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On to Convention!

New G. P. U. Frame-Ups Exposed; Purge Continues

By Max Shachtman

The Stalinist frame-up system continues to work at top speed. With brutal and monotonous regularity the firing squad of the G.P.U. mows down all the real and potential opponents of the Stalinist regime, concentrating especially upon all those old Bolsheviks who are a living reminder of the Russian proletarian revolution of 1917.

The Assassination of Karakhan

Hardly a day passes without a new report in the press of a sensational execution of individuals and groups of persons by the all-powerful bureaucracy. Now comes the news of the assassination of Leo Karakhan—assassination, because no serious or informed person can lend the slightest credence to the charge that this old Bolshevik, who served the revolutionary movement and the revolution itself for decades, even in the horribly distorted form of working silently for Stalin, was guilty of having provided Fascism with Soviet government secrets.

With Karakhan, the G.P.U. murdered seven others, including Aveli Yenukidze, another old revolutionist whose whole life was given to the cause of the working class, framed up on the utterly unbelievable charge of counter-revolutionary activity in alliance with foreign imperialism in his native Georgia.

G.P.U. Ravages Abroad

But it is not only with citizens of the Soviet Union that the counter-revolutionary terror of Stalin concerns itself. The murder of Nin, Berneri and Durrutti in Spain, and the imprisonment in G.P.U. private dungeons of hundreds of other revolutionists, is adequate proof of the worldwide activity of the frame-up gang. The hectic attempts made to involve militant revolutionists in Minneapolis on the frame-up charges of gangsterism and murder, in connection with the slaying of Patrick Corcoran, is proof that the labor movement of the United States is not exempt from the sphere of the G.P.U.'s devastations.

And now comes the latest attempt to frame up the whole movement of the Fourth International in this country, and comrade Trotsky—in connection with the "disappearance" of the two visitors to the Soviet Union who travelled under the name of Robinson.

The statement of our organization on the Robinson case, appearing elsewhere in this issue, gives a clear enough view of what is involved in the new frame-up.

Panay Incident Unmasks Aims of Imperialism

By Li Fu-jeu

The sinking of the United States gunboat Panay and three American oil tankers in the Yangtze River at Nanking, occurring as an accompaniment to the capture of China's erstwhile capital by the armies of Japanese imperialism, has posed before the working class of this country, in sharpest form, the role and aims of American imperialism in the Far East.

During more than five months of warfare in China, the activities and aims of the Japanese imperialists have come into repeated collision with the interests of Japan's imperialist rivals—first of all, Great Britain and the United States. But both of these powers, unprepared to challenge

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Chicago Mass Meeting To Welcome Delegates

CHICAGO, Ill.—Rank and file delegates of the Socialist Party branches throughout the country were heading this week towards this city for the Emergency Convention of the Left Wing of the Party to reconstitute it on a revolutionary basis.

The convention will begin on December 31 at 10 a. m. at the Harrison Hotel, 57 E. Harrison Street, it was announced by the Convention Arrangements Committee.

All delegates have been requested to register immediately upon arrival in Chicago with the convention arrangements committee at the Harrison Hotel.

To Hold Mass Meeting

A large mass meeting to welcome the delegates has been arranged for Wednesday December 29, in the Randolph room of the Steuben club at 188 W. Randolph Street. It will begin at 8:30 p. m., according to the Chicago Socialist Party (Left wing) which is sponsoring the meeting.

Prominent revolutionary socialists will be speakers. They will explain the aims and purposes

of the emergency convention. Among those listed to speak are James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the Left Wing branches, Max Shachtman, editor of the New International, Vincent Ray Dunn, Minneapolis labor leader, and Crary Trimble, Secretary of the California Socialist Party (Left Wing).

A plenum of the National Action Committee of the Appeal association is expected to be held before the convention opens. It will make recommendations to the convention delegates.

Delegates From Class Struggle Fronts

Preliminary reports indicate that delegates from points as far apart as California and Massachusetts are on their way to this historic gathering. Rubber workers, steel workers, auto workers, maritime workers, and many other industrial unionists have been elected as delegates.

The convention culminates a long struggle of the revolutionary socialists in the Socialist Party to build a revolutionary party. The expulsion of the entire Left Wing by the Thomas-Hoan-Tyler bureaucracy of the national committee compelled the calling of a rank and file convention.

A three months discussion on all key questions before the revolutionary movement preceded the emergency convention. Special active workers conferences in various sections of the country laid the basis for the trade union discussions at the convention. Recommendations from the conferences will be taken up at the convention.

ing steel locals with officers elected and controlled by the rank and file. 2. Insisting that district councils be composed of delegates elected by the locals and not appointed by the S.W. O. C. organizers. 3. Insistence on the calling of a convention within six months to set up a real international with delegates elected by the individual locals. 4. This convention to elect all convention committees from the floor, adopt a constitution, establish policies for the union. Wage, policy, executive and other major committees to be elected by the convention. 5. The establishment of a genuine system of shop stewards.

I wish to add only a few comments, some of which involve me directly.

Stalinists Distort Interview

Soon after the news of the Robinsons' "disappearance" was published in the U.S. press, I gave an interview to the New York Daily News in which I expressed a hypothetical opinion on the case, none other being possible in view of the meager details. The Stalinist news-hacks in New York immediately wired a completely garbled version of my interview to Moscow.

A few days later, the capitalist press here reported that the

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Steel Workers Meet Votes S. W. O. C. Full Power to Negotiate Contracts

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—On December 14 to 16 nearly one thousand steel workers met in Pittsburgh to attend the convention called by the Steel Workers Organizing Committee. In the call for the convention the leadership labelled the gathering a "Wage and Policy Convention." This meant that the convention would be asked to confine itself to certain immediate practical questions and not go into the many organizational matters, particularly the all-important matter of the formation of an international union and the discarding of the fake Amalgamated Association of Iron Steel and Tin Workers.

Reason for Calling Convention

The real reason for calling these thousand steel workers to Pittsburgh was to give the leadership a blank check in the business of negotiating wage contracts and determining the policies to be pursued in dealing with the steel manufacturers. Specifically, the S.W.O.C. leadership wanted full and unlimited power and authority to bargain with and sign contracts with the companies

of the United States Steel Corporation. The present contracts expire February 28.

On the first day of the convention one delegate took the floor and moved that the convention constitute itself immediately as a constitutional convention for the setting up of an international. Chairman Philip Murray declared the motion out of order but promised that he would answer the "question of the delegate" before the convention adjourned.

If there was any doubt in the mind of any wide-awake delegate as to who ran the gathering it was dispelled when the rules of the convention were read and in the course of Murray's explanations of the rules and his refusal to permit amendments to resolutions from the floor. One rule was concerned with order in the convention. Any delegate who acted in such a manner as in the opinion of the chairman "was disruptive or tended to hamper the work of the convention would be warned for the first offense." If he persisted the chairman could order his name "erased" from the list of delegates. It was clear that this rule was not to pro-

tect the convention from the disruption caused by drunks as some delegates thought but was for the purpose of stifling any persistent and militant opposition to the plans of the bureaucracy.

When delegates took the floor to amend resolutions they were declared out of order by Murray under the rules. "No changes, amendments or subsidiary motions," said Murray, could be made from the floor until after the report of the resolutions committee had been voted up or down. Upon being pressed further by a delegate Murray said that if the delegates did not like a resolution they could vote it down and send it back to the committee for reconsideration.

Without exaggeration it can be said that this convention was a useless expenditure of time and money for the rank and file steel workers. They could have remained home and handed over all power and authority to the S.W.O.C. by mail.

There are some things, however, that the steel workers should have learned from this experience: 1. The imperative necessity for digging in and build-