

# Stalin Regime Desperate

## Safeguard The Asylum of Leon Trotsky!

Following hard in the footsteps of Lombardo Tolodano, leader of the Mexican Confederation of Labor, Hernan Laborde, head of the Mexican Communist Party, has opened up an attack on Leon Trotsky. Laborde promises to "fight to have him expelled from Mexico at the opportune moment." He does not omit, of course, to link this promise with a warning "that Mexico is faced with the danger of a fascist uprising."

Tolodano spoke as a stooge for Laborde, and Laborde speaks as a stooge for Stalin. The voice in both cases is the voice of the counter-revolutionary regime which is now railroading twenty-one Old Bolsheviks to their deaths on patently framed-up charges. Trotsky is beyond the immediate reach of Stalin's bloody hand, but killers hired by Stalin await an opportunity to shoot, knife or poison him. To facilitate their bloody task, they want to drive him from Mexico.

Organized labor must close its ranks against the foul Moscow regime and its international frame-up and murder plots. A blow at Leon Trotsky is a blow at the revolutionary workers' movement of which he is the outstanding representative and leader.

Protest! Stop the assassins in their tracks! Shield Leon Trotsky from the dark forces of the counter-revolution.

## New York Soviet Consulate Picketed To Protest Trial

### Trial of 21 Denounced: Fourth International Slogan Resounds

NEW YORK—For the first time in this country, official representatives of the U.S.S.R. were picketed, when nearly 100 members of the Socialist Workers Party protested the current Moscow frame-ups before the Soviet consulate on March 4. Bearing placards and shouting demands that the trials be postponed and the hounding of Leon Trotsky and the execution of Old Bolsheviks cease, the well organized surprise demonstration disturbed for half an hour the aristocratic quiet of East 61st Street where the consulate is located.

Such slogans as "Down with Stalinism! Long live Socialism! Long live the Fourth International!" echoed for the first time in this plutocratic quarter.

The only "incident" was the attempt of a patriotic lady to wrest the American flag from the pickets, on the ground that they had no right to carry that flag, as required by police regulations, beside the red flag at the head of the picket line.

### Petition Handed to Consul

The demonstrators marched back to Fifth Ave. singing the "International," after leaving the following petition at the consulate:

"The trial of the 21 defendants headed by Bukharin, Rykov, and Rakovsky, now taking place before the military tribunal in Moscow, marks a new climax to the long series of crimes committed by the Stalin regime against the interest of the Soviet Union and the international working class. In total disregard of the most elementary dictates of truth and justice, the public trial itself was flung in the face of mankind against a nightmare background of police brutality and bureaucratic inquisition.

"We, the revolutionary workers of New York, record our protest along with that of the overwhelming majority of men throughout the world, against this inhuman and unprecedented frame-up. Standing unalterably as we do for the defense of the Soviet Union against its enemies, and for the triumph of world socialism, we demand an end to these methods and practices whose only result can be to serve the forces of black reaction and to besmirch in men's minds the very ideal of socialism itself.

### Demand Postponement

"We demand the postponement of the present trial to permit the

### Yezhov 'Favored' For Nobel Peace Prize!

In a Moscow dispatch to the Daily Worker (March 8, 1938), Sender Garlin writes:

"When the Nobel Commission meets next year to determine the winner of the Peace Prize for 1938, it would be well for them to bear in mind the name of Nikolai Yezhov, People's Commissar of Internal Affairs of the Soviet Union."

We add the suggestion that if this nomination is accepted by the Nobel Commission, it consider such posthumous but no less worthy nominations as Bluebeard, Jack the Ripper, Fu Manchu, Alphonse ("Scarface") Capone, Arthur ("Dutch Schultz") Flegenheimer, and Dracula. We further suggest that at the ceremonial presentation of the prize to Yezhov (if he wins), cyanide of potassium cocktails be served, with carboric acid for a chaser.

### SHACHTMAN TALKS ON TRIALS TO 800

More than 800 workers packed Manhattan Plaza last Friday night at a mass meeting called by the Socialist Workers Party to protest the new Moscow frame-up, the Trial of 21.

Max Shachtman, editor of the Socialist Appeal, gave an extended review of the past trials. He also subjected the evidence given so far in the present trial to a withering analysis. Shachtman read from documents in the Moscow Pravda of 13 years ago to explode the charge that Bukharin "plotted to assassinate Lenin" in 1918. He also discussed at length the relations that existed between Germany and the Soviet Union after 1921.

presence within the court room of authentic representatives of international labor with full and free rights of examination and cross-examination of all defendants and witnesses.

"We demand an end to the international hounding and persecution by the agents of the G.P.U. of Leon Trotsky and his family. We demand an end to the frame-up and murder of the heroes of the October Revolution and the founders of the first Workers' State.

"We call upon you to transmit this document at once to your government.

"Ernest Rice McKinney, Secy. Socialist Workers Party, Local New York."



ALEXEI RYKOV

## Trial Protest Sent By Mpls. Trade Unions

Midwest Organizations  
Wire Troyanovsky On  
Moscow Frame-up

Calling upon the Russian Government to adjourn the latest Moscow trial until a committee of labor and liberal leaders can arrive to attend the trial, a group of prominent Minneapolis labor leaders warned Ambassador Alexander Troyanovsky last week that "the decision handed down by the International Commission of Inquiry headed by John Dewey, characterizing as deliberate frame-ups the previous Moscow trials, is almost universally accepted by the American labor movement, and another trial under like conditions and without legal guarantees to the defendants will still further backen the repute of Soviet justice."

### The Signers

Among those signing the communication were: Farrell Dobbs, Secretary-Treasurer of the North Central District Drivers Council; Miles B. Dunne, editor of the Northwest Organizer; Henry Schultz, Assistant Business Manager of the Electrical Workers Union No. 292; James Bartlett, President of the Warehouse Workers Union Local No. 20316; John Jonasco, Business Representative of the Woodenware Workers Local 20418; Fred Diederick, President of Furniture Workers Local 1859; Bill Brown, President of General Drivers Union Local 544; Joe Lear, President of Private Chauffeurs Local 912; Harry De Boer, President of Bakery Drivers Local 289; Ed Palmquist, Chairman of Federal Workers Section Local 544; Ray Rainbolt, Business Representative of Ice Wagon Drivers Local 221; O. R. Votaw, Secretary-Treasurer of District 77 of the International Association of Machinists; Joseph Pease, Business Agent, District 77 of the International Association of Machinists; William J. Heigel, Business Agent of Electric Workers Local 292; Oscar Coover, Organizer, Electrical Workers Local 292; C. R. Simonson, member of the Joint Board of the Textile Workers Organization Committee, and Herman Husman, Business Representative of District 77, International Association of Machinists.

### Ask Postponement

Addressed to Ambassador Troyanovsky at the Soviet Embassy in Washington, the communication asks him to "kindly inform your government that the undersigned trade unionists subscribe to the proposal already transmitted to you by Oswald Garrison Villard, John Haynes Holmes and other friends of the Soviet Union, calling upon the Russian Government to adjourn the latest Moscow trial until a committee of labor and liberal leaders arrive to attend the trial."

## New Moscow Trial Shows Usual Flaws

Universal Ridicule Greeted Flood Of Fantastic  
'Confessions' Extracted From The Former  
Leaders Of Russian Bolshevism

REAL EVIDENCE IS NON-EXISTENT

### Oslo Official Refutes Testimony

OSLO, March 8.—From September, 1936, to December 19, the day he sailed for Mexico, Leon Trotsky was under the strictest police surveillance and could not possibly have communicated with his alleged co-plotters in Russia, the head of the Norwegian Passport Office told the newspaper Dagbladet today.

Every letter received by Trotsky or sent by him throughout that period went through the Passport Office, where copies were made, the bureau head said. Trotsky, living in a house with a squad of police guards, was completely isolated.

S. A. Bessonov, one of the defendants at the Trial of 21 in Moscow testified last week that he had written Trotsky in December, 1936, and had received a reply a few days later, dated in or Krestinsky, also on trial.

From December 19 to January 10 Trotsky was aboard the tanker Kuth en route to Mexico. The Dagbladet quoted the present Norwegian chief of police, who accompanied Trotsky, as affirming that the exile had not been permitted to use the ship's radio throughout the voyage.

The Trial of the Twenty-One, most monstrous of all the trials held in Moscow since the killing of S. M. Kirov in December 1934, is drawing to a close.

In the face of almost universal ridicule and disbelief expressed by both the capitalist and labor press throughout the world, the Prosecuting Attorney continues to drag the moral wrecks seated in the prisoners' dock through an orgy of carefully rehearsed "confessions," compounded of lies and self-debasement, and staged in the interests of preserving the shaky totalitarian regime of Stalin and Company.

### They Stand Alone

Only the subsidized Stalinist press pretends to put faith in the trial which, more than any other that preceded it, is so obviously a frame-up, so obviously absurd and unbelievable in every important aspect.

With each day of testimony given by the defendants, it becomes increasingly apparent that the doomed prisoners are being forced to play the part of scapegoats for the crimes committed by the Stalinist bureaucracy in the past five or more years.

Even Bukharin, who has seemed to make an effort to resist the vicious bullying of Vyshinski-

ky, nevertheless "confirmed" the main line of the imaginative plot written by the G.P.U.

### No Real Evidence

As for actual documents or material evidence to substantiate the charges, there were, as usual, none. All that was presented was the customary run of "confessions." And, again as usual, the "confessions" founded upon the reef of facts.

Facts are notoriously stubborn things. Only within narrow limits can they be manipulated and shifted about for purposes of falsification. For this reason the

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CHRISTIAN RAKOVSKY

## House Group Adopts Huge Navy Budget

Original Figure Raised  
To New Record Peace-  
Time High

By the overwhelming majority of 20 to 3, the House of Representatives Naval Affairs Committee last week reported out favorably the Roosevelt-sponsored Naval Construction Bill, authorizing \$1,121,000,000 for additions to naval armament. This entire amount, raised during passage through the committee from the original sum of \$800,000,000, is over and above the billion dollars already provided for military and naval expenditures in the regular Federal budget.

Within a few days it is expected that the Bill will be sent to the floor of Congress by the Rules Committee, where it is quite possible that still further sums will be added to the staggering total through a series of amendments already projected.

### Prepares World War

The world-imperialist scope of the naval activities which are foreseen emerged clearly from the wording of a special report signed by twenty-two of the twenty-six members of the Committee on Naval Affairs:

"The definition of fundamental naval policy of the United States.... provides for the pro-

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## PACIFISTS RALLY TO DEAR OLD FLAG AT NEW YORK TALKFEST

Patriotic Fervor Rises  
At Hippodrome 'Anti-  
War' Meeting

With the blessings of the Socialist Party, the Lovestonites and a conglomerate list of pacifist and pseudo-pacifist organizations, the recently launched "Keep America Out of War Committee" began its activities last Sunday with a mass meeting in the Hippodrome.

The motley crew of speakers, ranging from the inevitable retired general to representatives of the so-called left, advanced a strange jumble of defensist, isolationist, and pacifist ideas which, at very best, were but a vague reflection of the American League Against War and Fascism in its first roseate days.

### Patriotic Tone

Setting the thoroughly patriotic tone of the meeting, which had an attendance of about 4500, Chairman Oswald Garrison Villard declared that "it is up to us to exercise our right as American citizens to indicate our desires to Washington.... As loyal Americans we want nothing of foreign war.... The greatest things in the world are American Democracy and American Institutions.... These will be destroyed by war."

As spokesman for the Socialist Party, Norman Thomas was strangely lacking in even the diluted militancy which he has sometimes expressed on past oratorical occasions. Gone was the vibrant "only-socialism-can-end-war" note of his earlier speeches. In his broadcast address he thundered a stirring appeal for... "a Central Committee of all those who are opposed to war.... and a People's Congress in Washington to let the government (not our government, comrades Thomas?) know our stand."

The wily Stalinist wax-mongers will find it hard to take any issue with Thomas' "anti-war" proposals, they were so inept and so futile.

### Retired General

Major General W. C. Rivers, that sterling foe of war and militarism who served for years in the army without anybody discovering that he wore pink pajamas, was the next speaker. Introduced by Villard as a man whose "pen and voice are at the side of the peace movement and his sword for the defense of his country," Peace-Lover Rivers addressed his remarks to the "friends of peace and preparedness." Lauding Roosevelt's definition of preparedness ("adequate national defense not only of coasts but of communities far away from the coast"), the speaker made it quite clear that his disagreements with the administration were purely technical.

"As a military practitioner, I know what America needs for her defense," Rivers boasted. To buttress his statements, he had just published an article in the Committee's magazine in which he pointed out that "I have no emotional complex against war—if any god is to be derived (from it), or if (it is) necessary for the defense of our land and of that part of the seas adjacent to our country—the Aleutians, Hawaii, Panama, and from the Caribbean to Maine."

### Favors Japan

Rivers' program for peace as outlined in his speech, contains the following radical proposals: instead of expensive capital ships.... a series of small cruisers, submarines, mines, and a program for land defense. In closing, the worthy Major General made the trenchant observation that "the only way to avoid the dread class struggle or the

## SWP ANTI-WAR MEET MARCH 18

NEW YORK—A high point in the campaign which the Socialist Workers Party is conducting against the rapidly approaching imperialist world war will be reached here next Friday, March 18, at 8 p. m. when a mass meeting and anti-war rally will be held under party auspices at the Manhattan Plaza, 66 East 4th Street.

With especial appropriateness, the meeting will take place on the anniversary of the Paris Commune, history's first example of working-class rule.

Party speakers scheduled to address the meeting are Maurice Spector and James Burnham of the editorial board of the "New International," James Casey, former managing editor of the "Daily Worker," and Nathan Gould, national organizer of the Y. P. S. L.

tuated and may very well be the "bulwark against the Communization of Asia!"

The next speaker for peace, Dorothy Detzer, secretary of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, stated in no uncertain terms her desire that "the will of the American people be expressed in action for.... stricter neutrality legislation." And, lest anybody be so misled as to mistake her for a pacifist, she hastened to add that "cautious pacifism isn't enough. We need the power and prestige of moral audacity." Whether Miss Detzer's "moral audacity" is to be translated, upon occasion, into the harsher and more forthright cruisers and submarines of Major-General Rivers, she neglected to make clear.

Echoing the remarks of the other speakers, Miss Detzer insisted vigorously that "since we live in democratic America, the government in Washington are the servants of the people. We must not forget this.... None of the other speakers did.

La Follette's "Differences"

There followed the main speaker of the evening, Senator Robert LaFollette, Jr., "glorious son of a glorious father," as Villard did not forget to point out. This new crusader for peace proceeded to outline his deep-going differences with the administration's military policy, which on further analysis turned out, surprisingly enough, to be also.... of a purely technical character. "The proper line of defense," he insisted, "has been described as extending from Alaska to the Virgin Islands and to the coast of Maine." But, don't you see, "experts and authorities are agreed that this country (come, come, Brother LaFollette—our country!) is adequately protected against any possible contingency."

But Senator LaFollette really thrilled his liberal audience when, in explaining his opposition to collective security, he declared: "It is at that moment (when depression hits the masses, during war-time), in a world full of revolutionary change that the real menace to our own form of democracy would arise."

### The Pink Wolfe

Bertram D. Wolfe, speaking for the Lovestonite war-haters, next stepped forward to cast a pinkish aura over the proceedings. As a representative of the "extreme left," he extended a warm hand of welcome to the pacifist organizations, adhering to the Committee. Scrupulously avoiding any mention of the dread class struggle or the cor-

## SOCIALIST PARTY READY TO LIQUIDATE ITSELF INTO AMERICAN LABOR PARTY

During the past two or three weeks, important local steps have been taken by the Socialist Party in the direction of liquidation of the party organization long foreshadowed by the policies of the controlling Altman-Thomas-Hoan group.

In Connecticut, Devere Allen's State Committee has already eliminated the name of the Socialist Party by filing papers for incorporation as the "Labor Party" of Connecticut.

### Entry Being Planned

In New York, plans are busily being prepared looking toward some formula whereby entry into the American Labor Party can be effected.

The constitution of the American Labor Party prohibits affiliation by any other political organization; and even excludes simultaneous membership in any other political party—although this latter provision is not rigidly enforced.

Wholesale entry of Socialist Party members into the American Labor Party can thus be accomplished only by the disbanding of the Socialist Party organization itself, with, perhaps, the retention of a skeleton "educational society" along the lines of

the League for Industrial Democracy.

### Laidler Tells All

That such a liquidation is foreseen was openly indicated in a recent press release from Harry W. Laidler, chairman of the New York State Executive Committee. After explaining that all members of the committee favored closer forms of "cooperation" with the A.L.P., Laidler demagogically observed that of course any proposal to dissolve the party altogether into the A.L.P. would be "submitted to a referendum."

It goes without saying that Dan Hoan, who some time ago turned the Socialist Party of Wisconsin into a mere appendage of the LaFollette machine, through the Farmer-Labor Progressive Federation, is thoroughly in favor of the new developments.

In this whole process, predicted accurately more than a year ago by the Appeal, the Zam-Tyler "Clarityite" wing of the Socialist Party is playing its usual pitiful role. They and their followers are today tasting the fruits of their break with the revolutionary current, now con-

solidated in the Socialist Workers Party.

### Clarity Pushed Aside

Zam and Tyler are, as always, shoved unceremoniously aside when the Altman-Thomas "democrats" have business to do. The Clarityites are permitted only the rather doubtful privilege of loud complaints and protestations of revolutionary intransigence.

Many of the Clarityites seem inclined to some sort of deal with the Lovestonites as the only way out of the Labor Party dilemma into which Altman and Thomas have forced them. The Lovestonites are, after all, past masters of the breed of opportunism which the Clarityites attempt so awkwardly to imitate. It is to be feared that the result of such a deal would be only one more in the long series of bankruptcies which have so uniformly followed each of the elaborate Clarityite maneuvers.

Perhaps some day some of the Clarityites will learn that capitulation to anti-revolutionists is a poor way of preparing for political struggle; and that complicated maneuvers, even in terms of practical results, are weak substitutes for principle.