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stupid level of a Nazi campaign against the Jews. The House is turning what ought to be the serious study of some real problems into a dangerous and emotional hunt for an 'alien' scapegoat. . . ."

But all this was said before the present war drive. These same people—Congressmen Coffee, Celler, Geyer, etc.—voted for the very same bill Saturday night!

Two conclusions are forcibly driven home:

1. The "alien" bugaboo is the most useful disguise which the reactionaries now have for adopting measures against the labor movement; this terrible danger is hardly as yet recognized by the trade unions, as witnessed by the fact that few of them were even aware what was being adopted in the Smith bill under the guise of anti-alien legislation.

2. Yesterday's "liberals" have joined the unholy alliance for "national unity," and there is not a single Congressman in Washington who can be now called a friend of the labor movement.

**WPA Purge**

The government is proceeding against all militants in the labor movement, not only under the "anti-alien" formula, but also under the guise of attacking Communists and Fascists. Witness the provision in the new Relief Appropriations Act which bars Communists and Fascists from employment on WPA.

Already, in setting in motion the machinery for purging those he considers to come under the law, Colonel Somervell, head of the WPA in New York, announced that "a person does not have to be a member of the Communist party to be ineligible for WPA employment. He said he regarded Trotskyists as Communists within the meaning of the law, and indicated that other "splinter groups" would be subject to a similar interpretation." (New York Times, June 23).

Furthermore, the affidavit which must now be signed by all WPA workers rules out of WPA employment all workers "who advocate or belong to any organization that advocates the overthrow of the government." Under this provision anybody, even a milk-and-water socialist, can be thrown off WPA because he wants to change the government. It is the identical formula which was used during the last war-time period to prosecute labor leaders under the criminal syndicalism laws.

An army of stool pigeons is being asked for by Col. Somervell; "I expect," he said, "at least 50,000 letters from persons reporting WPA employees as Communists. . . . All of these letters, if signed by responsible individuals, will be given careful attention."

Many workers were not particularly excited about this provision because they thought it would only apply to agents of Stalin and Hitler. They will now discover that its real aim is directed against all militant workers.

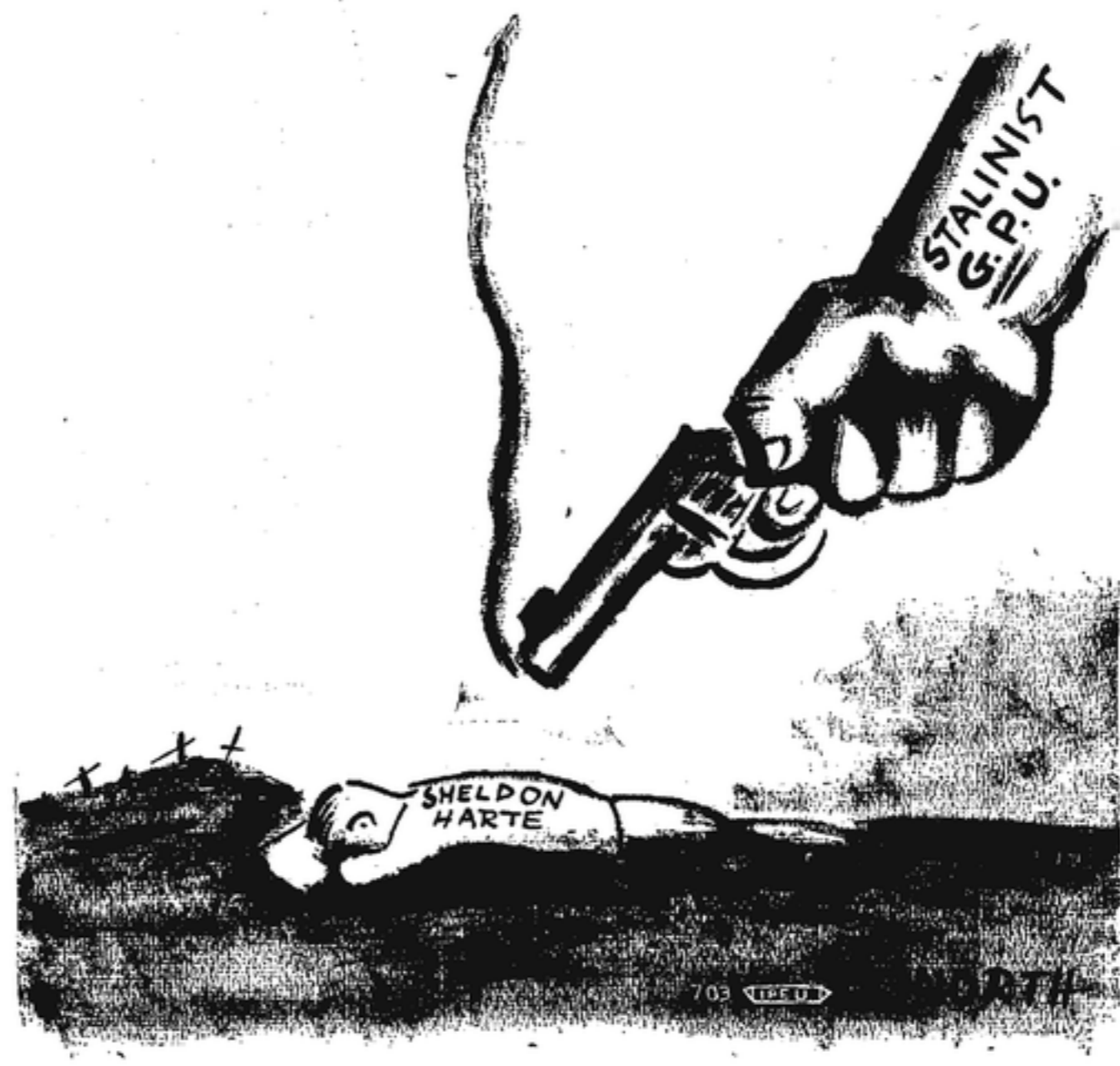
**Christian Front. . .**

Commenting on the trial of Christian Frontists, we predicted in our issue of June 8: "As the course of the whole trial nears its conclusion it becomes evident that the whole case is being converted into a farce." For, we pointed out, "the mask of defending the United States against the 'reds' is the primary defense upon which the fascist defendants rely—and is conceded to be a virtue by the prosecution as well as the defense!"

As a result, nine of the thirteen defendants have been acquitted of the charge of conspiracy to overthrow the government, ten have been acquitted of the second count in the indictment, accusing them of conspiracy to steal government property—the ammunition and guns they stole from armories—and the jury could not agree on the others.

And this was the trial which, the Social Democratic *New Leader*, the Jewish *Daily Forward* and others of similar stripe told us, was to be the death-blow against the Christian Front!

Once again the workers can see the lesson clear: fascism cannot and will not be fought by this "democratic" government; woe to the workers if they depend on the government to stop the fascists. Only the working class, by its own independent methods, carried out against the protection afforded the fascists by the government, can smash the fascist gangsters.



**Stalinists Confess the Attempt To Assassinate Leon Trotsky**

(Continued from Page 1)

shown the statement above summarized, which they had made the previous day, and they ratified it.

**Assailant Confesses**

The fourth confession was obtained from Nestor Sanchez Hernandez, who was arrested when his name and address was found in David Serrano's home, in a note to Serrano from David Alfaro Siqueiros. The note has asked Serrano to tell Hernandez to take Siqueiros' place at a meeting.

Police then found a valise of Hernandez containing one of the police uniforms used in the assault and a revolver taken from the police guard. Whereupon Hernandez made a clean breast of it.

He had been in Spain with Siqueiros and Serrano. He denied membership in the Communist party, but shared its attitude that Trotsky was a counter-revolutionary. In April, he said, he had met Siqueiros who offered him an important role in the attempt, since Siqueiros knew him as one extremely daring in the Spanish battles.

**The Attack**

At eleven o'clock on the night of May 23 he met Siqueiros, Pujol and others, and together they went to a house where individuals soon arrived with valises containing the police uniforms and a machine gun. Hernandez was given a uniform and a revolver. They all had rubber gloves to avoid fingerprints. Siqueiros donned the uniform of an army major, Pujol one of a lieutenant of police, and Pujol carried the machine gun. These three were joined by two of the others in a new automobile waiting outside. Hernandez was handed a packet containing, he found afterward, 250 pesos, as his pay for participation. All the others that he saw got the same amount.

Near Coyoacan they were joined by Camacho, who reported Julia's information that things were as usual at the Trotsky household. Siqueiros told his group they were first to seize the police guard. Siqueiros kept looking at his wrist-watch; on the hour, from other directions four other groups appeared, each carrying a machine gun. There were at least 25 men. The four other groups, said Hernandez, were led by foreigners.

Alfaro Siqueiros placed himself at the head of all and they proceeded to the guardhouse. After the police were disarmed, Hernandez was put in charge of keeping guard over them.

Through the window, he said, he saw the outer door to Trotsky's house open and Siquei-

ros lead his men in; then for some minutes came the rat-tat-tat of the machine guns and the noise of the pistol shots.

**Foreigner In Charge**

Then the two autos of the Trotsky household came out the door, one of them stopping and an unknown person, with a marked French accent, told Hernandez: "Tell Alfaro (Siqueiros) to come with us."

An extremely interesting declaration was made to the police by David Serrano, prominent Communist party leader, who in Spain went under the name of Miguel Julio Justo.

When arrested, Serrano denied that he had anything to do with the assassination attempt, or that he had instructed anybody to get police uniforms. On the contrary, declared Serrano, he himself was one of those in the Communist party who had been carrying out an investigation to find out what had happened in the attack on Trotsky.

**Scapegoats Named**

Serrano then proceeded to characterize Alfaro Siqueiros as an undesirable person who is considered "half crazy." Serrano stated that he believes that Alfaro, together with his brother and their friends Luis or Leopoldo Arenal and Antonio Pujol, are implicated in the attempt on Trotsky. The Communist party, he said, for some time had been suspicious of them. He did not know about the complicity of Rosendo Gomez Lorenzo, said Serrano, but in any event the latter has been expelled from the Communist party.

As for his wife, Julia, Serrano "imagines that she is implicated"; but he has not seen her for five or six months.

**Flaws In His Story**

At the time of the above declaration, it appears that Serrano had not been told that his party colleague, Martinez, had named him as having assigned Martinez to get police uniforms; or that Julia had told of Serrano's coming to get his daughter Sovietina the day before the attack; or that his present wife, Agueda, had told of frequent visits of Alfaro Siqueiros to see Serrano.

Thus, while Serrano, obviously under instructions from higher up in the Stalinist apparatus, is laying the crime at the door of Siqueiros, Pujol and a few others, it is likely that in the next few days the Communist party will add Serrano himself to the scapegoats who will be sacrificed for the crime, while the Stalinist apparatus attempts to attribute the crime to them as mere individuals who did it without connection

with the C.P.

Yesterday Serrano, learning that Martinez had named him as having ordered the uniforms, withdrew his denial of that point and said he wanted the uniforms for a raid on the headquarters of Almazan, reactionary presidential candidate.

**Stalinists Cannot Escape**

Even without the demonstrated complicity of Serrano, a prominent figure whom the Communist party cannot possibly disown with any plausibility, the Stalinists will find it impossible to limit responsibility for the crime to seven or eight scapegoats. Serrano speaks of a C.P. investigation which for some time pointed to Siqueiros and his associates as the criminals; but the very last issue of the Stalinist organ "La Voz de Mexico," to appear before the police announced the solution of the crime, had defended Siqueiros as innocent! The attempt to clear the party's skirts of Lorenzo, because he was once expelled—it was in 1930!—is ludicrous because he has been closely associated with the C.P. here in the intervening years. And so on. The Stalinists will not get out of this.

**Stalinist Assassination Record**

As for Serrano's "theoretical" argument, that Stalinism does not employ the weapon of assassination, that is likely to be a deadly boomerang. For it was proved beyond doubt in a Swiss court and corroborated by the French police that Stalin's GPU assassinated Ignace Reiss, a GPU foreign agent who had broken with Stalin and declared for the Fourth International. The GPU kidnapped August Klement, secretary of the Fourth International, in Paris on July 13, 1938, and killed him. They killed Trotsky's former secretary, Erwin Wolf, in Barcelona in September of 1937, as they had already done to Moulin, leader of the Spanish Fourth Internationalists. Every section of the labor movement—anarchist, syndicalist, left and right wing socialist—has testified to Stalinist assassinations in Loyalist Spain. To answer the concrete evidence now adduced in Mexico with the general assertion that the Stalinists never assassinate anybody is going to convince exactly nobody!

The interrogations of the prisoners continue today and thereafter. But already the complete picture is clear: a carefully-organized, well-financed attempt by the Stalinist apparatus to murder Trotsky. The attempt was undoubtedly under the general direction of the GPU's foreign section, but with the direct aid of the Communist party of Mexico.

**Would Revolution Let the Enemy Invade U.S.?**

By ALBERT GOLDMAN

There is always one question sure to be thrown at me whenever and wherever I speak on the war question. Naturally during the main speech or lecture I explain that in a war between imperialist countries our party urges the workers to continue the class struggle even to the point of revolution regardless of the effect that the struggle of the workers might have on the military front. And I also explain that this policy applies as well in a war between the "democratic" imperialist countries and Hitler Germany.

"Wouldn't you,"—so the question runs—"by this tactic, permit Hitler's armies to conquer the democracies? While the workers would be struggling against the capitalists wouldn't Hitler's armies march in and take over everything?"

Invariably the questioner is troubled. He is perfectly willing to fight for the workers to take governmental power into their hands, but he is afraid that to do so in the midst of war would play into the hands of the fascists.

I must admit that my answer based on socialist fundamentals does not always or very frequently convince the questioner. My answer is generally as follows:

Revolutionary workers, as a matter of principle, cannot and must not support their own government in an imperialist war. If continuing the class struggle at home with the possible effect of a defeat at the front is an evil, then supporting an imperialist government with a victory at the front is a greater evil and we are compelled to choose the lesser of the two evils.

Then I proceed to explain that a successful attack on the enemy at home is so all-important that the workers must take the risk of having the foreign enemy take advantage of the confusion and weakening of the military front which must inevitably come as a result of a revolutionary struggle. If the revolution should be successful then the workers, after a short period of disorganization, can better defend themselves against a foreign army.

Another argument that I advance is that even if "our democratic" imperialist government should defeat the fascist countries, fascism would result if the workers failed to take power into their own hands.

**France's Fate Underlines Our Answer!**

The surrender of the French army furnishes revolutionary Marxists with a very telling practical argument. Here was an army touted by every expert as the finest army in the world. "The Germans could easily defeat the Polish army but wait until Hitler comes up against the French army." So the experts expressed their wishful thinking.

But the French army did no better than the Polish or Norwegian army against the mechanized forces of Hitler.

Neither the French nor the Polish bourgeois governments could furnish adequate leadership for the defense of France and Poland.

This does not mean that the Hitler government is unbeatable by any other capitalist government. Given a sufficient period of preparation the United States with an industry more powerful than Germany's could in all probability be victorious over Hitler.

But it could do so only if it adopts the same fascist regime that Germany has. It could do so only by suppressing every right the workers enjoy at present.

On the other hand a working-class regime has forces at its disposal that no capitalist government can possibly muster.

It would muster the burning enthusiasm of the masses who, conscious that they are fighting for their own interests, would be capable of devotion and sacrifice that they would not possibly exert when in the army of a capitalist government.

And what is of the greatest importance, a workers' government could appeal with tremendous effect to the soldiers and workers of the enemy army.

It is very significant that the English and French imperialist governments very soon after the war gave up the idea of appealing to the German people over the head of the Hitler government. They soon adopted the line of blaming the German people as well as the German government.

No wonder! Why should the German workers listen to the French and British imperialists? What can the German workers expect from the British imperialists?

An appeal from a French or British Soviet government, on the other hand, would inevitably have a tremendous effect upon the German masses. They would know that to defeat Hitler would not mean their enslavement by the French or British imperialists but a union with their French and British brothers.

The lesson of the conquest of France by Hitler is clear and should be taken to heart by every worker. The French armies were not defeated because the workers disorganized it by revolution. They were defeated because there was no revolution.

If there is any way to defeat Hitler and Hitlerism it is through a workers' government fighting for a socialist world.

"President Roosevelt is more popular in Wall Street today than at any other time since he took office as the Chief Executive of the nation. . . ."

"The new state of affairs is best exemplified by a telephone conversation yesterday between the head of a large investment firm and a broker friend. They were discussing the President's latest speech, and the broker expressed a dislike for his stand. A hot argument ensued, and the banker became so incensed that he broke off business relations with the broker. And when a Wall Street banker tosses potential profits around that way over criticism of Mr. Roosevelt it may be taken for granted that times have changed."—Ralph Hendershot, Financial Editor, New York WORLD-TELEGRAM, June 12, 1940.

**Fight with the Socialist Workers Party for:**

1. A JOB AND A DECENT LIVING FOR EVERY WORKER.
2. OPEN THE IDLE FACTORIES — OPERATE THEM UNDER WORKERS' CONTROL.
3. A TWENTY-BILLION DOLLAR FEDERAL PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING PROGRAM.
4. THIRTY-THIRTY—\$30-WEEKLY MINIMUM WAGE—30-HOUR WEEKLY MAXIMUM FOR ALL WORKERS ON ALL JOBS.
5. \$30 WEEKLY OLD-AGE AND DISABILITY PENSION.
6. EXPROPRIATE THE SIXTY FAMILIES.
7. ALL WAR FUNDS TO THE UNEMPLOYED.
8. A PEOPLE'S REFERENDUM ON ANY AND ALL WARS.
9. NO SECRET DIPLOMACY.
10. AN INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY.
11. WORKERS' DEFENSE GUARDS AGAINST VIGILANTE AND FASCIST ATTACKS.
12. FULL SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY FOR THE NEGRO PEOPLE.

**An Anti-Labor Bill**

Legislation for the fingerprinting and registration of aliens was given final approval by both houses of Congress Saturday night. That would have been bad enough. But the legislation thus adopted is actually the notorious Smith Omnibus Bill, whose most vicious features apply to citizens and non-citizens alike. The bill is so reactionary that it was never conceded a chance of passage—until Roosevelt provided a disguise for it by requesting legislation against the aliens.

Instead of giving you our description of the bill, we shall quote a few of the remarks made by Congressmen in the House debate, June 29, 1939, when the bill was originally presented.

MR. COFFEE OF WASHINGTON: "Criminal syndicalism laws cursed the statute books of many states for some years during and following the World War. A casual reading of a typical such law would incline the unwary to the conclusion that such a bill is innocuous and not inimical to the civil liberties of the residents of our country. Actually, the phrase 'overthrow of the government by force and violence' was construed by innumerable judges as an indictment of labor leaders who were prosecuting a strike against an employer for the elimination of grievances. Thus labor leaders and unions were persecuted and prosecuted by reason of their strike and picketing activities by means of a distorted interpretation of the above-quoted phrase."

MR. CELLER OF NEW YORK: "The bill is so broad and indefinite that it threatens freedom of speech and freedom of the press on all matters affecting the Army and the Navy. I am quite convinced that the recent manifesto of the Methodist Church concerning pacifism would come within that ban, and if distributed would bring down on its authors severe punishment."

"A pronouncement against the use of troops in a strike might likewise get one into serious difficulties. A plea for fewer airplanes could be construed, under the bill we are discussing, as advice to disobey some Army regulation."

MR. GEYER OF CALIFORNIA: "Let us recognize this bill for what it is, an attempt to put to an end this trend toward real democracy. It is an attempt to break the labor movement that is just now gaining so fast in membership. . . . Hitler rose to power on just this type of law."

Even the reactionary New York *Herald Tribune* could not stomach this bill when it was originally introduced. On July 31, 1939, the *Tribune* said editorially:

"By channeling popular disturbance over Communist and Nazi-Fascist activities into a flag-waving campaign against the alien, a measure like the Smith bill simply reduces the whole movement to the base and

Honor the Memory of  
**Robert Sheldon Harte**  
Secretary of Leon Trotsky  
Murdered by Stalin's G.P.U.

The Truth About the  
**Attempted Assassination of Leon Trotsky**  
Speakers have just returned from a visit to Leon Trotsky

Speakers:  
**JAMES P. CANNON**  
National Secretary, S.W.P.  
**FARRELL DOBBS**  
Trade Union Secretary, S.W.P.

Tues., July 2, 8.30 P.M.  
**IRVING PLAZA**  
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