

FLINT AUTO WORKERS READY TO STRIKE

Natalia Testifies Jackson Saw Trotsky Only Twice In His Private Office

Believes He Led Attackers On May 24

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 7—Natalia Trotsky gave her statement today to the judge investigating the murder of Trotsky.

She declared that she is of the firm opinion that the assassin, Jackson, was the one who persuaded Robert Sheldon Harte, Trotsky's secretary-guard, to open the outer door when the May 24 attempt to assassinate Trotsky occurred. Harte was murdered by the attackers afterward in order to prevent him from telling who had fooled him into opening the door.

Harte did not know Jackson very well, but he knew him as Sylvia Ageloff's husband, and as one who had made himself helpful to close friends of Trotsky, the Rosmers. Arriving at the door with a story of an urgent message from the Rosmers for Trotsky, and with the other attackers disguised in police uniforms, Jackson could have gotten Harte to open the door.

The Stalinists arrested as participants in the May 24 attack, nine of whom have confessed their complicity, claim that they do not recognize Jackson. Even if they are telling the truth, however, it may be that Jackson was used only for the moment of opening the door and then told to disappear before the attacking band had the opportunity to see him clearly.

Nails Jackson Lie

Natalia also proved that the statement by Jackson that he saw Trotsky alone many times is absolutely false. He was in the courtyard many times, since May 28, the first time he was admitted, but in the house itself only three times, and only twice—including the time he killed Trotsky—was he alone with Trotsky in his study.

Natalia also testified to the interesting point that on the occasions when he saw Trotsky, Jackson spoke a great deal about his "boss"—what a genius he was in business and how lucky he was in the stock market. Natalia deduces from this that Jackson knew that people were wondering what kind of work he was doing, and went to the extreme, so far as Trotsky was concerned, to speak to him about his "boss". The "boss" is of course nonexistent.

Sailors Get Chance To Express Opinion of Allies Committee

The Sailors Union of the Pacific, New York branch, got a chance Monday to express its opinion of the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies.

For on Monday night the union membership meeting got a letter from that committee, signed by one Irwin J. Jaffee, "Director of Trade Union Activities", and by Louis Hollander, Nathaniel Spector, Frederick F. Umhey (of the I. L. G. W. U.) and Jack Altman, Norman Thomas' comrade. The letter asked the S.U.P. officers to sponsor a Trade Union Division of the pro-Ally committee.

Whereupon the sailors passed the following motion unanimously:

"To answer these people in the strongest possible terms, giving them our stand on their program, and informing them we want nothing to do with their committee."

The sailors are scarcely pacifists. But this is not their war. Their war is against all the bosses.



Above are two photos of "Frank Jackson", the assassin of Leon Trotsky. Jackson destroyed all photos in his own possession and tried to avoid having any pictures taken in obvious fear that they might come into the hands of someone who might recognize him and bring his GPU connections to light.

Belgian Legation Stamps Jackson's Claims To Be a Belgian as Falsehoods

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 4—Walter Lorigan, chargé d'affaires of the Belgian Legation here, handed the following official declaration to the press yesterday:

"In the course of the interview that I had Saturday, August 31, with the accused, Jackson Mornard, I arrived at the conclusion that he is not of Belgian nationality, nor does he know Belgium, and that all his statements in this respect are falsehoods.

"I.—The prisoner claims to be a son of a Belgian Minister and to have been born in the (Belgian) Legation in Teheran (Persia). There has not been a Belgian diplomat named Mornard, and the one who represented my country in Persia from 1904 to 1908 was Marc' Serstevens, replaced in 1908 by Havenith.

"When I questioned Jackson about other diplomatic posts that his father might have held, he answered that he was ignorant of what they were, a lack of knowledge which is very curious in the part of a son.

"II.—The prisoner said also that he does not know what posts were previously held by his brother who, he had affirmed, was a secretary of consulate—a title which does not exist in Belgium—but Jackson believes that his brother is in Brussels, awaiting disposition and not in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"III.—The prisoner affirmed to me that he had studied in the University of Brussels, in the Faculty of Sciences. I said to him that I had studied in the same university and I asked him if he recalled the names of some professors. He didn't remember a single name.

"IV.—The accused claimed to have studied and finished the courses of the military school in Dixmude—a small city of Flanders where there is no military school. In Belgium discipline is very strict in the Military School, and in spite of that, Jackson claims to have secured permission from it to hear courses at the University of Brussels. It is sufficient to remark that Brussels is 120 kilometers (81 1/4 miles) from Dixmude.

"V.—Jackson claims to have studied in the Jesuit college in Brussels, 'Saint Ignatius of Loyola'—this college does not exist—that was situated near the forest, on the Waterloo highway. But the Jesuit colleges in Brussels are situated on a very different road.

"VI.—The accused affirms that his mother lived for a long time at No. 1 of the street, 'Chaussee de Havre' in Brussels. No such street exists in Brussels, but there is a 'Chaussee de Wavre'. No. 1 on that street is inhabited by a big store, well known to the inhabitants of Brussels. The accused began by saying that his mother did not live on a store, but seeing undoubtedly the skepticism on my face he added: 'There is a store below, but my mother lived above.'

"VII.—A man who completed the courses of the Military School in Belgium and that claims to have studied in Dixmude—the Flemish part of the country—ought to at the least have an elementary knowledge of the Flemish language. The accused, however, did not understand the simplest phrases that I spoke in that language, and trying his best to answer 'no' ('NEEN' in Flemish), instead answered 'NEIN' in German. Foreigners who have even lived but a short time in Belgium know that 'no' is pronounced 'NEEN' in Flemish.

"The foregoing, as well as some other erroneous answers that the prisoner made, to me as well as to my colleague, Mr. Varthaliti, in the interview that was had with him, are sufficient to demonstrate that he is not a Belgian, and that he does not know Belgium.

"(Signed) WALTER LORIGAN."

Behind the Lines ANGLO-AMERICAN DEAL GIVES JAPAN PAUSE IN FAR EASTERN GRABS

by GEORGE STERN

The Roosevelt-Churchill deal to swap U. S. destroyers for bases on British territory in the Western Atlantic has caused the pendulum to swing once more in the Pacific. Japan was all but ready a week or so ago to begin, by invading French Indochina, to capitalize on the prospective German victory in Europe. The Anglo-American deal—or more properly speaking, its profound implications—gave Tokyo pause. Tokyo cannot count right now on the early departure of the U. S. fleet from Pacific waters. It cannot be too sure of the total collapse of Britain in the wake of France. It has consequently to revert to a more cautious policy.

As a first result, the Japanese "ultimatum" to the French-Indochinese authorities of a week ago simmered down to "negotiations." The French there, it appears, have already bowed to a Japanese demand for the right to land troops in Indochina and to transport them to the Chinese border. This right the Chinese will hold on to but for the moment are likely to be judicious in their exercise of it.

Secretary of State Hull's strong statement last Thursday warning

Japan not to prove the truth of newspaper reports of an impending invasion of Indochina immediately revealed the new temper in Washington resulting from the destroyer deal announced by Roosevelt two days earlier.

Behind the destroyer-base deal correspondents were encouraged to see the framework of a broad collaboration amounting to what Hanson Baldwin in the New York Times called an "unofficial alliance" between Britain and the United States. To the Japanese this means chiefly the prospect of a U. S. fleet based on Singapore collaborating with British—and probably Dutch East Indian—forces to resist any Japanese pressure southward.

The issue continues to rest, however, upon the outcome of the Battle of Britain, now in the full furious swing of its opening aerial phase. The Japanese admirals and generals probably calculate that in the end they will be able to take over the rich British realms in the East and that they need not rush in until conditions are wholly favorable. They can afford to wait to see how things

DEAL WITH BRITAIN HERALDS U. S. DRIVE

Acquisition of Bases Marks Entry of U. S. Imperialism Into Expansionist Race

With a deal negotiated behind closed doors and sprung suddenly on both Congress and the American people, the U. S. government has taken a long plunge forward toward its new place in a warring world.

The deal, blandly made public by President Roosevelt on September 3, involved the swap of 50 U. S. over-age destroyers for bases in the Bahamas, in the Caribbean islands of Jamaica, Santa Lucia, Trinidad, and Antigua, and in British Guiana on the northern coast of South America. In addition Britain gave outright to the U. S. the right to bases in Newfoundland and Bermuda.

Relative Positions

The obvious one-sidedness of this exchange serves only to stress the relative positions now occupied by the British and U. S. empires in the world picture. The U. S. has in effect "taken over" strategic control of all British imperial holdings in the Western hemisphere. The virtual alliance with Canada and the acquisition of the bases on British territory to the south carry inevitably the corollary of American political control as well. The U. S. empire has begun its own fresh march toward expansion.

If Britain had to disgorge so much, little Costa Rica and little Ecuador may not be expected to offer any less than "offer" to the U. S. and for bases on the strategically located Cocos and Galapagos islands located in the southern Pacific west of the Panama Canal. And as the reaching fingers of American imperialism extend farther out into the Pacific, we may before long expect to see similar "deals" made with Australia, and the Dutch rulers in the East Indies.

Jumping Off Places

What is happening before our eyes with strikingly little public consciousness of the fact is that the rulers of the U. S. are taking over new advance posts of empire from which the ultimate spring to world domination will be made. It is consequently of no little significance that the Roosevelt regime has adopted in carrying out this program a policy of systematically flouting Congress and the broad democratic rights which Congress, for better or worse, is supposed to represent. The al-

liance with Canada and the deal with Britain were both carried out as "executive arrangements." Congress was simply "informed" after the fact. Isolationism was put to rout not on the duly constituted public forum of Congress but by a scratch of the presidential pen. And the loudest isolationists do little more than wheeze and whimper a little because they were not consulted in advance! Even Willkie was able to make no effective political capital for his campaign out of the presidential action. Willkie is a responsible representative of American big business and he knows that the Roosevelt deal is right in line with the needs and desires of his own bosses. He gave forth only a half-hearted protest over the "methods" employed by Roosevelt but stressed his approval of the deal itself.

Willkie Knows

Willkie knows that if he takes over in the White House he'll have to do exactly the same thing because he knows as well as Roosevelt that the American people aren't going to vote themselves into a war if their rulers give them the opportunity to be heard. They'll have to be dragged into it, led into it by backdoor methods. That's what Roosevelt is doing and that's okay with Willkie.

The destroyer-base deal opens up, in effect, a new and broad phase of the development of American imperialism. It implies the placing of American strength behind British resistance to the German assault. It implies a new partnership in which beleaguered Britain gratefully accepts second place, holding off the Nazi threat while the U. S. prepares to meet and defeat it in its own good time.

Fascist Judge Heads Inquiry Into 'Fifth Column' at Flint

FLINT, Mich.—Some idea of the sort of raw deal workers can expect from "fifth column" investigations throughout the country may be surmised by observing the men conducting the inquiries. A rank example is the secret one-man grand jury inquiry now under way in Flint. The "one-man" is Judge Paul V. Gadola of circuit court.

This is the same Judge Gadola who ordered the arrest of thousands of auto workers in the sit-down strike of 1937. When Gov. Frank Murphy refused to let the sheriff shoot the men out of the plants, Judge Gadola blurted out "To Hell with the Governor." He became known to Flint workers as "Judge Godamit."

Ever since then he has branded most labor leaders as Communists. He has repeatedly called Flint "a guinea pig of Communism," and other words to that effect. He has issued several injunctions against picketing and has arrested workers for "contempt of court" if they still insisted on the right to organize unions and fight for higher pay or better working conditions.

"Judge Godamit" has been for many years a leading member and patron of the Sons of Italy. At meetings of that order he often presided when speakers included representatives of the Fascist League of North America and consuls or vice consuls of the Fascist government of Italy. He has helped dedicate Fascist Italian flags at such meetings.

In his many "Americanism" speeches the judge hurls "Communism" charges right and left. Once in a while, recently, he puts in a gentle poke at Hitler—out he has never been quoted criticizing Nazism or Fascism generally or Mussolini individually.

The kind of "subversive" and "fifth column" activity this judge is looking for is obvious. Under the guise of an investigation for the good of America, and with his authority as a circuit judge, he will "unearth" anything or everything possible to smash organized labor in Flint—in all Michigan, if he can.

He has started slowly and carefully, but whenever there is an appropriate moment for a jingo spree or a red scare sensation, he may be expected to spring something.

Proceedings are secret, which is a double advantage for the judge. He can report to the press what he ever considers good propaganda. He can suppress any facts which he does not consider suitable for workers to know.

During the auto strike he jailed a New York reporter who published an eye-witness account of vigilantes taking a union leader out into the country and beating him up. When he discovered that arresting the reporter only spread the "scoop" to other papers, Judge Gadola released the man.

One Week Deadline Set For Grievance

FLINT, Sept. 10—The International Executive Board of the United Auto Workers (CIO) was given one week to get the men fired at Fisher Plant No. 1 back to work, or else. That was the decision voted by a membership meeting tonight, in the face of a demand by Reuther, spokesman for the International Executive Board, demanding that the workers go back to work while he negotiates.

Furthermore, a mass membership meeting was set for Sunday to hear the International Executive Board report on its negotiations. A militant spirit is prevailing among the men, and they are determined that those fired by the corporation—seventeen in all so far—will go back on the job or the company will not operate.

Reuther and R. J. Thomas, International president, are playing hatchet men for the company's lockout of the Fisher men, but this is one retreat before company pressure that the men here are determined shall not be put over on them.

(See editorial, page 4)

FLINT, Sept. 9 (midnight)—General Motors Corporation tonight locked out seven thousand UAW-CIO workers at Fisher Body Plant No. 1. As a result Buick is also down. The company provoked a fight by dealing with the discredited and hardly-existent Martin union (AFL). The workers answered by throwing the Martinites out of the plant. Five CIO committeemen were thereupon fired. The whole city is boiling and a strike may result.

FLINT, Mich., Sept. 9—As predicted in last week's SOCIALIST APPEAL, the tension of the speed-up, the whip-hand tactics of General Motors of the past few weeks, have reached the explosion point in this spearhead city of the corporation, and in Pontiac.

In the Pontiac division of GM, the speed-up offensive of the corporation reached such heights that it was met with a form of strike action, a spontaneous refusal to work the higher time standards set by the efficiency experts.

As an answer to this refusal of the men, the company sent men home by the thousands, when the men refused to stretch their nerves and muscles to the breaking point for the luxury and the profit of the DuPont dynasty.

Every day for a week, 6,000 men in Pontiac would report for work. The time-study men would make the rounds with their stop-watches.

"Step up the line, boys. Gotta get out production!"

This familiar command met deaf ears. Hurriedly the corporation executives called an emergency meeting. "Send 'em home. That'll teach them a lesson."

But just as this tactic did not work for the company in Buick in Flint, it was a total flop in Pontiac. Men reported for work, worked the regular speed which had previously been standard, and cheerfully put on their caps and went home when angry GM officials closed down the plant because the speed was not to their liking.

This went on for a full week. The plants had been running about two hours a day. The plans of intimidation did not work. The men stubbornly determined not to give in.

At this point last Friday Walter Reuther sped to the scene. Uppermost in his mind was to avoid a STRIKE... that haunting devil that keeps the International Executive Board of the UAW awake nights. He issued a statement to the press:

"The difficulties at Pontiac are due to engineering faults and lack of materials."

Workers wondered whom he was trying to fool. The corporation? They knew well enough they had materials. The workers?—they knew too what was going on. They also knew that they could expect no leadership, no inspiration from Walter Reuther and his fellow-bureaucrats.

The truth was that a struggle was going on. A struggle is what the Reuthers fear the most. They don't want to recognize it even when it is a reality.

Strike Sentiment Strong

All that can be learned about the Pontiac situation, as this is being written, is that by all signs, the men have agreed to work for the time being, the company has agreed not to close the plant, and the union and the corporation will negotiate time standards. It is a sure bet that the men will not quietly take a kind of settlement that requires them to step up their speed, whether their leaders in the UAW tell them it is for "National defense" or not.

Struggle In Flint

In Flint the GM corporation has continued its speed-up ef-

orts. In addition to the tactics used last week—laying men off several hours as a disciplinary move—the company tried some new ideas this week. Things have become especially tense now in Chevrolet.

This week Baldy Mathewson, well known militant Committeeman of Chevrolet Plant 6, was told he was to be transferred. This meant that he was to be separated from his men, his plant, the place where he fought for the men who elected him to represent them. On consultation with Chevrolet leaders, he decided to refuse the transfer. The next day HE WAS FIRED OUTRIGHT.

This creates an explosive situation as has existed in the Flint plants for many months. The arrogant and flagrant flouting of union bargaining procedure; the outright firing of a leading unionist; the refusal to settle grievances; the vicious speed-up—these things are piling up thick and fast and demand action.

Ranks Want Action

The rank and file of Chevrolet by all evidence is sick and tired of the do-nothing policy of the UAW tops. At their last meeting militant committeemen, stewards and union members voiced their demands for a policy of action. Many pointed out the fatally restricting character of the GM agreement, described how it holds up bargaining, stalls off the settlement of grievances.

UAW-CIO Representative Livingston Stone, Walter Reuther's trouble-shooter, tried at the Chevrolet meeting to defend the GM contract, to excuse the inability of the leadership to force bargaining, to settle the mountain of grievances. He left the Chevrolet workers dissatisfied.

More and more there is heard from militant stewards, committeemen and union members the demand that General Motors be given its 60-day notice of termination of the contract—as provided in the agreement, and that the union proceed to fight for and get a real agreement.

In actuality, this is the only way to solve the problem of the hamstringing of negotiations on grievances.

What the UAW needs is a new, militant, fighting leadership, leaders of the rank and file who are looking for decent working conditions, and are not busy scraping and bowing in search of government posts as "National Defense" recruiting sergeants.