

Minneapolis Unionists Bring Suit for Libel Against Daily Worker

Leaders Accept Speed-Up; Akron Workers Aroused

MINNEAPOLIS.—Instituting libel suit against the Stalinist *Daily Worker*, the Executive Board of General Drivers, Local 544, retained Albert Goldman, noted Chicago labor lawyer, to proceed with the case.

Suit will be filed in the names of Vincent, Grant, and Miles Dunne, Farrel Dobbs, Bill Brown, and Local 544. Materials to be used in the suit are the special anti-Corcoran edition of the *Daily Worker* and previous material of the same stripe.

Thus the Stalinists will have a chance to try to stretch their "information" to the legal rules of evidence—and to pay a stiff price when they flop.

Further Exposure of West Coast Frame-Up

The whole mechanism of Stalinist frame-ups in this country was further blasted by testimony obtained from George Cole, local C.I.O. director. As readers of the *Socialist Appeal* will recall, the West Coast stooges of the Communist Party attempted to come to aid of their Minneapolis brethren with the "confession" of a certain Robert Bell that he was sent by Minnesota labor leaders to kill Harry Bridges, the C.I.O. director on the Pacific Coast. This "confession" was blasted at once in San Francisco. (See the *Socialist Appeal* of Dec. 11, 1937.)

Cole's revelations, made public by the Northwest Organizer, organ of the Teamsters Joint Council of Minneapolis, not only expose the frame-up but bring to light the methods by which they are concocted. We reprint the Northwest Organizer's article on the subject, in full:

How the Bell Affidavit Was Cooked Up

That one C.I.O. official warned another against using the phoney Bell affidavit cooked up by the Stalinists, but that the C.I.O. officials then got together to render the frame-up more plausible, was revealed when George Cole, Regional Director of the C.I.O., was recalled for further examination last week by the coroner's jury investigating the murder of Pat Corcoran.

Subpoenaed by the jury the correspondence of the C.I.O. officials was introduced in the record, and reveals the deliberateness with which the frame-up was engineered.

Wanted "Right Kind" Of Information

On November 17, Richard Francis, Regional Director of the C.I.O. in Seattle, Washington, wrote a letter to Cole, asking him for information on Robert J. Bell. On the 18th Cole wired Francis: "Party mentioned unreliable and no good." But Francis answered by wire, repeating his request and on the 19th Francis wired Cole again for material.

On the 20th Francis wrote Cole, explaining that Bell had sworn to an affidavit that Meyer Lewis, A.F. of L. representative, had hired Bell to kill Harry Bridges, and urging Cole that "Any information you can furnish us will greatly assist us in our work to discredit the American Federation of Labor and break the Teamsters racket under Dave Beck on the West

Coast." In other words, despite Cole's warning, Francis insisted on the "right kind" of information!

Cole's Warning

Once more, on November 22, Cole warned Francis: "Party mentioned treacherous character. Take no chances," and followed up with a letter "to emphasize my telegram that the man is no good." The next day Cole wrote to Francis, explaining to him that "The drivers (Local 544) warned all locals not to trust Bell in matters of money and advised against hiring him as an organizer." However, Cole went on to provide details useful to Francis in building up a false picture of Bell as an A.F. of L. organizer. But he ended his letter,

once again, with a warning against Bell.

But Francis—egged on by the Stalinists who had provided the phoney affidavit—insisted on going through with it. His answer to Cole's repeated warnings was to send copies of the affidavit to all parts of the country for release to the press. Obviously fearing negative comment by Cole, Francis wired him instructions on November 29th to release the affidavit to the press "with no comments other than ask for a federal investigation."

But Francis was not the only scoundrel. Cole, after all his warnings, himself read the affidavit to a Stalinist mass meeting here on December 1. But two days later, confronted on the witness stand at the coroner's inquest, Cole denied all knowledge and responsibility for the affidavit. With the opening of his files by the jury, however, it is clear what his foul role was in this filthy business.

AKRON.—Unionism in Akron suffered another setback last week when officials of Goodyear local agreed to a company proposal to speed up production, and ultimately cut wages.

Using the excuse of preventing decentralization by cutting down unit production costs, John House the reactionary president of the local No. 2, United Rubber Workers of America, accepted the management's plan to increase tire production seven per cent per man each day.

The rubber companies, notorious throughout American industry for their speed-up system, did not slow down production until after the Goodyear strike in 1936 and the series of sitdowns which followed it.

Union members placed an unofficial limit on the amount of work to be done each shift. Although House and his henchmen prevented the "limit" from becoming an official union policy, the workers maintained it in the shops.

The limit has become so explosive an issue, that the membership of the union were only informed of the officialdom's capitulation through the daily press. It is probable that it will

not be discussed at the business meeting, but left to the plant foremen to introduce.

"In event the program is worked out, it will be handled department by department, it was learned. There will be no general program to cover the entire factory", the Akron Times-Press said.

Since the limit was the greatest single factor in building unions in the rubber industry, its abolition will throw the U. R. W. A. into further retreat. Men with 10, 15, and 20 years' service, who were about to be discharged in 1936 because they could not compete with younger, faster workers, joined the union, because it saved their livelihood. Now their future, and the future of the local is imperiled by the surrender of the officers.

If successful in bringing back the speed-up, the companies will cut wages. Before the days of the U. R. W. A., the companies often urged the men to produce more.

The company would then cut wages for each unit produced.

Thousands of Akron workers in the grip of the economic crisis may accept this attack upon their living standards. They may believe, at first, that more production and longer hours may increase their wages slightly.

"I have worked one month in the last five," one Goodyear tire builder stated. "My total wages for this period were less than what a WPA laborer gets."

However, not all the unionists will take the attack without resistance. Already several have been arrested on charges of "beating up production hogs". Resistance against the rubber barons must be organized, directed and done on a mass basis.

The organization of a progressive bloc on the basis of retaining wage and hour standards and for union democracy, is the first step to be taken in combatting the combined attack of the companies and their stooges within the union.

CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

(Continued from page 2)

perly directed by the revolutionary party, it may become the decisive popular slogan with the masses of the workers and above all of the militant trade unionists."

The Russian Resolution

After a thorough-going analysis of conditions in the Soviet Union, the Russian Resolution draws the following conclusions:

The Solution of the Present Crisis Of the Soviet Union

"The present crisis in the Soviet Union will eventuate either in capitalist restoration, which will follow with certainty as the immediate result of successful imperialist attack, or in the long run with equal certainty from the continued rule of the Stalinist bureaucracy; or, on the other hand, in the conquest of power by the workers, the re-establishment of their own democratically controlled dictatorship as the State power, the reform of the economy, and the reassertion of unambiguous progress toward socialism. The character and methods of the present dictatorship, its armed suppression of all opposition or suspicion of opposition, has done away with all possibility of the peaceful reform of the State, and leaves the masses only the road of political revolution.

The Defense of the Revolution

"The outcome of the present crisis in the Soviet Union will be decided by international forces. The Soviet Union is an integral part of the world economy and polity, and cannot be artificially isolated from the rest of the world in spite of all the pretenses of the theory of socialism in one country. The economic and social conflicts within the Soviet Union are reflections and expressions of the conflicts of international economy and of the international class struggle. The dependence of the Soviet Union and its destiny upon international forces is most strikingly of all shown in the preparations for and probable events of the coming imperialist war. Indeed, the international policies of Stalinism are inescapably bound up with its foreign policy, resting upon alliances with the democratic imperialist powers and the social-patriotic betrayal of the masses and of the workers' revolution.

"The military victory of one or more of the imperialist powers over the Soviet Union would guarantee the immediate restoration of capitalism within the Soviet Union. The unconditional defense

of the Soviet Union against imperialism is therefore the imperative duty of the international proletariat.

"Stalinism, however, likewise in the long run guarantees the complete defeat of the revolution and the restoration of capitalism within the Soviet Union. The revolutionary defense of the Soviet Union, that is the defense of the remaining conquests of the Revolution of 1917—above all of the nationalized economy and the mighty foundation it provides for workers' rule and progress toward socialism—therefore requires no less imperatively the struggle against Stalinism. This means, within the Soviet Union, the political struggle to win the decisive sections of the Soviet masses to the revolutionary program and upon that basis the overthrow of the Stalinist bureaucracy and the re-establishment of the democratically controlled Workers' State. The struggle against Stalinism, far from being inconsistent with the unconditional defense of the Soviet Union against imperialism, is a necessary part of such defense. The struggle for the revival of the Russian proletariat and for the overthrow of the Stalinist dictatorship that will ensure the socialist progress of the Soviet Union, is impossible without the fullest political and material aid to the Bolshevik-Leninists in the Soviet Union in their work to reconstitute the revolutionary proletarian party of Marxian internationalism, section of the Fourth International.

"The defense of the Soviet Union, of the Russian Revolution, is inseparable now as always from the international revolution. The success of the revolution internationally, in at least certain of the advanced capitalist nations, is the only assurance for the socialist development of the Soviet Union, the only way in which to root out Stalinism and regenerate the Russian Revolution. Defense of the Soviet Union therefore excludes support of any imperialist government, or capitalist government within any imperialist coalition in the coming war, whether or not allied with the Soviet Union; but requires the vigorous prosecution of the class struggle within every country with the aim of the overthrow of the capitalist government and the establishment of a Workers' State. Only such a State can in actuality defend the revolutionary interests of the Soviet Union.

"Within the Soviet Union and internationally, the indispensable condition of the extension of the revolution is the building of the new party of Marxian internationalism, of the Fourth International. The task of the defense of the Soviet Union, the revolutionary struggle for workers' power and for socialism throughout the world, are summed up in the building of the Fourth International, and its sections throughout the world."

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