

Fresh Light Is Cast On Poyntz Case

Tresca Links Mystery Of Missing Woman To Rubens Affair

By JUNIUS

The week's developments in the widening expose of the activities in this country of Stalin's G.P.U.—an expose set in motion by the Robinson-Rubens arrests in Moscow last December—threw new light on Stalinist connections with the mysterious A. A. Rubens and heightened the significance of the charge made by Carlo Tresca, anti-fascist leader, that the mysterious disappearance of Juliet Stuart Poyntz, once a prominent Communist Party leader, is linked with the Rubens case.

Tresca, summoned before a Federal Grand Jury in New York, is reported to have given the names of more than fifteen witnesses who could support his charge that Miss Poyntz was "jured or kidnapped" to the Soviet Union by the G.P.U. "because she knew too much" about the G.P.U.'s activities, including the mysterious Rubens affair.

The Stalinist Daily Worker continued to curse Tresca, but has not dared to refer to its erstwhile outstanding woman leader otherwise than by cautiously describing her as "an American woman"—as if she had never been for years on end a comrade and close confidante of Earl Browder and company in the Central Committee of the Communist Party!

On Feb. 22, Hearst's New York Journal and American quoted State Department officials as saying that Rubens "was in reality an O.G.P.U. agent," and that a connection between Rubens and a man calling himself "Mr. Weston," who posed as an under-secretary of state and was taken into custody last week after he had applied for 25 passport application blanks, "has been proved."

Investigators are also understood to have established the existence of friendly connections between Mrs. A. A. Rubens, who is being held incommunicado in a Stalin prison cell in Moscow, and Christian Rudewitz of Wisconsin, whose naturalization papers Rubens (her supposed husband) was earlier said to have stolen.

The State Department continues to maintain silence, despite increasing demands that it open the Robinson-Rubens-G.P.U. dossier and reveal the full facts about Stalin's plot to stir up a reactionary, war-inspiring spy scare in the United States. The department's behavior, it is learned, may shortly become a subject for discussion on the floor of Congress.

VANGUARD GROUP FORUM Public Lecture JAMES RORTY well-known author SUBJECT: What Price Machiavellianism? A discussion of the policies of Stalinist-liberal journalism. Sunday, Feb. 27, at 8.30 p. m. Vanguard Hall, 22 W. 17th St., New York City Admission: 15 cents.

Where Is She?



JULIET POYNTZ

Britain Seeking Four-Power Pact Against U.S.S.R

Deal With Mussolini and Hitler Aims To Isolate Soviet Union

(Continued from page 1)

he spoke of a "final settlement" among these powers and pleaded for "an understanding of one another's aims and objects." The "peace" which Chamberlain seeks will confine itself, he hopes, to Western Europe alone. To get this he will offer Hitler Eastern Europe, to pluck there what he can.

Eden resigned not because he opposed this course but because he thinks Chamberlain is proceeding with too much haste and too little finesse, and fears he will concede more than is healthy. On "fundamentals," Eden assured the Commons, there was and still is complete accord.

France, unable to pursue an independent policy, will have to orient itself now on the new course Britain has charted. That this will not take place without new internal convulsions may be taken for certain, for France is in permanent crisis and the working class remains a gigantic but still untested element in a situation that can be completely transformed overnight should the French workers take the path of revolution.

Their reaction will be conditioned in part by what happens in Spain, now the helpless pawn of its "democratic" friends in London and Paris, who bought it cheap from Moscow. Whether the still-vital forces of the Spanish proletariat will permit themselves to be crushed as the victims of Chamberlain's "final settlement" is another imponderable that remains to be weighed in the scale of events.

Washington, concerned first of all with mobilizing this hemisphere—talk of a "Pan-American mutual assistance pact" started to circulate this week as six great "flying fortresses" made a spectacular flight to Buenos Aires—can afford to look on warily at the developments in Europe. American imperialism is preparing itself to be not only the chief participant in the coming war, but also the arbiter.

War Mobilization Plans Provide Virtual Fascist Regime For Labor

BY DAVE COWLES

The danger of imperialist war now confronts American workers. It is they who are to fight. It is they who are to die. They must know what war means to them and what they mean to do about war when it breaks out.

War will involve millions of workers at the front, bringing with it the wholesale destruction of workers' lives. However, there are some, unemployed and old people, who think that war will mean jobs and high wages for them in the rear.

They are fooling themselves and deluding others. What war will mean at home has already been decided by the War Department in its Industrial Mobilization Plan. This plan has been developed since 1921; it was discovered accidentally by a Senate Committee investigating munitions. After seeing the plan, the committee announced that "the price of a war may be actual operating dictatorship, under military control, in this country."

To Conscript Labor

The purpose of the plan is to conscript industry and labor for war purposes. Actually, it would establish a military-fascist dictatorship in the United States. The plan calls for the establishment of an Army and Navy Munitions Board, made up of military men and assistant secretaries of war and the navy. The board will have power to promote "orderly mobilization of industry" for war, and there is specific provision that "approval of action taken by the Munitions Board is not required."

In short, the board has supreme power over the life of the country. This includes complete control of the press, since another provision gives it power "to co-ordinate and direct the national publicity activities so as to insure that the purposes, views, and progress of the government in prosecution of the war are properly and adequately presented to the people and that the aid of public opinion is enlisted to the fullest possible extent in behalf thereof."

In the plan for a military-fascist dictatorship there are plenty of provisions for workers at the rear. A War Labor Administration is set up to handle them. The head of it, the War Labor Administrator, has a Council to advise him, which is packed with employers and military men. This council is to solve the problem of how to ensure that there are no strikes to stop war production. It will also figure out wages, hours, and conditions of work, how to make the wages of union men the same as those of non-union men, and where and how women and children should be put to work.

Strikes To Be Smashed

About these provisions, the Senate committee remarked that "the attitude of military men may be hostile to strikes even in peace." Those workers who have got tear gas instead of wage increases from employers, and martial law from the National Guard called out to break a strike in time of peace, can picture what will happen to wages and conditions in time of war.

Workers who are dissatisfied with wages and conditions will not be able to strike. They will not be able to move to another city or plant to get a better paying job. They will be bound like serfs to the jobs that they have. Under the plan, it is the duty of

Lynn Workers Protest Hill-Sheppard Bill

LYNN, Mass.—By unanimous vote, the 245 members of the United Restaurant, Beverage, and Allied Food Workers, L. I. Union No. 701, adopted a resolution opposing the Hill-Sheppard Bill (H.R. 6704.) which provides for industrial mobilization for the coming war. The text of the resolution, as follows, was forwarded to Massachusetts Senators David L. Walsh and H. C. Lodge, Jr., Congressman Lawrence J. Connerly, 7th Congressional District, and the House Military Affairs Committee:

"Whereas, Bill H.R. 6704 pretends merely to regulate production and prevent war profiteering, but is in essence an attempt to subject American labor to a fascist regime in the event of war; and

"Whereas, the fascist nature of this bill is revealed by the extraordinary powers it gives the president to fix wages and other conditions of employment and by the penalties, provided for in this bill, of \$1,000, or a year's imprisonment, or both, imposed on anyone who attempts to change conditions otherwise than is provided in the bill, so that in effect the right to strike and other collective action of mutual aid and protection by the American workers is prohibited; and

"Whereas, Bill H.R. 6704 is supported by those militarist and reactionary interests which have sought in the past to introduce measures expressly providing for drafted labor during a war, and when said measures were defeated are now attempting by means of Bill H.R. 6704, which in substance would provide for drafted labor, to legalize their reactionary intent; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, that we record our absolute opposition to H.R. 6704 as a menace to organized labor, and that we throw our full weight into the effort to defeat this reactionary and militarist Hill-Sheppard Bill H.R. 6704."

Women and Children Too

Women are also included: "The statutes of the various states prescribe certain restrictions in the hours and conditions of employment of women and minors in industry. Other restrictions are brought about through regulations issued by various authorized Federal and State agencies, by agreements with trade unions, and in other ways. Many of these regulations and restrictions are expedient rather than necessary to the well-being of either the nation or the workers. In a national emergency... the operation of some of these regulations and restrictions may well be suspended."

To complete the picture of extreme exploitation and oppression that will be carried on in the country, the plan provides for a Legal Council which is to brush aside the sham of reform and capitalist legality by recommending "the suspension in whole or in part of such restrictions" on the exploitation of women and children as the state laws and union contracts provide. Furthermore, agencies "may be established for the purpose of recruiting women... for duty with the armed forces."

Wages Attacked

The effects of war on the living standards of the workers at home will be disastrous. The cost of living will skyrocket, but the workers will not be able to get higher wages. The same Senate committee reported that "a determined effort to keep wages down is possible in the next war." For instance, Bernard Baruch, speaking for financial interests, "has specifically recommended the fixing of all wages." The job

of fixing wages would be in the hands of a commission made up mainly of representatives of big business. It is this situation that compels the senate committee to conclude that "the position of labor would be intolerable."

Any labor leaders who fight against these "intolerable" conditions will be dealt with quickly either by martial law or by termination of exemption from military service. The plan provides that he "who... shall fail or neglect fully to perform any duty required of him... shall be tried by martial law." Any worker who refuses to act as a strike-breaker when so ordered will be tried for treason.

The plan also provides for postponing active army service for a worker who is needed at his job. This is called deferment. However, the Senate committee points out that "the Government authorities could break any strike simply by cancelling the deferments of the strike leaders and as many of their men as necessary and drafting them into the army." In short, fighting for decent wages and living conditions will be punished either by death at "home" or death at the front.

May Be Extended

The military dictatorship which will take power during the war will not disappear at the end of the war. The plan provides that it will "remain in full force and effect for the duration of such war and thereafter until Congress shall declare the emergency created by such war to be at an end." The dictatorship, by not permitting Congress to meet, or packing Congress so that it does not "declare the emergency created by such war to be at an end, can continue in power."

The Communist Party has taken its stand on war and fascism. It backs Roosevelt's war plans. Whatever doubts may have remained should have been dispelled when Earl Browder wrote in the New Republic: "In our country the task is to organize effective support behind the President's policy." But the President's policy leads to war and war to fascism.

Opposition to war and fascism, sincerely meant and carried into action, means a fight against capitalism in its peace-time war preparations. Opposition to war, once the war is on and the government is conscripting all into the armed forces, means nothing if it consists of words alone. Opposition must take specific action. We must use the weapons, not against the workers of other countries but against "our own" government, which has flung us into war.

In her absence, Zinaida and her son, Vsevolod, were deprived of their citizenship and refused permission to return to Russia.

She went to Berlin, continuing her efforts to return to Russia, but in vain. At the end of 1932, the German government ordered her expelled. Ill, with nowhere to turn, and seared by the calumnies heaped upon her father, Zinaida on January 5, 1933, committed suicide.

Sergei, the younger son, was arrested by Stalin in 1934 together with his wife. Their fate is still unknown.

Leon's wife and son were left behind in Russia when he went to Prinkipo. Their fate has never been learned.

The only survivor is Vsevolod, the 12-year old son of Zinaida, who has been under Leon's care in Paris, where he still remains.

Detroit Scene Of Jingo Orgy By Stalinists

Panay Bombing Pictures Shown At Convention "Discussion"

DETROIT.—The Communist Party Annual Convention (in Wards 2, 4, 6, 8) invites you to its pre-convention discussions which are open to the public... The pre-convention discussions will be on: (1) For the right to work, for a decent American standard of living... (2) How to prevent war—why we must fight for economic sanctions and collective security... Additional feature will be the showing of the famous movie "Sinking of the Panay"... Admission free... You are welcome." (C.P. leaflet.)

So a couple of benighted "Trotskyites" ambled up in search of enlightenment, thinking they might participate in the pre-convention discussion. Some 100-150 of the faithful had gathered.

Audience Yawns

One William Allen was haranguing them on details of the Economic Royalists' plot to embarrass "Our President" and how a "decent American standard of living" could be had under the present system by standing shoulder to shoulder with F. D. R. "People of Wards 2, 4, 6, 8, go forth and do your duty." The exhilarated audience yawned a few times and the lights went out for a little Stalinist culture—"The Sinking of the Panay."

The good ship "Panay" was depicted on an "errand of mercy" when along came the horrible Jap and sent it to Davey Jones' locker. True, the film did not show the actual bombing. What of it? Any good Stalinist can supply the details. But it did show "Old Glory" fluttering proudly in the breeze—three or four times. And each time, the patriotic claque vigorously applauded. Somehow, the applause did not spread, and even the claque became less enthusiastic. Soon it was over. Instead of the Stalinists marching out in serried ranks to join the Marines, they yawned again.

Feature Mickey Mouse

In a minute, the apathy was gone. Applause rang out, and exclamations of delight filled the hall. The next item on the pre-convention discussion was to be a showing of "Mickey Mouse!"

The speaker following "Mickey Mouse" was to have been Willie Weinstone. But he was ill (well he might be!) so a Mary Himoff batted for him. The usual blab about "collective security," only done up in the most approved kindergarten manner.

Then came the "discussion!" "Is the Communist Party for or against Roosevelt's billion-dollar navy budget?" asks a Trotskyite. "No," lies the speaker, shouting, "and besides turn around and get a good look at him. He is an enemy of the people and a disrupter of the peace movement..."

Sauce For the Goose

"But," asks another, "if the French C.P. voted for the military budget, what's wrong with the American C.P. supporting the naval appropriations?" "It's a lie," shouts the speaker, "and besides get a good look at another enemy of the people..."

"If it's O.K. to support the quarantine-the-aggressor policy, why not have a big navy to back it up?" queries a puzzled worker.

The speaker purrs in the best Y.M.C.A. manner, "You don't understand, comrade..."

The pre-convention is over. A worker approaches one of the Trotskyites and asks him a question, when a loud shriek pierces the hall, "Stay away from him! He's poison!"

Secret Meetings Hear War Plans

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course, the American Legion. The Legion, the Appeal's sources of information disclose, by agreement with the authorities was to oppose the war referendum project and back the Sheppard-Hill industrial mobilization and labor conscription bill.

Representative May, who is in charge of this legislation, has categorically denied that the bill has been shorn of its labor conscription provisions, which remain incorporated, although disguised in general terms.

SOVIET UNION NOTES French Newspaper Investigates Activities of G.P.U. Murder Agents—Tells Of Schemes To Encompass Death Of Ignace Reiss

The French press has reflected the great indignation and resentment that has been aroused by the action of the French judicial authorities in allowing a G.P.U. agent, implicated in the murder of Ignace Reiss, to escape. The newspaper le Jour undertook an independent investigation into the case, and on February 2 appeared with the following headlines:

SPIEGELGLASS, HEAD OF G.P.U. ORDERED REISS' MURDER IN PARIS.

FOR THE FIRST TIME SOVIET AGENTS HAVE OVERSTEPS THEIR CUSTOMARY CAUTION.

After recounting the details surrounding the murder of Reiss, le Jour charges that Spiegelglass had been sent to Paris on a special mission to effect a "purge" among the secret agents there. When the Grososky couple, to whom Reiss had entrusted his letter to the Kremlin, which was to be forwarded with the diplomatic mail, handed over the letter to Spiegelglass, the latter immediately ordered the assassination of Reiss.

Murder Operatives Summoned

Two G.P.U. agents were summoned. We cite from the article: "One of these Russian agents was resident in Paris, the other, according to our information, was merely passing through. But it so happened that these two men chosen for the task found different excuses for evading it. One pleaded an urgent mission, the second found some other excuse. But one of these two agents, the non-resident in Paris, was amicably inclined toward Reiss. He wished to warn him of the terrible danger that threatened. Tell it to Reiss personally? That would compromise him beyond repair. He hit upon an ingenious method to do so without revealing his identity. He phoned Reiss, who was in a cafe, and said: 'This is X speaking...' Then he hung up. He repeated this procedure three times."

According to the further account, Reiss, who was an experienced man, immediately gathered what was up, and on the next day departed for Holland, where he visited a friend, leaving with him a copy of his famous letter. Then he departed for Switzerland—where he was murdered. According to le Jour, the G.P.U. agent who left for Russia has not been heard of since. The other agent received instructions to come to Moscow immediately, and had even bought his ticket, but at the last moment decided not to go. He remains in Paris under the protection of the French police.

Makes Complaint Of Double-Cross

As for Grososkaya, the article implies that she might not have left France voluntarily. Le Jour reports a conversation she is alleged to have had with Soviet diplomats in which she complained that they had not kept their promise to her—not to have her involved in the case. They reassured her. She is also reported to have been considerably disturbed over the fact that she had received no word from her husband, who had fled to Moscow several weeks before.

The editors of the Russian Bulletin (No. 62-63) cite the following facts relating to the activities of one Beletsky, G.P.U. agent masquerading as Soviet trade representative in Paris: It was Beletsky who issued instructions to Gertrude Schildch, one of Reiss's assassins. Not trusting her fully, he had her shadowed. He not only instructed Schildch to take an apartment with Rossi, the actual killer, in a hotel, but visited them there a few days prior to the assassination. It was he who gave Schildch and Rossi a box of poisoned candy intended for Reiss; his wife and child. The editors further declare that there are any number of witnesses available to testify concerning Beletsky's activity. For example, a German emigre F., a woman, broke with Beletsky and Co. after the murder of Reiss. Beletsky came to her rooms and threatened that unless she immediately left for Moscow she would suffer the same fate as Reiss.

Appeal Drive On

The drive is on. Comrades are already taking advantage of the improvement in the Appeal and have spontaneously started drives in their own locals.

- 1. Modern Library Edition of the 1st volume of Capital.
2. The Case of Leon Trotsky.
3. Stalin School of Falsification (Leon Trotsky).
4. Russia—Twenty Years After (Victor Serge).
5. The Third International After Lenin (Leon Trotsky).
In case of a tie, the prizes will be awarded to both contestants.

Figures to be Given

From this week until the end of the drive, figures will be published as to the standing of locals throughout the country. Increases in bundle orders and subs (and decreases, if there are any) will be made known to everyone.

At the moment, Chicago has shown the most activity—but has possibilities of going much farther and admits it.

How about California? Go after those Labor Action subscribers!

Minneapolis pays but it should be a small job to double the Appeal bundle order at once.

Here in New York, Abe Miller, who has taken over the whole literature set-up, promises that the Appeal bundle will be increased by hundreds in the near future.

John Boulds in Plentywood, Montana, told us a few weeks ago that he was snowed in—but sent in a couple of subs anyway. Don't let anyone tell you that the Appeal doesn't have a circulation among the farmers.

Six Pages Needed

We hope that we'll be able to say something about Philadelphia next week. Comrade Sol Thomas has had many difficulties to contend with, but we are expecting some action from him in the near future.

- 1. Lundberg's Sixty Families.
2. History of the Russian Revolution (3 volumes in 1)—by Leon Trotsky.
3. World Revolution (C. L. R. James).

Memorial Meeting IN HONOR OF Leon Sedoff

devoted fighter in the cause of the international working class who died in Paris, Feb. 16, 1938.

SPEAKERS:

- Max Shachtman Editor, Socialist Appeal
Maurice Spector Editorial Board, New International Ernest Erber National Chairman, Young People's Socialist League

SUNDAY EVENING, FEB. 27, at 8 P. M.

MANHATTAN PLAZA, 66 E. 4th Street New York City

Auspices, Socialist Workers Party, Local New York

Sedoff Dies in Paris After Sudden Illness

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remained at his tasks in Paris. The following August came the Moscow trials and Trotsky's internment in Norway. The task of organizing the defense, of gathering all the essential material from all corners of Europe, of challenging the accusers and making them take the stand before world opinion as the accused, fell in those first months upon the shoulders of Leon Sedoff, who was also named as one of the defendants in the Moscow frame-up.

Through articles and statements in the bourgeois press and most of all through his remarkable work, Le Livre Rouge, a shattering exposure of the frame-ups, Sedoff carried on the fight which his father, interned, was powerless for the moment to lead.

After Trotsky went to Mexico and the movement for an international inquiry took concrete form with the creation of the Dewey Commission, Sedoff, still in Paris, gathered and collated a great part of the voluminous evidence, the facts and depositions which played so great a

role in the verdict of that commission which found Trotsky and Sedoff both innocent of the charges leveled against them by Stalin's court.

The death of Leon Sedoff deprives Leon and Natalia Trotsky of their last child, unless Sergei Trotsky is still alive somewhere in a G.P.U. dungeon. The savage vendetta with which Stalin has pursued the standard bearer of Marx and of Lenin has extended into his children and those whom his children have married.

His Daughters

Nina, his younger daughter, died in Russia in 1928 shortly after Trotsky was exiled. She was denied by Stalin the medical attention and care that might have saved her life.

Zinaida, his elder daughter, received special permission in January, 1931, to visit Trotsky at Prinkipo. She left behind a daughter by an earlier marriage in the care of her mother, Trotsky's first wife, Alexandra Lvovna Bronstein. The fate of both Alexandra Lvovna, the child, and Zinaida's husband, is unknown. All have disappeared into Stalin's