

AN OPEN LETTER
TO YUGOSLAV CP

(See Page 2)

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE.

SEPTEMBER 20, 1948

NEW YORK, N. Y., MONDAY, Vol. XII -- No. 38

PRICE: FIVE CENTS

LEGLSS VET DEFIES WITCH-HUNTERS

Farrell Dobbs Scores Truman Strikebreaking Role

Kutcher Defends
Civil Liberties at
Kangaroo Hearing

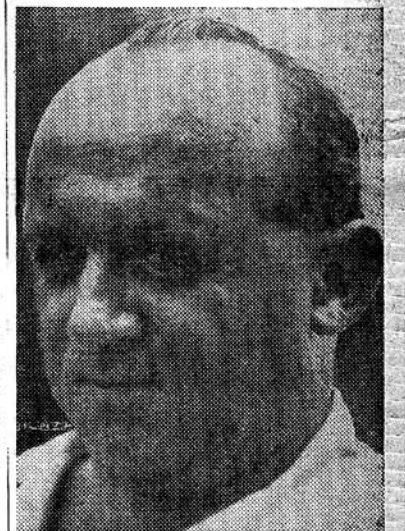
By George Collins

PHILADELPHIA, Sept.
10 -- "Kangaroo court"

— these were the words used by James Kutcher, the Purple Heart Veteran of Newark, N. J., who lost both his legs at San Pietro, Italy, to describe the Loyalty Board hearing called today at Philadelphia to decide whether he should be dismissed from his clerical job with the Veterans Administration because of membership in the Socialist Workers Party.

STAR-CHAMBER HEARING

The hearing was held behind closed doors, with only the attorneys and the representative of the Kutcher Civil Rights Committee permitted to attend. The press and the public were excluded. The demand of Jimmy Kutcher and his attorneys for an open hearing was flatly denied at the outset on the pretext that government regulations, in order to protect the defendant, forbid public participation.



JAMES KUTCHER

Jimmy Kutcher had nothing to hide. But the Bi-Partisan Government needed secrecy to conceal the great outrage it was perpetrating against the civil liberties of the American people. The three-man Loyalty Board needed secrecy to hide its inquisitorial methods at a hearing where it acted as prosecutor, judge and jury.

The decision of the board is still being awaited but it is clear from the remarks of Kutcher and his representatives that there is little likelihood that a favorable verdict can come out of this star-chamber proceeding. In reality the Loyalty Board was only going through the farcical procedure provided by Truman's administrative order. This was a one-way street. The Board considered itself prohibited from considering the validity of Attorney-General Clark's listing of the Socialist Workers Party as "subversive," its only job being to ascertain whether Kutcher belonged to the SWP, which Jimmy freely acknowledged in advance.

THE LEGAL CHANNELS

In the event of an unfavorable decision, the case will first be taken through all the channels provided by the Loyalty Board procedure, Michael J. Myer, Kutcher's attorney, announced. This includes the filing of briefs with the top Loyalty Review Board in Washington and then with the Civil Service Commission. If these steps fail, the case will be taken into the civil courts and carried if necessary to the Supreme Court of the United States, Myers stated.

Jimmy Kutcher told me modestly and unassumingly what happened behind the closed doors of the hearing. The facts he revealed in his story show that this veteran of the North African, Sicilian and Italian campaigns fought just as bitter a battle against his accusers for civil liberties, for the right to join a party of his own choosing and against the imposition of thought control. This time, however, he was fight-

(Continued on page 2)

Exposes Demagogy
In President's Bid
For Vote of Labor

FLINT, Mich., Sept. 11 — In a ringing reply over radio station WFDF to Truman's Labor Day speech at Detroit, Farrell Dobbs, presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, today scored Truman's demagogic pose as a "friend of labor."

Dobbs underlined the sharp contrast between Truman's "pro-labor" campaign promises with his anti-labor record. Before his last-minute "veto" of the Taft-Hartley Act, Truman demanded Congress pass a savage anti-labor law to draft strikers into the army. The Socialist Workers Party candidate reminded his radio audience of the three strike-breaking assaults against the coal miners launched by Truman through the courts. He pointed to Truman's use of the Army two times to break strikes of the railroad workers.

ANTI-LABOR POLITICIANS

The Democrats and Republicans, Dobbs explained, work hand in glove with the employers promoting the war drive and the furious anti-labor offensive. As for Henry Wallace, Dobbs cited Wallace's record to show that he, too, was just another capitalist politician seeking to profit from "the failure of the union officialdom to launch a Labor Party."

"There is a mighty power in the hands of your United Auto Workers Union and the sister unions of the CIO, AFL and Railroad Brotherhoods," said the SWP Presidential candidate. "That is why President Truman came here to launch his election campaign in a speech at Flint Park on Labor Day. That is why the Republican Party quickly rushed Harold Stassen into Michigan to speak in rebuttal against Truman. The capitalist politicians know that without the electoral support of the mighty labor movement they couldn't hold public office for fifteen minutes."

"Truman tried to cover up his black record as a strikebreaker by giving you a friendly wave of the arm, a big grin and a promise of a period of new hope. Stassen tried to make you believe that the Taft-Hartley Act is for your own good. Both Truman and Stassen talked about almost everything but the real problems confronting the workers."

THE CENTRAL ISSUE

Pointing out that the outstanding issue of the 1948 elections was the unceasing and sharpening "war between labor and capital," Dobbs emphasized how well the rich know this and how it shapes their policies along with those of their government in Washington. The crying need for the working people also to fully understand this in order to smash the furious anti-labor offensive.

A number of serious defeats recently suffered by the workers on the political as well as the economic field were explained by Dobbs as due to the "false policy of the union leadership," who continue to "cling tighter than ever to the skirts of capitalist politicians."

"The auto workers," said Dobbs, "have a right to ask: What was Walter Reuther doing (Continued on page 2)"

DOBBS-CARLSON
TOUR

The coming dates for the FARRELL DOBBS tour are as follows:

Sept. 20 Cleveland
Sept. 21-22 en route
Sept. 23-24 Akron
Sept. 25 en route
Sept. 26-27 Youngstown

The coming dates for the GRACE CARLSON tour are as follows:

Sept. 23 en route
Sept. 24-30 Minnesota
(Minnesota schedule in detail will be announced next week)

Giving Her the "New Look"

"Labor Alone Can Halt
The March of Reaction"

By Grace Carlson, SWP Vice-Presidential Candidate

The anti-democratic chain reaction set off by the bi-partisan war drive is following its own destructive course. Government strikebreaking, "loyalty" purges, witch-hunts, banning of minority parties from the ballot cannot be "contained" so as to affect only the trade unions and minority groups. With the barring of Truman from the Louisiana ballot, following virtually similar action in other Southern states, the hand of totalitarianism has reached out toward a major capitalist party—one of the initiators of the spreading reaction.

While the Louisiana action against Truman was taken by the race-supremacist Dixiecrats, it is the logical outcome of the methods of the Democrats and Republicans themselves. Indeed, Truman is only getting a taste of his own poison.

For the Democratic Party itself has either inspired or has stood idly by while the Socialist Workers Party, the Wallace Party and other parties have been removed from the ballot in state after state. It has helped to set the precedent, now used against it by the Dixiecrats, whereby the party in power can brutally and arbitrarily eliminate its opponents.

We must keep in mind, however, that the anti-democratic chain reaction does not hit every group with the same force and violence. The Democratic Party has been denied its place on the ballot in Louisiana. But even with the likelihood of more Dixiecrat states trying to follow suit, that's just a slap on the wrist compared to what labor and minority groups face.

Wallace was pelted with eggs and tomatoes and physically threatened all along his Southern tour. This party has been barred from the ballot in northern states like Illinois.

As for the Socialist Workers Party, not only is it barred from the ballot in most states, but its leaders have been thrown into prison to silence them altogether. The Democratic administration did this during the war in the Minneapolis Labor Case while Wallace and Truman were vice presidents.

Truman is off the ballot in Louisiana—but millions of Negroes in the whole South are terrorized from voting. They are even shot to death, like Isaiah Nixon in Georgia last week. And every worker everywhere faces the threat of Truman's Taft-Hartley injunctions, Army strikebreaking and tear gas and clubs, as in the West Coast strikes.

But if injustice and class violence and abrogation of workers' rights have a chain reaction, so too has the resistance of labor. It can swell into a titanic force once it is unleashed. This chain reaction of the workers against the growth of totalitarianism can be set off by a Congress of Labor. Labor alone can halt the march of reaction. Let the rank and file representatives of all the unions hold a mighty Congress in Washington to draft a united program to smash the anti-democratic forces and they can set in motion such a power for defense of democratic rights as this nation has never known.

GRACE CARLSON
Vice-Presidential Candidate of
the Socialist Workers PartyDe Gaulle Threat
To Labor Mounts
In French Crisis

By Joseph Hansen

The political balance in France today hangs by a frayed line that is giving way under the increasing strain. This is the common conclusion of spokesmen of all camps. The breaking strands are visible in the downfall of cabinets, one after the other.

Since January of last year, France has had five Premiers. Ramadier lasted less than 10 months. Schuman less than 8 months. Marie barely a month. The second Schuman Cabinet two days. No one ventures to predict more than a brief span for the new Henri Queuille Cabinet which could be formed at all only on sufferance of Queuille's friend, the fascist-minded de Gaulle.

The big political question now standing over France is what will follow when the last thread of these stop-gap regimes snaps?

Grave economic ills underlie the successive cabinet upsets. After the Allied victory in World War II, the French capitalists set their sights upon recovery as a world imperialist power. This meant financing costly expeditions to the colonial areas, especially Indo-China, to put down independence movements. It meant diverting workers from the factories into the armed forces and diverting production from the restoration of the ravages of war to the construction of a new war machine. It meant backing Wall Street's blueprint for assault on the Soviet Union, thus converting France into a European beachhead for American Big Business and American militarism instead of a center for the unification of Europe.

WORKING CLASS PAYS

The cost of this imperialist policy as always was placed on the backs of the workers and farmers. The universal scarcity of consumers goods that accompanied the increasing abundance of arms has forced prices continually upward. Three-quarters of the average French worker's pay goes for food alone nowadays.

Each cabinet has sought to carry out this task imposed on it by the capitalist class — to strengthen French imperialism at the expense of the living standards of the working class.

The French workers in opposition to this policy have sought to safeguard their living standards and to bring them back to prewar (Continued on page 3)

Liberal, Labor Bodies Back
Demand Truman Pardon 18

The American Civil Liberties Union, in a letter to President Truman this week, demanded pardon and full restoration of civil rights to the 18 Socialist Workers Party and CIO mem-

bers who were railroaded to prison during World War II under the notorious Smith Gag Act. The letter was signed by Chairman John Haynes Holmes, Director Roger N. Baldwin, and Counsel Arthur Garfield Hays.

"DANGEROUS PRECEDENT"

The ACLU pointed out that "the Smith Act on its face violates freedom of speech and press and that 'their convictions, based solely on opinion without any overt acts, stand as a dangerous precedent for the curtailment of civil liberties in the critical days ahead.'" The ACLU then goes on to demand a pardon for the 18 "in accordance with our traditions of political freedom."

On Your Radio

SWP to Participate
In Fifteen Forums
Over Sta. WNEW
Beginning Monday,
September 20, and ending
Friday, October 29,
the Socialist Workers
Party, will be heard on
the air in a series of
election forums to be
sponsored by Station
WNEW in New York
City.

This series entitled
"People's Choice" will
consist of 30 broadcasts
running nightly from
9:45 to 10:00 EDT.

In the first week of
this series the Socialist
Workers Party will be
heard along with the So-
cialist Labor Party on
Monday, Sept. 20, Wed-
nesday, Sept. 22, and
Friday, Sept. 24.

WNEW is 1130 on
on your dial.

Threat to Every Union
Involved in Lewin Case

Herbert Lewin's case is of vital concern to every one who upholds civil liberties and democratic rights. The brutal, summary firing of this 34-year-old sheet metal worker from the South Philadelphia Works of the Westinghouse Corporation on July 12, upon being blacklisted by the Navy Department as a "poor security risk," set a precedent that threatens every union militant.

Another worker, Frank Carner, had been similarly discharged a few days before. Dozens more, it was reliably reported, were likewise threatened with dismissal without presentation of a single charge.

When Lewin was escorted off the job by two company supervisors, Local 107 of the United Electrical Radio & Machine Workers of America, of which he is a member, held an emergency meeting and voted to withdraw their labor until a satisfactory settlement was reached.

James B. Carey denounced the firings as "an outrageous disregard of the sacred human rights of two American citizens" and, as National Secretary-Treasurer of the CIO, intervened with the Navy Department "because of the importance of the incident to the whole membership of the National CIO."

The militant action of Local 107 succeeded in forcing Westinghouse to withdraw the discharge notice for the time being and transfer Lewin and Carner to non-restricted jobs pending outcome of hearings before the Industrial Employment Review Board of the Joint Armed Forces.

Upon filing request for hearing, the men learned for the first time the charge placed against them. It was the allegation they held membership in the Socialist Workers Party.

Carner, who is not a member of the Socialist Workers Party, was given a hearing Sept. 3. The

decision of the Board has not yet been made public.

Lewin's hearing is scheduled for Sept. 17. He has publicly announced that he is a member of the Socialist Workers Party and that he intends to defend his right to hold political views in opposition to those of the Republicans and Democrats.

As Carey points out in his letter of July 15, "the Department of the Navy must be charged with a full share in provocation" in this case. The Navy does not charge Lewin with being a spy. It does not charge him with being a tool of a foreign power. It does not charge him with any overt act, nor even with being a poor workman.

Throughout the war, Lewin worked in war plants handling orders of the Armed Forces without any complaint whatsoever being placed against him.

But Lewin is known as a militant union member. As the (Continued on page 3)

