

By Dwight Macdonald

SPARKS IN THE NEWS

World's Fair Tale

You have probably seen photographs in the papers of the Soviet pavilion at the New York World's Fair: a towering monstrosity, streamlined up to an enormous statue of a man in overalls holding aloft, in a Statue-of-Liberty attitude, a large star. The architect is Boris Yofan, most renowned of present-day Soviet architects, who did a similar job for the Paris Exposition, substituting for the man in overalls a pair of muscular young people in shorts.

Yofan also did the Palace of the Soviets in Moscow, whose colonnaded tiers rise up like a huge wedding cake to form a pedestal for a gigantic statue of Lenin. That there is something esthetically grotesque in a building serving as the pedestal of a statue—and what statues!—this bit of grammar school architectural lore has yet to penetrate the Russian steps.

At any rate, there is quite a story connected with Yofan's latest monstrosity. It seems—according to some one who should know—that many months ago a pair of Soviet architects arrived in this country with a plan for a Soviet building at the Fair. This was submitted to the Fair's architectural board, which, as is the routine, criticized it and suggested certain changes so as to bring it into harmony with the surrounding buildings. The architects went back to Moscow, and no more has been heard over here of either of them.

This winter Yofan and an associate, K. S. Alabian, arrived in New York and presented an entirely different plan. On examining this one, the Fair's architectural board found that its ground plan was some fifty feet bigger than the space allotted to the building and, furthermore, that its central tower, bearing the workman-and-star, was one hundred and eighty feet high, which was just one hundred feet higher than the top limit which had been set for all governmental buildings at the Fair. The board was, therefore, about to return the plans with a request for drastic revisions when a wire came from the State Department in Washington.

The general gist was that the two previous architects had been liquidated because their plan had been criticized, and that it would be much appreciated if the Yofan-Alabian plans could be approved by the board without any major changes. So the board, being kindly fellows, let the tower stand—it is the second highest structure at the Fair, being eclipsed only by the Trylon itself—and, to give room for the extra fifty feet of ground space, moved over three adjoining buildings, one of them being, incidentally, the Japanese pavilion. Yofan returned in triumph to Moscow, where he was fittingly honored. And just before he sailed, he gave to the press an interview in which he made a number of contemptuous re-

marks about the bourgeois architects of the United States.

Footnote on the Romanovs

"More than 600 volumes of early nineteenth century fiction which came from the Imperial Library at Tsarskoe-Selo have been purchased by the University Library. . . . The books came from that section of the private library of Nicholas II which was housed in the Alexander Palace. There they must have remained on the shelves, undisturbed by the curiosity of the Emancipator or of his descendants. Otherwise, it is hard to account for their amazingly fresh condition, the completeness of the sets and the fact that many of them are found in the original paper covers just as they were issued." From The Princeton Alumni Weekly, April 15, 1938.

More Afterthoughts

In my role of unofficial critic and reviewer of S.W.P. demonstrations, I found myself the other night on the campus of the City College of New York, taking in the Yipsels' anti-war strike. The meeting was held outside one of the college buildings, and attracted perhaps two hundred people. The Stalinized American Students Union, which for good reasons the college authorities "recognize" as the official anti-war student group, held its meeting at the same time, in the Great Hall of the college, with Joseph P. Lash and Heywood Brown as the chief speakers. I poked my nose into the Great Hall long enough to estimate the attendance there at about 1,000. The contrast between these figures is sad, but it reflects no discredit on the Yipsels. They had plenty of banners, red flare lights, and slogans chanted in unison, as well as some excellent speakers. The smallness of the crowd they drew simply reflects the great strides the war spirit has made on our campuses.

There is, however, one criticism I would like to make. In the early part of the meeting, a number of Stalinists stood on the fringes of the crowd and shouted appeals to passing students to go to their meeting. These cries were so loud as to make it hard to hear the speakers. Finally, a few stalwart comrades presented themselves before the disrupters and, without having to actually use force, were able to convince them their place was elsewhere. After that, the meeting went on peacefully. I should say that this should have been done much sooner, and that only such a show of force—however much the danger of breaking up the meeting entirely—will silence such disrupters. I say this realizing quite well, of course, that force—or even the threat of it—is a two-edged weapon at radical meetings.

MEN AND WOMEN OF LABOR

OUT OF THE PAST

By EMANUEL GARRETT

AUGUST SPIES

(Dec. 10, 1855—Hanged, Nov. 11, 1887)
"Barbarians, savages, illiterate, ignorant Anarchists from Central Europe, men who cannot comprehend the spirit of our free American institutions"—of these August Spies, was proud to acknowledge himself one.

To his prosecutors and defamers Spies admitted his "mistake"—he had chosen his place of birth unwisely. Born in Landeck, Germany (hence, a "foreigner") he did not emigrate to the United States until after his father's death, when he was already 17 years old. That disqualified him, said patriots, from advocating human liberty.

The Spies family was not exactly a wealthy one, but it lived in comfortable circumstances. His father, a forester, was able to provide his sons with private tutors, and other luxuries denied the usual working man. This it was that Spies had no contact with the proletariat, that is with the misery that is the proletariat's, until after he had arrived in America.

A Worker Among Workers

Setting at first in New York, he learned the furniture business. Within a year he moved to Chicago where, working in a factory he became fully conscious of the shocking conditions under which men lived and worked. Work, he discovered, was a privilege meted out by idlers to those whom it wished to employ when profits were to be gained.

In 1875 a friend invited him to attend a lecture on Socialism given by the Workingmen's Party of Illinois. Of a sudden he realized that here was the answer to the questions he had been asking. Studying what socialist literature was available, he became a convinced socialist and joined the Socialistic Labor Party in 1877. At the same time he joined the "Lehr und Wehr Verein", an armed body of 1,500 well-drilled workers organized in reaction to the many vicious assaults on workers by police and militia-men during that year. The patriots, themselves protected by their armed state services, placed a ban on the bearing of arms, and the Verein was disbanded.

Several times Spies ran for office on the socialist ticket. But like a good many of his comrades at the time who became disillusioned with the uses of the ballot box, the key to which lay in the bosses' pocket, he turned against political action completely, adhering to the anarchist wing of the workers' movement. Thus, failing to understand the limited, yet important, value of the ballot box in working class agitation, he gave up that field of action completely after a few sorry experiences and thereby cut himself off from a vital means of propaganda.

The S.L.P. began in 1880 the publication of the "Arbeiter Zeitung" as a daily. Spies began with the "Zeitung" as business manager and then became editor, working interminable hours each day, until his arrest on May 5, 1886.

Active in building revolutionary workers' clubs in Chicago, a leading agitator for the

* Written in collaboration with Sam Portnoy.

eight-hour day like his fellow martyr, Albert Parsons, Spies was a popular figure among worker militants. His brilliant oratory endeared him to thousands upon thousands of workers. As a speaker he was known in virtually every industrial city in the country. Travelling around, he joined in many battles of the workers exposing their plight, publicizing their struggles.

Spies was present when on May 3, 1886 the Pinkertons and the police swooped down on the strikers at the McCormick Reaper plant who were "educating" the scabs in their own way. Many strikers fell under the Pinkerton and police gunfire. Spies left for his newspaper office immediately. Here he wrote a proclamation to the workmen of Chicago. One of the type-setters added the slogan "Revenge!" which Spies later had removed, though it has come to be known as the "Revenge Circular." A call for a protest meeting in Haymarket Square was published in his paper.

Spies arrived late at the meeting, as a German speaker he had expected to speak last. The meeting having not yet been opened he called it to order in a smaller location. Parsons, Fielden and others spoke. Detectives ordered the meeting stopped. The speakers refused. A bomb was thrown. Police were injured and eight men were arrested. The great Haymarket Case had begun.

Spies along with others of his comrades was sentenced to be hanged. When sentence was pronounced the court asked him if he had anything to say. He spoke for two hours. "In addressing this court I speak as the representative of one class to the representatives of another. . . . My defense is your accusation, the causes of my alleged crime your history."

While in jail, waiting for sentence to be executed, Spies was visited by a young woman who had come to the trial to see "beasts" and saw instead men who were sacrificing their lives for humanity. She thereafter devoted all her efforts to the freeing of the men. Her friendship with Spies having grown she became his wife so that there would be less obstacles put before her in her work for the Haymarket Martyrs. The bourgeois press seethed with fury and slime. She had married, not a fat, old money-bag, but a fighter in freedom's cause.

A Voice Pierces the Silence

As the day of execution approached and the appeals for pardon were ignored, Spies prevailed upon, together with two other defendants, to submit a petition for clemency. But he soon repudiated the petition of which he was ashamed in a letter in which he proposed that he be hanged and the others freed. The others were not freed. Two were sent to jail; five to the gallows; one had committed suicide.

The hangman placed the black hood over Spies' head. In that silent moment before the rope was cut, Spies' piercing voice shattered the silence: "There will come a time when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you strangle today."

Hitler Swaps Demagogy with Roosevelt

FDR SIGNS HUGE PLANES BILL, ASKS FOR MORE

Generals Spend Fifty Millions for War Machines

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)
WASHINGTON, April 26.—Within an hour after President Roosevelt signed into law today the \$549,000,000 War Department appropriation bill, the War Department shovelled out \$50,000,000 of it in one single record-breaking order for 571 bombing, pursuit, interceptor, and photographic war planes.

This purchase is but the first step in a landslide of orders which will presently be forthcoming, according to Louis Johnson, Assistant Secretary of War, to treble the army's air strength by increasing it to more than 6,000 planes. The order calls for planes of the latest super-designs, killing planes built to travel 400 miles an hour, to destroy planes of other capitalist bandits at vast distances, and carry enormous loads of bombs.

More Funds for Navy
Still another development in Roosevelt's war preparations was a request from the President that Congress appropriate \$31,621,000 to begin the immediate construction of a chain of naval bases in the Pacific, Alaska, Puerto Rico and continental United States.

The largest appropriation for war since the demobilization of the American Expeditionary Force, \$549,000,000 was rushed to completion in record haste following its passage by Congress only yesterday. Generally a few days elapse between the passage of a bill and its signing by the President.

Congressmen who have been posing as "economy-minded" in their drive to slash funds for the relief of the unemployed were gleeful at the swiftness with which they were able to dump more than half a billion dollars in one bill into Roosevelt's war machine.

Reorganizing Army
As a further war measure, Secretary of War Woodring, announced that he will ask Congress within the next few days for authorization to trim the deadwood out of the officer corps of the United States army. He wishes immediately to subject 7,890 officers of the army to rigid examinations that would eliminate most of them in favor of younger, more vigorous blood.

BENDIX CO. COUPON CLIPPERS GET ALONG

Stockholders of the Bendix Aviation corporation were informed a few days ago that the net profit for the first quarter of the year will total \$1,000,000.

The improvement in profits, said Vincent Bendix, president, came from a "combination of favorable factors," largely the result of the "national defense program" which "will tax to the limit the increased capacity of our aircraft divisions during the last half of the year."

Mr. Bendix did not announce an increase in wages to go with the increase in dividends.

S. W. P. CALLS ANTI-WAR CONVENTION

(Continued from Page 1)

mankind. The interests and needs of the masses, of the workers and poor farmers and colonial peoples, lie and lie only in unremitting struggle within every nation against the war and the war-makers.

The war presents mankind with an irrevocable alternative. If the imperialists have their way, if they fight their war unchecked by their respective peoples then, no matter which coalition emerges victorious, tens of millions will be killed, many more millions wounded, incalculable wealth destroyed, cities and countryside devastated beyond repair, a totalitarian tyranny fastened on the backs of every nation, and men throughout the world will face the prospect of a return for decades and even centuries to a literal and hideous barbarism. One perspective and only one offers a way out of this terrible prospect: If the workers and the masses of the people everywhere unite in opposition to the war of the imperialists against mankind, transform their war into a worldwide war of the oppressed against the oppressors, smash the whole rotten system of imperialism and build from its ruins a triumphant new socialist world of peace and abundance and freedom.

In the face of the new war, the peoples, who will bear the awful burden of the war, find themselves divided by the traitors within their own ranks. In advance of the war, the parties of the Second International again act within the work-

Wants Share of Spoils; Omits Mention of USSR

(Continued from Page 1)
ing in the name of the different groups of capitalists whom they represent, they are talking about markets, colonies, profits, and super-profits, for which they are all ready to fight to the last drop of blood of the workers of all countries. That is why this threatening war has nothing in common with the interests of the workers of any land. It is nothing but the culmination on a vast international scale of the vile greed that motivates the bosses whose sole aim is to rob each other where and how they can while jointly keeping the workers ground down to a minimum standard of living and lower skill.

Roosevelt's Motive
Roosevelt made his "peace" plea not because he really expected Hitler to take him up but because he wanted to "make the record" and able to



say later on to the American workers that he had done "everything possible" to maintain peace. In his reply Hitler sang the same tune, only from the opposite side of the fence. He too claimed to be an apostle of peace. He too averred that he hated war. Meanwhile he made plain that war was coming anyway.

Nevertheless, while speaking in his usual bellicose terms, the Fuehrer left the door wide open to any deal that he might be able to extract from his badly-frightened rivals. He offered new promises, new pledges, of various kinds, and said that if Germany's demands were satisfied he was willing to talk things over.

Passing the Buck
In this way he has succeeded in throwing the ball back to his adversaries and placing upon them the onus of either offering Hitler a deal or pushing ahead for immediate war.

It was obvious, in any case, that Danzig is the next item on the agenda. The British and French are trying to get Poland to agree to give up Danzig without a struggle in order to avoid having the war issue forced over the question of returning to the Reich a city that is not only overwhelming German but which is already under Nazi control. Whether the Poles will give in remains to be seen in the immediate future.

Meanwhile the British diplomatic offensive to form an encircling bloc of powers made little headway against the counter-offensive of the Rome-

Berlin axis. Despite inspired reports to the contrary, the role of Russia in this set-up remained as unclear as ever.

Maisky "Explains"
Passing through Copenhagen on his way back to London, Soviet Ambassador Ivan Maisky said Moscow's position was "perfectly clear." This meant, he added, that in case of aggression, the Soviet Union would "come to the aid of Europe." Europe at present being divided into two camps getting ready for war, the ambassador's statement really came as something of a new record in ambiguity. Rumania, on its part, was still agonizingly uncertain about which bed to jump into, and Turkey still stood cautiously on the outside, waiting to see what Russia would do.

In Great Britain the conscription measure was rushed through a compliant House of Commons. The Chamberlain government addressed itself to the task of flicking over the feeble "opposition" to the measure registered by the official Labor Party and trades union leadership. This did not involve preparations for crushing strikes, for the labor bureaucrats have no intention of really waging any militant struggle against the attempt to yoke the British workers to the war machine.

Cabinet Re-shuffle
No, it merely meant plans to re-shuffle the cabinet to make its personnel a little more personally pleasing to the Laborites—who, after all, have been louder than any during the past year, in demanding an aggressive war policy.

The other means being used to make conscription palatable is a promise later on to limit war profits and prevent profiteering—although as Chamberlain himself admitted in Commons, the government has been finding it extremely difficult to do this, and anyway, does not wish to discourage the munitions makers!



MARIE RUBENS

L.N.P.L. Convention Surprised by Stand For Workers Politics

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)
BOSTON, Mass.—Over 230 delegates claiming to represent 85,000 workers recently met at the second annual convention of this state's Labor's Non-Partisan League. A definite sentiment for independent class politics emerged, but got little encouragement.

Many large unions sent only observers to the convention because disgust with the League policy of playing ball with the notoriously reactionary Democratic machine in this state still prevailed among many unionists.

Eli P. Olivér, national executive vice president of the League, mentioned the possibility that if the Democratic Party did not nominate a "friend of labor" the L.N.P.L. would run an independent candidate. The storm of applause that greeted this hint of independent class politics greatly surprised Olivér.

DEFENSE AVOIDS WITNESS STAND IN RUBENS CASE

Fear Exposing G.P.U. Connections at N.Y. Passport Trial

By NAT LEVINE
(Special to the Socialist Appeal)
NEW YORK—Immediately after the government rested its case on Friday, April 28, in the conspiracy trial involving the issuance of forged passports to eighteen men and women, among them the Moscow imprisoned Robinson-Rubens couple, counsel for the defense announced to the press that it would not place the defendants Ossip Garber, Edward Blatt and Aaron Sharfin on the witness stand.

This procedure is tantamount to throwing in the sponge. From the opening date of this case, the defendants would not plead guilty since a formal admission of guilt would, in effect, have meant to concede the machinations of the G.P.U. in this country. Furthermore, in order at this late date to prevent any possible slip up which might reveal a connection with the Soviet Secret Police, the defendants are being withheld from taking the witness stand in their own behalf. The last recourse in the strategy of suppressing the relations of the three men with the G.P.U. has been to put up a formal defense against the charge of criminal conspiracy.

Loy W. Henderson, one-time Secretary of the American Embassy at Moscow who saw Mrs. Rubens in her Lubianka cell early in 1936, added nothing to throw light on her arrest by the Soviet police.

Loy W. Henderson, attache to the American Embassy in Moscow, interviewed Mrs. Rubens in her Lubianka cell early in 1938. During the interview with Henderson, Mrs. Rubens refused the proffered intervention of Embassy officials on her behalf and would say nothing to throw light on her arrest.

Helped the G.P.U.
Her refusal to accept the intervention of Embassy officials indicated that she was cooperating with the G.P.U. in its efforts to hang the Trotskyist label on herself and her husband, after which they would be linked to German-Japanese spies.

Since the Henderson interview, a number of illuminating facts have come to light establishing that at every point in their American operations, the Rubens enjoyed the active collaboration of American Stalinists. As every day goes by, new facts come to light.

Most recent of these is that David Mankoff, for many years an associate of the defendant Edward Blatt, was or is a member of the Young Communist League whose activities have ranged from that of an organizer for the Stalinist-controlled International Labor Defense to a recruiter of American volunteers for the Stalinist-sponsored Abraham Lincoln Brigade.

Also of recent note is that Max Schulman was recently a proofreader for the Daily Worker. The name Max Schulman appears in the indictment as one to whom a passport was issued on October 10, 1935.

Prosecutor Ignores C.P. Tie-up
It was generally conceded among close observers of the trial that when Henderson took the stand, he would maintain complete silence concerning the obvious Stalinist tie-up of the ring. At no time has it been out of the realm of possibility that Henderson has a knowledge of the G.P.U. hand in the affair. If Henderson refused to air this tie-up, it can only mean that he is observing strict instructions from the State Department to remain silent.

In this connection, it has been previously observed that the State Department is not averse to allowing the G.P.U. to strike at the American revolutionary movement. This friendliness of the government towards the G.P.U. is based on the effort to bring the Soviet Union into the Anglo-French and American "Stop-Hitler" Alliance. The prosecution and the State Department are leaning backward in order not to offend a future partner in the war for "democracy."

SOCIETY NOTES

If You Can't Make It By Hitchhiking Charter a Plane

James Roosevelt, son of President Franklin D., received an invitation while vacationing in London to dine with King George and Queen Elizabeth. But he delayed departing for the appointment until it was too late to go by regular transportation.

This, however, did not daunt James, in whose veins flows the resourceful blood of the Roosevelts. He chartered a private plane and flew to Windsor.

It cost him approximately \$35 for transportation alone to fulfill his engagement with the royal George and Lowie—but after all he arrived in time for the eats and that's just as important to the blue-blooded Roosevelt clan as taking another slash at the relief funds of the unemployed.

Tired of No Job? You Can Always Hang Yourself

When dawn came over the Bronx, New York, the other morning, the body of David Manaker, twenty-seven years old, was discovered swinging by the neck from the branch of a tree in Crotona Park between Crotona Avenue and Fulton Street.

Police arrived in response to calls and cut the body down. After searching his pockets and discovering a card of the Bronx Eye and Ear Hospital and a card issued by the National Ship Workers Union, police finally got down to the bottom of his worldly possessions—a single five cent piece and . . . a social security card.

Police decided that apparently Manaker was without work and had no home. They called it a case of suicide and sent the body to the morgue.

ing class as the agents of the imperialists of their own countries, and summon the people to die on the imperialist battlefields.

The Third International, founded in the struggle against the last war, has completed its degeneration. It is the rankest and most poisonous chauvinist force to be found in the world today.

Nevertheless, unlike 1914, when the betrayal of the Second International came as an unanticipated shock with no organized preparation against it, today the front line of the fighters against the war is already formed. The most conscious and determined of the workers struggling against the world war have joined ranks in the Fourth International, and on a world scale march forward with all the strength of an unimpeachable revolutionary program and a shining banner that will never be lowered.

The war crisis dominates and determines every other issue. The Socialist Workers Party, American section of the Fourth International, calls this convention as the ANTI-WAR CONVENTION and sets as its task the clarification and consolidation of its ranks for the supreme task now facing the workers of the United States and the world: the struggle against the war and the war-makers.

National Committee Socialist Workers Party

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