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New Party Formed; To Fight War Plans

Convention Resolutions Stress Fight on War, Mass Work, Defense of Soviet Union by New Party

The Convention of the revolutionary socialists meeting in Chicago over the New Year's Day week-end devoted most of its sessions to a serious consideration of the problems facing the American and the international working class. The results of its deliberations, embodied in the resolutions adopted, will be published in full in subsequent issues of the Socialist Appeal. In the current issue we will confine ourselves only to the most striking passages in the main resolutions that were passed, in order to give a general impression of the spirit and policies of the convention.

Political Resolution Points to War Danger

The Political Resolution analyzes the role of American imperialism and the task of the socialists in the coming war as follows:

"It is entirely inconceivable that American imperialism can succeed in resisting the inexorable tendencies that are pulling it into the vortex of the coming World War. The United States is today the strongest world power. The bases of its economic and political strength extend over every continent, and the shocks and convulsions of capitalism anywhere in the world have their immediate, direct or indirect, effects upon this country. This is expressed in military terms by the fact that, despite the virtually invulnerable geographic position of the United States, its armaments program today is the largest in its peacetime history, adjusted to the objectives of world conquest rather than to the myth of self-contained isolation. Politically, it was expressed in the clearest terms in the aggressive, interventionist speech of Roosevelt in Chicago, announcing the determi-

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Appeal View Confirmed in "Robinson"-GPU Mystery

By Junius

While the powers that be in Washington and Moscow continued all last week trying to make up their minds what to do about the "Robinson"-Rubens case, which now bids fair to be a Frankenstein monster capable of devouring its creators, a few facts leaked into the capitalist press for the first time, penetrating the wall of silence which had previously prevailed.

A significant dispatch from Washington, published in the New York World Telegram of January 4th, confirms the analysis of the affair made by James P. Cannon on December 17th and repeated in these columns last week.

The World-Telegram dispatch follows in part:

"Informed Washington circles said today it is now believed that the mysterious Donald L. Robinsons, Soviet prisoners in Moscow, were former Soviet secret agents.

"The Washington theory, it was learned, is that the Robinson arrests were to be followed by a new series of confession trials in Russia.

"Major objects of the new trials would have been an attack

upon foreign Trotskyist movements and a spy scare against Japan. It was reported that the American publicity given the Robinson case had been received with great satisfaction by Soviet authorities as 'a fine build-up'....

"A series of coincidences, developed by the investigations here, have drawn Washington's attention to the secret agent theory, originally put forward by Max Shachtman and other American Trotskyist leaders.

Ravitch Linked to Foster

"It was learned that new study has been given to the part played in the case by Helen Ravitch, director of the Drama Travel League Bureau, who received

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Convention Sidelights

Riding the rails, thumbing their way, traveling by train and car. Delegates coming to the convention represented all sections of the country and a wide variety of backgrounds, and experiences. Here are a few, picked at random.

California: The honor of traveling the longest distance to the Convention goes to two young comrades from Fresno, who made the trip the hard way, by hitchhiking and riding the rods. They're concentrating at the present time on setting up party locals in the agricultural villages in the surrounding territory, a grape growing locality.

Minnesota: A leader in the Minnesota Farmers Union, John Enestvedt, of Olivia, Minn., is a living refutation of the Manhattan notion that Scandinavians make phlegmatic revolutionists. He's busy trying to convert what he terms the petty bourgeois slogan "Land to the peasants" into "Land to the Teamsters Joint Council and the Farmhands."

The Twin Cities sent a delegation of about 15 delegates and several alternates and visitors. It

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Left Wing Delegates Found Socialist Workers Party at Convention in Chicago

CHICAGO, Ill. — The most impressive convention of the revolutionary movement in America during the past decade was being held here this week by the rank and file of the Socialist party left wing branches who had been expelled by Norman Thomas and his executive committee for the advocacy of their revolutionary Marxist views.

Over 100 regular and fraternal delegates representing in their majority trade union workers were registered and meeting in sessions that began promptly on Friday morning, December 31.

After a brief speech of welcome by Albert Goldman, Chicago labor attorney, the convention plunged into the intensive and extensive work before it.

War Crisis Looms

The first major report was delivered by Max Shachtman, editor of the New Internationalist, on the political perspectives of the United States and the tasks of the revolutionary movement.

"It is entirely inconceivable that American imperialism can succeed in resisting the inexorable tendencies that are pulling it into the vortex of the coming world war," Shachtman declared.

"If the working class is unable to prevent the outbreak of war, and the United States enters directly into it, our party stands pledged to the traditional position of revolutionary marxism."

Defeatism Reaffirmed

"It will utilize the crisis of capitalist rule engendered by the war to prosecute the class struggle with the utmost intransigence, to strengthen the independent labor and revolutionary movements, and to bring the war to a close by the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of proletarian rule in the form of the workers state," Shachtman said.

Speaking of the present economic situation, the reporter pointed out that, "it is possible that the full development of the present recession into a deep crisis may be temporarily arrested by a certain period of economic upturn, but the line of development

towards a raging crisis is already unmistakable."

Stressing the democratic nature of the inner life of the revolutionary party, Shachtman said, "Democratic centralism, which is our principle of organization, is based in the first place upon a common adherence to the fundamental program of the party. It implies the free exchange of opinion, the right of discussion, presentation of and defense of views within the frame-work of the principles of revolutionary Marxism, the unimpaired right of the membership to decide freely the policy of the organization and to select its leadership."

Stalinist 'Democracy'

"The 'democracy' of the Stalinist parties is confined to the 'right' of the party membership to carry out unquestioningly all the decisions arbitrarily arrived at by a bureaucratically appointed leadership over which the ranks of that party have absolutely no control."

The resolution on political perspectives was adopted following a lengthy discussion.

A full day was devoted to the problems of the labor movement and the role of revolutionary socialists in the unions. It began with a report on the trade union resolution by James P. Cannon, national secretary of the Convention Arrangements Committee.

"Unity of the labor movement is a vital necessity and our party must be in the forefront of the struggle to achieve that unity," Cannon emphasized. He warned that unity which did not include a class struggle program against the bosses, a recognition of the rights of industrial unionism, and democracy for the rank and file would become meaningless.

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