

Jury To Get New Facts In Rubens Case

Carlo Tresca Will Bare Significant Links In Moscow Frame-Up

BY JUNIUS

A variety of developments during the past week, confirming our earlier predictions, have lifted the Robinson-Rubens mystery to a new level and have exposed still further the systematic character of the frame-up methods employed by the Stalinist international to discredit its political opponents and drive the U.S.A. into war with Japan.

1. The G. P. U., after two months of "sweating" Ruth Marie Rubens, got her into line sufficiently to be able to show her to U.S. Embassy officials in the presence of a group of G.P.U. agents. These officials were permitted to ask after her health and to be told that she desired no legal counsel or other assistance. No questioning was allowed regarding the circumstances of her arrest, past activities, or the movements of Donald L. Robinson, her supposed husband, which were the usual ones of a G.P.U. agent.

Duranty On the Job

2. The G.P.U., through Walter Duranty, New York Times correspondent and cover-up journalist for Stalin, has begun a campaign to sell the Robinson-Rubens frame-up to the American public, which has been highly skeptical of Moscow's hints that these G.P.U. agents are "Trotskyite-Bukharinite-fascist" agents of the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo axis.

His first contribution was an "imaginative" account of the interview between Mrs. Rubens and the Embassy representatives in which he described how the G.P.U. inquirers had established their "moral ascendancy" over the woman and thus bent her to their will. All that he succeeded in revealing was the extent of Stalin's "moral ascendancy" over Duranty.

Duranty, who has frequently referred his readers to Dostoevsky as a guide to an understanding of Stalin's Russia, now adds Freud as an additional indispensable reference for an understanding of the methods of the G.P.U.

There was frightful truth in his "imaginative" account of how Mrs. Rubens looked fearfully at her G.P.U. captors before daring to answer the pertinent and vital questions put to her by Henderson. But Duranty breezily explained it all as "moral ascendancy."

Tresca Issues Statement

3. A sensational statement concerning the Juliet Stuart Poyntz case was made by Carlo Tresca, anarchist and outstanding Italian anti-fascist in this country. Tresca charged publicly that the disappearance of Miss Poyntz is connected with the Robinson-Rubens-G.P.U. frame-up. He has volunteered details and been subpoenaed to appear before a Federal Grand Jury. When the appearance was postponed Monday, Tresca, who was a member of the Dewey Commission on the Moscow trials, issued the following statement to the press:

"I regret the postponement of my appearance before the Grand Jury in the Robinson passport fraud matter. You know I am not permitted to reveal what I intend to say to the Grand Jury. Last week I charged publicly that a Russian secret police agent made off with Miss Poyntz. She has not appeared since, nor has the Communist Party cited a single fact to cast doubt on my

Held By Stalin



Mrs. MARIE RUBENS

charge. Moreover, her attorney has belatedly conceded that my charge is not impossible. It is more than that. It is true.

Epstein Keeps Silent

I have been asked repeatedly whether the man I accuse is the one named in an article in a New York newspaper, Shachno Epstein, former editor of a Communist paper here. If I had wanted to tell the man's name to the press, I would have done so. I will tell his name to the Grand Jury. I can add nothing publicly at this time. I can only say that, as far as I know, Shachno Epstein has not filed any libel suits or even protested.

"We are on the trail of people who know important relevant facts. One is an American agent of the G.P.U., who, before being sent from Moscow to Barcelona, where he played a role in the murder of my dear comrade, Professor Camillo Berneri, sterling anti-fascist and anarchist philosopher and educator, spent a term in a Danish prison after being convicted as a Russian spy. His name is George Mink. He is a New York Communist Party functionary. His past is a matter of public record. He and others of his stripe whom we are seeking could cast light on the Poyntz affair.

Conspiracy Under Way

"We are not dealing with a petty passport fraud, but with a conspiracy originating in Moscow, in which that fraud is a mere link. The object is the staging of a Moscow frame-up trial, designed to stimulate war fever here through a spy scare, and thus drive this country toward war for Stalin's benefit.

"We are going to get to the bottom of the Robinson-Rubens-Poyntz-G.P.U. case and expose the war-mongering conspirators and their master in the Kremlin."

Panic-stricken by the revelations concerning Stalin's latest frame-up, the Daily Worker has denounced Tresca as a Japanese-Fascist spy and has applied the same term to Herbert Solow, a journalist who ran a series of articles in the New York Sun last week exposing the details of the Rubens conspiracy.

Beard Slandered

It has also made insinuations against Dr. Charles A. Beard, advocate of an "isolationist" program in foreign affairs, who recently attacked the Roosevelt-Browder big navy program, by suggesting that Beard's attitude springs from his Japanese connections, i.e., the fact that he served the Tokio municipality after the great earthquake in 1923 as an expert on municipal government reform.

And, of course, the time-honored gangster methods of the Stalinists are being brought into play to prevent the truth reaching the light. A witness supporting Tresca's charges this week received anonymous threats over the telephone from a pay station.

Workers Must Rally Around Beal To Fight Sabotage of His Defense

BULLETIN!

In order to "cut through all secondary and extraneous questions and focus attention on the simple but paramount issue of civil liberties," Fred Beal has decided to drop the fight against his extradition and surrender to the authorities of North Carolina. The Non-Partisan Defense Committee will continue the fight there for reversal of Beal's nine-year-old jail sentence.

The State of North Carolina has sent its representatives to Massachusetts to press for the extradition of Fred Beal, leader of the famous Gastonia textile workers' strike, who was framed-up on a murder charge and sentenced to a 20-year term in prison. The textile barons want their pound of flesh. They cannot forgive Beal for trying to organize their slaves. Their state government is right on the job, demanding of the Massachusetts authorities that their victim be surrendered.

Father Edmund A. Walsh, Dean of Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, notorious Jesuit enemy of the Soviet Union, made a public attack on the defense efforts being made to save Beal from prison. Speaking before the Boston League of Catholic Women, Walsh declared (according to the Boston Daily Record of January 31, 1938) that "the same radical group who defended Sacco and Vanzetti will attempt to make an issue of Beal's case and agitate against his extradition to North Carolina."

C. F. Sabotaging Defense

A press release of the Non-Partisan Committee for the Defense of Fred Beal reports that "at the same time active Communists, Art Shields and William F. Dunne, of the Communist Party's International Labor Defense organization, have brought pressure to bear on Professor Albert Sprague Colledge of Harvard University and Miss Jessica Henderson of Boston, the two guarantors of Beal's bail bond, urging them to withdraw their support of Beal, but have failed in that. Various members of the Non-Partisan Committee for the defense of Fred Beal have received messages seeking to intimidate them into abandoning the defense."

The Committee further reminds us of a pamphlet entitled "Gastonia—the Citadel of the Class Struggle in the South," written in 1929 by the same William F. Dunne, at a time when Fred Beal was still a member of the Communist Party.

Littlepage 'Evidence' Boomerang Against Communists, Lamont Finds

The American Committee for the Defense of Leon Trotsky has just made public three replies sent to Mr. Corliss Lamont, secretary of the Friends of the Soviet Union, in answer to a circular letter he had mailed to members of the American Committee in the hope of having them disassociate themselves from the Committee and from the Dewey Inquiry Commission and its report.

The vain hope of Lamont was based on an article on Soviet industrial sabotage written for the Saturday Evening Post by a Mr. Littlepage, American engineer who worked in Russia for several years. In the article, which was sent to all American Committee members, Littlepage, obviously a red-baiter, denounces all "Communists" as saboteurs and wreckers by their very political nature. In this category he also includes the present rulers of the Soviet Union.

Whitewash "Witness"

"This is the new 'witness' whom the secretary of the Friends of the G.P.U. produced in an attempt to whitewash the assassins who framed-up the Moscow Trials!

In his reply to Lamont, Norman Thomas wrote: "The Dewey Committee, which considering all the circumstances seems to me to have done a very fine piece of work, was concerned with the charges against Trotsky, not all the charges made in Russia, and I do not think its findings particularly affected one way or the other by such proof as the Saturday Evening Post article offers concerning sabotage."

A stinging reply by Carlo Tresca, editor of *Il Martello*, anarchist weekly, declared:

Littlepage's Testimony

"You must have thought of Mr. Ford, the LaFollette Committee and the deplorable espionage system practised in some American industries, when you came across phrases like this in Mr. Littlepage's article:

"The police department of the Commissariat of the Interior has its representatives in every Soviet factory, farm, mine and institution, who keep busy looking out for potential or actual wreckers, and organize a whole army of amateur spies to assist them. In fact, so many people in Soviet institutions are busy watching producers to see that they behave properly that I suspect there are more watchers than there are producers."

"What do you expect, my dear Corliss, from a country where you find more watchers than producers in its industrial plants?"

Dunne wrote:

"An attempt was made to lynch Fred Beal. Every method was tried to arouse the populace to a murderous frenzy... It is the task now—and a task needing the greatest energy and speed—to rally the whole American labor movement and the whole working class in a solid battle line which will stand between these workers and their would-be executioners, a battle line which will oppose an unbreakable front and advancing ranks to the murderous offensive of the textile barons, their government and the capitalist class as a whole."

Only One Change

Since that was written, only one thing has changed: Fred Beal quit the Communist Party and, after his return from Russia, became a critic of the Stalinist regime. The frame-up is the same; the "would-be executioners" are the same; it is still true that, as Dunne wrote nine years ago, the "actual reason for the attempt to railroad these workers (Beal and his comrades) to the electric chair and to long terms in the penitentiary is that they organized the National Textile Workers Union and led a strike of workers in the Loray Mill—the stronghold of the cotton textile industry in the South."

But another change has taken place. In 1929, the Communist Party was in the vanguard of the defense of Beal. In 1938, the C.P. and its degenerate agent Dunne are in the vanguard of the cops and jailers!

"Put him in prison!" cry the North Carolina jailers.

"Withdraw his bail!" cry the jailers' assistants, Dunne, Shields and Browder.

What Must Be Done

"Surround Beal with an iron wall of working class solidarity! Defend this victim of a capitalist frame-up from the textile barons' prisons! Shield him from the North Carolina jailers and their depraved assistants of the Communist Party!"—those are the battle-cries of every honest worker, of every honest liberal, of every decent person who is revolted by the infamous attempt the Stalinist dicks, and their allies, the Southern sheriffs and the Jesuit reaction, are making to railroad an upright, fearless member of the working class to twenty years in a capitalist dungeon.

British Dockmen Stop Japan Cargo

Like others at Middlesbrough and London, British stevedores at Southampton, England, refused last week to handle 22 bales of Japanese cotton goods which had arrived from New York on the liner Berengaria. The Associated Press said the shipment would probably have to be returned to New York.

The workers require little persuasion to act against the Japanese imperialists, but they need to be given a lead. It is high time the maritime unions and the longshoremen went into action in this country, both to prevent Japanese goods from being landed here and to stop our own ruling class from aiding the Japanese imperialists with munitions and supplies.

Revolutionists and left-wing groupings in these unions must give the workers a lead. Let us act NOW.

Dock Strike Ends With Gains In P.R.

The six-week dock strike that stopped all cargo to and from Puerto Rico ended on February 10, when the shipowners agreed to accept the arbitration plan proposed by Governor Winship and previously accepted by the strikers. The longshoremen went back to work for 40 cents an hour (the rate was 32 cents before the strike), the final wage to be determined by the arbitration board appointed by the Governor.

The outcome of the strike was a victory for C.I.O. and A.F. of L. cooperation. The bulk of the strikers, the longshoremen, belong to the Free Federation of Labor, affiliated with the A.F. of L., while the clerks, checkers and watchmen were recently organized by the C.I.O., which gave leadership to the strike. The crews aboard the ships, members of the C.I.O. National Maritime Union, made the tie-up completely effective by refusing to handle cargo.

Do you Know Alice?

Wait until you see our Alice. HE'S A RIOT! "Alice Thru The Thermidor" A musical farce. Given by The Upper West Side this Saturday, February 19th 916 9th Ave. (near 58th St.) Dancing and Drinks of course.

ROOM FOR RENT

Modern conveniences, including phone; reasonable. Trolleys, subways. Phone Glenmore 2-3153, call mornings or see Ben Herman at Y.P.S.L. office.

ROOM WANTED

Young man would like to share room, apartment or studio with congenial soul. Write S. M., c/o Socialist Appeal.

Faces Old Charge



FRED BEAL

NO SOLUTION PROVIDED IN HOUSING BILL

Act Filled With Jokers Offers No Aid To Millions

By JOHN FREDERICKS

The long awaited passage of the National Housing Act has taken place and Franklin D. Roosevelt has signed it, making it law. From the favorable publicity that the Act has received at the hands of the capitalist press, the workers have been led to believe that lasting benefits will result from its being put into operation.

The bill, however, is a sham from beginning to end. This can be seen from a brief analysis of the situation we face and the solution offered by the Act.

Shortage of Homes

There is at the present time an acute shortage of homes for workers amounting to between one and one-half million dwelling units. In addition to this there are between one and one-half and two million dwellings now in use that are unfit for human habitation. The Housing Act, in order to remedy this situation, would have to provide new homes for between five and eight million persons.

It would also have to remove from active renting the two million condemned buildings now standing in the slums. It will be seen that the Act will not touch the problem when it is realized that the Government will do no actual building or tearing down itself, but will only make funds available for other groups to work with. There will be no slums eliminated as a result of this bill because private owners will refuse to destroy property that is profitable to them.

If the worker wants a new home under the Housing Act, he will have to buy one already built or hire someone to build a home for him. But first he must have the sum of \$600 in cash—or he gets no home. The number of slum dwellers who have this sum tucked up their sleeve are few and far between. The workers' only other course under the Act will be to rent a home.

Another Catch

Here we run into another of the Act's catches. The large-scale apartment houses will be built, owned and operated by private interests. The Act provides that a private capitalist, or group, may borrow money from the government twenty times the amount he is willing to invest himself. In other words, he can borrow \$2,000,000 providing he is willing to invest \$100,000 himself. The only evidence of good faith is that he must show that he has started building operations.

The result of this policy will be the passing out of large sums of money to speculative builders, who will slap up flimsy buildings, at high rents, and then milk the tenants for the rest of their lives. It will not guarantee proper housing or low rents which is what the workers need. In fact, the workers have cause for alarm because of Roosevelt's threat that the labor costs of the building trades must be cut down. Every effort in the direction of cuts must be met with stern resistance on the part of the workers.

The Act will cause more harm than good to the workers in the long run. It opens the road wide to credit expansion of the worst kind in the name of helping the workers.

SOVIET UNION NOTES

Duranty "Explains" USSR Economic Crisis Like Purges—By Concealing Facts And Belittling Seriousness.

By JOHN G. WRIGHT

Walter (Dostoevsky) Duranty Reports for Duty

In recent years Duranty's journeys to Moscow coincided with sensational developments there. When the monstrous Moscow frame-ups were staged, Duranty just happened to be there, with handy references to Dostoevsky to explain everything. Duranty's latest appearance in Moscow is providing him with an opportunity to do more "explaining" in the field of Vysninsky's "justice," involving, this time, the Robinson-Rubens enigma—regarding which, incidentally, his reticence for two whole months was as mysterious as that of the G.P.U.

Duranty Tries to Minimize the Crisis

To account for a grave decline in such key industries as steel, coal, and transportation, Duranty begins by qualifying it merely as a "recession" and a government reduction of "daily production norms" a procedure, if you were to believe Duranty, that is "not unprecedented" but only "sufficiently unusual to merit attention." Nothing serious, you understand. In point of fact, "objectively speaking," it is a species of growing pains. For, according to optimistic Walter, one of the prime reasons for the decline is "the vast extent of industrialization and the speed at which it is being carried on" (N. Y. Times, February 9.) Has the basic equipment of industries been undermined, as we have reported in the *Socialist Appeal*, and as is apparent from even a cursory reading of the Soviet Press? Fish and piffle, implies Duranty. The lathes and machines have merely "aged." And adds: "In the circumstances it is not surprising that they have aged rapidly—the wonder is that they stand up at all."

From Duranty's own report it appears that imports of machinery from abroad have had to be resumed "in a big way" in an attempt to remedy this grave condition. The population is suffering, among other things, from a shortage of butter, which is being exported to pay for machinery. "The Russians are grumbling.... from Leningrad to Rostov and from Moscow to Sverdlovsk."

But Duranty has a simple formula with which to dismiss this "trifle." Says he: "The answer is simple—the Bolsheviks prefer machines to butter." Duranty, you will observe, is as "simple" in his explanations as fascists like Goering, who also speak for the preferences of the German people, declaring they, for their part, prefer guns to butter.

Duranty Falsifies Statistics

Against this background of facile and dishonest explanations, Duranty proceeds to juggle with official statistics, and as a result conveys the impression that the actual drop was not so serious after all. For instance, he reports the cut in norms for steel as being from 57,900 tons daily in December to 57,000 tons in January; and in coal a cut from 403,500 to 385,200 tons. All he "forgets" to do is to report that there were two cuts in January, and that the figures he cites were maintained only for the first few days in that month. For the greater part of January the official norm for coal was set at 384,000 tons, while for steel the norm was cut to 54,700 tons, i.e., almost four times the cut reported by Duranty.

But the slickest stunt Duranty pulls is in "reporting" the actual output attained. In this sphere he prefers to use "percentages," and glibly reports an "average production of 90 per cent." After all, you see, all that is involved here is a mere lag of "10 percent." According to official Soviet figures the production in steel has been averaging only 50,000 tons daily; in coal 300,000; and in car loadings around 75,000 (as against the original plan of 95,000).

The decline has been most catastrophic in railways. Duranty prefers to overlook this item as due to "seasonal" factors," although the Soviet press has been filled with "alarm signals" over the situation. We have already cited in this column numerous passages from Pravda in this connection. We limit ourselves to one additional quotation from that paper, which prints a dispatch relating to the breakdown of the important Stalinsk railway and charges that the failure of the key station on that road has practically closed down the metallurgical plants in the South. According to this dispatch: "No one here even bothers to consider the fact that because of the poor functioning of the station the furnaces are not operating and entire branches of metallurgical plants are not working at full capacity." (Pravda, January 31.)

Crisis Sharper Than Officials Admit

On the basis of Duranty's dispatch we can state with certainty that the economic crisis is far graver than could have been gathered from the official statistics, even taking into consideration their notoriously falsified character. For one thing this can be established from the fact that Duranty evades mentioning those aspects which the Soviet press itself has been drumming on. (He does not even breathe a word about the difficulties in spring sowing!) On the other hand, Duranty implies that even further cuts are to be expected. He states that the import of machines and equipment will be increased in the future, and indicates that Soviet industry is almost entirely without reserves "to cover breakage repairs and replacements—for which they are now paying the price." Ominous words indeed! Furthermore, his dispatch makes public a crisis in precisely those key industries—oil and steel—in which the official press has been claiming "successes" of late. If Duranty has been permitted to prick the bubble of Stalinist claims on the eve of the third Five-Year Plan, it is only because the ruling clique seeks to prepare public opinion for a slight "recession." The job of Stalin's ace foreign correspondent is precisely to cover up the full extent of the crisis by admissions of "minor" and "temporary" difficulties.

Other Soviet Dispatches Equally "Colored"

The tendentious nature of reports from Russia that have recently appeared in the N. Y. Times extends to other fields as well. Thus, on February 10, the Times printed a dispatch on the current purge, without Duranty's by-line, but with a familiar note. The idea the "dispatch" tries to sell is that the current purge is also neither "unprecedented" nor so very extensive. The anonymous correspondent has the gall to state that under Lenin there were "bigger and better" purges. We reproduce this piece of falsification verbatim: "Numerically, as great as such expulsions have been, they do not compare with the great purge of 1921, when, it was estimated, one-third of the party were expelled or placed on probation." The 1921 "purge" took place at the close of the Civil War, when the party membership did not number more than 1,500,000 (as against four million at the beginning of Stalin's purge), when tens of thousands of Bolsheviks had fallen on the field of battle, and when, after the victory, shady elements and careerists were attempting to flood the ranks of the party. The purge then was directed against this scum, and not against those in any way connected with the October revolution, as is the case at present. By printing these and similar falsifications—with which we shall deal in future issues—the N. Y. Times is repeating its record of the early days of the October Revolution; when its columns were open to every conceivable kind of anti-Bolshevik rumor and slander. Isn't it a little premature for the Times' editors; to drop their pretense of carrying only news that's "in for profit?"

Communist League of China Needs Our Financial Aid On Firing Line

China's struggle against the invading legions of Japanese imperialism is the concern of every worker and, above all, of every revolutionist.

Sympathy with China's struggle can be translated into practical action by giving financial support—badly needed—to the Chinese section of the Fourth International.

The Communist League of China, hounded by the Kuomintang and its Stalinist allies, has been plunged into a financial crisis by the war. It has appealed to the Socialist Workers Party for aid in continuing and extending its work and thereby discharging its great revolutionary responsibilities.

An appeal is going out to all party branches to collect funds for the Chinese revolutionists. The party looks for a quick and generous response from every member able to contribute.

To sympathizers who will be reached only by the Socialist Appeal we ask for a similar response.

Send in your contribution—large or small—and send it in now, addressed to the Socialist Appeal, 116 University Place, New York City.

Act at once to help keep aloft the revolutionary banner of the Fourth International in China!