

Defense of House Being Organized

Cannon and Dobbs Issue Appeal to Party And Sympathizers to Help Finance New Arrangement in Coyoacan

Warning that Stalin will undoubtedly make another attempt on Trotsky's life, the Trotsky Defense Fund has issued this week an appeal to all members and friends of the Socialist Workers Party for funds to complete the reorganizing of the defense arrangements at Trotsky's house.

Reorganizing of the defense was begun immediately after the May 24 attack, for it was realized that Stalin, already having the discredit for the attempt to murder Trotsky, would as soon as possible seek to wipe out the stigma of his failure.

An appeal for funds at that time secured a very generous response from S.W.P. members and friends. Undoubtedly they will similarly respond now, for all party members and friends realize the seriousness of the situation and the necessity of taking adequate steps to meet it, no matter what the cost may be.

The text of the appeal follows: To All Party Members and Sympathizers:

Stalin's latest and most serious attempt to murder Trotsky was meticulously planned and carried out in a workman-like manner. There is abundant evidence of the experienced hands of the GPU assassins. Feminine agents of the GPU were assigned to seduce the members of the regular police guard for the purpose of obtaining detailed descriptions of the inside of the house and the defense mechanism. Others were assigned to take residence in the neighborhood and watch the house for months carefully to study the movements of the household.

The attackers were well supplied with necessary equipment for all possible emergencies—machine guns, incendiary and high explosive bombs, scaling ladders, portable electric saw, etc. The thirty members of the murder band were dressed in military and police uniforms. Tremendous resources were necessary for such large-scale preparations.

After brutally murdering Robert Sheldon Harte, the secretary-guard who was on watch, the attackers proceeded toward the main objective in their gruesome task, the assassination of Comrade Trotsky. Hundreds of rounds were fired from the machine guns into the patio and the house. An incendiary bomb was exploded in the house in an unsuccessful attempt to burn Comrade Trotsky's archives.

Thought They Succeeded Scores of bullets were found embedded in the floor and walls of Comrade Trotsky's bedroom. Slugs ripped huge gashes in the bedding and mattresses of the beds of both Comrade Trotsky and Comrade Natalia. Powder burns in the mattress gave mute testimony of the assassins standing at the foot of the bed to fire what was to have been the coup de grace.

Confident that they had accomplished their objective, the attackers fired a final volley and departed. But they had failed. The intended victims were not in their beds; they had quietly concealed themselves in a protected corner of the dark bedroom. Comrade Trotsky remains alive to hound Stalin with his merciless exposures of every step taken by this hangman of the October Revolution and the world proletariat.

8 GPU Agents Confessed Intensive investigations by the Mexican police have resulted in the arrest of a large number of suspects. Confessions have been obtained from eight GPU agents who were actual participants in the assault. Stalin now has world discredit for the attempt on Trotsky's life. But more intolerable to him than the brand of murderer is the stigma of failure in an attempted murder. He will try again, no doubt soon. And the next time on an even larger scale and in a more desperate manner.

Events during the Mexican national elections on Sunday, July 7, and the turmoil which has arisen over the counting of the ballots, indicate plainly the dangers of the period ahead. The outbreak of an insurrection is not excluded. There are certain to be periodic flareups of open conflict between the contending parties. In either case a good cover will have been provided for a new attack on Trotsky's life by Stalin and his GPU.

Efforts of the Socialist Workers Party and its friends and sympathizers played an important role in saving the life of Comrade Trotsky. Had he been without any special defense it would have been an easy matter for the GPU to invade his home and take

ample time to make sure that they had accomplished their task. But the very existence of a special defense made it necessary for the GPU to organize on a large scale for the attack and to hurry through with the job.

Defense Depends On Us

This experience demonstrates that the defense must be entirely revamped and made much more intricate and complete. It is necessary to build fire-towers for the guard, redoubts, bomb-proof shelters and anti-bomb screening. Provisions must be made for more efficient lighting, additional alarm protection, automatic defense mechanisms and numerous other measures. The services of military architects, recommended by the Mexican government, have been engaged to assure technical precision in this work. Considerable quantities of material are needed. Skilled workmen must be employed. And above all else, the job must be done quickly.

Thanks to the prompt response of the branches to our first appeal, funds were provided to begin construction and keep it in progress. But substantial additional funds are required to complete the job. It will take approximately \$2,500.

Bob Harte has forfeited his young life for the workers' cause. He accepted his assignment like a soldier and made the supreme sacrifice with the courage, devotion and selflessness of a revolutionary fighter. He joins the ranks of our honored dead, but his name lives on as an inspiration to all. Others have come forward to fill the gap left by his tragic loss, others who know that the reward for their services may be death. But, just as Bob did, they serve loyally and without thought of self.

We have no doubt that all members of the party and all sympathizers will recognize the importance of doing everything possible to re-enforce the defense of Comrade Trotsky. Under the present world conditions we alone are in a position to provide this defense. It depends on us alone and we must do it on top of our other obligations to maintain the party press and organization.

Make all checks and money orders for the defense of Leon Trotsky payable to Coyoacan Fund, and mail them to Rose Karsner, 116 University Place, New York City.

Fraternally,
JAMES P. CANNON
FARRELL DOBBS

CHICAGO MAKES ROOM FOR DEMOCRATS

CHICAGO, July 8—Preparations for the forthcoming convention of the Democratic party have reached a degree of refinement conceivable only in the moral atmosphere of Chicago. For the last several days, special details of police have been assigned to the neighborhood of Madison (Chicago's skid-road) and Wolcott where the Stadium is located in which the nation's assembled Democrats are to meet. Their duty is a simple and virtuous one: to brow-beat or shove up or otherwise remove all the habitual drunks who ordinarily grace the pavements there. They shag those who can still navigate over to Lake or Monroe; the rest they lay away for a week or two in the cooler.

The reason for this action is a moot one. Is it done so that the sensibilities of the nation's leaders will not be offended by an unesthetic sight? Or is it in deference to a possible philosophic moment when one bum, looking down upon another, might say, "There, but for the grace of politics, lie I?"

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TRADE UNION WAGES ON ALL DEFENSE WORK!

DEMOCRATS OFFER US FOUR MORE YEARS OF CRISIS, UNEMPLOYMENT

Canadian Seamen's Union Head Still Jailed Incommunicado

TORONTO — J. A. "Pat" Sullivan, president of the Canadian Seamen's Union, is still held in jail by the government and not permitted to make contact with his union.

Sullivan was arrested before he had completed presenting the union's demands to a federal conciliation board, which was set up in April when the government forced the union to call off a week's strike against Great Lakes shipping companies.

The arrest was made secretly, the authorities seizing Sullivan in his hotel room and preventing him from telephoning what had happened to him. Only by a ruse was Sullivan able to notify friends.

He is held under Section 21 of the Defense of Canada Regulations, which reads: "The Minister of Justice, if satisfied that with a view to preventing a particular person from acting in a manner prejudicial to the public safety or the safety of the state it is necessary to do so may, notwithstanding anything in these regulations, make an order . . . directing that he be detained in such place, and under such conditions, as the Minister of Justice may from time to time determine."

HAVANA MEET ASKED TO AID REFUGEES

A request that the refugee problem be placed on the agenda of the Havana Conference when it opens July 20 was voiced this week by the New World Resettlement Fund in a letter to Cordell Hull.

Oswald Garrison Villard, Chairman of the New World Resettlement Fund, said in his letter: "Historically the New World has been the haven for refugees of the Old World fleeing from persecution, from racial intolerance, from religious prejudice and from political pogroms."

"But the problem is so tremendous in scope that it should be faced by all of the countries in the Western Hemisphere. . . . It is a question of the resettlement of many hundreds of thousands of families, including many of the keenest minds of Europe. It is too vast to be solved by well-intentioned committees or generous-hearted individuals."

"There are vast areas in the New World that will be enriched through cultivation. And the people of the Americas will be enriched as they have been in the past with an influx of defenders of democracy, many of whom rank high in the world's hall of fame."

"May we urge in the name of our Committee that you request that the Refugee Problem and all of its ramifications be put on the agenda of the Havana Conference? What can be done about refugee is each country prepared to welcome? etc."

The New World Resettlement Fund has just negotiated a contract with the government of Ecuador for the resettlement of Spanish Loyalist refugees.

Auto Union Convention Spotlights Weaknesses

UAW Failed to Carry Out Key Organizing Campaign in Ford and Elsewhere

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

DETROIT—The United Automobile Workers of America will hold one of the most important national conventions in its history on July 29 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Unquestionably the UAW is the most important of the new CIO unions and has set the pace for the past three and one-half years to the whole industrial union movement of America.

Since the last convention held in Cleveland over a year ago, the union has been free of factional struggles and the union leadership was in a position to use its full energies on behalf of the growth and progress of the union. The Cleveland convention last year, by unanimous motions, voted the organization of Ford, the unorganized competitive parts plants, the aircraft industry and the winning of the 30-hour week at 40 hours pay as the key jobs to be achieved by the union.

All the elected officers and Executive Board members then spoke in favor of such a program and assured the convention that these tasks could and would be achieved, now that Homer Martin and the AFL were out of the picture and the union was free of factional battles. Immediately after the convention, the auto workers gave the go-ahead signal to the union leadership, by further eliminating from all importance in the industry the discredited Homer Martin AFL outfit.

Cleveland Program Dropped

Yet the UAW has made no progress along the lines indicated by the Cleveland convention. True, as Secretary-Treasurer Ades reports, the union is in a superior financial position than at the time of the Cleveland convention. But this is only a secondary achievement. Many deceptions and even dying AFL unions still boast of union treasuries of millions of dollars.

As a matter of fact the UAW has been marking time since the last convention and has without question, declined and gone backwards a considerable distance from the high point reached by the union in August, 1937, at the time of the Milwaukee convention.

Ford Still Unorganized

Ford, employing about 25% of all the workers of the automobile industry, still remains unorganized. There are fewer Ford workers in the UAW today than at the time of the Milwaukee convention. In spite of all the big talk, promises and thousands of dollars spent since the Cleveland convention, no progress has been made in the No. 1 Organizing Job of the UAW.

Fiasco In Parts Plants

The situation is equally bad in the work of organizing the unorganized competitive parts plants. Absolutely no real progress has been made in this field, so important to the welfare of all the parts and accessory workers, in spite of the fact that the union today has a larger number of organizers on its payroll than a year ago. The few small, scattered shops that have been organized into the union within the past year have been cancelled out by the equal number of organized

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SAILORS GAIN INCREASES IN NEW CONTRACT

Secure Raises Despite Sell-out by National Maritime Union

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

DETROIT—Tax provisions will be relaxed by the Federal government in order to overcome the objections of the Packard Motor Company to incurring the risk of a huge investment necessary for the production of the 9,000 Rolls Royce airplane motors ordered by the Defense Council.

According to the Detroit Free Press, the Packard Motor company refused to accept the contract for National Defense because the huge capital investment involved might be lost if "the world situation stabilized in the next two or three years."

In other words, Packard and the other motor industry bosses are "patriotic" only up to the point at which a financial loss might result . . . and then "sound business principles" prevail. After all, it's O.K. to be patriotic, but not at the risk of a financial loss. Patriotism . . . plus a "legitimate" profit. That is what Packard Motor company wants, and got from Congress.

A Grim Contrast

While the workers are told to work a longer work week, to deprive themselves of the strike weapon, for the good of "National Defense," the bosses are permitted to refuse the use of their plants for the production of armaments, on the grounds of the "insecurity" of the investment, and because of the terrible possibility that bloody world war II will not go on forever.

The quick capitulation of Congress to the demands of the Packard Motor Company merely demonstrates again the fact that this government represents the Wall Street bankers and profiteers. For the big manufacturers, it is easy to secure relaxation of the tax provisions, and to make sure that they will make a huge profit out of the production of war materials.

Workers Bear Burden

But the taxes recently put into effect against the working class go on. Taxes on tobacco, on movies, on thousands of daily needs of the masses of people, are NOT relaxed. The Packard Motor company is relieved of tax burdens, and the expense is added onto the already exploited, ill-housed, and ill-fed millions of workers.

This is what the boss government means by "National Defense." That is what is meant by "Patriotism."

When the Packard Motor company goes on strike against high taxes, as they recently did by refusing to honor the government order for 9,000 airplane motors, that is "Patriotism." When the shipyard workers went on strike for a few cents an hour more wages . . . that was denounced as the work of Fifth Columnists.

Equality of Law?

That is the Democracy we are asked to die for. One law for the bosses . . . another set of laws for the workers.

The National Defense Council has found it possible to amortize the taxes on the Packard Motor Company. That is, payment is deferred for several years.

But every day workers shell out their hard-earned pennies and carry the burden of the huge armament program, now arrived at the figure of ten billion dollars for this session of Congress.

Roosevelt Named For 3rd Term Try

Democratic Convention Suddenly Soft-Pedals Administration's War Policies As Obedient Delegates Obey Orders

By FELIX MORROW

The most glowing future that the election-year convention of the ruling party of this country was able to promise the American people is—maintenance of the status quo.

The outlook of the Democratic convention was adequately expressed when Senator Barkley, delivering his address as permanent chairman, answered Hoover's charge that the Democratic administration has "stabilized unemployment" in its eight years of office. All that Barkley could say in retort was that stabilization of unemployment was better than the accelerated rate of unemployment under Hoover! Barkley was pronouncing it a virtue that "only" ten million men remain unemployed and without hope of employment!

Barkley's address and that of the keynoter, Senator Bankhead, set the tone of the convention. Their speeches constituted a declaration that the condition of the country during the last

eight years has been as ideal as possible and that these same conditions will prevail during another four years if Roosevelt is re-elected. Great reforms? Destruction of the power of the "economic royalists"? A job for every man and woman? These and similar promises of previous years were forgotten. They were no longer to be even promises!

What a marked difference between this convention and those of 1932 and 1936!

Everything Seemed Possible Then In 1932 the Democrats swore that all that Hoover had stood for—unemployment, hunger, insecurity—would be ended by the election of Roosevelt. Even the delegates seemed to believe that it would come to pass!

In 1936 the Democrats were riding an economic upturn (that collapsed the following summer), a decrease in unemployment plus PWA and WPA had given hope to millions, and Roosevelt campaigned with vigorous denunciations of the "economic royalists" whom he would now really drive back. A fast-growing labor movement directly took part in securing Roosevelt's re-election.

But Now? In Chicago this week, however, almost nothing remained of the

spirit of 1932 and 1936. After eight years of rule, the Democrats had to squeeze hard to work up a contrast between their America and that of Hoover; for in real life the contrast is scarcely very apparent. PWA is gone, WPA is skeletonized, and joblessness dogs the workers. A majority of Democrats in the House vote to bowdlerize the Wagner Act, enraging the CIO, while Thurman Arnold hounds the AFL.

In 1936 Roosevelt had been able to explain away the meagerness of the country's gains in four years by his onslaughts against the "economic royalists." On their shoulders he placed the blame. Today, however, the Democrats can no longer resort to that alibi. Roosevelt will be making no attacks upon the money-changers, for that would be ludicrous with Stettinius, Knudsen and Eudd in his National Defense Council and such spokesmen of Wall Street as Stimson and Knox in his cabinet!

So all that the Democrats can promise, as their maximum for the next four years, is continuation of the present plight of the country.

That isn't very much to sweep the country with, and a realization of that difficulty was a sobering blanket on the convention. Gone was the unfeigned enthusiasm of 1932 and 1936—the high spirits of assured victors.

Many journalistic explanations were offered of the indubitable fact that the convention was not brimming with joy. Some journalists tried to make much of the lack of enthusiasm for a third-term. Others sought to discover a profound break between Roosevelt's close collaborators in Washington and the professional party men around the country.

The basic explanation lay elsewhere. Were Roosevelt's prospects what they had been in 1936 every delegate—especially now that Roosevelt wasn't talking "left" as in 1936—would have defied the Heavens in defense of breaking the third-term tradition. But Roosevelt's prospects were very different now.

Charlottesville High Point Only a month ago, it had seemed that Roosevelt had clear sailing into a third term. The Republicans began to wend their way to Philadelphia amid the deepest gloom. For what Roosevelt had lost as a vote-getter by curtailing his minor concessions to labor, he had gained in powerful support in Wall Street and among far-

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CIO Die Casters in 3rd Week Of Strike at Cleveland Plant

CLEVELAND, July 13—Defying anti-picketing injunctions, imported plug uglies, and a vicious lynch campaign in the daily press, the CIO National Association of Die Casters is putting up a real scrap against the Precision Castings Co. in the two-week old strike here. This is the third strike waged against the plant to gain union recognition, several attempts by the AFL to organize here having failed in the past.

After workers had barricaded the gates with a mass picket line and overturned cars, a dozen workers were hauled into court for violating the injunction. The boss press, gnashing its teeth because the plant is just over the city boundary in the suburb of Lakewood where the Cleveland police force cannot be turned

loose against the workers, is howling for the National Guard.

The union is showing in court that the plant hired professional strikebreakers from Toledo and Detroit, and one of the company flunks testifying against a picket was proved to be in jail during the time he was alleged to have seen rock throwing by the picket.

While the company claims the union has only two or three members in the entire plant, it fights against an NLRB election on the grounds that it has no right to "abrogate the terms of the agreement now in effect" with the company union. Meanwhile the workers are holding firm on the picket line and promise to finally beat this vicious anti-union company.