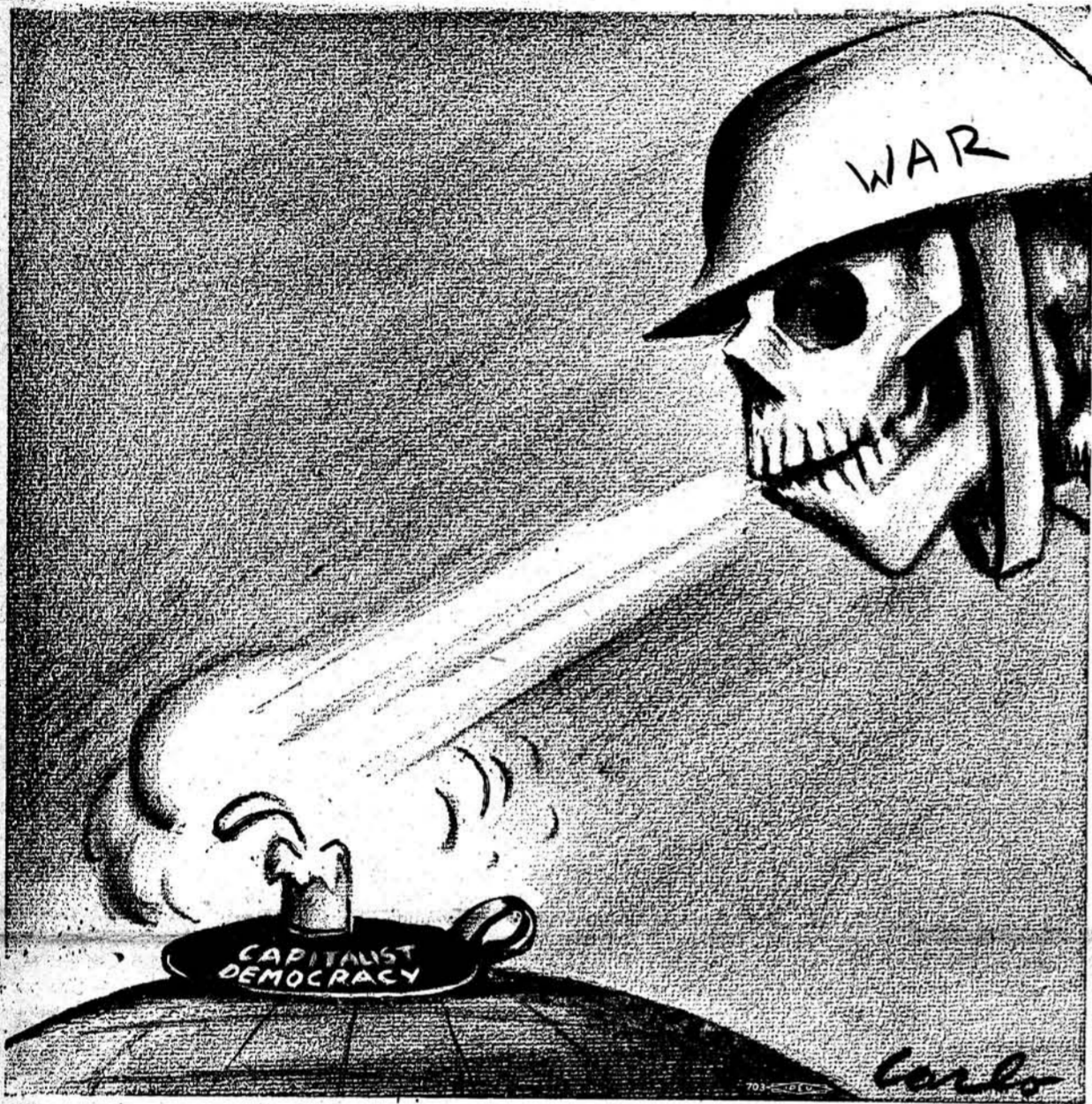


WALL STREET IS 'FIFTH COLUMN' AGAINST U. S. LABOR AND FREEDOM!

The Real Blackout



GPU Tries to Murder Trotsky

Cardenas Wires W.P. Safety Measures Will Be taken

Once again, the GPU, the secret police of the Stalinist counter-revolution, has made an attempt on the life of Leon Trotsky, living symbol of the Socialist revolution. Once again it has succeeded in abducting, and possibly murdering, another of his secretaries.

Sheldon Harte, kidnapped by the twenty well prepared terrorists who broke into the Coyoacan villa, was not the first assistant of the former Red Army chief to fall into the hands that managed the frame-up of the Moscow "trials". Twice before the secretaries of Trotsky were killed by Stalinist agents. In 1937 Irwin Wolfe was kidnapped in Barcelona and never heard from again. The next year another secretary, Rudolph Klement, was kidnapped in Paris,

and his headless body was later found floating in the Seine.

The Mexican police are being helped in their search for Harte by American private detectives hired by his father. If their joint efforts prove unsuccessful, he will be the third secretary killed by the OGPU. If Mink and Pissman, who are said to be the leaders of the twenty Stalinist assassins, remain at large, it will be the third murder to go unpunished.

Not the First Attempt

Trotsky's family, no less than his immediate associates, have fallen victims to counter-revolution. His son, Leon Sedoff, died in Paris in 1938 under circumstances that point directly to the work of Stalin's agents. Another son and two daughters,

who remained in Russia after Trotsky's exile, are all dead as a result of Stalinist persecution.

This attempt on the life of Trotsky himself, although the most ambitious, was not the first. Driven from one country to another, from Turkey to France, to Norway, to Mexico, Trotsky has escaped with his life only by maintaining elaborate precautions. Two previous attempts were made at Mexico City within the past two years. At the first a man dressed as a peasant brought a bomb during Trotsky's absence and tried to leave it for him to open. Only the presence of mind of one of his secretaries saved him then. About a year later the alarms were set off in the middle of the night by someone climbing the walls of the villa.

This time the Stalinists came determined to succeed. Machine-gunning through two doors and a window into the bedroom of their intended victim, they peppered the pillows on which but a minute before lay Trotsky and his wife, Natalia, had been lying. Together they drop-

As Hitler's war machine thunders over Europe, a 'Fifth Column' hysteria is sweeping over this country. President Roosevelt devoted much of his "fireside chat" of last Monday to denouncing "the Fifth Column that betrays a nation unprepared for treachery." A Long Island township sets up a special commission to meet the Fifth Column menace. A Pittsburgh gun club organizes a squad to shoot down parachutists. Mayor Maverick of San Antonio, Texas, mobilizes the city against an expected invasion of Fifth Columners from Mexico. The Governor of Georgia proclaims that all aliens must be registered and fingerprinted. The marble halls of Congress ring with oratory about the Fifth Column.

What is this terrible Fifth Column exactly? It means, of course, our own home-grown Nazis, Bundists, and fascists—the counterparts of those who in one European country after another worked to deliver over the land to the Nazi invaders. But if this were all the slogan means, there would be no such nation-wide pressure campaign. The Bund and the other fascist groups are not strong enough to be worth it.

REAL OBJECT IS ANTI-LABOR

No, the real object of this 'Fifth Column' talk is not to guard against a handful of Nazi agents and sympathizers, but to prevent the American workingclass from fighting for its economic interests and its democratic liberties. The campaign is aimed at parties like the Workers Party and newspapers like LABOR ACTION which speak for the workers and against the bosses. Under the mask of defending American democracy against the Fifth Column, a deliberate and vicious anti-union and anti-"red" drive is being launched.

In his 'fireside chat' of last Monday, President Roosevelt frankly recognized this. There are two kinds of Fifth Columns, he said. One kind—"spies, saboteurs and traitors"—he dismissed in one sentence: "With these we must and will deal vigorously." But to the other kind of Fifth Column—"campaigns of group hatred or class struggle" which destroy "the unity of the State"—to this he devoted six full paragraphs, concluding "These dividing forces I do not hesitate to call undiluted poison."

But what does "the unity of the State" really mean, Mr. President, when the State is controlled by the DuPonts, the Morgans, the Rockefellers and the great banks and corporations which these families and their fellow plutocrats control? Doesn't it mean a unity in defense of the interests of big business? And isn't any working man who asks for higher wages or who objects to dying to defend those business interests—isn't he, Mr. President, a member of that Fifth Column you call "undiluted poison"?

The President, the Congress, the press and all the other mouthpieces of America's big business rulers are trying to pin the Fifth Column badge on those who alone have fought against Hitler and Hitlerism from the very beginning—the militant workers and the revolutionary socialists.

We say the label should be put where it belongs—on American big business, on Wall Street and the Sixty Families! There is the Fifth Column against democracy, which is even now preparing to make this country into a totalitarian state—in order to fight Hitler's brand of totalitarianism.

(Continued in Editorial Column, Page 4)

Dubinsky Sounds Jingo Note at ILG Meet

Holds Lewis Responsible for Failure of CIO-AFL Unity Negotiations

NEW YORK, May 28—Opening the 40th Anniversary Convention of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union before 20,000 delegates, members and guests, at Madison Square Garden yesterday, President David Dubinsky demanded an endorsement of Roosevelt's preparations for driving American workers into the slaughter-house of imperialist war. Dubinsky presented a painful spectacle as, without reservation he threw the weight of 250,000 organized garment workers into the reactionary "fifth column" campaign started by Roosevelt which threatens to strip labor of every right gained through years of struggle.

Apart from war-mongering, the principal convention decisions foreshadowed by Pres. Dubinsky's report were: (1) endorsement of the New Deal and a "draft Roosevelt" resolution; (2) further moves for uniting the CIO and the AFL without affiliation to either, as yet. On the latter point, Dubinsky gave a factual and first-hand report of the unity negotiations between the CIO and AFL, placing the responsibility for failure squarely on the shoulders of John L. Lewis and the CIO. He listed however, three obstacles to the affiliation of the ILGWU to the AFL at the present time: (1) The assumption by the AFL Executive Council of the right to suspend international or national unions. (2) The levy of a monthly one cent per capita tax on affiliated unions for

the purpose of fighting the CIO, and the expulsion of the International Typographical Union for refusal to pay this tax. "We are willing to pay five cents per month for constructive work, but not a single cent for destructive labor warfare," said Dubinsky. (3) Failure of the AFL to take action against racketeering leaders in national and international unions. Splendid Pageant

International Vice President Luigi Antonini, manager of Local 89, welcomed the delegates to New York and introduced Dubinsky in a speech similar in content to that of his leader. Governor Lehman also welcomed the convention to New York

Roosevelt "Chat" Means Wage Cuts for Labor Profits for Business

By ERNEST ERBER

In a "fireside chat to the American people", last Sunday evening, President Roosevelt made full use of his ability to sugar-coat bitter pills as he sought to:

- (1) prepare public opinion for a Wall Street raid on the U.S. Treasury in carrying out the "national defense" program;
- (2) frighten labor from taking strike actions to defend its wage standards in war industries; and
- (3) use the hysteria against "fifth columns" to intimidate any and all foes of his administration as another step toward a wartime dictatorship.

Red Herring Dragged into Wilson Case

Police Persecution Fails to Intimidate Cambridge Jobless

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—The case of James Wilson, the unemployed worker, who was severely beaten by some thugs consorts of a city official, is still arousing interest and indignation among Cambridge workers. In the first place Wilson was released from the hospital before his wounds had healed. He went home and discovered that he was about to be evicted. Then to make matters worse

Flash ---

As LABOR ACTION goes to press, word is received that James E. Wilson has been arraigned on an assault charge and ordered to appear in court May 29. The warrant was sworn out by Emile Lauziere, one of the men that Wilson claims beat him. Wilson pleaded not guilty and all of the persons involved have been ordered to be in court Wednesday.

He was served with a summons charging assault and battery, by "Wacky" Lauziere one of the men who had assaulted him. Wilson is now in bed at home having been ordered to remain in bed for at least

(Continued on page 2)

the United States stands ready," said Roosevelt, "to advance the necessary money to help provide for the enlargement of factories, the establishment of new plants, the employment of thousands of necessary workers, the development of thousands of new sources of supply for the hundreds of raw materials required, the development of quick mass transportation of supplies."

Business in Control
The whole program, according to Roosevelt, will be run by men now in "private industry". By this he means the Big Business executives whose corporations will share in the clean-up on profits.

Even in this detail, Roosevelt imitates the Wilson administration of the last war with its "\$1-a-year" men who came swarming from banks and business houses all over the country to help their firms make a "killing" on war orders. The revelations of the Committee headed by Senator Nye which investigated the munitions makers showed that in the last war no swindle was too rotten for these "\$1-a-year" patriots.

Ever since the announcement of the program for 50,000 planes and other military expenditures, the Wall Street Journal and the Journal of Commerce have been advocating the steps Roosevelt proposed on government financing of private business and control through Big Business executives.

As a sop to satisfy the public fears that a good share of the defense billions will go into the pockets of profiteers, Roosevelt promised that "no new group of war millionaires" would be created. In the light of his other proposals, this would seem to indicate that all the war profits will go to the old group of millionaires who have a monopoly on bank-

(Continued on page 2)

Akron Shachtman Meeting Largest in Branch History

In the midst of the increasing war preparations of the Roosevelt Administration, the coast-to-coast anti-war speaking tour of Max Shachtman, national secretary of the Workers Party, continues to be highly successful.

Over a hundred workers were present at his meeting in Akron, Ohio, where he spoke on the subject: "Will the United States be Drawn into the War?" The meeting in this city was the largest ever held there by the Fourth Internationalist movement. Many trade unionists, rubber workers and Negroes were present, asking numerous questions and remaining to the very end of the meeting.

Worcester, Massachusetts: A fine meeting was held in this town, attended by numerous trades unionists, who came to hear Shachtman speak on the war and its effects on the United States.

Gloversville, New York: For the first time in many years, a meeting of a revolutionary organization was held here. Some twenty-five workers were present to hear the national secretary's speech on the war. Rochester, New York: The meeting in this city was a fine-spirited

though small gathering. Preparations are made for further propaganda work against the war. Good meetings were held in Pittsburgh and Youngstown, prior to Shachtman's arrival in Akron. A number of meetings are still scheduled in the Middle West States at Cleveland, Detroit, Ann Arbor, Chicago, Streator and St. Louis.

TOUR SCHEDULE

City	Date
CHICAGO AREA	June 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAN FRANCISCO AREA	June 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
LOS ANGELES AREA	June 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25
AUSTIN	July 2
HOUSTON	July 3
ST. LOUIS	July 7, 8
STREATOR	July 9
CHICAGO	July 10, 11, 12
LOUISVILLE	July 13
COLUMBUS	July 14
AKRON	July 15
PITTSBURGH	July 16
WASHINGTON, D.C.	July 17
READING	July 18
ALLENTOWN	July 19
PHILADELPHIA	July 20

Cardenas Cable

Max Shachtman, National Secretary of Workers Party 114 West 14th Street, New York
Message of May 24 received. Government has ordered measures for the necessary protection of Citizen Trotsky. He can stay in the country as long as he desires. Signed,
President of the Republic, L. CARDENAS

ped to the floor, lay behind a heavy pillar for protection. Only slightly injured by flying glass, Trotsky soon after gained the admiration of the assembled reporters by dictating in his usual steady voice a political treatise. As one of them put it, "This is a man."

Workers Party Wires
As soon as the news of the attempted murder reached this coun-

(Continued on page 4)

\$1,000 in Cash from Local New York!

Two hundred members of the New York local of the Workers Party were present at an exceptionally fine membership meeting on May 24th to listen to reports by the National Organizational Secretary, Harry Allen, on the War and the Party, and J. R. Johnson, who spoke on the development of the war in Europe and its effects on the revolutionary movement.

Allen reported on the formation of the Workers Party, the establishment of branches throughout the country, the great efforts made by the national office to maintain LA-

meeting subscribed and paid over to the national office one thousand dollars in cash! These payments were made in addition to the original quota taken by the local in the present Press Fund Drive. The results of the membership meeting has given an added impetus to the publication program of the Party and has acted as a spur to the general anti-war activity of the organization. The National Office takes this opportunity to thank the comrades for their generous response. The next issue of Labor Action will carry a report on the drive nationally and the payments of other cities.

