

# WILLKIE IS AN OPEN CHALLENGE TO LABOR

## Harte Was Murdered During or Shortly After the GPU Attack on Trotsky

### May 25th Set as Day Youth Was Killed

GPU Slander Against Trotsky's Secretary Had Discouraged Search for His Body; Found In Search for Arms and Uniforms of Attackers

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

MEXICO CITY, June 28—Robert Sheldon Harte was killed during the attack on Trotsky's house, May 24th, or shortly after, it may be concluded from the police medical examination of the body, the results of which were made public today.

Two bullets fired into his head from a .38 calibre revolver, one of which had penetrated from behind the right ear through the opposite side of the head, had ended the 25-year old boy's life. The attempt of his murderers to make impossible his identification, by burying the body covered with quicklime, was frustrated because the lime was of such poor quality that it failed of its purpose.

The medical report set tentatively May 25th as the day on which young Harte was probably murdered—that is, the day after the attack on the Trotsky household. But competent medical authority makes clear that a body examined after a month of decomposition cannot be placed with accuracy with a day of its death, and the more probable hypothesis

which fits in with the known facts is that he was killed during the attack on the house, or blackjacked, carried into one of the four cars used by the assassins, killed along the road and then buried where he was found.

How They Got In  
Harte fell into the hands of his

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### SHELDON HARTE



### FOUR DRIVERS CONFESS ROLES IN SHOOTING

Total Number of GPU Confessions Brought Now to Eight

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

MEXICO CITY, June 27—Four more participants in the attempted assassination of Leon Trotsky this week made confessions to the police, making a total of eight of the GPU band who have admitted their complicity.

The new four are Leonardo Tapia Guerrero, head of a chauffeur service and a Stalinist, who was hired by David Alfaro Siqueiros, one of the leaders of the armed band, to arrange for transport of the band in four automobiles; and three other chauffeurs picked by Guerrero, who are Ramon Gomez Castaneda, Ernesto Bucio Gomez and Jose Vazquez Martinez.

Today the four chauffeurs ratified in toto the previous declarations they had made to the police of their complicity with one significant correction. Guerrero had in his first declaration stated that Siqueiros had had a meeting in a cafe with Robert Sheldon Harte, Trotsky's secretary. That first declaration had been made before and was in line with the Stalinist story that Harte had been an accomplice of the attackers—a story launched to discourage search for Harte. Now Guerrero stated he wasn't certain that it was Harte who had met Siqueiros.

When first arrested, Guerrero had attempted to deny that he had participated in the armed attack, but the police had him identified as a participant. Yesterday he lamely explained that he had denied his complicity at first because he did not want to discredit the chauffeurs' organization of which he is the head.

Extremely Well Paid

Another of the chauffeurs, Castaneda, yesterday added that he had been paid 350 pesos for driving one of the murder cars. From a photograph he identified the "Don Jose" who led the band as none other than Siqueiros. The

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### Midwestern Workers Know All About Willkie

His Vicious Anti-Labor Record Is His Recommendation to the Bosses

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

ELWOOD, Indiana—This is a very appropriate place for Wendell Willkie to come to make his formal speech of acceptance. Since the Carnegie mills moved out, practically every steel worker in town is either on work relief or on home relief. Yes, this is a real American town!

DETROIT, Michigan—Wendell Willkie may have been a dark horse elsewhere, but his name is

### FLINT MILITANTS FIGHT BACK AT JINGO CAMPAIGN

Blast It As Company-Inspired Drive To Smash Unions

FLINT, Mich., June 29—A company-inspired jingo campaign swept the Flint plants this week, as the campaign to isolate and expel all militants from the auto factories went ahead with full force.

The boss-inspired campaign to split the auto union by separating the average worker from the outstanding militants, got under way last week when a list of signers of a Communist Party petition to get on the ballot was published in the local press. Upon the publication of this list, which included the names of many committeemen, stewards, and even executive board members of local unions, company stoops began to wage a campaign in the plants to throw out everyone whose name was on the petition.

Literally dozens of union militants, in all union policies opposed to the Stalinists, had signed the C.P. petition as a demonstration of their belief in the democratic right of any minority party to get on the ballot.

Stalinists Cowardly

Communist Party members are however demonstrating the most craven cowardice in the face of the reactionary persecution of those who signed the petition. One Stalinist, a member of the

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### BIG BUSINESS OPENLY BACKS GOP CANDIDATE

Foreign Policy Same As Roosevelt's; Offers Big Stick

By ALBERT GOLDMAN

With Wendell Willkie, labor-hating utilities czar, Big Business and the Republican party offer an open challenge to American Labor.

Roosevelt has been used for eight years to wheedle, to bamboozle, to deceive, to outflank and cut off the marching legions of American workers.

Now, unless American entry into war makes retention of the Roosevelt method advisable for a time, the reform-weary bosses and their middle-class satellites are going to try to put in a man who won't "coddle" labor and whose sole interest as president will be to assure the profits of the bosses.

For the working class, the nomination of Willkie is not something that can possibly be regarded as something to support as against Roosevelt. It has to be looked upon as the maneuver of an enemy. Don't forget that Roosevelt and Willkie both are part and parcel of the boss system.

For reasons that can best be explained by a psychiatrist, John L. Lewis appeared before the platform committee of the Republican Party, creating the impression that disgusted with Roosevelt he was turning to the Republican party as a possible champion of labor.

It is safe to say that not even Lewis will resurrect his old Republicanism and support the Republican party. If he should be insane enough to do so his followers in the world of labor will be few indeed. For if there is one thing recognized by the great mass of organized workers it is that the Republican party represents the most reactionary section of the capitalist class.

Convention Issues

The two problems concerning which there was a serious difference of opinion in the Republican convention were the question of the policy of the party to the European war and of the person to carry its banner as presidential candidate.

Reactionary intellectual figures like Walter Lippmann were seriously disturbed at the attitude of the majority of the delegates toward the problem of foreign af-

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## Behind the Lines

Japan Takes First Steps Toward Carving Out Its New Sphere

by GEORGE STERN

Japan has now formally announced its intention to convert all of East Asia and the South Seas into "a single sphere" under Japanese authority.

To this end Japan's army and navy are already in motion. Hongkong, Britain's South China fortress, is to all intents and purposes a besieged city. During the last week, Japanese troops have formed an iron circle around the city for the openly-announced purpose of cutting it off from the South China hinterland. In panic, the British have begun evacuating women and children from the island metropolis. Farther south, the Japanese have established themselves on the China-Indochina border as a preliminary to the eventual occupation of the French colony. Finally, the Japanese await the crushing of Britain to press through the demands they have already made to cut the route from Burma to the unoccupied portions of China.

That these steps are all preliminary to assumption of power throughout East Asia, the Western Pacific and the South Seas was made plain by Foreign Minister Hachiro Arita in a speech on June 29 in which he pictured the organization of a group of satellite states revolving around Japan. Toward British and U.S. resistance to this plan the Japanese now adopt a contemptuous tone. The British they expect shortly to go down before the German war machine. The Americans, they know, will thereupon be incapable of making a single move in the Pacific to checkmate Japanese aims. The U.S. Fleet is back in Hawaii but it can't stay there for long. Its return to the Atlantic is a foregone conclusion.

This is all but admitted in Washington. Officially, American policy of resistance to Japan in the diplomatic domain is still "reaffirmed" by Cordell

Hull, the Secretary of State. But it was painfully apparent that Hull dared make no specific reply to the Arita speech. He "did not care to say anything on the subject," according to the July 2 New York TIMES. The new two-ocean, four billion dollar fleet voted for by Congress will take years to build. Until then, Japan's hands are all but free. And long before then, much will have happened.

This does not mean that Japan has a push-over. The welding of all East Asia into a single Japanese empire requires not only the elimination of rival imperialists. It requires also the subjugation of the colonial peoples of Indochina, the East Indies, the Philippines, Malaya, and of India. The Japanese army has already more than half-choked itself trying to swallow China. Unable to conquer by direct assault, it is now attempting to force a victory by successively cutting off all sources of arms supply for the Chinese armies. That attempt has been greatly facilitated by the Allied defeats in Europe, but will still require considerable Japanese effort to succeed.

Then first they face the task of "stabilizing" the peoples who for decades have been fighting British, French, Dutch, and U.S. rule and who are not at all likely to surrender supinely to the new would-be master of Asia. And even assuming the big guns of the Japanese fleet and the bombs of the air force establish an early armed superiority, the problem of economic organization and consolidation only then begins. The Japanese have held the Yangtze Valley and North China now for nearly three years and have still been unable to make it work profitably for them.

Japanese dreams of empire are certain to be broken by more than one harsh awakening.

## GPU Tried to Cover Murder With Slander

By LEON TROTSKY

The body of Bob Sheldon Harte in a tragic manner proves the falsity of all the calumnies and denunciations levelled against him. The police authorities, who were obliged not to refuse to take this suspicion seriously, have revealed exceptional energy in this matter also. The GPU is

not a simple band of gangsters—it is an international selection of trained agents with a long background of crimes, armed with unlimited technical and economic resources. According to the lowest calculations, the technical preparation alone for the assault in Mexico, leaving aside bribes and the

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## Coolie Wages For Workers on Defense Jobs

The hopes of many workers that the "National Defense" program will provide them with real jobs at union wages received another blow last Sunday, when Colonel F. C. Harrington, WPA Administrator, announced that by Fall he would have at least one-third of the WPA workers working on projects for the rearmament program.

Do you realize what this means? It means that there will be two classes of workers employed on armament work. One will be workers hired under civil service and under government legislation providing wages approximating prevailing union wages. The second will be workers doing the same work—but getting the coolie wages dictated for WPA by the Roosevelt-Woodrum Act last year, and now repeated in the new relief act signed last week by Roosevelt.

The government now has an incentive for continuing the WPA! Continuing it as a device for getting its war machine built on starvation wages. Continuing it as a weapon to drive down the wages paid to non-WPA workers employed on the war program.

To realize how outrageous this government move is one must visualize what these WPA workers will be doing. In many cases they will be working on projects which are handled directly by the War and Navy Departments, where they will be supervised by the same personnel that handles the regular employees of these departments. The WPA

workers will be working side by side, on the same jobs, with men on the regular payrolls. They will be doing exactly the same work, but on two entirely different wage-scales.

"You think you ought to be paid more?" a swivel-chair admiral will say to a union business agent representing skilled workers who are being pushed to the limit of their endurance in the name of patriotism. "Why you people ought to be ashamed of yourselves. Look at those fellows out there, working right next to you and getting only half the salary you people are drawing down."

That's the situation the government is trying to create! Nor is this scheme one that has just been hatched in Washington. It has been long planned. It was already envisaged last year when the Roosevelt-Woodrum Act was drawn up and passed, wiping out the previous provisions in relief law which required that WPA pay the prevailing (union) wage on its projects. It was the reason why the Roosevelt administration went to such lengths in crushing the WPA strike last summer and made an example of the Minneapolis WPA strikers whom it railroaded to prison.

Some people wondered last year why the government was so adamant against the prevailing wage clause for WPA. After all, it didn't cost the government any more money per worker in most cases. If a man was going to get only \$60 a month on WPA, what difference did it

make if that amount were paid to him for working the number of hours that \$60 amounted to at union wage rates, or the 130 hours per month that the administration was insisting he work? Most people couldn't see much difference, because they thought of WPA as "made work."

Now they will see the difference! The government will get 130 hours of work on armories, military roads, army and navy camps and barracks, etc., for an average of \$52 per month per man—roughly about half what the government would have to pay for that work at decent wage rates.

If the AFL and CIO top leadership, now wallowing in patriotic trances, permit the government to get away with this, they ought to be tossed out on their ears by an outraged union membership.

Equal pay for equal work! That's a good, fundamental slogan of any decent union and should apply to the defense program as well as to any job.

All work on the defense program shall be done under the usual regulations governing employment of civilian employees by government departments. By all means hire the men now on WPA to participate in this work—but hire them as real workers, not as WPA slaves.

Union wage rates and union conditions on all government jobs and all government orders! And that takes in a lot of territory these days!