# Socialist Appeal

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SOCIALISM WILL BE

TROTSKY'S MONUMENT

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# FLINT AUTO WORKERS READY TO STRIKE

#### Natalia Testifies Jackson Saw Trotsky DEAL WITH BRITAIN HERALDS U.S. DRIVE 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 ment of opening the door and attacking band had the opportunity to see him clearly.

#### Nails Jackson Lie

Trotsky alone many times is ab-solutely false. He was in the "In the course of the the time he killed Trotsky-was he alone with Trotsky in his and that all his statements in

Natalia also testified to the interesting point that on the occa- a son of a Belgian Minister and sions when he saw Trotsky, Jack- to have been born in the (Belson spoke a great deal about his gian) Legation in Teheran (Perbusiness and how lucky he was gian diplomat named Mornard, in the stock market. Natalia de- and the one who represented my Flemish part of the country- gium. duces from this that Jackson country in Persia from 1904 to knew that people were wonder- 1908 was Marct' Serstevens, reing what kind of work he was placed in 1908 by Havenith. doing, and went to the extreme, so far as Trotsky was concerned, to speak to him about his "boss". The "boss" is of course non-

#### 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.

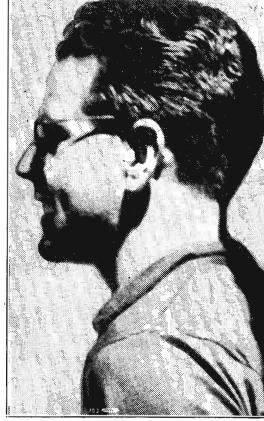
For on Monday night the union membership meeting got a letter from that committee, signed by one Irwin J. Jaffee, "Director of Trade Union Activities", and by Louis Hollander, Nathaniel Spector, Frederick F. Umhey (of the I. L. G. W. U.) and Jack Altman, Norman Thomas' comrade. The letter asked the S.U.P.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

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."

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.

#### they are telling the truth, however, it may be that Jack-bowever, it may be that Jack-son was used only for the mothen told to disappear before the To Be a Belgian as Falsehoods

"In the course of the interview ality, nor does he know Belgium, this respect are falsehoods.

"I.—The prisoner claims to be "boss"-what a genius he was in sia). There has not been a Bel-

> "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 recalled the names of some prosingle name.

"IV .- The accused claimed to have studied and finished the of Britain in the wake of France. courses of the military School in It has consequently to revert to ders 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 130 kilometres (811/4 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. statement last Thursday warning turn out.

mother did not live on a store, 'NEEN' in Flemish. but seeing undoubtedly the skep-

mother lived above.'

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 4-Walter! "VI.-The accused affirms that | mentary knowledge of the Flem-Natalia also proved that the statement by Jackson that he saw times is ab-Lorigan, charge d'affaires of the his mother lived for a long time ish language. The accused, howstreet exists in Brussels, but there language, and trying his best to consciousness of the fact is that courtyard many times, since May that I had Saturday, August 31, on that street is inhabited by a instead answered 'NEIN' in Ger- over new advance posts of empire phase of the development of Amer-28, the first time he was admitted, with the accused, Jackson Mornbut in the house itself only three but in the house itself only three ard, I arrived at the conclusion habitants of Brussels. The active but in the house itself only three ard, I arrived at the conclusion habitants of Brussels. The active but a short time in Belgium to world domination will be made. It is consequently of no little hind British resistance to the hind British resistance.

"The foregoing, as well as some ticism on my face he added: other erroneous answers that the There is a store below, but my prisoner made, to me as well as to my colleague, Mr. Varthaliti, "VII.—A man who completed in the interview that was had the courses of the Military School with him, are sufficient to demin Belgium and that claims to onstrate that he is not a Belgian have studied in Dixmude—the and that he does not know Bel

ANGLO-AMERICAN DEAL GIVES JAPAN PAUSE IN FAR EASTERN GRABS

by GEORGE STERN

a week or so ago to begin, by in- evelt two days earlier. vading French Indochina, to capitalize on the prospective German victory in Europe. The Anglo-American deal-or more properly speaking, its profound implicauniversity and I asked him if he tions—gave Tokyo pause. Tokyo cannot count right now on the fessors. He didn't remember a early departure of the U.S. fleet from Pacific waters. It cannot be too sure of the total collapse

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 Japanese will hold on to but for the moment are likely to be judicious in their exer-

The Roosevelt-Churchill deal to Japan not to prove the truth of swap U. S. destroyers for bases newspaper reports of an impendon British territory in the West- ing invasion of Indochina imme ern Atlantic has caused the pen- diately revealed the new temper dulum to swing once more in the in Washington resulting from the Pacific. Japan was all but ready destroyer deal announced by Roos-

> 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.

nowever, upon the outcome of the Battle of Britain, now in the full working conditions. urious swing of its opening aerial phase. The Japanese admirals and generals probably calculate that in the end they will be able realms in the East and that they need not rush in until conditions are wholly favorable. They can Secretary of State Hull's strong afford to wait to see how things helped dedicate Fascist Italian the workers if they trust these

#### Imperialism Into Expansionist Race With a deal negotiated behind closed doors and sprung sud-

Acquisition of Bases Marks Entry of U. S.

denly on both Congress and the American people, the U.S. government has taken a long plunge forward toward its new place in a

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 with Britain were both carried 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 ontrol 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 5. and for bases on the stra-

wgos islands located in the southgers of American imperialism extend farther out into the Pacific, we may before long expect to see similar "deals" made with Australia, with the Dutch rulers in the

#### Jumping Off Places

What is happening before our

supposed to represent. The all good time.

liance with Canada and the deal out as "executive arrangements." Congress was simply "informed" 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:

no effective political capital for his campaign out of the pres:dential action. Willkie is a responsible representative of Ameri- result. can big business and he knows that the Rooseveit deal is right in line with the needs and desires of his own bosses. He gave forth only a half-hearted protest over evelt but stressed his approval of

#### Willkie Knows

Willkie knows that if he takes ver 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 the DuPont dynasty. into a war if their rulers give them the opportunity to be heard. it, led into it by backdoor methods. That's what Roosevelt is watches. doing and that's okay with Will-

The destroyer-base deal opens up, in effect, a new and broad from which the ultimate spring ican imperialism. It implies the gency meeting. "Send 'em home. significance that the Roosevelt re- | German assault. It implies a new gime has adopted in carrying our partnership in which beleaguerthis program a policy of systema- ed Britain gratefully accepts sec- | Pontiac. Men reported for work, tically flouting Congress and the ond place, holding off the Nazi worked the regular speed which broad democratic rights which threat while the U.S. prepares had previously been standard, Congress, for better or worse, is to meet and defeat it in its own and cheerfully put on their caps

#### Flemish part of the country— gium. ought to at the least have an ele- "('signed) WALTER LORIGAN." Fascist Judge Heads Inquiry Into 'Fifth Column' at Flint

the sort of raw deal workers can speeches the judge hurls "Comexpect from "fifth column" invest- munism" charges right and left igations throughout the country Once in a while, recently, he nuts may be surmised by observing in a gentle poke at Hitler-put the men conducting the inquiries. A rank example is the secret oneman 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 plants, Judge Gadola blurted out if he can. 'To Hell with the Governor." He as "Judge Godamit."

Ever since then he has branded most labor leaders as Commun- may be expected to spring someists. He has repeatedly called thing. Flint "a guinea pig of Communism", and other words to that effect. He has issued several in- He can report to the press what. junctions against picketing and ever he considers good propagan. has arrested workers for "con- da. He can suppress any facts; tempt of court" if they still insist- which he does not consider suit-The issue continues to rest, ed on the right to organize unions able for workers to know. and fight for higher pay or better

"Judge Godamit" has been for many years a leading member and patron of the Sons of Italy. At meetings of that order he often to take over the rich British presided when speakers included representatives of the Fasc st League of North America and con Gadola released the man. suls or vice consuls of the Fascist government of Italy. He has flags at such meetings.

FLINT, Mich.-Some idea of In his many "Americanism" 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 who ordered the arrest of thou- the good of America, and with his sands of auto workers in the sit- authority as a circuit judge, he down strike of 1937. When Gov. will "unearth" anything or every-Frank Murphy refused to let the thing possible to smash organized sheriff shoot the men out of the labor in Flint-in all Michigan,

He has started slowly and carebecame known to Flint workers | fully, but whenever there is an appropriate moment for a jingo spree or a red scare sensation, he

> Proceedings are secret, which is a double advantage for the judge. During the auto strike he jailed

a New York reporter who published an eve-witness account of vigilantes taking a union leader ou! into the country and beating him up. When he discovered that arresting the reporter only spread the "scoop" to other papers, judge

There are thousands of Judge Gadolas in this country. Woe to men, or cooperate with them!

## 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

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

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 after the fact. Isolationism was 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-ClO 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-Even Willkie was able to make existent Martin union (AFL). The workers answered by throwing the Martinites out of the plant. Five ClO committeemen were thereupon fired. The whole city is boiling and a strike may

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 the "methods" employed by Roos- 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.

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 forts. In addition to the tactics

Every day for a week, 6,000

They'll have to be dragooned into work. The time-study men would make the rounds with their stop-

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

deaf ears. Hurriedly the corporation executives called an emer-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 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 devil that keeps the International Executive Board of the UAW awake nights. He issued a state-

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

ment to the press:

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-bureacrats. 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 grievances. 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-

As an answer to this refusal of the men, the company sent men

used last week-laving men off several hours as a disciplinary men in Pontiac would report for 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 as explosive a 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-upthese 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 avoid a STRIKE...that haunting 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 Livingstone, 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 agree-

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

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

Write to us-tell us what's going on in your part of the labor movement—what are the workers thinking about?—tell us what the bosses are up to—and the G-men and the local cops and the Stalinists—send us that story the capitalist press didn't print and that story they buried or distorted—our pages are open to you. Letters must carry name and address, but indicate if you do not want your name printed.

#### BOSS PARTIES FAIL, **BUT THEN STOPS!**

In a recent issue of the AFL

organ here, the St. Paul Advocate. Aug. 1, there were two editorials. the one warning the workers about Roosevelt and his anti-labor policies, and the other characterizing the Republican party for what it The editor pointed out that labor should not forget that Roosevelt sanctioned the WPA cuts, does not oppose the 'anti-trust' anti-labor drive, and that it is the same Roosevelt who is speeding this country into war. The editor also proved, what all workers know, that the Republican party is still the party of Big Business; and he conclusively demonstrated that the two parties look so much alike that one needs

a microscope to see the difference. After having done this good job of demonstrating that the Democratic and Republican parties are the parties of the bosses, he concludes that we should guit this hollering for a third party because that would muddy up the

'Can you see any sense to such reasoning? To me it seems that the only answers that can be given after we discover that the two old parties are boss dominated, is that Labor enter the political field and come out for that openly. Why this belly-crawling before these so-called "friends" or "enemies" in the old parties?

..St. Paul, Minn.

#### TEXT OF ST. PAUL "UNION ADVOCATE" **EDITORIAL**

The St. Paul Union Advocate's tion proposal now before congress retary of the CIO duplicated that August 1 editorial on Roosevelt was written at the specific re role in the U. E. as President, referred to by J. A. in his letter, quest of Mr. Roosevelt. And lastly, except in the one case he was has been sent in by two other let Labor remember that at no and is a puppet for John L. Lewis. correspondents also. It is well time has Mr. Roosevelt raised his in the other he was the willing worth reprinting. It is entitled voice in condemnation of the M prisoner of the Stalinists. "Let Labor Face the Facts." Its Day plan which will give the full text follows:

its idols.

Labor wants to go on believing Let Labor remember that the that President Roosevelt is still first acts of Mussolini and Hitler the champion of the underprivi- were to destroy the trade union portant industries of America. leged: that he is still the advo- movements in those two nations. cate of peace; that he is Labor's Dictators are opposed to union

Let Labor look at the record. wage scale provision retained in man feels a lot more independent the 1939-1940 WPA enactments. than a non-union worker. Let La-At no time did President Roose- bor remember that "you can't velt indicate a like interest. As strike against Mussolini" in Ita a matter of fact, Colonel Harring- ly. And let Labor remember al ton, Mr. Roosevelt's personal ap- ways that conscription is the tool pointee, appeared before the house of totalitarian dictatorships and and senate committee to demand the forerunner of despotism. that the prevailing wage clause be eliminated. Under the Wood- them regardless of how much they rum amendment, which Mr. Roos | cut human pride and shatter temevelt never protested, the prevail- porary idols.

UNION PAPER PROVES ing wage scale was eliminated and the sustenance wage scale substituted. Mr. Roosevelt signed and grow without any of the the bill without comment.

When a lot of misguided WPA workers in Minneapolis struck against the wage cut authorized by the Woodrum amendement, a New Deal district attorney demanded and secured indictments against scores of the strikers. The FBI, under direction of a New Deal attorney general, rounded up the prisoners and paraded them union has been more dependent on in chains through the streets of pressure campaigns and the labor labor movement. Minneapolis. When Labor pro-board than on strike action. Dev tested, Mr. Roosevelt revealed his eloping in such an atmosphere lack of concern by declaring at the union has not been able to a press interview "you can't strike generate anything like the rank against the government." When and file enthusiasm of the United Labor leaders and central Labor Auto Workers. Nor has it, in bodies petitioned the government to temper its justice with mercy signed, been able to develop anyfor the convicted strikers a personal representative of the Presi- in Auto and Steel. dent appeared in court and decclared "you can't strike against member has tended to be more the government." Scores went to or less apathetic to the union, exjail and every plea for clemency cept when a militant struggle has was denied. Finally the President developed here or there. This was asked to pardon the prisoners still remaining in cells and Mr.

Roosevelt denied them clemency. Let Labor face these facts and and being the most experienced Let Labor consider the fact that

Mr. Roosevelt-and not congress -sought appropriations totalling the fact that they were able to two billions of dollars for preparedness and that within a year he has upped these demands to fourteen billions of dollars. Let Lapor remember that it was Mr Roosevelt who proposed the in come tax increases and the sales taxes to pay for these war preparations. Let Labor remember that it was Mr. Roosevelt-and not congress-who suggested the conscription of boys and girls for military training. Let Labor remember that the so-called Burke-Wadsworth universal conscrip-United States a military dictator Labor is reluctant to give up ship the day it is invoked by the President.

wage scales because union wage they had complete control, they scales have a way of keeping up are today facing a situation where Labor wanted the prevailing the morale of workers. A union their influence is definitely on

These are facts. Let Labor face

# ORKERS' CONVENTION OF CIO ELECTRICAL WORKERS SHOWS DECREASE OF STALINIST INFLUENCE By AL MARTIN CLEVELAND—The Human Processing Convention of Cio Electrical Workers Include the Convention of Cio Electrical Workers Include the Convention of Cio Electrical Workers CLEVELAND—The Human Processing Convention of Cio Elect

CLEVELAND-The United Electrical, Radio and Machine subject, the Stalinist, Matles, la- thing, that Stalinism in the U.E. Workers, potentially one of the most important and strategic unions beled the reactionary Senator in this country held its convention here over the Labor Day weekend.

The U. E. is one of the CIO unions, that got its base and most important growth during the hey day of the CIO—1936-37. As a re-chusetts delegation, he was forced sult of the tremendous impetus given the labor movement as a whole during that period by the great struggles of the auto and ogize to the convention. steel workers, the U. E. was able to establish itself in its most im- posed to the Stalinists, not only the aggressor nations a resolution

portant bases-General Electric for reactionary reasons which and Westinghouse-relatively reflect capitalist pressure, but Soviet Union. The Stalinists sucwithout a struggle. also for progressive reasons, nam-In the period that followed, the ely Stalinist stifling of rank and U. E. was able to establish itself

spite of the many contracts it has

thing like the wage standards set

In general then the average

situation worked out at first very

a position of complete dominance

of the organizational setup in the

international. Emspack, another

urer. James Carey, puppet sec-

Stalinists On Way Out

strength in one of the most im-

The Stalinists are and have

been always ready to cynically

sign contracts which set standards

lower than open shops and there-

by make a hundred times more

difficult the job organization. An

example of this type of contract

is one negotiated at the Mergenth-

ceive millions of dollars in gov-

U. E. as well as all other unions.

It is with such a background that

'he U. E. convention had to meet

and deliberate. Yet in spite of

all the vast problems facing the

inion the answers were not there.

The Stal'nists in spite of the

act that they were only a small

ninority at this convention, were

ble to get by, chiefly because

he opposition had no program

Opposition Still Confused

The opposition leaders—Matthew

Campbell of the powerful Spring-

ield G. E. local, Al Coulthard of

Lynn, Maton of the R.C.A. plant

n Camden-understand only one

vay to fight the Stalin'sts, that

s super-patriotism and redbait

ng: they lack an organization

Stalinists; and so were in abso

of the fact that they were op to those who lived in close con-

mion's resistance.

or organization.

the U. E.

file leadership, etc. The C. P. succeeded in outmaneuvering this opposition on all of Roosevelt, due to pressure of Cagreat national struggles that charthe political questions. On conacterized the development of the scription, the one issue on which "compromise" leaving the question unions in Auto, Steel, Maritime. a divided vote was taken, the of endorsement to a committee of Rubber. Its struggles, while some-Stalinist position carried 435 to John L. Lewis and Philip Murtimes very bitter, such as in May 195, as opposed to a resolution tag where the National Guard introduced by Campbell denouncsent the workers back to work at ing the Burke-Wadsworth Bill but the point of bayonets, have been, leaving the question of conscrip-In the past couple of years the tion open to be decided "in time

Walsh a great progressive because of his stand on conscription. Due to the insistence of the Massato retract his statement and apol-

On' the question of denouncing was introduced denouncing the ceeded in getting a substitute win. across denouncing all dictator ships, not naming any country. Similarly on the question of rey the Stalinists succeeded in a

Stalinists Insecure

Thus on all controversial questions the Stalinists outmaneuver- aid in the development of rank of emergency by the organized ed the opposition. Yet their vic- and file leadership, an end to Staltory wasn't real, because the con- inist domination.

In the course of debate on this vention clearly established one is on the wane, that an opposition with a program could easily give them a knockout blow.

> James Carey who has been taking pot shots at the C. P. in his column in the U. E. news kept silent at the convention, obviously waiting for a more favorable opportunity. Like any union bureaucrat he will take no chances unless he is absolutely sure he can

> The period following the convention inevitably must see the crystallization of a real rank and file opposition in the U.E.R. & M. and the development of a new and better leadership coming from the ranks. An opposition based on a program of union accomplishment, a campaign for the 35 hour week, minimum wage scales, organization of the unorganized,

Reports of nation-wide activity | entering the factories, and everywith the memorial issues of the where on the streets. APPEAL are only now beginning to reach the office. An excellent with widespread leaflet distribureport from Boston gives a living example of how party meeting in addition to our spestrength can be mobilized around cial APPEAL work, about 15,000 an issue, to bring the party's po-

sition to the workers. We quote: BOSTON, Mass-"On the report on how we handled the 5000 APPEALS—

"On Monday, the branch meetng night, all comrades were told night. Unemployed were told to Every night during the week we covered house-to-house in the working-class districts, including Dorchester where the C. P. has a large section; Roxbury same as above and stronghold of the S. D. F. and S. P. for years; West End Boston (where we had good reton, where all the national groups do it.) are found-Arab, Jewish, Irish. Polish, Lithuanian, Italian, Greek, etc.; and the Negro Section of Boston, where almost 1000 papers reached this important section of the working class.

"Also we covered the waterfront, reaching seamen, longshoremen, Negro stewards, etc. We hit subway entrances where workers were on their way to their jobs.

"On street assignments, we yelled the headlines and added others ourselves. We picked one town, Washington, D. C., Detroit, place where the C.P. headquart- Cleveland, Alientown, Rochester, ers are located, and saw many Kentucky, Illinois, Idaho, and C.P.'ers, selling the APPEAL to North Dakota. some of them.

"We spread the APPEAL throughout the radical debating circles on Boston Common, and elsewhere. We reached workers

"As an estimate we figure that tion announcing the memorial people were directly contacted. We estimate that 40,000 people in Boston knew our position on the death of Comrade Trotsky and knew that Stalin was the killer. We received news stories in four Boston papers and many others to be at the headquarters every heard of the APPEAL and the meeting, and the party was put be there at 11 a.m. every day. in the limelight. We have spread our ideas and program to many new workers, and it may well bear fruit in the future."

#### SUBS COMING IN

Subscriptions continue to come in, slowly, but steadily. Fiftynine were received during the sults in our house-to-house AP- past six weeks, with Minneapolis, PEAL campaigns, finding the as usual, far in the lead. (We workers more advanced than in hope soon to publish a report other sections); South End Bos- from Minneapolis on how they

Here is the compilation: Minneapolis ...... 13 New York City ..... Chicago ..... California (State) ..... Connecticut ...... Omaha ...... Pittsburgh ..... Youngstown ..... Lynn, Mass. ..... St. Paul . ..... Los Angeles ..... Philadelphia 2
And one each from Quaker-

Join the Socialist

Workers Party

## Trotsky Memorial Meetings In Detroit, Cleveland, Etc.

FLINT, Michigan, Sept. 8.—A

Memorial Meeting for Leon Trot-

sky was held last night in the

Carpenters Hall in the Pengelley

Building, Flint auto workers

veterans of the great sit-down

strikes, heard Art Preis of Toledo

speak on the meaning of Trot-

against the oppression of the boss,

wherever a striker stood firm and

angry on the picket line, there

and hatred which the class-con-

scious workers of Flint have for

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio, Sept. 9

-Sixty persons were present at

the Trotsky Memorial Meeting

held here Sunday afternoon at the

Central Auditorium, David Stev-

ens, Ohio District Secretary of

address. A large quantity of books

AKRON, Ohio, Sept. 9.-In spite

of the small size of the SWP

branch here, a sizeable meeting

was arranged which was address

very attentive while the speakers

**Charles Cooke** 

The Newark District of the

Socialist Workers Party joins

with his wife and children in

mourning the death of comrade

Charles Cooke, militant Negro

steel worker and unionist, who

saw in the party and the so-

cialist re-organization of so-

ciety the only solution for the

problems of the working class

His passing away means a

genuine loss to the party, and

one which will not soon be re-

placed. His willingness to

learn, his desire to help, his

disciplined attitude-all learn-

ed the hard way, over a period

of many years in factories in

which he sweated away his

-were an inspiration to all

The party pledges to carry

who knew him.

and the Negro people.

sold to a number of workers.

their kind.

Trotsky still lived.

sky's life, and point out that

#### Stevens Speaks In Cleveland

well for the Stalinists. Coming CLEVELAND, Sept. 6-David into the un'on at its inception Stevens, Secretary of the Ohio District of the S. W. P., was the and articulate, the Stalinists found main speaker at the Trotsky it quite easy to dominate the un-Memorial Meeting here tonight at ion. This, taken together with the Hotel Allerton. Comrade Stevens described Trotsky's life split the International Associarom that day on which he astion of Machinists and come into sumed the presidency of the first the U. E. with a sizeable group Soviet in world history, the Petin the east, placed them in a posirograd Soviet of 1905. He urged tion of absolute hegemony over every member of the audience to read the "confession" found on James Matles, the leader of the the murderer, as the best evidence machinists, took the strategic post that the crime was committed of organizational secretary which by the GPU. placed the Communist Party in

Cleveland workers were very tact with him in the house in receptive to the several thousand Coyoacan. copies of the memorial issues of the APPEAL which were distri-Stalinist, became secretary-Treasbuted. During the Labor Day parade of the CIO unions, some Stalinists tried to rough up one of the girls distributing the PEAL aloft and proclaimed: 5 God, these people are right!"

#### Thus the Stalinists were in a Preis Speaks In position were they could have built a powerful citadel of Flint And Toledo strength in one of the most im-

Yet nothing like this has taken place, and in this union where Toledo Unemployed League, spoke the Fourth International, founded of Leon Trotsky at the Hotel interruption the struggle of the the wane. They have thrown it all away by their false policies.

The well-attended meeting, one the boss class. of the best ever held by the Tolording, and saw motion pictures personal guard withdrew, evidentrevealing intimate details of Trot- ly understanding the contempt sky's life in Coyoacan.

#### aler Linotype corporation in New York, where in spite of the fact York, where in spite of the fact that the plant inevitably must reernment contracts, they accepted contract which actually calls Success Despite for a wage cut, in spite of the fact that workers are paid higher MOVE TO BIOCK

DETROIT, Sept. 4—In spite of a "red scare" attempt to prevent and pamphlets by Trotsky were But to organize on a militant is is not only the way to go the Trotsky Memorial Meeting vard, it is the only way to here, a large and determined serve the union. The powerful gathering met here tonight in E., Westinghouse, R.C.A. and Doty Hall, as originally schede machine building plants fululed

This afternoon the Detroit Branch of the Socialist Workers of determination was evident ons whether they are militant Party received a communication throughout the audience who were from the owners of the hall arst laws, the labor board, the bitrarily cancelling the renting of the hall because the meeting was that our fallen leader had made Only militant action can save the for "reds". The afternoon paper that our fallen leader had made carried this announcement of Far from preserving themselves cancellation, so that many workby playing safe, the Stalin'st ers thought the meeting was not bureaucrats have endangered the to be held.

However, with the aid of a prominent labor lawyer, the management was forced to live up to its agreement.

In spite of these obstacles, a large crowd of auto workers and other sympathizers met to hear Jules Geller, Secretary of the Michigan District of the S. W. P., deliver a moving address on the life of Leon Trotsky and its meaning for the working class. It was one of the most successful meetings yet held in Detroit. Fifteen thousand leaflets had been distributed previously at Detroit plant gates.

Trotsky's life in Coyoacan were shown by one of his former bodyprogram that could expose the guards, Chris Andrews, who life to make profits for bosses spoke briefly on that side of the Jutely no position to make their great revolutionist's character opposition understood by the which is little known—his lovamembership. And this in spite ble personal qualities as revealed on the fight to which he de-

The recording of a speech by

Trotsky was heard. Movies of

Vincent R. Dunne delivering the main address at the Minnea-

polis Trotsky Memorial Meeting.

# Argentina Land Scandal

By QUEBRACHO

BUENOS AIRES, August 29 (by mail)—The latest events here, of which the cables must have informed the U.S. public, are nothing more than a new stage in the struggle between the two camps of the bourgeoisie linked to the two im-While a stool-pigeon reporter perialist camps in the world war.

The fascist elements in the Senate began an for a local vigilante outfit hur-TOLEDO, Sept. 6-Art Preis, riedly made copious notes, Preis investigation of the purchase of some land for well-known leader of the famous emphasized the determination of the army in El Palomar, knowing that this purchase involved grave irregularities, which the last night to a meeting in honor by Trotsky, to continue without fascists desired to utilize to eliminate from the cabinet the Ortiz group. President Ortiz repreoppressed working class against sents the pro-Anglo-U.S. "democratic" group, and his removal would give vice-president Castil-Later, movies of Trotsky's life edo Branch of the S.W.P., also in Coyoacan were shown, during lo the chance to reorganize the cabinet with the heard Trotsky's voice on a rec- which the stool pigeon and his pro-Nazi-Fascist elements with whom he is con-

And it produced the effect which its initiators desired, seeking as they were to discredit the democratic regime. In the land affair there appeared to be implicated important government functionaries and deputies of various parties, including the so-called popular parties, like the Radical party. The affair produced a profound impression in the country, and was utilized fully by the "nationalists" and the nazi-fascists, who went into the streets calling for the resignation the S.W.P., delivered the main of Ortiz, crying, "Down with the thieves!", and with their chief, General Juan Bautista Molina at their head, announced every day a coup de etat. in a veritable "war of nerves" designed to confound the masses of the country.

#### "Democrats" Recover, Fight Back

But the result of the Senate's investigation, grave as it was, and which at the beginning left disconcerted the "democratic" Anglo-U.S. camp, did not suffice to force that camp to flee. It recovered after a while, and understanding the aim outlined the great contributions which the fascists were pursuing, also went into the streets to support Ortiz and to cry: "Long live democracy!" and "Democracy-yes, fascism-

Meanwhile President Ortiz, feeling himself nvolved by the Senate investigation and seeking to recover the prestige that he may have lost, sent a spectacular resignation to Congress; at the same time General Molina was arrested and, on the other hand, one of the popular deputies compromised by the land business committed

Ortiz' resignation produced among the people an impression even more profound than the Senate affair; and various demonstrations were organized by the Radical party, by the Anglophiles of "Argentine Action"—and by the Stalinists, who passed at this point over to the "democratic" group in one of those sudden turns ordered by their bureaucrats (they had been viciously anti-Ortiz until the day before, indistinguishable in heir policies from the Nazis.)

These pro-Ortiz demonstrations continued during several days, demanding the refusal by Congress of the Ortiz resignation. Also the Confederaction General del Trabajo (General Labor federacion General del Trabajo (General Labor tion of workers in Argentina, with a membership of 300,000 and controlled by the railroad voted the last years of his life. | union heads (the railroads are owned by Eng-

Exploited by Fascists land), organized a great meeting of "democratic

affirmation and American solidarity" in support of Ortiz, at which appeared among the spectators the secretary of the U.S. Embassy, by special invitation.

strengthened; but this has been of little use to him, for he is ill (of diabetes, and had previously to all this turned over his executive powers to

Castillo) and unlikely to return to take charge of the government. So that in spite of everything his ministry felt itself obliged to resign and, now, vice-president Castillo, unquestionably inclined to the Nazi-fascists and who was largely responsible for the obstructive attitude of the Argentina delegation at the Havana Conference, and whom the Rome press says is planning to establish a government that will bring the country toward

As a result of all this, Ortiz came out

the totalitarian axis, is forming a new cabinet. At the time of writing these lines, everything indicates that the cabinet will be a compromise between the two struggling camps. This, far from resolving the situation which is convulsing the country, does nothing but postpone the solution. It is evident that with Castillo in charge of the government, the "nationalist" and Nazi-fascist sector will have greater prerogatives, as can be seen by the freeing of General Molina, ordered by Castillo, as well as the freeing of the Nazi leaders recently arrived in Argentina and who had been arrested.

Castillo is certain to give greater freedom of action to the group called "Argentine Affirmation", organized in opposition to the pro-Anglo-U.S. "Argentine Action"; incidents between the two take place daily in the streets, in the schools and universities, and in theaters and other public places.

The present situation, therefore, signifies nothing more than a momentary truce in this battle. It leaves as real as ever, on the one side, the danger of a seizure of power by the "nationalists" together with the Nazi-fascist "fifth column" (which is particularly important in Argentina and is well armed), and on the other side, also a seizure of power carried out under "democratic" slogans, which would openly place the country in the imperialist war on the side of England and the United States.

Confronted by these two alternatives, the strategy and tactics of the revolutionary proletariat, we believe, should be the following: in case of an attempted seizure of power by the "nationalist"-Nazi-fascist sector, the working class should place itself, arms in hand, at the side of the "democratic" sector in the fight against the fascists.

When, however, the United States proceeds to disembark troops in our country—as it will certainly do and for which Roosevelt has just obtained U. S. Congressional authorization-ostensibly to collaborate in the fight against fascism but in actuality to turn Argentina into a battlefield of the inter-imperialist war, then the revolutionary workers should take a stand against both camps. For the North-American troops will not have come to liberate us from Hitler but to subjugate us to Wall Street.

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In Defense of the Soviet Union .10		40 pages	'arge machine building plants ful-
War and the Fourth International	.10	34 pages	'y intend to crush any and all
I Stake My Life	.05	24 pages	unions whether they are militant
Stalinism and Bolshevism	.10	32 pages	or not. They have on their side
Leon Sedov (In memory of his son	n) .10	32 pages	he whole apparatus, the anti-
In Combination —	All for \$5.00		rust laws, the labor board, the police and if need be the Army.

Negro Struggle

≡by Robert L. Birchman===

#### THE DEATH OF JESSE THORNTON

Jesse Thornton, a negro farm worker, about 27 years old, was living in Luverne for about five years. It's the county seat of Crenshaw county, Alabama. Jesse and his wife were running a chicken farm for a white man. They were known as hard workers.

That Saturday—the day the farmers gather in the county seat to barter and trade and talk-Jesse came downtown to a Negro barber shop. Afterward he stood outside the barber shop, talking with friends. Down the street came a police officer. Jesse said softly to his friends: "There comes Doris Rhodes, boys."

But the cop had been looking at them as he came along, and he overheard Jesse. "What did you say?" he asked sharply.

Jesse hesitated. He knew where he had made his mistake. He tried to rectify it. "I said there goes Mister Rhodes", he said.

"No you didn't," said the cop. You left off the Mister. I heard you. You're just a lying nigger." Jesse bristled. "All right, I did say Doris

Rhodes." That's all he ever had a chance to say. Rhodes knocked him down with his blackjack, picked him up by the collar and started off to the jail with him.

Near the jail door Jesse tried to get away. But stones struck him as he did so, he stopped, and Rhodes had him again. A crowd was quickly gathering, from it had come the stones. A buddy of Rhodes, Nolan Ellis, came along and took Jesse by the other arm. As they walked along with Jesse between them, the crowd followed on their heels, ugly. Jesse feared his end had come.

He broke away again and kept going, though five shots were fired at him. He sprinted for nearly three-quarters of a mile. The loss of blood bore him down and he sat down in a field. A white woman nearby saw him take out his handkerchief and mop the blood from his face.

Soon the mob was nearing the field. Jesse tried to move on. Sheer exhaustion slowed him, finally made him just stay where he was, and the mob overtook him.

It was one of those new streamlined, hushedup lynchings.

From beginning to end the whole thing hadn't taken more than 25 minutes. Jesse was shoved into a small truck and carried off to a "deadend" street in the town; dragged some paces from there into a swamp. Then the shots.

Members of the mob then went to City Hall where they talked with Mayor T. McKing. Maybe it was at his advice that they went next to the Negro barber shop, learned where Jesse had lived, and went there. "Where's Jesse", they de manded of his wife. When she said he was in town, they threatened her if she did not tell the "truth". Later that night, they took her out in a car where they kept her practically all night, threatening her life if she revealed any-

That was Saturday, June 22. The next Friday Stephen Thompson was fishing. Coming along he scared up a drove of vultures. When he came to where they'd been he saw what they'd been eating and pulling at.

The town officials had Negro prisoners make a box, took them to the scene where Jesse's halfdecomposed body lay, ordered them to put it into the crude casket, carry it to a Negro cemetery and dig a grave and bury it. After it was all over, somebody told Jesse's wife.

Jesse was the fifth Negro lynched this year. The fifth, that is, where an investigation—this one by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People- was able to establish the facts. At least four others are known about, but not yet investigated for lack of funds. And who knows how many more? Now that the lynchers don't call the county together to make a big show, but murder speedily within the hour of the "incident".

Senate Majority Leader Barkley refuses to bring up the Federal Anti-Lynching Bill. Because consideration of defense measures "is more important" at this time.

#### RACE RIOT DANGER IN TOLEDO

TOLEDO, Ohio - A proposed WPA housing project here for white families in the Negro district is stirring up a wave of racial antagonism which may well end up in a race riot.

The Future Outlook League, basing itself upon the most exploited and oppressed among the Negroes, is demanding the complete elimination of the entire slum area along John R Street. Failing this, they want no slum elimination whatsoever. The CIO, opposing this onesided program, has challenged the Future Outlook league to justify its position in a debate. This debate may end up with the CIO and Future Outlook league fighting each other.

Despite the justified mistrust of Negroes toward the WPA housing program, which has eliminated only 21/2% of the more than 20,000 "substandard" homes here, nevertheless a policy of fighting the CIO instead of cooperating with it will boomerang back on the Future Outlook League. The stand—either the elimination of the entire John R Street area or no slum elimination at all-will degenerate into a stand against cleaning up one-half the area. And this latter stand may find a picket line of white workers, content for the moment with eliminating onehalf of this slum, breaking up a picket line of black workers from the Future Outlook League.

But if the militancy of the Future Outlook League-its mass meetings, demonstrations and picketings-is geared into a concentrated attack against those responsible for slum conditions: Big Business and Government, it will find the . CIO and other progressive groups, white or black. on its side, accepting concessions as they are won, and continuing the fight for more.

# C. P. Lies on Trotsky Murder Exposed; Daily Worker Manufactures 'Statement'

#### Goldman Shows How Lie Machine of G.P.U. Is Operated

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 5-A typical Stalinist technique of distorting the facts about the murder of Trotsky was exposed today in a statement issued by Albert Goldman, Trotsky's attorney. The statement said:

It will, I am certain, be of great nterest to the Mexican people to earn how American Stalinists in charge of institutions that furnish nformation to the American tourists and to a section of the American press (mainly Stalinist press) distort the truth about the nurder of Trotsky and attempt to cover up the responsibility of Stalin's GPU.

A statement issued by "Mexican Labor News" appeared in the Mexico City Daily Bulletin pubished by Jack Hunt. The "Mexican Labor News" is edited by one Harry Block of the Workers University of Mexico, an individual who consistently follows the Stalinist line. The statement is an excellent example of the distortions and fabrications that all

Stalinists recourse to. The subject matter of the realease is the statement by the C.T.M. (Mexican Confederation of Labor) dealing with the appeal of President Cardenas to the workers of Mexico on the question of the position of political refugees in Mexico and of the murder of

The release begins with the declaration that "the death of Leon Trotsky has by no means put an end to the mystery that surroundin any way cleared up the mys- at some other time. tery of the two attacks on the exile's life, the second of which was successful.'

#### May 24 Guilty Known

GPU, its defenders and friends, be designated as "progressive." who could possibly claim that

about the murder ignoring that real identity and mission. fact, convict themselves of consupporting the circle of those who tity and mission? made the intellectual preparation for the GPU attack.

#### Trotsky's Guards Would Give Lives To Keep Assassin Alive -- To Talk

By E. ANDERSON

MEXICO CITY - On the day that Jackson was brought to the scene of his crime, in order to re-enact the tragedy for the Mexican judge and the police, all of Trotsky's guards and secretaries were requested to disarm, and the arms were placed in a room and padlocked. The Mexican authorities feel strongly their responsibility in preserving the life of the man who can reveal the mechanism of the complicated and sinister death machine oper-

But the guards of Leon Trotsky, far from making any attempts upon the life of the assassin, are ready to risk their own lives to save his, for, given time, they feel that questioning him will provide clues to reveal completely the GPU masters whose instructions he followed.

Jackson, the clever and skillfully trained professional assassin, carried out his instructions successfully; he murdered the great revolutionary, Leon Trotsky, whom Stalin feared and hated. But something went wrong with the rest of the plan-Jackson neither escaped nor was he killed. He lived to be taken into police custody. Now it is necessary for the GPU murder ring to close in upon the man who knows too much and who can reveal everything to the world which watches and waits, . He must not be questioned too long nor too closely.

The only question is-how soon and by what means? Certainly the time is not far off, for every day that Jackson remains alive is another day of tormenting fear for the GPU that he may slip and reveal the truth. Even at this moment, in their hidden places, we can picture the GPU heads planning the means for Jackson's death. They never depend upon one method-one might fail, and as in the case of the attacks upon Trotsky, they strike immediately with the next weapons they have already prepared.

the GPU for the murder of Trotsky. But this is a matter which ed the Trotsky case, nor has it will be dealt with elsewhere and pid. Even those who are slightly

#### Nails False Statements

According to the statement of the "Mexican Labor News," the "secretaries of Trotsky immedi-Absolutely no one who is not ately took advantage of the situaa friend of the GPU could possibly tion to blame progressive labor claim that there is any mystery circles in Mexico for the murder." whatever about the assault on This, of course, is a cynical false-Trotsky on May 24. The whole hood. The secretaries of Trotsky world knows by this time that blamed Stalin's GPU and named every one of those detained in those people who have been conconnection with the assault is a sistently defending the actions of Stalinist, and that only a few of the GPU as merely responsible them have not confessed. Nor is for the plot. These people can, there anyone, outside of Stalin's by no stretch of the imagination.

We shall not discuss the false there is any mystery connected assertion made in the statement with the murder of Trotsky. It to the effect that Jackson was a is a fact, known and accepted by member of Trotsky's organization the whole world that Mornard or and high in Trotsky's confidence, Jackson is an agent of Stalin's for nearly a year. According to Jackson's own testimony, he was It follows as night does the day not a member but undoubtedly he that those who attempt to deny succeeded in deceiving Trotsky that fact, or issue statements and many of his friends, as to his

Do the falsifiers expect that a

Naturally, I would say that this that "when the veil is finally re-this truth.

applies as well to the heads of | moved from the mystery surroundthe C.T.M., who issued a state- ing the Trotsky case, the solution ment in which nothing at all is will be found in the internicine said about the responsibility of struggles among the Trotskyists themselves." This statement is not only vicious but utterly stu-

acquainted with the history of the socialist movement know that there have been innumerable splits amongst revolutionary socialists on questions of political doctrine, but that not until the advent of Stalinism were falsehoods, violence and murder introduced as a method of political

It is highly significant that the same people who are now trying to cover up the PU by attributing the murge to a political struggle within the Trotskyist organization, were also anxious to convince everybody that the aswas only after the arrest of wellknown Stalinists in connection ery of the body of Robert Sheldon Harte, that these friends and agents of Stalin's GPU became sil-

sciously attempting to cover up GPU agent would be instructed world is too firmly convinced of Trotsky's murder on Stalin's the fawning statement asserting the real authors of the murder. by the GPU to inform Trotsky the truth that directing the hand GPU. Here, where the facts are his complete agreement with They also convict themselves of and his friends of his real iden of the murderer of Trotsky was known, where every Mexican Cardenas. Control of the C.T.M. "It is generally believed," as | venal friends and agents of Stal | three-year campaign against | hands of the Stalinists for them serts the writer of the statement, in can do nothing to eradicate Trotsky conducted by the Stalin- to risk losing it by attacking

#### Stalinist Organ Attributes Quotation To Mexican Labor Confederation Which Is Proved To Be a Fabrication

By WALTER ROURKE

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 8-We rubbed our eyes in bewilderment when the Sept. 3 issue of the DAILY WORKER arrived from New York, carrying a big story about "organized labor" in Mexico sharply condemning President Cardenas for his statement pointing to the Stalinists as the murderers of Trotsky.

We compare, below, the DAILY WORKER story with that which appeared in EL POPULAR, the newspaper published by Lombardo Toledano, head of the C.T.M. (Mexican Confederation of

DAILY WORKER Sept. 3 (Headline) MEXICAN UNIONS SHARPLY CON-DEMN CARDENAS FOR ANTI-LABOR INCITE-MENTS.

Organized labor in Mexico today vigorously condemned President Lazaro Cardenas for his statement attempting to smear the Mexican labor movement, the Mexican Communist Party and by inference the Soviet Union because of the assassination of Leon Trotsky...

The statement of the Confederation of Mexican Labor...declared that Cardenas' utterance "makes the nation's head appear as a man who changed his revolutionary path and at the end of his term justified the criticism of reaction by mouthing concepts not expressed in his previous declarations.

Not once did the statement of | filiations of those awaiting trial the C.T.M. mention either the for the May 24 attempt on Trot-Communist Party or the Soviet sky, etc., not even the official Union. Not once did it have any- press of the Communist party, thing but praise for Cardenas' La Voz de Mexico, dares to use statement and for Cardenas him- against Cardenas the language of

consumption in the United States. And so-as Stalinism does whenever it has to-the Daily Worker to these killers!

(Headline) FRANK EN-DORSEMENT OF THE PRE-SIDENT'S STATEMENT BY THE C. T. M.

EL POPULAR, Sept. 3

(Quotation from the statement of the C.T.M.)

"...the National Committee of the C.T.M. considers the statements made by the President of the Republic, General Lazaro Cardenas, just, strictly in keeping with our laws and perfectly based on the purest revolutionary morals regarding the necessity of clarifying the responsibility and placing it on those who participated in the crime perpetrated against Leon Trotsky..."

(The actual quotation) "Finally the National Committee of our Confederation wishes to raise its protest against the counter-revolutionary elements which have attempted to capitalize to their own advantage on the statement of the President of the Republic, making the nation's head appear as a man...etc."

The crude invention of the

In the existing atmosphere here it would have been impossisault on Trotsky on May 24th was | ble for Toledano and the C.T.M. organized by Trotsky himself. It executive committee to say what the Daily Worker quoted them as saying, despite the fact that Towith this assault, and the discov- ledano remains, today as always, the tool of the Stalinists. His own membership would have repudiated him, for despite all the ent about the theory of "auto-as- Stalinist tentacles in the C.T.M., Nothing will help the agents doubtedly agrees with Cardenas doubtedly by agreement with the and friends of the GPU. The whole in placing the responsibility for Stalinists that Toledano issued Stalin through his GPU. The worker knows the murderous is too valuable a weapon in the ists, and knows the Stalinist af- | Cardenas at this juncture.

the N. Y. Daily Worker. The whining tone of the offi-

Daily Worker was needed for cial Stalinist "defense" is sufficiently indicated by this paragraph from the statement of the Central Committee of the Mexisimply invented what it needed. can Communist Party, printed in What is a little case of forgery the latest issue of La Vox de

"If investigations prove that one or more members or sympathizers of the Communist Party intervened in the preparation or execution of the attacks against Leon Trotsky, violating our fundamental principles, they will be expelled from the party as elements very dangerous to the working class."

### Housing Crisis To Be Part of War Boom

As the war armaments program slowly gets under way, the problem of housing the armament workers begins to loom. Recollections of the frightful housing conditions in shipbuilding and steel centers, munitions areas, etc., during the last war, and the resultant dissatisfaction of the workers, are troubling both government and war-industrialists.

However, the proposals being made to solve this problem, the various commissions now studying the housing problem in connection with the war industries, are simply a repetition of identical moves made during the last war-and will get no further than the same moves got last

When the war boom got going in 1916, the workers drained from the central and middlewestern states and brought to the eastern industrial centers found no place to live when they arrived. The cities to which they came had been, even under normal conditions, tenement-infested, overcrowded. With the sudden influx, living conditions, became utterly unbearable.

Tenements which had been condemned and awaiting destruction were reopened and put back into service, although they were manifestly unfit for human habitation. Ramshackle old houses were "remodeled" into "apartment" houses. Shacks were thrown up, made from junk heaps. Most of these dwellings had either no sanitary facilities at all, or were so poorly equipped that they were literally disease traps. It was quite usual for ten to twelve families to use one toilet. Health standards fell as fast as rents rose.

The workers, dissatisfied with the hovels they had to live in as well as the unbelievable rents they had to pay, deserted their "high paying" jobs and moved, again and again, hoping to find decent living quarters in another city. But they always found the same horrible conditions. They continued to move on, however, hoping against

The consequent labor turnover was phenomenal. Normally an industry expects, at worst, about a 300% change in its employment lists per year. During that period in many places the rate was 100% per week. It wrought havoc with the armament program, and became one of the chief worries of the government.

#### Vain Attempts to Solve Situation

The government sought one way to ease the situation by decentralizing industry, letting contracts throughout the middle and far west. This had sharp limitations. Shipbuilding and steel centers, etc., could not be moved. Moreover. wherever contracts were let, these smaller communoties simply repeated the pattern of the industrial eastern cities. Rents skyrocketed as landlords charged all the traffic would bear.

By 1918 the government was attempting to encourage industry to build houses for workers, setting aside, as a beginning, 10 million dollars for that purpose. The Army and Navy spent some 35 millions to build dwellings for govern-

ment shipbuilders. Early the same year a commission was set up to study the problem and it recommended:

1. The creation of an organization wi enough permanency and broad-enough powers to borrow and loan money to industry for housing

2. Financial aid directly to industry for housing construction.

3. The decentralization of industry in letting

government contracts. Little, however, had been done in any direction to alleviate, much less to solve the problem, before the war ended.

#### Why Nothing Will Be Done

A moment's thought will explain why. Mr. Smith, holding a government contract and unable to keep production up to the level required by the government order, might have been frantic at the thought of his enormous labor turnover. He would have liked to cut down that turnover. But to build cheap and good housing? No! For the same Mr. Smith, as often as not, owned some rickety tenements, or was a stockholder in a bank deeply rooted in real estate. Or if Mr. Smith didn't have these interests, the equally opulent and influential Mr. Jones had those interests, and the need of Mr. Smith's workers for housing was not a problem to Mr. Jones but a golden opportunity to cash in on their need by making them pay good money for bad housing.

A real housing program to insure adequate housing for the workers must necessarily mean war against the landlords. No housing program, no matter how conciliatory to private landlords, has ever satisfied the landlords. For the landlords will not accept any sane basis as "adequate compensation" for surrendering their tenements and permitting new public housing to replace the old death-traps-especially when the prospect: is for an influx of workers who will be forced to pay any rent demanded of them! But no capitalist government can war against

the landlords. For the landlord is, generally, another corporate designation for the banker, industrialist, businessman. Through the mortgage network the banking system is inextricably linked in its interests to the real estate interests, and can mobilize all sectors of business enterprise to do its bidding.

We can flatly predict in advance, therefore, that no matter how troubled the various administrators are, no matter how scared they are of a repetition of the 1916-18 labor turnover, no matter how much they would like to remove this sore spot of housing, they will not do so. Removing this sore spot would involve removing its parent—capitalism.

And that, needless to say, will not be done by a capitalist government. The frightful overcrowding of 1916-18 is about to be repeated in even more terrible circumstances.

# Government Report Shows Profits On Arms Deals Are Soaring Sky-High

This information comes from masses. an authoritative Washington dispatch to the Journal of Commerce, a Wall Street daily, in its July 15 issue. When one remembers that the year 1929 marks the period when capitalist profits reachtrialists and munition makers are dition it was in before. already having at the expense of

the toiling masses of America.

this year as last year. last year. This is borne out by ment. So the government will ering the government, or rather 1917. He wrote then:

the fact that the index of retail be the landlord of the plant and the people who pay the taxes. A confidential government re sales for the first six months of the Chrysler Corporation the port now secretly circulating this year is only 8% above that tenant. among top notch officials in the of last year, which was a low Roosevelt government, states that year, and already the buying by Chrysler Corporation pay for apthe profits of the capitalists thriv- wholesale distributors of consuming on war orders for the first er goods has dropped about 35% half of this year are 50% higher below the buying of last fall, 1939 and is approaching the peak wholesalers, do not expect a rise five thousand men? How many in the purchasing power of the millions? Exactly one dollar a

All of this merely proves that the so-called National Defense Program, which the people are asked to believe is a patriotic enprofiteering the bankers, indus- in the same poverty stricken con-

A graphic example of how the big bosses manage to clean up The report also reveals that millions of dollars on war orders 1939. This is a most revealing contract to the Chrysler Corpora- tion in the interest rate from bit of information, since production for the mass production of 5% to 41/2%. tion in the light goods industries tanks. Here is a case where

How much rent should the proximately 113 acres of land, a eral rule. floor area of about 800,000 square feet, where it will be able to emyear! Yes, one dollar!

The government is landlord to ed their highest peace time peak means for pumping millions into the payment of interest on mortin American history, we get a the pockets of the bosses while gages which the government fair Idea of what an orgy of the rest of the country remains holds. To forestall foreclosures and evictions, these small home owners created many organizations, which sent delegations to Washington in the hope of obtaining some relief. After months production in the light goods in- was furnished by the War De- of lobbying and negotiations, all dustries is about the same as partment when it awarded a that was obtained was a reduc-

Such was the attitude of the reflects the purchasing power of the government—or rather the capitalist government to the plight the people. For instance, the people, in the long run-will give of the millions of small home government report indicates that the Chrysler motor magnates \$53, owners. How different was the the same amount of textiles, | 500,000 for tanks. But in return | attitude of the government to K. shoes, and automboiles (for con- Chrysler will only give \$33,500. T. Keller, president of the Chryssumer purposes) were produced 000 worth of tanks. The other ler Corporation, who went to twenty million will go for plant Washington to negotiate with This simply means that the and equipment. That is, the William S. Knudsen, Defense masses of people have not earned Chryler bosses will obtain the lo-Commissioner in charge of purchnore this year than last and con-cation of the plant, build and asing and production. As one sequently have not been able to equip it, and then transfer the motor magnate to another, they buy more this year than they did title of the plant to the govern found common interest in plund deal with the same question in aircraft profits. But even that

the Chrysler Corporation. Suffice it to mention that for th first half of 1940 the E. I. about \$17,500,000 in profits from its investments in the General Motors Company. This is significant in view of the fact that Knudsen, who is Defense Commissioner, is also the head of General Motors. The fact that Knudsen resigned from General Motors before assuming his position in the Defense Commission ought to deceive no one. He may have resigned his post, but he still

profits in this company is their main concern, not patriotism. Mr. Pierre Du Pont put it

"We cannot assent to allowing But the example of the Chrys- our own patriotism to interfere ler Corporation obtaining a rent- with our duties as trustees (o free plant is not likely to be an stockholders)." isolated case-but rather the gen-Who were the stockholders? The

Du Ponts! So, when Du Pont It seems that the contract be state's that it is his duty to his tween the War Department and stockholders to prefer profits to than the comparable period of which indicates that they, the ploy between four thousand and the Du Ponts, whereby the gov-patriotism, he is voicing the true ernment is to finance the build- sentiments of the industrialists, ing of a \$33,000,000 powder plant, bankers and munitions manufacis another example. Only here turers. Such is the true role of we do not know what the rental America's Sixty Families in thousands of small home owners is, inasmuch as the rental was launching the so-called National -under the Home Owners Loan not disclosed. But it is hardly Defense program. It is a program Act. They pay rent. Thousands likely that the Du Pont repres- calculated to accumulate billions terprise in the interest of all of these homes are foreclosed entative would drive a worse bar- of dollars out of the intense exclasses of society, is merely a every month because of default in gain with Defense Commissioner ploitation of the workers, farmers Knudsen than his colleague from and lower middle class.

A great deal of confusion is deliberately fostered by the press to the effect that 'the army and Du Pont de Nemours Co. earned | navy staff are in bitter opposition to the effort of the capitalists to reap millions out of the armament program. Nothing could be further from the truth! The at titude of high army and navy officials was accurately expressed by Captain C. W. Fisher of the Navy Department during the course of testimony before a House sub-committee on May 16th 1940. Here is what he said:

"In these perilous times, Mr. Chairman, we should make the has huge stakes in General Mogovernment business most attractive."

tors; so, too, has Du Pont. The How attractive can be seen from the administration-sponsor ed bill to wipe out the previous bluntly when he had occasion to 8 per cent limitation on ship and is only the beginning.

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#### Fight with the Socialist Workers Party for:

- 1. A JOB AND A DECENT LIVING FOR EVERY WORKER.
- OPEN THE IDLE FACTORIES OPERATE THEM UNDER WORKERS' CONTROL.
- A TWENTY-BILLION DOLLAR FEDERAL PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING PROGRAM.
- THIRTY-THIRTY-\$30-WEEKLY MINIMUM WAGE-30-HOUR WEEKLY MAXIMUM FOR ALL WORKERS ON ALL JOBS.
- \$30 WEEKLY OLD-AGE AND DISABILITY PENSION.
- 6. EXPROPRIATE THE SIXTY FAMILIES. 7. ALL WAR FUNDS TO THE UNEMPLOYED.
- A PEOPLE'S REFERENDUM ON ANY AND ALL WARS.
- 9. NO SECRET DIPLOMACY.
- 10. AN INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY. WORKERS' DEFENSE GUARDS AGAINST
- VIGILANTE AND FASCIST ATTACKS. 12. FULL SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC
- EQUALITY FOR THE NEGRO PEOPLE.

#### Crisis in Auto Plants

The lid is off in Flint. The immediate incident which blew the lid off—a company provocation at Fisher Plant No. 1, brazenly trying to resurrect Homer Martin's corpse of an AFL "union", followed by firing seventeen UAW militants-is but a minor incident. By itself it would scarcely have aroused the masses of this auto worker center to the point where they are ready to close down every plant in the industry. The latest incident is but the culmination of a basic collision between the auto workers and the corporations over fundamental

Wages, working conditions, the union's right to limit speed of production (i.e. the speed-up of the workers), the union's right to real collective bargaining—not in the empty formality of signing a contract, but in enforcing the contract in the plant - all these fundamental issues are involved in the present crisis between the UAW-CIO and General Motors in Flint.

If the deadline of one week set by a Flint auto workers' membership meeting Tuesday night for settlement of the immediate grievance is not met by the company, and a strike results, it will spread far beyond the plants immediately involved, and it will from the first day be fought for far more than reinstatement of the seventeen men fired.

If the strike comes now, the very logic of the situation will demand that the auto workers should not narrowly limit their strike demands to the immediate incident which provoked it, but should fight the strike out for all the many grievances which have accumulated.

The corporation's strategy is to wear down the resistance of the workers with bitter fights over minor issues. Each time it provokes the men, rousing them to a pitch of struggle; then the corporation has the invaluable aid of the Reuther-Thomas leadership of the UAW, which steps in and makes a rotten compromise, one which undermines the union a little further, which lets the men down with a feeling of defeat, and simply paves the way for the next corporation move against the workers. If this process is permitted to continue for any length of time, the back of the workers' resistance will be broken, and the corporation will be victorious over the men if they try a last desperate stand at the end of this process.

That is why every decent militant in the UAW wants a show-down NOW. Put an end to the corporation offensive! Put an end to the accumulation of grievances! Get rid of the rotten grievance procedure which gets no settlement of any grievances, and in its place establish a method whereby every grievance arising is quickly settled to the satisfaction of the union membership.

By now it has become clear to the naked eye that the Reuther-Thomas leadership neither wishes nor is it able to lead the auto workers to defend their rights against the corporations. The Reuther-Thomas clique does not take its orders from the men whom they are supposed to represent. They take their orders from Sidney Hillman. And he takes his orders from the National Defense Council of which he is a member. And that Council is in the hands of Knudsen—the head of General Motors! If Knudsen and Hillman have their way, the UAW-CIO will be reduced to the level of a company union.

Fortunately for the auto workers, Knudsen and Hillman have a long way to go before they even begin to achieve their aim. That is demonstrated by the splendid militant spirit of the Flint auto workers during these weeks. They have shown that the spirit of '37 is not dead.

No faith whatsoever in Knudsen-Hillman's office boys, Reuther and Thomas! That is the beginning of all straight thinking today for the auto workers.

If fight we must, then let us have a show-down fight—that should be the guiding thought of the auto workers of Flint and Detroit.

#### Hershel Grynzspan

The greater tragedy of the war, itself shrouds from the public consciousness the smaller tragedies that-follow in war's wake. Yet sometimes the fate of these lesser individual victims illuminates the whole broad canvas of human agony.

Such is the case of Herschel Grynszpan, the Jewish youth who two years ago shot a German diplomat in Paris and touched off the bestial pogroms against the Jews in Germany.

Grynszpan, caught by the tide of war in a rotten French prison, has been handed by the Vichy rulers over to the mercies of the Nazi conquerors for their final vengeance.

The hapless Jewish boy, driven to his act by the blind desperation of his persecuted race, was freely given the friendly sympathy of civilized people throughout a world horrified by the Nazi pogroms. But "democratic" rulers of France kept Grynszpan in their dungeons, unwilling to mar the "harmony" of the post-Munich honeymoon by bringing him to trial.

He was still there when the German tide reached Paris. Together with other prisoners, he was taken to the south. The Nazi conquerors demanded his flesh and the French rulers—the "democrats" of yesterday, the guardians of the hallowed principle of political asylum—dutifully handed him over to the Gestapo at Toulouse.

"Nothing—" adds the news dispatch—"has been heard of Grynszpan since."

And nothing will be heard of him living any more. For the name of Grynszpan is thus added to the endless list of the millions handed over by the "democratic" leaders of "democratic" France to the iron grasp of the Fascist conquerors. And soon, indeed, French Jews are themselves to feel the weight of the new regime set up by the "democrats" of yesterday. Like the Italians, the men of Vichy will before long follow in the footsteps of the Nazi masters in this as in other things.

The final fate of Grynszpan also helps re-evaluate the attitude taken at the time of his deed by the Stalinists. While the whole world rang with sympathy for the young Jew, the Stalinists tried to smear him as a "Trotskyist" tool of the Gestapo. Since then the Stalin-Hitler pact has provided the reason. Even then, in the days just after Munich the Stalinists were more interested in turning the wrath from the Germans by muddying the pitiful Grynszpan than in denouncing the Nazis for their brutality.

It was a short road for Grynszpan. His way was not ours but we could sympathize with the desperation that led him to seek in direct action some means of breaking through the iron ring he felt around him. We'll break that ring, but only through uniting in struggle the workers and oppressed people of all countries against the makers of war, against the Fascists and the "democratic" liars and hypocrites.

#### Browder's Alibi

In Mexico, where the facts about Stalinist responsibility for the murder of Trotsky are wellknown, the Stalinist organization and its stooges can only whine pleadingly in answer to President Cardenas' statement pointing at them as the

In the United States where the capitalist press has seen fit to report practically nothing about the Stalinist band arrested for the May 24 attempt on Trotsky, and the facts uncovered during the last few weeks about the GPU connections of the assassin, the Stalinists are a little bolder. Thus Earl Browder answers President Cardenas in the Sunday Worker, September 8:

"In this critical moment in Mexico's history, President Cardenas chooses to make slanderous public statements against the USSR, in connection with the death of Trotsky at the hands of one of his own intimates. What motive could induce Cardenas to adopt this obvious and cheap Trotskyite slander? Clearly, it is a gesture of appeasement toward Wall Street and the Mexican reactionary

This pseudo-radical attack on Cardenas by Browder is an implicit threat of withdrawal of Stalinist support from the Mexican government in its struggle against the semi-fascist Almazan movement. No one can be surprised at such a change. If Stalin can become Hitler's satellite, the Stalinist organizations would consider it a small price to help the Almazan group take over Mexico, if in exchange they could be assured that the Mexican government's investigation of the murder of Trotsky would be erased.

But as an answer to Cardenas, Browder's attack is worthless. It does not even hint at the facts on which Cardenas based his statement. These facts have never been published in the Stalinist press in this country.

Among these facts are: The confession of their complicity of nine Stalinists arrested for the May 24 attempt. The fact that David Serrano, member of the Political Buro of the Communist Party of Mexico, has been in jail since June, awaiting trial as an organizer of the May 24 attack; and that another Stalinist, Mateos Martinez, has confessed that Serrano commissioned him to buy the police uniforms used by the attackers. The fact that David Alfaro Siqueiros, fugitive from justice as the actual and admitted leader of that attack, is a Stalinist, head of the Mexican equivalent of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion, from which he recruited the gunmen he used.

-We'll stop with these facts for the moment. Let

Soviet Union. Browder explain them!

# Stalin's New Labor Laws

#### Longer Work-Week, Direct Wage Cuts, Chaining the Workers To the Factories Like Industrial Serfs; But the Younger Generation Leads A Bitter Resistance to the New Laws

By JOHN G. WRIGHT

On June 27, 1940, simultaneously with the news that Rumania ceded Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina to the Soviet Union, Stalin tersely informed the world, through his official news agency, the TASS, that new labor laws were in effect in the USSR.

TASS confined itself to the statement that the 7-hour day had been replaced by an 8-hour day, and that industry had shifted from a 6-day week (5 working days, one day off) to a 7-day week (six working days, one day off).

The 7-hour day was one of Stalin's trump boasts, served up as irrefutable proof of the "victory of socialism in one country" and the "transition to communism." Stalin himself used to discourse at great length upon it.

As a matter of fact, the 7-hour day did not at all flow from the successes of industrialization. It was originally introduced by Stalin as a political measure, serving as a weapon in the early days of Stalin's struggle against Trotsky and the Left Opposition.

Now comes official admission by Stalin that another of his world-publicized achievements was nothing but a fraud.

#### STALIN'S LABOR LAWS OF 1938

But the abolition of the 7-hour day and the 6-hour week is only one item in a new body of anti-labor legislation.

The goal Stalin pursues by his new laws is not a new one. It is identical with the goal envisioned by him in his legislation of December, 1938: turning Russian workers into a species of industrial serfs, binding them to the factories, making it impossible for them to leave their jobs, and in this way extricating his regime from the convulsions of its economic life, the inability to fulfill plans, the chronic shortage of goods etc.

The 1938 laws were the bureaucratic solution to the economic impasse in which Stalin's regime found itself on the eve of the second world war. These laws depended for their effectiveness on the exercise of the bureaucracy's economic power, i.e., firing, threat of unemployment. But the opposition of the masses frustrated the bureaucratic calculations. The acute scarcity of labor, the ease with which employment could be obtained, made it actually possible for the mass of workers to utilize Stalin's own legislation against Stalin's own aims.

His official press is now compelled to admit that the Soviet workers, prohibited by the 1938 ukase from leaving their jobs voluntarily, engaged in the practice of deliberately violating the 1938 laws and then inisting that the administration enforce these less, i.e. fire them from the jobs, thereby "freeing" them to seek employment elsewhere, not infrequently in a different department of the very same plant!

#### YOUTH FIGHT AGAINST STALIN

The guarded statistical data of Stalin's press indicate beyond any doubt that the labor turnover reached its peak precisely in the months following the 1938 decrees; that productive levels have fallen sharply; and that, most important of all, the leading part in this muted struggle against Stalin's regime is being played by the youngest generation of workers, i.e., those who passed through the Stalinist school, who know nothing of the period of the Civil War and of the October days, and who have just entered industry.

The alarm and fury of the bureaucracy is expressed in brimstone editorials against "a certain section, namely 3-4% of young workers and employes who have recently entered industry; who are seeking to profit from the absence of unemployment which has been destroyed by the Soviet power; who are abusing the patience of the Soviet government by running from factory to factory, undermining discipline, refusing to toil honestly, disrespectfully deporting themselves toward the observation of regulations established by law and approved by the people" (Shvernik's report to the Ninth Plenum of the Central Council of the Russian Trade Unions).

The June, 1940, laws are Stalin's solution to the economic impasse, further aggravated by the demands of war time economy, the vast losses during the Finnish campaign, not to mention the economic commitments to Hitler. The aggravated situation demands an intensification of bureaucratic pressure, the only remedy the bureaucracy knows or can apply. The need now is for new penalties. For these, Stalin has to dig deep into his police armament.

#### SAVAGE PENALTIES IN NEW LAWS

The new laws make it a crime against the state for any worker to leave his job, come late to work, skip a single work day, fail to produce his daily quota or "norm".

Any attempt to leave one's place of employment, even a mere request to be allowed to seek employment elsewhere, is a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term of 2-4 months.

The penalty for arriving late to work, skipping a work day, or otherwise "dawdling" on the job is equally unprecedented in the history of labor legislation. Any one charged with these "crimes" is subject to a sentence of 6 months penal labor at the place of his or her employment. i.e., the factory, mill, mine or office. In addition, up to 25% of the criminal's regular wages are withheld. The exact period of time over which these wages are to be withheld is not specified in the ukase. It is to be assumed that these sums will be withheld for at least the duration of the sentence. Thus Stalin has turned every enterprise in the Soviet Union into a forced labor camp, or work-jail. The ukase decreeing all this was published in all the Russian papers on June 26. It went into effect on June 27. Kalinin countersigned it, issuing it in the name of the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council of the

It was accompanied by a supplementary ukase,

in the name of the People's Commissars and countersigned by Molotov, establishing drastic

As Shvernik explained: "In order to further strengthen the defensive power of their fatherland the working class of the USSR must go forward to necessary sacrifices."

"The lengthening of the working day is most closely bound up with the question of wages,' continued Shvernik. "An objection may be raised that the proportionate increase of the working day must be accompanied, if you please, by a similar increase in wages. It would be absolutely incorrect to pose the question in this way. Were we to permit an increase of wages proportionate to the increase of the working day, then there could not even be talk of any necessary sacrifices. But we are precisely talking about this, that the working class and the entire intelligentsia must make those sacrifices which are indispensable for the defense of our fatherland." (Bolshevik, No. 11-12, June 1940).

The section of the ukase pertaining to piecework wages reads:

"That the norms of output be raised and piece-work rates be lowered in proportion to the increased working day."

It might appear at first glance that this implies only an indirect wage cut, that is, a worker may now work longer hours and be paid less per piece but his wages remain the same as before Not so. In reality, a direct wage cut is involved.

#### A 14% WAGE CUT!

The "increased working day" includes not only the "extra" hour each day but also an "extra" 8-hour day in the week. A worker now receives the same wages for six days of work and one day off as he did for five days work and one day off. In other words, if the meager wage formerly had to cover six days of existence, it must now be stretched over 7 days. A wage cut of one-seventh.

Workers on monthly or weekly salaries are similarly situated. Let us take a period of 42 days which best illustrates the difference between the two systems. If hitherto there were in this interval 7 weeks and 7 paydays (on a 6-day week basis), now there are only 6 weeks and 6 pay days. But on each pay day the wage received is the same as before, otherwise, according to Shvernik, there would be "no sacrifice". Therefore each worker must now sacrifice one week's wages in every seven.

Thus, in one and the same operation, the Russian workers must not only labor 48 hours in place of the previous 35 hours, but they also find their already miserable standard of living sharply lowered. And this, on Stalin's "threshold to Communism"!

That Stalin's own press, under the ten-fold censorship that has prevailed since the signing of the Stalin-Hitler Pact, is forced to speak out so openly is in itself incontestable proof of the unfolding struggle of the Soviet workers against Stalin's regime.

#### FIRST RESULTS OF NEW LAWS

The first consequence of the new legislation was the cutting down of the labor force in every enterprise in the Soviet Union. With the "increased" productivity per worker, less workers are now required. In the reports published in the Pravda 40 and 50 per cent cuts in the labor force are not uncommon. This is done, in part, in order to overcome the acute shortage of labor from which Soviet industry is chronically suffering; at the same time, the bureaucracy no doubt hopes thereby to accumulate a labor reserve from which to draw in order to replace those workers who are jailed, and as an added pressure on the recalcitrants already employed.

As Trotsky predicted, under the blows of the war crisis, facing its first real test, the bureaucracy is compelled to strip off its veil and reveal its true self to the masses.

How are the Russian workers reacting to the new legislation? Here too the Stalinist press involuntarily supplies us with facts that disclose the deepening crisis.

The ritualistic paeans in the press glorifying the new laws and promising miraculous results (there was even an attempt to raise the slogan "The Third Stalin Five Year Plan in Four Years") were almost immediately followed by fulminations against "rotten liberals" who hesitate to enforce the new laws and who "patronize floaters and laggards". This attack is aimed against the public prosecutors and the directors of plants and heads of departments who have teen invested with "undivided authority" and "sole responsibility." The Pravda for July already carries reports of severe jail sentences meted out to prosecutors and to directors of industry who "failed" to exercise their new authority. The real explanation for this "hesitancy" lies obviously in the pressure from below which is being counteracted from above by increased lashing of the apparatus.

The Komsomol (Russian Y. C. L.), an organization now reportedly comprising 10 million Russian youth, is under fire and is being held responsible for the misbehavior of the young generation of workers. Its apparatus is being purged.

It is the dread of this development that impelled Stalin to hasten at all costs his long planned assassination of Leon Trotsky. The Fourth International, founded and led by Leon Trotsky, alone has the political program for the Russian workers, and their brothers the world over. By assassinating Trotsky, Stalin hopes that he has now decapitated the world movement, and especially the politicalization of the opposition in Russia which has now assumed mass proportions, which is developing a young leading cadre but which is still groping for a political program. Today, however, the waves of the rising deluge are lapping at Stalin's feet; tomorrow the tide of the resurgent workers of the Soviet Union and the whole world will engulf him.

# More Messages On the Death Of Leon Trotsky

In addition to those messages received by the Socialist Workers Party and Natalia Trotsky on the death of Trotsky which were previously published, the following are among those that have been received:

"Meeting under auspices Edinburgh Workers Revolutionary Socialist Party sends warmest sympathies pledges continued struggle for world socialism in which Leon Trotsky died.

"T. AIT "EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND"

"Despite political differences we had had with Comrade Trotsky we express our profound condolences on the murder of this outstanding revolutionist and condemn the Stalinist assassin machine. Be assured of our full cooperation in class struggle activity against bourgeois and Stalinist terror.

> "HUGO OEHLER "REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS LEAGUE CHICAGO, ILLINOIS"

"We share with you your immense sorrow at this irreparable loss. Courageous and worthy companion of Trotsky, we assure you of our invincible determination to continue and to carry to the end the work of his life.

> "IKD" (INTERNATIONALIST COMMUNISTS OF GERMANY)"

"Profoundest sympathies. Deeply shocked by Stalinist perfidy. Blow felt internationally tremendous historic loss. Trotsky will never die.

"FOURTH INTERNATIONALISTS "CAPETOWN, SOUTH AFRICA"

\* \* \* "Deeply shocked by hideous crime and terrible loss, We shall go forward.

"GOODLATE

"WPSA

(Workers Party of South Africa) "CAPETOWN, SOUTH AFRICA"

"South African friends and sympathizers deeply regret passing of great and inspiring leader thinker writer heroic fighter for rights of man in all countries. His name will live in our memories.

> "KLENERMAN "JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA"

"On behalf of our many English friends express deepest sympathy and mourn with you loss of dear comrade and leader. Revolutionary greetings.

\* \* \*

"HUGO DEWAR "LONDON, ENGLAND"

"Regret loss. Will go forward.

"ROPER "AUSTRALIAN FRIENDS

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA"

"Condolences and solidarity in your sorrow that is shared by people in every land.

> "LEO MALGRECKI "BERN, SWITZERLAND"

"Spanish emigrants of Coatzacoalcos, affiliated to the C.N.T., U.G.T., F.A.I., P.O.U.M. and Republican parties protest the GPU assassination of Leon Trotsky. We are with you in the sorrow of your friends and the International proletariate.

"BY THE DELEGATION "ALCON AUGILAR COSTA GIROMELLA" MARIANO COATZACOALCOS, VER. MEXICO

\* \* \* "Deeply deplore dastardly assassination of Leon Trotsky. His life's work constitutes mighty historical

achievement. We salute his memory. "NATIONAL COUNCIL

"INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY "LONDON, ENGLAND"

"I condemn with utter indignation and hatred this greatest crime of Stalinism, a crime perpetrated

through foreign agents and Mexicans—to our shame. "I remain with the firm conviction, which is confirmed by the great personality of Trotsky, who will be recognized and justified by all coming historythat the stature of humanity will rise majestically out of this heap of ruins and treason which today dominate the world.

"CONCHA MICHEL "MEXICO"

"The depth and bitterness of what we feel makes it all the more incumbent upon us to express ourselves in a practical way, and to let nothing interfere with that, as he would have wished. Please associate us with any message of loyalty and sympathy to his wife and to his closest friends. The wording of which we can leave, as we must, entirely to you, since in all our ideas as well as our personal feelings, we are at

"It is no mere phrase to say that we write with broken hearts. Any one of his true friends would rather have lost his own life. But it would show a lack of real appreciation to indulge in mourning and tears, or in bitterness alone. Lacking the power (a reference to censorship) to use such concrete phrases as you might use. I can only refer to the legend of the Phoenix-which in and through our labors will take on a new meaning.

"PADDY "DUBLIN,EIRE" (FOR THE IRISH SECTION OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL