

# Rivera Bares Mexican Plot Against Trotsky

MEXICO CITY, D.F.—A devastating exposure of the aims and frame-up plots of the Stalinist GPU operating on the North American continent was widely publicized here recently in El Universal, influential Mexican newspaper.

An amalgam against Leon Trotsky was attempted by the GPU here when Hernan Laborde, GPU agent and secretary of the Stalinist party, tried to link up Trotsky with the machinations of General Cedillo, fascist leader. Laborde made his slanderous charge at a People's Front meeting here.

## Tried Worn-Out Method

Pressed for facts or documents, Laborde failed to produce any. He tried the worn-out method of claiming that Trotsky knew a General who knew Cedillo, and that the general, whose name is Antonio Villarreal, was the link.

The article printed in El Universal exploded the myth of the "link" and vindicated Trotsky completely since it gave the real facts about Villarreal and also placed the GPU in the limelight which it hadn't expected.

The unmasking of the GPU and the publicity given to its every move was a severe set-back for the Stalinist frame-up artists.

El Universal printed the exposure in the form of a transcript containing a public conversation, in the presence of reporters, between General Villarreal and Diego Rivera, noted painter and friend of Trotsky.

The El Universal article, in part, reads:

## An Incredible Charge

"How can Sr. Hernan Laborde, if he is in his right mind," said General Villarreal, "make the ridiculous and incredible charge that I am making 'political combinations' with Trotsky, and that I am a fascist?"

Diego answered:

"Because Laborde and his accomplices are trying to exploit the fact that the International Commission of Inquiry into the Moscow Trials, presided over in New York by the greatest philosopher, John Dewey, approached you, asking you to participate in it."

"But why did the Commission address itself to me, when I have no personal or political relations with any of its members, and moreover have never occupied myself with any of the matters in which it is interested?"

## Record of Villarreal

"The Commission approached Gen. Antonio I. Villarreal," said Diego Rivera, "because he is one of the initiators of the Mexican Revolution; his struggles began before 1910, the official date of the beginning of this Revolution; he is one of the first labor organizers of his country; his initial trade union work prepared the famous revolutionary strike of Cananea, with Flores Magon, and at that time to organize workers in Mexico was a way to go to jail, exile, or the gallows; not as now, in the period of the Laborde, when it is a convenient way of getting into the Chamber of Deputies or the Cabinet, or of collecting salaries paid by the Moscow government or that of Mexico, or both..."

"The GPU," added Diego Rivera, "has committed a serious tactical error. You, before now, did not know in reality, through experience, of what sort, of what nature were the Stalinist slanders and lies about the Moscow

Trials, though you could deduce it from the documents and substantiating facts exhibited by the International Commission; but now, thanks to the slanders of Stalin's police agent, Hernan Laborde, you know from your own experience where leads the cynicism of the Moscow liars, by analogy with their Mexican colleagues who impute to you the fantastic, ridiculous, and even farcical intention of preparing a coup in Mexico in complicity with Trotsky.

## A Ridiculous Charge

"On the other hand, what interest would Trotsky himself have in preparing a coup against the only government in the entire world that has given him asylum, above all without concerning himself with the taking of power by the proletariat?"

"The G.P.U. has placed you and Trotsky," he continued, "in the center of its concentric intrigue to hide the principal crime of its manoeuvre. The aim is nothing else but to create in Mexico a situation that would persuade President Cardenas that his only salvation against fascism is to deliver himself into the arms of Moscow. Patiently, like moisture, Stalinism has permeated the bureaucratic mediums of Mexico: the magistracy, all the dependencies of the Department of Education, a good part of another department and even organs very near to the Executive."

"The occasion arriving, it would cost Stalin or his G.P.U. nothing to spend a few millions for 'cannon shots' (as General Obregon called the attentions paid to his colleagues to interest them in being 'persuaded') to create a pseudo-sub-fascist uprising, with the purpose of bringing about an objective situation that would push the Government of Mexico into the arms of the G.P.U., and supplant the power of the present government by that of Stalinism."

## Object of Maneuver

"The real object of this manoeuvre is to create in Mexico a base for action, blackmail or political racketeering against the Washington government. Stalin needs the collaboration of the United States not only for the exchange on a grand scale of the products of industry and for financial combinations but, above all, for political support at the international gambling table."

"Stalin not only needs the United States in the Orient, but in the entire world. Stalin wishes to use in Latin America (which remains the surest and nearest field of investment and market for the United States) and especially in Mexico, which shares a very extensive and vulnerable frontier with the United States, a tactic of pressure and concession toward that country. Through the control of the power of the G.P.U. in the Latin American countries, if the United States proceeds in agreement with Moscow, he will yield and make concessions to American capital in the name of the defense of the U.S.S.R., which needs the United States as an ally or at least as a sympathizer. But if the latter is stubborn in regard to aiding Stalin, he will use the 'Popular Front Governments' that

he has succeeded in establishing in America to bring pressure against the U.S. interests invested in the Spanish American countries in the name and title of 'anti-imperialism.'

"But this game, unfortunately for Stalin, cannot help being discovered and understood by Washington. This game will be particularly dangerous, even more than for Stalin himself, for the governments of Latin America, and especially for Mexico, which shows itself easily permeable by Stalinism, that is to say, by the G.P.U. Certainly Washington will not tolerate the Stalinist attempt at blackmailing and racketeering pressure. The history of Mexico and all Latin America teaches us that the power of the United States has had vast means of action in this region to preserve its interests."

"But to hide this game which, whatever the direction it takes, threatens the national interests of the Mexican people, because it threatens them with falling under the tyranny of the G.P.U., there has been invented the new ridiculous and coarse slander, the cynical amalgam: 'Trotsky-Villarreal-Vasconcelos-Cedillo-fascism.' For its 'future' ends, the G.P.U., suffering from narcissism, is also preparing its candidate for the government of Mexico, which will be the next chapter of its activities here."

## "Just An... Assumption"

Franklin D. Roosevelt was asked at a press conference the other day, what he thought of the present "recession". He answered: "Just an assumption."

I wonder, if when the 180,000 steel workers who have been laid off in the past few months tell their wives and families there is no food for them, that they will answer, "Just an assumption."

I wonder if the thousands who are standing in line at the relief offices all over the country can agree with "just an assumption"?

The Stock market seems to me to be going down. Or is that perhaps "just an assumption"?

Maybe I should turn the market graph upside down. Then the market would appear to be going up. Or is that "just an assumption"?

Roosevelt's State Department says that there is no war going on in China. Is that "just an assumption"?

The thousands of Chinese that are facing Japanese guns made from American scrap iron don't seem to think that it is "just an assumption".

Roosevelt seems to have been having trouble with his teeth lately. What would he have thought of his dentist if he had been told that it was "just an assumption"?

In the case of the tooth he knew that something was rotten. In thinking that a dentist who would make such a diagnosis was also rotten, he would not be making "just an assumption". We know that there is something rotten in the present capitalist system. And that is not "just an assumption". — John F. Dwyer.

## INTERNATIONAL NOTES

G.P.U. Supervises Soviet Election—Arrests and Shootings Continue—Last Minute Removals From Ballot.

By John G. Wright

### Stalin Elects Himself

The elections in Russia are over—"officially". As was guaranteed in advance, 100% of the voters turned out "unanimously" to elect Stalin and 1,142 other members of the Supreme Council (569 for the Council of the Union and 574 for the Council of Nationalities), i.e., 1,142 stooges for Stalin.

### Advised Ballots Be Signed

In addition to the previous vast mobilization of the apparatus, from the 900,000 school teachers down to all school children of "pioneer age", more than 1,000,000 "agitators" were sent out to the rural districts and 2,000,000 "volunteers" (as proudly reported by the Daily Worker for Dec. 13) assisted the G.P.U. in driving the people to the polls. The Soviet citizen in these elections had the choice between either showing up at the polls or explaining to the G.P.U. his failure to vote for Stalin. While the Stalin press cynically kept up the sham of the "secret" ballot—Pravda insisted, if you please, that unless the ballot was sealed it would be invalid—it at the same time made it quite clear to the citizens that they had better have iron-clad proof of having voted, suggesting, in fact, that they sign their names to the ballot, thus placing the illiterates on the spot.

Sender Garlin reports in the Daily Worker that "Children refused to stay at home and insisted on accompanying their parents to the polls." Apart from the fact that the absence of a schoolchild (previously "mobilized" for the campaign) would have to be explained by the parents, the presence of children constituted an additional proof that the parents had not been remiss in their duties.

### Voting "Safe-Guarded"

Detail after detail provides proof of the vast reign of terror under which the elections were held. "Virtually nothing was allowed to interfere with the sacred right of all Soviet citizens to vote. People voted in home districts, in sanatoriums and vacationing places, on battleships on the Red Fleet and on trains which sped over the rolling steppes of Russia," howls the Daily Worker. Even being sick in bed was no excuse for failure to vote. A Soviet citizen could provide against such contingency either like Stanislavsky, "the venerable director of Moscow's history-making theatre", by making an official request "to be permitted to vote at home", or, if he happened not to be a dignitary, by applying for one of "the fleet of cars placed at the disposal of aged and invalid voters to drive them to and from the polls." (D. W. Dec. 13). It is hardly to be wondered at that many harassed functionaries, seeking to safeguard themselves against corpses being suddenly resurrected or possible errors in documentation, placed on the rolls the names of people recently deceased, and of new born babes, to save nothing of the feeble-minded and the insane. (See Pravda for Nov. 25).

From the pages of the official Stalin press, it is quite apparent that toward the latter stages of the election campaign, particularly when it became clear that only those handpicked by Stalin would be placed on the ballot, a serious apathy, to put it mildly, set in among the "activists" engaged in organizing the elections. Thus, Pravda for November 25, after giving a glowing account of the progress of the campaign, comments cautiously: "However many party and trade union organizations, city and district Soviets forget about the organizational and technical preparation for the elections."

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The drive against the "enemies of the people" has not abated and it is certain that far from slackening it will gather in momentum especially in the coming days before the convocation of the Supreme Council "sometime in January".

### Last Minute Changes in Ballot

To the long list of Soviet embassies that are being purged, should be added the personnel of the Tokio embassy, the majority of whom have been "recalled." Rumours will not down of a pending trial of no less than 15 Soviet diplomats—on the charge of "Trotskyism." A purge, the scope of which will become clear only when the complete list of candidates is finally made public, is taking place even among the newly "elected" deputies. To the names of Postyshev, formerly of the Political Bureau, and Mezhlauk, who replaced Ordjonikidze as the head of Heavy Industry, and both of whom were previously removed from the roll of candidates, Stalin has now added the names of General Alksnis and General Bokis, head of the Air and Tanks Corps respectively. Alksnis was among those who sent Tukhachevsky and others to the executioner's block.

So brazen is the work of the frame-up artists that even the pages of Izvestia had to be devoted to the "exposure" of one over-zealous individual. The editor of Russian Art has been fulminating against the staff of another Soviet publication Theatre as guilty of every kind of anti-Soviet crime, up to and including "Trotskyism". Simultaneously, the editor of Theatre has been conducting the same sort of campaign against the staff of Russian Art. The "scandal" comprises the fact that one and the same individual, I. Altman, is editor of Theatre while he also happens to be editor of Russian Art. The gentleman was playing safe. (See Izvestia for Nov. 24).

In every one of its aspects the "election" reflects the depraved and brutal regime of Stalin. To the long list of his judicial frame-ups, Stalin has merely added an electoral frame-up.