assassination" hoax.