

STALIN'S GPU TRIES TO MURDER TROTSKY

War Drive Against Labor's Rights on Full Blast

War Deal Attack on 'Aliens' Cloaks Anti-Labor Campaign

Roosevelt, Congress and the Big Business lobby in Washington were responsible for five major blows against the labor movement in the last few days—first fruits of the "defense" program:

1. The House adopted by 400-1 on May 28 the naval construction bill, which scuttles the Walsh-Healey Act so far as government shipbuilding goes and undoubtedly is the first step in wiping out the Act altogether.

The Walsh-Healey Act had forbidden the issuance of government contracts to employers unless they pay the prevailing wage. The unions have been able to make use of it in protecting union wage rates in some industries and in establishing the 40-hour week. The Act was administered by the Department of Labor, and government agencies have ruled out all competitive bids for contracts from companies not complying with provisions of the Walsh-Healey Act.

Under the law passed by the House Tuesday, however, there will be no competitive bids for naval construction. Instead the Navy, when authorized by the president, will negotiate contracts without advertising for bids. This provision wipes out application of the Walsh-Healey Act, the Naval Affairs Committee made clear to the House. It had been "discovered," the committee said, that the President had power to suspend the Walsh-Healey Act in an emergency connected with the national defense—and this was the emergency!

The shipbuilding bill also specified an end to the 40-hour week "on ship construction or other naval defense activities";

a 48-hour week would be worked, with time-and-a-half for the last eight hours. All experience testifies, however, that a lengthened work-week eventually is worked for the same salary as a shorter week. Another provision suspends the civil service safeguards to enable naval authorities to fire workers suspected of "fifth column" activities—which means a sword over the head of every trade unionist in the navy yards.

This ham-stringing of the Walsh-Healey Act came just two days after Roosevelt's speech promising that "social gains" would be preserved!

2. The Senate turned the
(Continued on Page 3)

MICHIGAN CIO FOR ANTI-WAR STRUGGLE

But Haywood Blocks Convention's Sentiment

BAY CITY, Mich., March 27—Efforts of Emil Mazey, President of the powerful Briggs local of the United Auto Workers, to put teeth into the anti-war campaign of the Michigan CIO, were sidetracked by the resolutions committee of the Michigan CIO State
(Continued on Page 3)

WHY DOES STALIN WANT TO KILL TROTSKY?

Joseph Stalin has no weapons left in his political arsenal but guns in the hands of hired assassins.

His executioners have slaughtered tens of thousands of revolutionary workers in Russia. The sole crime of these workers was their opposition to Stalin's counter-revolutionary regime.

Last week his gunmen tried to snuff out the life of Leon Trotsky, the head, the heart, the soul of that opposition.

Trotsky embodies in his person everything that Stalin has debased, degraded, and betrayed—the living traditions of the workers' revolution in Russia and of the revolutionary movement of the workers of the entire world.

This is what Stalin's gunmen were aiming at when they broke in, machine guns blazing, to Trotsky's home in Coyoacan.

Throughout these years Stalin, the usurper, the gravedigger of the revolution, has vengefully pursued Trotsky, co-leader with Lenin of the revolution, its ablest defender, its most eloquent spokesman. Stalin has conducted this pursuit with all the vindictiveness and deliberate brutality of the apostate. He has carried it beyond the person of Trotsky to the members of Trotsky's family whom he has hounded to death, one after another.

Trotsky's daughter Nina, denied medical care, died of tuberculosis in Moscow in June, 1928. Her sister Zinaida, was driven by the persecution of her father and herself to take her own life in Berlin in January, 1933. Their brother Sergie, who shunned politics and contented himself with the life of a scientific worker, was arrested by Stalin in 1937 and, accused of poisoning workers in his factory, disappeared wholly from the ken of man. Trotsky's last son, his co-worker Leon Sedov, died in a Paris hospital on Feb. 15, 1938, under suspicious circumstances which French authorities under GPU pressure, refused to investigate, even though it was proved that Sedov had been marked out for assassination.

Trotsky himself was hounded out of his refuge in France and again out of Norway, under open and direct pressure from the Kremlin on these two countries. In Mexico Stalin's political hirelings tried to force his expulsion, but failed. The gunmen took up where they left off and last Friday's long and carefully planned attack was the result.

The assassination of Leon Trotsky, had it succeeded, would have been but the climax to Stalin's murder campaign against his op-

ponents. In August, 1936, Stalin began the farcical trials of the old Bolshevik leaders who, under Lenin and Trotsky, had conducted the revolutionary struggle crowned with success in 1917. In the next two years Stalin destroyed Lenin's entire general staff. Only Trotsky was left.

Abroad he did not hesitate to use the same methods, although, to his undoubted regret, he could not murder on quite the same scale. In Spain Stalin's GPU gunmen fastened themselves like leeches to the struggling body of the Spanish revolution and drew the blood of its best militants.

The names of Berneri and Barbieri, anarchists, Andres Nin, of the POUM, Marc Rein, son of the Second International leader Abramovich, Kurt Landau, Austrian militant, and this roster. Monlin, leader of the Spanish Fourth Internationalists, was done away with in 1937. Erwin Wolf, former secretary to Leon Trotsky, was kidnapped in Barcelona in September, that same year, and has never been heard from since.

In 1937 Ignace Reiss, a GPU foreign agent, broke with Stalin, reaffirmed his devotion to the workers' revolution, and solidarized with the Fourth International. On Sept. 4, 1937, his bullet-riddled body was thrown from a car near Lausanne, Switzerland. Swiss and French police later established the guilt of known GPU assassins, one of whom, Rossi, later went to Mexico.

August Klement, secretary of the Fourth International, was kidnapped in Paris on July 13, 1938. Two weeks later his headless and legless body was fished from the Seine.

All the blood that has been shed by this super-Mafia has not succeeded and will not succeed in exorcising the specter that haunts the covering dictator of the Kremlin, the specter of Trotsky and Trotskyism.

For Trotsky represents the living forces of the October Revolution and the promise of their resurgence.

Trotsky's is the authentic voice of the millions of the downtrodden toilers throughout the world.

Trotsky's is the banner of the world workers' revolution that must and shall be unfurled across continents drenched in the blood of imperialist war.

Against these, Stalin and his gunmen cannot and will not prevail.

To this the Fourth International, with Trotsky and after Trotsky, stands firmly pledged.



GEORGE MINK

On April 16, 1938, the Socialist Appeal reported the departure of George Mink for Mexico for the purpose of murdering Leon Trotsky. Superimposed is the United Press dispatch published by the New York Times on May 27, stating that Mexican authorities are looking for the G.P.U. gunman. Above, left, is a picture of Mink. See article, "Who is George Mink?" on Page 3.

1ST APPEAL

AN OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

Saturday, April 16, 1938

Mink, Well-known G.P.U. Assassin, Is En Route To Mexico

Notorious Stalinist Agent Proceeds South Via Galveston; Served As Terror Chief For G.P.U. In Spain

TROTSKY'S LIFE IS MENACED!

By MAX SHACHTMAN

An international assassin is en route to Mexico. He sailed early this week from the port of Galveston, Texas, for the port of Vera Cruz, Mexico, to carry out the mission assigned to him by his gangster overlords: TO ORGANIZE THE MURDER OF LEON TROTSKY.

In this country he is known to certain circles by the name of George Mink—known to the Philadelphia police as a petty larceny crook—subsequently known to the workers on New York's front as the financially well-heeled boss of the Workers Industrial Union.

American Is Hunted in Plot Against Trotsky; Police Link Him to Soviet Activities in Mexico

By the United Press.

MEXICO CITY, May 26—Police here started a search for an American named George Mink in connection with the attempted assassination Friday of Leon Trotsky, exiled Communist leader, it was reported tonight.

It was said that Mink and Herbert Pagan, a German-born visitor to Mexico, were being sought for questioning on the activities of the Russian secret police in Mexico. Mr. Pagan was reported to have been in Mexico for three months and that it lasted about three minutes.

It was reported that the police had found a coat belonging to a man in the car in which the Trotsky assassination attempt was made. Some of the police were known to have worn uniforms.

Sheldon Harte, 25-year-old New Yorker, who was seized by the police, was still missing. He was one of Mr. Trotsky's body guards.

Mink, GPU Assassin, Is Sought

Mexican Police Look For Notorious Kremlin Gunman

MEXICO CITY, May 27—Mexican police are seeking George Mink, agent of Stalin's G.P.U. (secret police) as the chief of the G.P.U. murder squad which attempted to assassinate Leon Trotsky and his wife last Friday, it was reported today by all press services.

Chief of Police General Jose Manuel Nun, who personally took charge of the investigation, had previously stated that the attack was undoubtedly organized by the Russian secret police.

The attempted assassination came on the heels of the recent purge of the Mexican Communist Party and a conference simultaneously held in Mexico City of GPU agents. Planned down to the last detail on a scale possible only to people commanding enormous resources, it was clearly the result of long preparation under direct orders of Stalin himself.

More than twenty Stalinist assassins disguised in police uniforms and armed with machine guns, rifles, and incendiary bombs, succeeded in breaking inside the walls surrounding the residence of Leon Trotsky last Friday and sprayed through the doors and windows of the bedroom where Comrade Trotsky and his wife were sleeping.

Robert Sheldon Harte, secretary-guard on duty at the outer door, was kidnapped. His fate is unknown, but it is feared that he is dead.

Comrade Trotsky and his wife, Cora Natalia, managed to save themselves from the assassins by rolling out of bed and jumping on the floor between the heavy stone walls. Comrade Trotsky escaped with slight cuts from flying glass. Comrade Natalia was unharmed.

Trotsky's Grandson Hurt. The young grandson of Comrade Trotsky, whose adjoining room was likewise machine-gunned by the assassins succeeded in escaping with a wound on his foot from flying splinters.

The attack occurred at 4 A. M. The police on duty outside reported that they were surprised by the men in blue uniforms of the Mexican police who drove up in automobiles, held them at gun point and then tied them hand and foot. The assassins were headed by a man wearing the uniform of an army lieutenant. They carried extension ladders, rope ladders with grappling hooks, electric saws, and other tools which they later abandoned along with some of their unexploded bombs when they fled.

It is not yet clear how the band of assassins managed to penetrate inside the walls. Whether they succeeded in persuading the secretary-guard Harte to open the door through a clever ruse is not known. It is a rule of the household not to open the door at night. It is possible that they managed to scale the wall after first subduing the police on guard outside and from there killed Harte with an air gun which would not have awakened the other guards.

Once inside the walls, the gang
(Continued on Page 3)

Behind the Lines

Major "Neutrals" Must Revise Strategy In Face of Hitler's Victories

by GEORGE STERN

The pace of German conquest in Western Europe has completely upset the war's timetable for all the powers still "neutral." It probably has even upset Hitler's own timetable. It is doubtful whether even he calculated on so disastrous a revelation of Anglo-French weakness. Right now Britain faces the alternative of capitulation or invasion. The new French line along the Somme and the Aisne awaits Hitler's decision to strike for Paris.

Italy's entry into the war has been forecast from day to day for weeks. It is pretty clear that Hitler intends to use the Italian threat in the Mediterranean plus his own threat of blitzkrieg invasion to force British capitulation. If the British refuse, the invasion and Italian entry will probably be simultaneous. It will open a southern front in France and may materially hasten the coup de grace for that country. But it will also open a whole new theater of war in the Mediterranean, North Africa, and the Near East.

Japan is also pondering an end to its policy of so-called "non-involvement." This would require termination somehow of the stalemate it has created in China. The trial balloons about Sino-Japanese peace negotiations a week or so ago originated obviously in Tokyo. For Japan wants its hands free to pounce upon the East Indies and upon any section of the British Empire in the East that it can reach as soon as Bri-

tain collapses under German pressure.

The United States—i.e., Washington and Wall Street—has not yet definitely adapted its strategy to the prospects of an Allied defeat in Europe. If the Allies should by some remote chance succeed in stemming the Nazi tide and stabilizing a line capable of holding for a period of months, American intervention is likely to come within that period. If the Allies should go down quickly, as now appears quite probable, Washington-Wall Street will have to revise their total strategy. Japan may well be left a free hand in Asia and the U.S. will embark upon the gigantic arms program it will need to carry out to be ready for the resumption of military actions following a longer or shorter interval. A state of war may be declared in either case to facilitate rearmament.

In this changed situation the Moscow government must likewise decide its course. Hitler's quick victories do not quite accord with Stalin's timetable either. Stalin has to figure now whether there is any way of slowing down the Nazis without jeopardizing himself or whether he must take his place at Hitler's boot and hand over the Soviet Union to German exploitation. The mission of Sir Stafford Cripps to Moscow and the talk of a reappointment of a British ambassador indicates that this alternative is already being probed.

Flint CIO Hearing Hits Roosevelt War Plans

FLINT, Mich.—A Public hearing on welfare and WPA conditions, called by the CIO Council of Flint representing 35,000 organized auto workers, vigorously condemned local, state and national relief policy, in a meeting at the CIO Council Hall, Friday, May 24.

The hearing served not only as a means of putting the heat on the local welfare and WPA officials, but also to cap the victory of the UAW-WPA Local 12 officers, who were under fire for the past week from Stalinist forces in the UAW, who attempted to throw the President Ray Lawrence, Secretary Genora Johnson and other militant WPA union leaders out of office.

Joseph Pagano, national assistant director of WPA organization in the UAW, and Art Case, Regional Director and Board member from Flint, threw the WPA union into a turmoil early last week
(Continued on Page 3)

Flint CIO Anti-War Resolution

The text of the Flint CIO Council resolution, demanding War Funds be turned over to the benefit of the unemployed, follows in full:

WHEREAS the United States Congress is approving over \$3 billion dollars in appropriations to the war machine, and

WHEREAS the building of this largest peace time military force in the history of this country constitutes a preparation for the involvement of the U.S. in the present imperialist war now raging in Europe, and

WHEREAS this war is not a humanitarian war being fought in the interests of the people of this country or of Europe, but solely in the interests of a small ruthless clique of greedy industrialists and bankers, and

WHEREAS this war machine is being built up in the United States at the expense of the unemployed workers, as is proven by the cuts in the appropriations for all public works projects including WPA, NYA, etc.,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that this assembly, representing 35,000 organized workers in the city of Flint, gathered together at a Public Hearing at the CIO Council Hall, demand of the U.S. Congress that all war funds be turned over to the benefit of the Unemployed people of this country, that a ten billion dollar public works program be inaugurated to the effect that all unemployed workers can be provided with jobs at trade union wages, so that the U.S. Congress shall be instrumental in providing a policy that will feed the American people Bread, not Bullets, Jobs not Battleships, a Better Life in America, not death on some foreign battlefield.