

GPU Terrorist Drive Launched On Trotskyists

International Slander and Lynch-Incitation Campaign Is Aimed at All Militant Workers

By Joseph Keller

The Stalinist frameup and strikebreaking machine has launched a highly organized international slander campaign against all labor militants and, in particular, the Trotskyists, most conscious vanguard fighters everywhere for the working class. This GPU-inspired onslaught is beginning to reach frenzied heights both in the United States and England and coincides with the growing repressions against the labor movement and the increasing "democratic" persecutions of the Trotskyists by the Roosevelt and Churchill capitalist governments.

Signaled by the recent Stalinist public rejection of socialist objectives and open espousal of capitalism, the latest GPU incitations to frameup and terror against the Trotskyists is part of the Stalinist defense of capitalist reaction, which includes support of anti-labor legislation and decrees, acting as volunteer stool pigeons for the corporations and governments, and unabashed strikebreaking.

But the immediate and special object of this slanderous lynch drive is to reinforce and abet the government frameups of the 18 imprisoned Trotskyists in this country and the 4 indicted Trotskyist leaders of the British Revolutionary Communist Party, and to sabotage the rapidly growing labor defense campaign on their behalf. The Stalinists have been aroused to unprecedented fear and fury by the fact that hundreds of union organizations, representing over 1,250,000 members, have voted support for the Minneapolis Labor Case prisoners, and that so great has been the labor reaction against the frameup of the British Trotskyists that 8 labor Members of Parliament are heading the committee for their defense.

STALINIST DIATRIBES

The general tenor of the Stalinist diatribes is that the persecutions of the Trotskyists are not "labor cases." The Trotskyists deserve to be thrown into prison—and worse—because they are really "Hitler agents" who are "inciting strikes" for the express purpose of "sabotaging war production." These raving lies are merely the basis for scarcely veiled appeals to outright physical terrorism and mob action against Trotskyists and all militant workers whom the Stalinists label as "Trotskyites."

In this country, this latest GPU anti-Trotskyist drive was first launched on the West Coast, where hundreds of thousands of organized workers have voted support for the imprisoned 18, and was timed in an attempt to sabotage the highly successful mass meetings addressed by George Novack, National Secretary of the Civil Rights Defense Committee.

On May 22, the People's World, official Stalinist West Coast gutter-sheet, published simultane-

ously two anti-Trotskyist attacks. The article claiming to give the "low-down" on the British Trotskyists finds that "the center of world Trotskyism at present is the Socialist Workers' Party in the United States." Because the British workers are more advanced politically, this article attempts to "argue" against the Trotskyist program by a series of bald-faced fabrications, such as "all the resolutions passed by the Fourth International . . . advocated that the followers of Trotsky should utilize the crisis created by the war in order to overthrow the Soviet government." "All the resolutions," as every informed person knows, make the keystone of the Trotskyist program "the unconditional defense of the Soviet Union from imperialist attack."

GIBBERISH

"Facts on Campaign of Minneapolis Trotskyites," which the People's World threatens is but the first of a series, descends almost to sheer gibberish, and is a tissue of fantastic inventions. It turns the Minneapolis Labor Case literally upside down, representing its origin as a conflict between "union bosses" (the Dunne brothers) and the "democratic" leadership of Daniel Tobin's gangster-ridden AFL Teamsters machine. Above all, it tries to show that the imprisonment of the Minneapolis Transport Workers Local 544-CIO leaders is not a "labor case." Among "the 17 or 18 convicted"—the People's World which claims to give the "facts" is vague even on the number imprisoned—"only a few were members of the Teamsters Union." Actually, 13 of the 18 were members and leaders. "Only a few hundred members" of AFL Local 544 endorsed affiliation with the CIO. Federal court testimony of government witnesses in the Minneapolis trial, as well as capitalist press accounts, affirm that over 4,000 members voted to affiliate with the CIO.

A PRELUDE

These People's World smears were just a prelude. On May 27, a capitalist newspaper, the San Pedro (California) News-Pilot, blossomed forth with a half-page advertisement, signed by the Communist (Stalinist) Club of

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Union Leaders Call For Freedom Of The 18 At N. Y. Mass Meeting



George Novack, National Secretary of the Civil Rights Defense Committee, addressing the mass meeting in New York City on behalf of the Minneapolis Labor Case defendants. Seen on the speaker's platform are Thomas DeLorenzo, President of UAW-CIO Local 365, George Baldanzi, Executive Vice-President of the CIO Textile Workers, and Roger Baldwin, National Director of the American Civil Liberties Union. Others who spoke, but are not shown in this picture, were Henry Fruchter, National Educational Director, CIO United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees, Norman Thomas, Socialist Party leader, Daniel Bell, Editor of The New Leader and Albert Gates, Editor of Labor Action.

Badoglio Cabinet Collapses Under Italian Mass Pressure

By James Cowan

The shadow government of Italy, set up and kept in office by Allied bayonets in order to frustrate the will of the masses, has been reshuffled for the second time within a brief space of a few weeks.

Marshal Pietro Badoglio, fascist butcher of the Ethiopians and one of the staunchest backers of the former regime of Mussolini, has been replaced as Premier in a reconstructed cabinet by Ivanoe Bonomi, an ex-Social-Democrat who headed the Italian government for eight months in 1921-22, shortly before the advent of fascism.

The need for this new "democratic" face-lifting arose after the Allied occupation of Rome. Badoglio and his cabinet colleagues—Stalinists, Social Democrats, Christian democrats and liberals—scurried to the Eternal City to see what chores were required of them by the Allied Military Government. Prince Umberto, the fascist bootlicker who has succeeded King Victor Emmanuel as titular head of the regime, went with them.

They arrived, according to the Rome correspondent of the N. Y. Times, to find "a hot situation, almost a threatening crisis, on their hands." The heat was emphasized when Umberto appeared on the balcony of the Quirinal Palace to acknowledge the greetings of a monarchist demonstra-

tion. Revolver shots rang out. The Italian masses had long memories!

HOT CLIMATE

It was with these shots ringing in their ears that the members of the Badoglio "coalition" went into a huddle for the purpose of reconstructing the government, in the hope that it might be made more palatable to the Romans. The political climate of the Eternal City, capital of the country and close to the heavy industrial areas of Piedmont and Lombardy in the north, is even more tempestuous than in the predominantly rural south. Badoglio and his clique had found the south quite hot for their reactionary government, but in the north it was hotter still.

The Romans refused to tolerate Badoglio and so the Marshal had to go. As was to be expected, it was the Stalinist Palmiro Togliatti (Ercoli) who fought for the retention of Badoglio as premier in the cabinet-making session. This was reported by the N. Y. Times correspondent, who wrote: ". . . only the Communists (Stalinists) here are supporting the Premier, under the orders of Signor Togliatti." But even the strong arm of the Kremlin was not strong enough to hold the Marshal in office in face of the tremendous popular opposition.

It was Stalin and his GPU henchman, Togliatti, who came to the rescue of the Badoglio regime when it was rejected by the masses in the south and tottered on the brink of destruction. What is it that causes the Stalin clique to throw their support behind the most detested representatives of reaction? They fear that the slightest upset in the ruling junta will precipitate the revolutionary crisis. They sense the delicate balance of class relations, the rebellious temper of the masses. Even the slightest shift at the top may precipitate an upheaval.

The ouster of Badoglio and the reshuffle of the cabinet is an attempt to palm off a counterfeited, to convince an outraged people that an essential change has been made, whereas in reality everything basically remains the same.

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War Profits

America's corporations are raking in an average of \$1,000 net war profits a year on every worker employed, and their top executives "pull down the neat average sum of \$84,000 per annum," reports the June 3 CIO Economic Outlook. It also reveals that in spite of long hours of overtime the average worker ends up the week with exactly 35 cents left in his pocket.

A typical example of how much profits are drained from every worker was cited before the WLB by Emil Rieve, president of the CIO Textile Workers, who pointed out that the giant American Woolen Company made a 1943 profit of "more than \$1,380 on every worker on the payroll." The company is complaining that the union's demand for a 65 cent an hour minimum wage is "inflationary."

When commencing to form his cabinet, Bonomi issued a statement in which he declared that it would be "much more democratic" than the Badoglio regime. But in reality there is nothing democratic or representative about it. Its members are self-appointed and it is responsible, not to the people, but to the reactionary Italian ruling class and the AMG, which will supervise and determine its every move. The masses have had no say in its selection and have no control over its policies.

Subject to the AMG, control

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Canada Stalinists For Money Control By Bank Oligarchs

An attempt by the Canadian Commonwealth Federation and the Social Credit members of the Canadian parliament to take away from the ten government-chartered banks their right to create credit and currency and restore it to parliament, was defeated recently by a vote of 107 to 20. All the capitalist parties, aided by the Stalinists, combined to kill the measure. Both Stalinist members of parliament, Fred Rose and Dorise Nielson, voted with the bankers' representatives.

Joseph Coldwell, leader of the CCF, amassed facts and figures proving that the Canadian people are at the mercy of an insignificant number of financial magnates. Of the ten chartered banks, four of them—just four!—control 70 per cent of all the bank assets of the country. Six insurance companies have control of more than 70 per cent of the insurance assets.

FINANCIAL OLIGARCHY

The four banks are: Royal, Montreal, Commerce and Nova Scotia. Ninety-four officers of these four banks hold 799 directorates in 484 corporations. The six insurance companies are right behind the bankers and have

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ILGWU Boston Convention Unanimously Demands Pardon

CIO Speakers Denounce Stalinist Attempts to Sabotage Fight for Framed Trotskyists

BULLETIN

The Boston Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union unanimously went on record calling on President Roosevelt to pardon the 18 Minneapolis labor prisoners.

The reporter of the Resolutions Committee was greeted with applause when he said:

"The 17 men and one woman involved in the case—leaders of the Minneapolis Truck Drivers Local No. 544 and of the Socialist Workers Party—were prosecuted for publishing and distributing radical literature, for making radical speeches, and declarations, and for carrying on agitation along similar lines.

"The records of the case abundantly show that they were condemned simply and solely for the expression of opinion, no overt act of any sort being charged against them. They were convicted under the notorious Smith Sedition Act of 1940, the first statute since 1798 to make the mere expression of opinion a federal crime.

"Your Committee thoroughly disagrees with the philosophy, the objectives and the tactics of the Minneapolis prisoners. Nevertheless, we are deeply convinced that these convictions challenge the best traditions of civil liberty under the constitution. . .

"We are gratified to note that a number of leaders of our International have lent their support to the growing movement for an executive pardon to the 18 Minneapolis prisoners.

"Entirely in the interests of civil liberty, your Committee heartily recommends concurrence with the intent of the resolutions before us (Nos. 38, 131, 205, 260) to join in the appeal to the President of the United States to grant such pardon.

By Art Preis

NEW YORK CITY, June 8. — In an inspiring demonstration of working class solidarity with the 18 imprisoned Trotskyist and Minneapolis Transport Workers Local 544-CIO leaders, approximately 800 workers jammed the Civil Rights Defense Committee mass meeting at the Hotel Diplomat Crystal Ballroom here tonight. They enthusiastically endorsed the appeal of nationally prominent trade union and civil liberties leaders who unitedly issued a call for American labor to rally behind the fight to free the 18 and repeal the Smith "Gag" Act under which they were convicted. The speakers joined in urging organ-

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Avery Heads Open Shop Drive Of Big Business

By R. Bell

Appearing before the Select Committee of the House of Representatives investigating the Montgomery Ward "seizure," Sewell Avery, head of the company, exploded the myth propounded by some labor leaders that he was "leading a one man rebellion" against the unions. Avery has made no secret of his deliberate intention to convert Montgomery Ward and Company into an open shop preserve. It has been the contention of *The Militant* that Avery was not acting as an isolated individual, that he was not some kind of a "freak" at variance with the so-called "responsible" corporation executives, but was acting as the spokesman and spearhead for powerful interests in an all-out drive to smash the unions and bring back the open shop. This contention was confirmed when, in reply to questioning by a member of the House Committee about the attitude of

the industrialists toward the unions, Avery stated:

"Do you think that Henry Ford likes unions? Do you think General Motors does? Oh, no, but they are under pressure." About the third unit of the Big Three in auto Avery had previously remarked: "I saw Walter Chrysler beaten down until he finally gave in under coercion. . . I am not going to let that happen to me." The "pressure" and "coercion" that forced the auto barons to sign contracts with the union was the militant struggle of the auto workers who stormed the open shop fortress maintained by Ford, General Motors and Chrysler, and forced the Big Three to recognize their union as the collective bargaining agency for the workers in the industry. The auto barons, as Avery correctly testifies, have never become reconciled to dealing with the union and, under cover of the war emergency have engaged in a series of provocative acts designed to undermine the authority of the unions and

restore open shop conditions in the industry.

BIG THREE

The Big Three have followed the Avery pattern in violating the union contract, refusing to adjust grievances, victimizing union militants, and generally discriminating against and hounding union members until the unbearable provocation of the corporations, erupting in a number of "unauthorized" strikes, has made the Detroit area the center of rank and file resistance against the open shop drive.

Another indication of the powerful forces behind the union-busting campaign was the public announcement a few months ago of the "labor policy" of the U.S. Steel Corporation. Benjamin Fairless, president of U. S. Steel, speaking to some of his cronies at the annual dinner of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, gave a classic expression of the open shop program of Big

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War Profiteers Lobby To Lift Price Lid As Invasion Distracts Peoples' Attention

By C. Thomas

The Big Business lobby in the nation's capital has seized upon the moment of the invasion to jettison the already inadequate price restrictions embodied in the administration's Price Control Act which expires June 30. The Congress has already adopted a number of crippling amendments to the measure which serve to remove all effective control over prices, rents and profits. The Senate approved the Bankhead amendment which would place a premium on inefficiency and fraud by guaranteeing a "reasonable profit" on every item produced by the textile manufacturers based upon a cost-plus method of calculation. It is conservatively estimated that the Bankhead amendment would add \$350,000,000 a year to the consumer cost of cotton goods and clothing. This

huge sum would flow into the already swollen coffers of the textile manufacturers whose fabulous profits in 1943 were computed to be nine times the profits of the 1936-39 period. The sweat-shoppers at the head of the textile industry have recently been shedding crocodile tears about their "inability" to grant their exploited workers a wage increase.

Other Senate amendments would so hamstring the enforcement of the Price Control Act that black market operators as well as run-of-the-mill violators would be free of all restraint in gouging the consumer. In addition to the Senate amendments, the political agents of the dollar patriots in the House have presented scores of amendments calculated to unloosen an orgy of war profiteering such as this country has never seen. One House amendment provides for the automatic increase of 35 cents a barrel in the price of oil. An-

other would require rent control officials to grant increases in rent "where landlords can show an increase in operating costs, upkeep or taxes since the date" when the rent ceiling was put into effect. So confident are the rent hogs, that in many parts of the country new tenants are required to sign leases embodying an "escalator clause" agreeing to an automatic ten percent increase when rent control is "relaxed."

CARRION CROW

The amendments quoted above are just a few of those already tacked on to the Price Control Act by large majorities of Democrats and Republicans. While labor is being called upon for additional sacrifices to "back the invasion," the rent hogs and price gougers swarm like a flock of carrion crow intent upon picking the bones of their victims clean, while their attention is distracted by the unfolding drama in Europe. This is confirmed by the

New York daily PM which says: "With invasion news crowding all other matters into the background, the special-interest lobbyists have had a uniquely favorable setting for their operations."

A few months ago, when the labor representatives on the War Labor Board requested an upward revision of the Little Steel formula, presenting statistics proving that the cost of living had increased 43.5 percent there was a furious howl from administration spokesmen, Congress and the dollar patriots that any such increase would cause a ruinous inflation spiral. Eric A. Johnston, president of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, the darling of the Stalinists now being lavishly entertained in Moscow, submitted a brief on behalf of his organization stating: "Organized labor, by its renewed demands for increases in wages threatens to destroy the stabilization program. If or-

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