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WORLD UNITE!

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An Urgent Appeal AID THE REVOLUTIONISTS!

By James P. Cannon

I received a letter the other day from a comrade, now in France, who was recently in the United States. I want to pass this letter on to the readers of the *Socialist Appeal*. It deals with a matter of paramount importance to all of us—the desperate situation of the hounded and persecuted revolutionists from fascist countries who have sought asylum in France. The unadorned story told in this letter is the most convincing argument that can be made for the "American Fund for Political Prisoners and Refugees" which was announced in the *Socialist Appeal* last week.

Here is the letter:

Paris, May 29, 1938.

Dear Comrade Cannon,

"When I saw you in New York, I told you about the situation of the many German refugees; well that was from personal experience with them before I left to go to America. On returning to Paris, I am sorry to say that it is even worse now than it was then. Their lives have become more endangered and I am writing to you to ask for some help. I hope you will understand and will not mind.

"The recent new laws have made things so bad that for them to work is now practically impossible. Once it was possible to work without the cards. But now one can't do that and many of them are being sent out of Paris to other departments. They may be able to stay there for a very little while, but the general feeling is that before the year's out all of them will have got an expulsion order, as the present trend is against them and all left thought or ways.

"I was amazed at the change in Paris when I got back after four months. One of them got an expulsion and gassed himself and his wife. Another comrade found him, he was saved, but the wife died. They got him better and he came home again, only to do it again. This time they found him too late and so he is now dead.

"Another one is very ill from under-feeding and not enough warmth or clothes. Another is still in prison, the second time this year! When he comes out I wonder what they will do with him; there is not much hope for him at all.

"If you could collect some money for them, it would make matters very much easier. It is impossible to ask the French comrades as they are so hard up that they have not enough for themselves, but I thought you might be able to send some over."

There really isn't much to add to such a letter. We have all known for some time that things were far from well with our refugee comrades abroad. The victims of reaction in Europe have cried for our aid for a long time now. We delayed too long with this burning task, to their detriment and our own shame.

Through accidental circumstances and no special merit of our own we still live in relatively favorable circumstances in America. That puts upon us the special obligation to share a part of our limited means with the vanguard fighters of Europe. We must not let them perish. They who have stood up against fascism in their native countries and now continue the fight in emigration are humanity's best pledge for the future.

The committee that has been organized to aid them is composed of experienced and reputable veterans of the labor defense movement. They are going at their task with the conscientiousness for which they are well known, with energy and a firm will. I hope every reader of our paper will respond to their appeal.

The "American Fund for Political Prisoners and Refugees" has a legitimate claim to the support of every militant. Send something today—don't wait till you can spare it—to George Novack, secretary, Room 1609, 100 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Refugee Fund Is Welcomed Far and Wide

Enthusiastic Response
Greets Formation Of
N. Y. Committee

NEW YORK.—The announcement in last week's *Socialist Appeal* of the formation of an American Fund for Political Prisoners and Refugees has met with enthusiastic response from all sections of the country. At a meeting held in New York a local committee was organized with Lyman Paine as secretary, and plans were laid for an intensive campaign to raise a fund immediately to aid revolutionary refugees in Europe.

George Novack, Secretary of the American Fund for Political Prisoners and Refugees, announced this week that a visa has been obtained for a German refugee and his wife, both of whom were in danger of deportation to Nazi Germany.

A sum of \$300 is needed to provide for their transportation to the country granting them visas. The American Fund now has several thousand collection lists out throughout the country. But this urgent case cannot await their return. The \$300 must be raised within the next few days. The American Fund calls upon all workers and friends of democratic rights to come to the aid of these comrades.

The American Fund announced that it now has several dozen cases demanding immediate attention. The following are but a few of the many:

A former Communist Party member of the German Reichstag, and a leading member of the Lenin Bund, 52 years old. His home was raided by the Nazis in 1933 and his wife was arrested and later released. He was forced to flee and has been in exile since, living as best he could with the meager assistance of friends. As a result of under-nourishment, he developed a serious stomach ailment and kidney trouble. This comrade is now threatened with expulsion from his place of exile.

Assistance is also urgently needed by the wife and two children of an Austrian revolutionist to enable them to proceed to another country. The husband and father, who was among the founders of the Communist Party of Austria, was arrested for revolutionary activity and is now serving a two-year prison sentence.

The cases come piling in, each more tragic than the other, each demanding immediate action.

If you are unemployed and cannot make a donation at this time, get a collection list and help raise money from others to help in this important and necessary task.

Collection lists can be obtained at the office of the Fund, Room 1609, 100 Fifth Ave., N. Y.

Progressives Chalking Up New Scores In N. Y. Painters' Union Fight

Make Clean Sweep Of Offices In Local 892;
Stalinist Campaign Of Slander Fails To
Halt Advance Of Militant Candidates

NEW YORK.—Test votes in elections held last Saturday by Locals 892 and 905 for local officers and delegates to District Council No. 9 indicate that the strength of the progressives continues to rise as the general election campaign in the New York Painters' Union draws to a close. Spokesmen of the Inter-Local Conference of Progressive Clubs predict a comfortable majority for L. J. Stevens, progressive candidate for secretary-treasurer, in the District Council elections on June 25.

Stevens defeated Louis Weinstock, Stalinist big-shot in the painters' union, for the nomination in the primaries held in Local 848, Weinstock's own local. Against Stevens, the Stalinists are supporting a stooge named Ghidoni, nominated by Local 51, whose record is entirely unknown to the membership of the union.

Clean Sweep Made

In Local 892 the progressive opposition made a clean sweep of local offices and defeated the Stalinist Shurman as delegate to the District Council. William Haupt, who defeated Shurman two to one for the nomination for secretary-treasurer of D. C. 9 two weeks ago—later declining in favor of Stevens—picked up 50 new votes in a successful race for the post of recording secretary of the local.

In Local 905 in the East Bronx—the Stalinist stronghold in the union, said to contain a fraction of no less than 300 C.P. members—the opposition likewise registered progress. The key-post of financial secretary was retained by the popular progressive, Hoffman, with a majority of 785 against the 645 for the administration's candidate Schwartz. The Communist Party forces were able to retain the chairman, their candidate M. Gainer receiving 959 votes against 417 votes for Isidore Polstein, the progressive candidate. Polstein's vote, however, was some 100 larger than the progressives themselves had counted on in this administration fortress.

Dismayed by the steady growth of the progressive movement—organized only within the last few weeks into a cohesive though broad opposition—as well as by their own defeats in the primaries, the Stalinist-Weinstock administration has been working on all cylinders in a last-minute effort to manufacture scandals and frame-ups as "election issues." In each case the progressives have been right on the spot to expose the machinations by means of hard-hitting leaflets and their paper, the *Progressive Painter*.

One such scandal is the belated

exposure of an alleged fund-grabbing racket run by the Zausnerite Harry Rosen, former business agent of Local 442, and D. Stark, financial secretary of the local, some three years ago. To produce this "exposure" in time for election propaganda, the services of a Stalinist accountant, one Morris Greenbaum, were enlisted. The regular accountant of D. C. 9, Jacob Falk, refused to be used as a local "Vishinsky." In an open letter to the membership of Local 442, Falk points out eight major errors of accounting in the "exposure" and warns the members against accountants who are "rubber stamps for officials with political aims in view." Falk challenged Greenbaum to bring him up on charges before the Society of Certified Public Accountants. The challenge was unanswered.

Attempting to smear L. J. Stevens and the progressives with this alleged Zausnerite fund-stealing "scandal," the Stalinists met with a storm of protests on the floor of the local. Two weeks in succession they had to adjourn the meeting before the business could be concluded.

Unable to put over this election stunt on the floor of the union, they called a special meeting of members of Local 442 last Saturday in Irving Plaza under the auspices of their "Rank and File Unity Club." When opposition members of the union entered the hall to attend the meeting, the Stalinists called the cops and had them arrested on charges of disorderly conduct. Among those arrested was I. Gittlin, a well-known anarchist militant in the union, who for years led a single-handed fight against the Zausner regime in Local 442, combining with the Weinstock group to oust it two years ago. The case of the painters arrested will come up in court next Friday.

Race Prejudice Stirred

Another frame-up was the charge that Stevens was nominated in Local 848 by a combination not only of Zausnerites, but of "Nazi-influenced Germans." As a matter of fact it was Stevens who took a lead in the fight against Zausnerism, had his head cracked by Zausner's henchmen, and was nominated on the slogan "Kick the ex-Zausnerites (Kosloff, Zughaft, Pasini, and Co.), who are now Weinstockites, out of the administration."

In a statement to the press last week, Stevens challenged the Stalinists to name the Zausnerites and the "Nazi-influenced Germans" who supported him in Local 848. He pointed out that

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Labor Gains Smashed By Spain Gov't

Enterprises Are Handed
Back To Exploiters As
Fascists Advance

With the blessings and active support of Prime Minister Chamberlain, Premier Edouard Daladier and, of course, Hitler and Mussolini, General Francisco Franco's fascist force began last week a new drive toward Valencia in another effort to bring the Spanish civil war to a close.

Neither the barbarous air raids which took hundreds of civilian lives—over which the "democratic" gentlemen in London and Paris shed such crocodile tears—nor the steady bombing of British ships in Spanish ports by fascist aircraft have been permitted to stand in the way of Chamberlain's "realistic" attempt to come to terms with the fascist dictatorship.

Daladier Accedes

The Anglo-Italian agreement was based upon the 'premise of an early Franco victory in Spain. These calculations were upset by the stiffening of Loyalist resistance to Franco's drive on Barcelona late in the Spring. This stiffening was generally attributed to the fact that the French permitted arms and supplies to cross the border in considerable quantities. That is why the utmost pressure has been brought to bear by Mussolini and Chamberlain on Daladier to force the hermetic sealing of the French frontier. To this demand, it now seems, Daladier, only yesterday one of the chief "heroes" of the People's Front, is acceding.

Augur, the White Russian journalistic spokesman for the British Foreign Office, reported to the *New York Times* on June 20 that the French government had promised Britain to establish a "complete blockade" as soon as the government is relieved of the necessity for answering embarrassing questions in the French parliament.

Fascist Victory Desired

The plan is, as before, to bring about a swift fascist victory in Spain, to hasten a Franco-Italian agreement, and thus pave the way for Anglo-French approaches to Germany. The underlying premise of this policy is to bring about some kind of temporary "appeasement" in Western Europe at the expense of the Soviet Union.

The present policies of the "democratic" powers show how false and futile and disastrous was the policy of suppressing the Spanish revolution in order to insure "democratic support" for the Loyalist cause.

Special dispatches to the *New York Post* by Frank C. Hanighen last week revealed how far the Loyalist regime had gone in destroying the gains made by the workers in the first upsurge of July, 1936. With but a few exceptions, all private factories which were "collectivized" by the workers have now been "decollectivized," i.e., restored to their original owners.

Pictures Negri Government

A Loyalist official told Hanighen "that the Negri government has become more conservative and capitalist than the government existing before the Aragon offensive and predicted that any future cabinet shifts would turn it even further to the right." All of this was being done, Hanighen added, to prove that the Loyalist government was not "red." He then went on to list a number of the principal mining enterprises in which foreign capital, British, French, American, South American, predominates, to which the government has restored complete "freedom." He even cited a decree "decollectivizing" certain electrical power plants in which German capital predominates.

But events are proving that the suffocation of the Spanish revolution, which was supposed to be "realistic," was precisely the policy which led more and more speedily to disaster. The destruction of their economic gains, and the Stalin-G.P.U. terror against all revolutionists, sapped the initiative of the masses. The position of the Soviet

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CP Wreckers Force Splits In Maritime

Founding Organizations Withdraw From Pacific
Federation After Bridges Packs Convention
And Unseats Tacoma I.L.U. Delegation

STALINIST "UNITY" IS EXPOSED

SAN FRANCISCO.—The Maritime Federation of the Pacific Coast was split wide open last week when the packed majority dominated by the Communist Party refused to seat the Tacoma longshoremen. Several of its founding organizations, notably the National Organization of the Masters, Mates and Pilots, the Marine Firemen, Oilers, Watertenders and Wipers Association, the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association, and the Sailors Union of the Pacific, walked out of its convention in protest.

Harry Bridges' splitting maneuver in unseating the Tacoma I.L.U. climaxes his systematic campaign to drive from the waterfront all those seafaring organizations which refuse to shackle themselves with the ball-and-chain of the Stalinist C.I.O. in the maritime industry.

The Bridges apparatus of would-be dictators is dead set on smashing the Tacoma longshoremen because they voted against affiliation with the Stalinist-C.I.O. outfit, declared their

solidarity with the S.U.P., and the firemen and refused to smash through the latter's picket lines during the Shepard beef. Bridges, who gleefully conducted a strike-breaking crew through those picket squads under police protection, will not tolerate such militant solidarity with the independent, "non-conformist" seagoing unions bucking the domination of his commissars.

Constitution Violated

This new action on the part of the clique dominating the Federation is a clear encroachment upon the democratic rights of affiliated bodies to conduct their own affairs without outside interference. In fact, the constitution adopted at the founding convention of the Federation, at which the Tacoma longshoremen were present, includes a clause "recognizing the fullest autonomy of each affiliated organization to govern its own affairs."

The most ludicrous part of the sorry spectacle is that Bridges continues to sing a cracked bridge tenor in the "Unity Glee Club" of the C.I.O. The keynote of the convention, whose first act was to unseat the Tacoma I. L. A. and to refuse the longshoremen the floor to state their case, was "Unity and Solidarity" on the waterfront for September 30, when the current contracts expire. Bridges revealed his brand of unity a la Stalin in his statement on the delegates who withdrew from the convention. "Let them go," he sneered. "We'll soon have them all hanging from telegraph poles."

A Hollow Shell

By its latest action, the Federation stands revealed for what it is—no longer a militant united front of genuine maritime unions against the shipowners and the government, but a hollow shell, wrenched onto a reactionary, union-busting course by the infiltration of stooge shore outfits and the rule-or-ruin policy of the Communist Party.

Originally organized in 1935 on the principle that only organization

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Additional Troops Sent To Crush Jamaica Strike

British troops on strike duty in the island of Jamaica were reinforced last week by the arrival of soldiers of the Sherwood Foresters Regiment on the cruiser York. At the same time, police platoons were strengthened in Berbice County, where more than 1,000 sugar plantation workers were on strike.

Two Jamaica labor leaders, Alexander Bustamante and William Grant, arrested on charges of sedition and other offenses, were freed by the court on June 15, as the prosecution was unable to produce any evidence against them.

Commission Appointed

The scandal of Jamaica has led to the appointment of a royal commission to survey social and

economic conditions in the British West Indies, announced to the House of Commons by Colonial Secretary Malcolm MacDonald on June 14.

Former premier David Lloyd George, who visited Jamaica last year, stated that he had been "appalled" by conditions there. "We do not want a slum empire," he said, "particularly on America's doorstep." No one can disagree that Great Britain's "slum empire" in the Caribbean needs cleaning up. Least of all the Jamaican workers who are striving to do so by striking for better wages and conditions.

But Britain scarcely needs to blush before U.S. imperialism as long as America can display such an outstanding example of a "slum empire" in Jamaica's vicinity as Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rican Slavedrivers Balk At Wage-Hours Bill

The inclusion of Puerto Rico in the Wages and Hours Bill passed at the last session of Congress is upsetting Puerto Rican employers. On June 17, "industrial leaders" in San Juan sent a radiogram to President Roosevelt protesting the application of the legislation to the island, and predicting "grave economic disturbances" as a result. Embroidery manufacturers in the United States, who send work to the island, had protested to Governor Winship that a 25-cent minimum wage would make it necessary to discontinue that practice.

Since the agricultural industries of Puerto Rico, including sugar, would be exempt from the wage-hour laws, the needlework industry, second to sugar in size of pay-roll, would be chiefly affected. In the last five years the value of the needlework industry, according to the annual report of the governor of Puerto Rico for 1937, increased from \$12,000,000 to \$21,000,000.

Sweated Industry

The needle trades in the island are a sweated industry carried

on under homework conditions. Manufacturers in the United States ship the materials to Puerto Rico for distribution by agents to workers who do the finishing, and the complete products are shipped back to the United States. That this is profitable despite the shipping costs and the commissions of the agents, and frequently of sub-agents who do the actual distributing, is due solely to the almost incredibly low wages paid the slaves of U.S. imperialism. The manufacturers' profits, of course, follow the typical colonial pattern in that they go to absentee owners on the mainland and not to native owners.

About half of the workers in the needle trades receive less than two cents an hour, according to the Report of the Commissioner of Labor of Puerto Rico for 1936-37. Another third receive between two and four cents, and the highest paid (5½ per cent) from nine cents to 25 cents. In 1936-37, the average male worker made \$4.83 a week for 36.5 hours of work, and the

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Willi Muenzenberg Is Entered On Growing Blacklist Of The G. P. U.

Word has just reached New York from a trustworthy source in Europe that Willi Muenzenberg, the Goebbels of the German Communist Party, has been expelled from its Central Committee.

During the last two years a silent struggle has been going on between Muenzenberg, and the G.P.U. In 1936 he was incautious enough to express to F. Bruppacher, a former leader of the Swiss C. P., under oath of secrecy, his doubts about the Moscow trials. This confession became known to some of the Swiss Fourth Internationalists, who were at that time preparing a libel suit against the Stalinist press in the name of Leon Trotsky. Naturally, they did not hesitate to unmask the double-dealing of this cynical bureaucrat, and announced that they would subpoena his confidant to testify before the court.

ON G.P.U. BLACKLIST

This incident may not have been the sole cause of Muenzenberg's banishment. In any event, it is an open secret that since that time he has been on the G.P.U.'s blacklist. His removal has not been easy. Muenzenberg is too well acquainted with the devices of the G.P.U. He answered an invitation to come to Moscow in 1937 by entering a sanatorium near Paris. There followed a certain "pause" in the Muenzenberg story.

It is clear that the expulsion of the perfidious

Muenzenberg from the Central Committee of the German C. P. is nothing but a preparation on the part of the perfidious G.P.U. for his final expulsion from the party, if not for more drastic measures. For Muenzenberg, who for long years was the G. P. U.'s wire-puller in Europe, is a too well-informed witness.

PROSPECTIVE VICTIM SILENT

How does Mr. Muenzenberg react in this situation? He keeps quiet. He is undoubtedly cooking up some little scheme to escape the dragnet of Yezhov's police. However, experience has shown that there is only one way to save oneself from Stalin's manhunt: an appeal to international public opinion, an open confession to the world proletariat of one's own mistakes and crimes, a public break with the Kremlin clique. In this way Barmine and Krivitsky saved, not only their honor, but their lives as well.

But it seems that Muenzenberg, who was "great" as the guiding spirit of the petty maneuvers and sly foxes of the German C.P., is incapable of decisive action in any serious crisis. These crooked bureaucrats swear only by backstage ruses, because they have long since lost faith in the working class. Muenzenberg will have to pay dearly for his lack of courage and political firmness. But this is, after all, his own affair.

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