

# STALIN'S NEW PURGE -- The First Account Published Anywhere

## Purges the Majority of Trade Unions' Officials

Kremlin's Henchmen, Living Like An Upper Class, Have Been Devouring Workers' Funds For Their Own Purposes

By JOHN G. WRIGHT

Stalin is now in the midst of a new mass purge.

The first to suffer are the Komsomol (Russian Communist Youth) and the Trade Unions. Already purged, according to official statistics, are 137,637. Of this number 29,637 are Komsomol officials (out of a reported total of 45,580, that is, the purge has hit a 65 per cent majority of the Komsomol apparatus); and a somewhat more modest majority of 53 per cent of the Trade Union apparatus, 108,000 officials out of a reported total of 203,821. A major operation, even for Stalin.

Whereas previous man-hunts were ostensibly conducted against "wreckers, diversionists, saboteurs, traitors, agents of the Mikado, agents of the Gestapo, agents of French, English and other imperialisms," etc., in a word, against "Trotskyites," this man-hunt is termed one against *darmoyedniki* (scoundrels who eat bread that they haven't earned) and *bezdelniki* (rascals who idle away their time).

In their milder moments, and of course under their breath, the Soviet masses must have doubtless applied these homely and colloquial epithets of *darmoyednik* and *bezdelnik* to many a bureaucrat. But to have used these terms in public meant an invitation to the cellars of the GPU and a bullet in the back of the head. Stalin is now, however, compelled to apply them, if not to the whole bureaucracy, at least to the purged section.

### Stalin Must Expose His Imitators

Stalin today finds it necessary, as we shall describe, to reveal the true visage of his henchmen, their arbitrary rule, their parasitism, their vast padded staffs, embezzlements, petty grafts—even their complete isolation from the masses.

The bureaucratic summits of the Kremlin find it now necessary to indict the lesser and lower bureaucratic ranks for those very crimes and abominations which flourish below only as a pale reflection of the monstrosities at the top.

The majority of the Komsomol and the Trade Union officialdom has been charged with and has (naturally) pleaded guilty to: 1) lack of contact with the masses; 2) absence of a democratic regime; 3) failure to call not only membership meetings, but even committee meetings; 4) the upkeep of a swollen apparatus by diversion of membership dues and even sums allotted to industry; 5) padding the payrolls with *darmoyedniki* and *bezdelniki* and of similar practices, labelled, in the official double-talk, as "deficiencies."

### Cabled Stories Suppressed by Stalin

No correspondent has been permitted to cable this story from the Soviet Union as, likewise, the story of Stalin's new anti-labor legislation which I described last week. Even the provisions of the new laws against labor, which of course were published in Pravda for the information of the bureaucrats, were deleted from press dispatches, as Gedge of the New York Times has just reported upon leaving the Soviet Union. Moreover, for months at a time it is impossible to secure abroad copies of Soviet newspapers. We are now, however, able to tell the story.

On July 26 Pravda carried an innocuous notice to the effect that the Tenth Plenum of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions (C.C.T.U.) would convene on the next day, with only one point on the agenda: "The Elimination of Certain Deficiencies in the Trade Union Apparatus and the Improvement of the Functioning of the Trade Union Organs." In point of understatement this notice can be matched only by the wording of the announcement of the Ninth Plenum of the

C.C.T.U., held a month previously, which it turned out, demanded "in the name of the Soviet trade unionists" the passage of the new anti-labor legislation, but which was called, said the announcement, to consider "The Question of the 8 Hour Day." The style is the regime.

The members of the Plenum were graciously greeted on July 27 with a special editorial in Pravda addressed to the Plenum and entitled: "You Must Attract Broad Masses to Active Trade Union Work."

After an innocent and ritualistic introduction in which homage was paid to the achievements and importance of Trade Unions in Socialist Society and after affirming that "without their participation not a single serious economic or political measure is carried out," the editorial suddenly interposed an ominous "BUT".

### What the "Trade Unions" Really Are

"But," snarled PRAVDA, "many leading workers in the Trade Unions forget the main thing; they forget mass work; they forget to maintain constant contact with the masses; they take to the road of functioning in an office-bureaucratic manner through an enormous paid apparatus; and not infrequently they transform the trade union into a poorly functioning departmental bureau. These deficiencies are glaringly revealed in countless instances of a swollen paid trade union apparatus in individual enterprises, in departments as well as in regional committees and in Central Committees of the Trade Unions." (PRAVDA, July 27).

To its horror and indignation, Pravda had suddenly discovered that the Moscow Auto Plant alone supports 931 paid trade union officials. The Gorki Auto Plant is in an equally insufferable position with 648. "It is instructive," continues Stalin's official organ, "that the paid staff of certain trade unions does not decrease but on the contrary is increasing from year to year." For example, the State Trade Workers Union had 2,807 officials in 1938; it was then split up into six independent unions and the paid staff increased to 3,546.

### Squandering the Workers' Dues

Pravda immediately trumps that by citing no less instructive instances of how cultural-educational work is carried on. The workers in the Moscow Auto Plant, it appears, got together and organized a chorus and a dramatic circle. No sooner did the Trade Union learn of this than it appointed: One Chorus Leader, salary 800 roubles; one Assistant Chorus Leader, salary 500 roubles; one Art Director, 1,000 roubles; one Chief Concertmaster, 600 roubles; one Theatre Manager, 750 roubles... Pravda cuts its description of this pay-roll short with a modest though mysterious "Etcetera" and goes on:

"Facts of this kind, and they are by no means isolated ones, bear witness to the fact that many trade unions are squandering the income of the trade unions, maintaining at the expense of this income a swollen paid apparatus, in some cases, plain DARMOYEDNIKI and BEZDELNIKI."

After this discovery, Pravda is ready to tell the Plenum just how to attract the masses: "This situation can no longer be tolerated... The main portion of the funds accruing from membership dues must be expended not on the upkeep of a paid apparatus but to provide cultural-educational service to union members and to render them material aid."

The Tenth Trade Union Plenum was well attended by the Chairmen and Secretaries of the

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## U. S. SENATORIAL CANDIDATE IN MINNESOTA IS GRACE CARLSON

MINNEAPOLIS—The Minnesota Section of the Socialist Workers Party, together with its hundreds of friends and sympathizers, swung into action this week behind the candidacy of Comrade Grace Carlson for United States Senator. Because of legal obstacles, the name of the Socialist Workers Party cannot appear on the ballot. Dr. Carlson will therefore appear on the ballot as the candidate of the Trotskyist Anti-war Party.

The first stage of the campaign will be marked by the drive to obtain the necessary 2,000 or so signatures to insure placing our candidate on the ballot for the general election November 5. In the very first day of the signature campaign, over two hundred voters enthusiastically signed. With anti-war sentiment running extremely high among the masses of this state, little difficulty is anticipated in fulfilling the quota.

Campaign headquarters have been established at 919 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis, and at 138 East 6th Street, St. Paul. Ten thousand copies of a campaign leaflet setting forth the platform upon which Dr. Carlson will run have been printed, and other cam-

aign literature will be circulated during the campaign.

### For Union Control of Military Training

The twelve-point platform of the Trotskyist Anti-War Party opposes imperialist war, fascism and totalitarian dictatorship. It calls for universal military training under trade union control. It calls for trade union wages in the military forces.

Other platform planks include: Trade union wages and hours on all defense and public works programs. For the 30-hour week. Take over without compensation the national defense industry.

For the defense and extension of civil liberties and workers' rights. Against the persecution of aliens.

Genuine economic and social equality for women. Full social, political and economic equality for the Negro people. Job opportunities at union wages for the youth.

### Good Farm Plank

The farm plank calls for the cancellation of feed and seed loans to the farmers, the cancellation of farm mortgages, and "Land to those who till it." Dr. Carlson will call for a na-



Dr. GRACE CARLSON

tional labor party based upon and controlled by the trade unions; for the defense of the Soviet Union against imperialism and Stalinism; and for a Socialist United States and a Socialist world.

In the general election Dr. Carlson will confront the incumbent Henrik Shipstead, renegade Farmer-Laborite who recently deserted to the Republican party; and ex-governor Elmer Benson, Stalinist stooge who won the nomination in the Farmer-Labor primaries September 10. The Democratic candidate is John Regan.

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# FLINT AUTO WORKERS TAKING STRIKE VOTE

## S. W. P. Plenum--Conference Opens Friday in Chicago

A plenary session of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party will be held, jointly with an active workers' conference of delegates from all branches, in Chicago, September 27-29.

The Plenum-Conference will serve as the mobilization of the party to give reality to Comrade Leon Trotsky's last words: "Please tell our friends I am sure of the victory of the Fourth International. Go forward."

The principal question under discussion will be the fundamental task of party policy toward the militarization of the United States. An unfinished article by Trotsky on this basic question was on his desk awaiting completion when the assassin struck him.

A discussion on this question has been going on for some time in the party branches, on the basis of a resolution drafted by the National Committee. The fruits of the branch discussions will be presented by their delegates to the Conference.

Branches are being informed directly of arrangements for housing of delegates. Reservations for the banquet may be made by writing to Room 308, 160 North Wells Street, Chicago, or by telephone at DEARBORN 7562.

The schedule for the Plenum-Conference is as follows:

FRIDAY, Sept. 27

2:00 P.M.—Session of the National Committee.

8:00 P.M.—A Mass Meeting to greet the National Committee and the delegates, at the Medical and Dental Arts Building, 185 N. Wabash Avenue.

SATURDAY, Sept. 28

10:00 A.M.—Opening of the Conference.

SUNDAY, Sept. 29

10:00 A.M.—Continuation of the Conference.

8:30 P.M.—A Banquet closing the plenum at the Epicurean Restaurant, 316 South Wabash Avenue.

## Fisher Body Fight Is For Showdown

But Company Maneuvers to Push AFL-CIO Fight Into Foreground and to Shove the Really Basic Issues Out of the Picture

FLINT, Mich., Sept. 16—A mass turnout of members of Fisher Body Local No. 581, UAW-CIO voted unanimously yesterday at an emergency membership meeting to take a strike vote in order to demonstrate to General Motors the union's determination to put back to work the 19 key union militants suspended last week by the corporation on frame-up charges.

The company's attempt to kick these key union men out of the Fisher Body plant is the culmination of a long corporation campaign of provocation and intimidation which has aroused the fighting spirit of the local.

The struggle which was climaxed by the suspension of the 19 unionists began last Monday, Sept. 9, when AFL members still hanging on to the defunct Martin outfit, which was so thoroughly defeated in the NLRB polls throughout GM, provoked CIO members into fights in the plant. Immediately the company accused CIO men of rioting and hawking and closed the North and South Fisher units down.

These issues are the corporation's flagrant violation of the GM contract, wage decreases by means of "reclassification" of jobs, speed-up, etc. At the membership meeting of Fisher Body workers of the CIO the day following the lockout, the Fisher workers showed a militant determined spirit. All were conscious of the company's long campaign against the union and were ready once and for all to put a stop to the company's arrogant campaign against conditions in the plant.

This scissorbill line of Reuther-Thomas did not go over with the Fisher boys. They voted at that meeting to give the International Board instructions to get down to serious business at once to get the suspended men back to work, and backed this demand up with evidence that this suspension was just part of the corporation ofensive against the union. Reuther was given one week to take up the suspensions with the management, and to report back to the membership.

The militant Fisher men then unanimously passed the motion to take a strike vote at once. The

## MINOR STRIKES IN AUTO TOWNS SHOW THE POT IS SIMMERING

FLINT, Sept. 16—Two strikes are already in progress in Flint, while the Fisher Body fight to reinstate 19 unionists suspended by the company is reaching a decisive phase.

The entire bus (street car) system has been effectively paralyzed by a strike of the bus drivers, members of the Transport Workers Union, CIO.

The bus strike, now in its fifth day, is the result of the firing of the union president by the company. Company officials have refused to meet with the union, but parleys are expected today. The union has organized the bus drivers 100% and thus far no attempts to run busses with scabs have been made.

The five and ten cent girls of the Grand Silver store here have turned out to be million dollar pickets, as they marched out of the scab open shop firm and established a picket line on the busiest street in town.

The girls are organized in the United Retail and Wholesale Employees, affiliated with the CIO. The girls are striking in order to force the company, part of the multi-million dollar H. L. Green Stores, 902 Broadway, New York, to bargain with its employees, and to raise the miserable wages from \$12.50 weekly to a living wage.

DETROIT—The Diesel Division of General Motors went on strike this week, and pickets have been covering the plant gates since Friday, September 13th, when members of the Mechanical Education Society of America, an independent union, struck the plant.

The strike was the result of company refusal to grant pay raises to tool and boiler room employees, and the failure of the company to provide vacation pay.

Matthew Smith, general secretary of the M.E.S.A., announced Monday that no meetings with the corporation were yet arranged for.

The press of Detroit and vicinity is raising a fuss about the strike, with plenty of faked patriotic fervor as an excuse to attack the workers, since the plant is at work on engines for submarines.

The M. E. S. A. won the National Labor Board election in the Diesel Division of G. M.

## TROTSKY ASSASSIN IS QUESTIONED

Covers GPU Trail By Refusing to Answer Questions

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 13—Judge Carranca Trujillo conducted further questioning of the assassin of Trotsky, Jackson, this afternoon at the hospital where Jackson is in bed because of stomach trouble.

The assassin was shaved, his hair has started to grow back in, and he is beginning to look as he did before the crime. He refused to let the press take his picture, holding his hands or his arms in front of his face, and refused to talk until the photographers had been sent from the room.

Judge Trujillo permitted Albert Goldman, Trotsky's attorney, to put a series of questions to Jackson. To most of the questions Jackson said he didn't know or he didn't remember. He didn't remember any part of the contents of his false Canadian passport, and no amount of questioning could get him to recall anything in it except the name of Jackson. He had burned the passport along with his other papers precisely in order to cover up any trail that might lead investigators to his GPU superiors.

### Talkative—About Nothing

It is characteristic of Jackson's testimony that whenever non-essentials are involved, he is very talkative and precise. For example, on June 13 he had sent a suitcase with some 25 items of clothing to New York. He named every item to the judge and did so precisely and volubly. "Isn't it peculiar that you could easily recollect all the contents of your suitcases and remember nothing at all about your passport?" Goldman asked. The assassin was silent.

"I don't remember" was his answer to all questions concerning the subjects of such conversations as he had with Trotsky after first meeting Trotsky at the end of May. This phase of the questioning led to:

Q: Then you mean to say that you do not remember the subjects of the various conversations but you only remember that you were disillusioned?

A: Yes.

Q: And you mean to say further, that you do not remember the particular subject which caused your disillusionment,

### Natalia's Letter To Cardenas

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 13—A letter sent by Natalia Trotsky yesterday, thanking President Cardenas for a personal visit he and Mrs. Cardenas had made, was released today by the Presidential Palace and published in the press.

The text of the letter follows:

"Mr. President: Permit me to offer to your wife and yourself my most profound appreciation for your visit, for your sincere sentiments, for your unalterable conviction in the honor of Leon Trotsky and for the contempt manifested by you toward calumny and lie. Calumny and lie are not weapons sufficient to assure a definitive victory to those who are using them. My meeting with you on August 24th constitutes for me a moral support for the rest of my life.

"There has never been in history an epoch as overshadowed by lie, calumny, crime and inhumanity, as that today. Honorable fighters fall as victims. Their memory, nevertheless, will be eternal.

"Unfortunately my husband could not know you personally. Our life, despite that, was linked with yours by the bonds of your generous disposition

and by your aid in our days of difficulty, which were so frequent. In Norway, we found ourselves imminently menaced with death, and not a single country in the world ventured to aid the disinherited. The exception came from legendary Mexico, with its generous people, expansive and independent. You prolonged the life of Leon Trotsky for 43 months. I carry in my heart my gratitude for those 43 months. Not only I, but hundreds of thousands of incorruptible fighters, who struggle for the emancipation of humanity.

"Your tender attention sustained us in the sorrowful moments of the loss of our son in February, 1938. And again you came to help us after the perfidious attack of our enemies against our house on May 24, Saturday (August 24) once more you proved your activity in favor of him who had from you the possibility of living on Mexican soil. Permit me, Mr. President, to repeat here the expression of my deepest gratitude to the people of Mexico, to its government and to you particularly.

"NATALIA S. TROTSKY"

but you simply remember the disillusionment?

A: I remember the subject and the disillusionment. I remember the dishonest proposition which Trotsky made to me that I go to the Soviet Union and carry out acts of sabotage, and so forth and so forth, as I have declared and written in the letter which was found on me.

Q: Was it during that conversation that Trotsky proposed you assassinate Stalin?

A: Trotsky did not propose exactly that I assassinate Stalin.

Q: What precisely did Trotsky propose?

A: I don't remember. In other words, the assassin is beginning to forget the precise formulations of the GPU letter, in which it was categorically stated that Trotsky told him to

go and murder Stalin! He thought Goldman's question was a trap and tried to differentiate between what Goldman said and what he, Jackson, had said; then, realizing his mistake, he retreated to his usual "I don't remember."

This came out in this interesting way:

Q: Do you remember what you said about this (Trotsky's orders to assassinate Stalin and others) in your letter?

A: I don't remember.

Q: Do you refuse to answer my questions because you do not remember what you said in your letter?

A: This is a tendentious question and I won't answer it.

A few moments later came this amazing exchange:

Q: Will you answer these questions that I ask you, if I

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