

Stalin Murdered Krivitsky

The New Proof---See Page 3

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'RISK OF WAR' ADMITTED BY FDR MEN

GPU Now Attempt To Free Killers Of Trotsky

First Open Move Is Made To Get Siqueiros Out of Jail, After Judges, In Fear of their Lives, Refuse To Pass On His Case

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 15—The latest move of Stalin's GPU is nothing less than a systematic move to prevent the punishment of the GPU assassins who are now in jail awaiting trial for the May 24, 1940 attempt to murder Trotsky and the assassination on August 20.

In addition to the successful assassin, Jacson, a group of men and women, most of whom have admitted their complicity, are awaiting trial for the May 24th attempt, in which they murdered Robert Sheldon Harte, Trotsky's American secretary-guard.

David Alfaro Siqueiros was so completely identified by most of the arrested accomplices as the organizer and leader of the May 24th attempt that Siqueiros, when finally caught after being a fugitive for months, had to admit he participated in the assault.

Yet the case of Siqueiros is not in the hands of a judge! (Under Mexican law, a case is placed in the hands of a judge who is given a year in which to investigate and hand down a final decision. There is no jury.)

The first judge who had the case insisted on being replaced. His successor declined to take over the case and refused to give his reasons for so declining. But the press spoke openly of the fact that the judge had been threatened by the GPU, as the first judge had been. Other judges have also refused to take the case, and therefore the records are now in Mexico City, after a trip from Coahuacan to Villa Obregon and from there to Xochimilco.

The purpose of GPU pressure to prevent any judge from handling the case is clear. This time elapses in which the case, Stalin's agents hope, will gradually sink into oblivion.

And now has come an open

and calculatingly having planted two women spies near the Trotsky household (to corrupt the police on guard outside) more than three months before the actual attempt. That he did this as a subordinate cog in the murder-machine of the GPU—none of this is so much as referred to in this letter of "Intellectuals and Artists."

Let us recall to these "Intellectuals and Artists" that the enormity of Siqueiros' crime was so obvious that even the brazen Stalinist leadership made no attempt to defend him. On the contrary—despite the fact that Siqueiros had been publicly identified with the Stalinist movement for fifteen years, had been a Major in the Stalinist-controlled forces in Loyalist Spain, is president of the Stalinist-front Union of Mexican Ex-Combatants of Spain, etc., etc.—the Stalinists made desperate attempts to dissociate themselves from Siqueiros.

STALINIST TESTIMONY

Thus David Serrano, member of the Political Bureau of the Mexican Communist Party, arrested and awaiting trial in the same case—he was identified as having ordered the purchase of the police uniforms used as disguises by the machine-guns—proceeded to denounce Siqueiros. Serrano's testimony, made to the chief of police, General Jose Manuel Nunez, and released to the press on June 18, 1940, characterized Siqueiros as an "undesirable person" and "half crazy." Serrano stated he believed Siqueiros, together with Siqueiros' brother, with their friends, were responsible for the attempt on Trotsky. The Communist party, Serrano stated, "for some time had been suspicious of them."

Thus *La Voz de Mexico*, official Communist Party organ, on June 30, 1940 declared:

"David Alfaro Siqueiros, who appears to be responsible for the assault, is not a member of the Communist Party of Mexico. Neither are (Siqueiros' aides) Antonio Pujol, or Luis and Leopoldo Arenal. "The declaration of those (Continued on page 5)

UNESTHETIC DETAILS

That Siqueiros murdered Bob Harte. That he nearly succeeded in murdering Leon and Natalia Trotsky. That he led a score of men with machine-guns in this attempt. That he did this coldly

ON THE WAR FRONTS

by GEORGE STERN

The Turkish-Bulgarian "non-aggression" pact is an indisputable victory for Axis diplomacy. It represents a retreat by Turkey from the edge of the conflict—and this retreat was certainly made at the orders and under the pressure of the Kremlin.

Up until a few days ago the Turks stoutly maintained in their controlled press that German entry into Bulgaria would bring the Turkish army into action in Thrace. British and Turkish staff parleys took place in Ankara. The situation was comparable to that in Moscow in August, 1939, when Stalin entertained an Allied military mission—and confronted them with the Nazi-Soviet pact.

German infiltration into Bulgaria has already been in preparation for some weeks and the new pact between Turkey and Bulgaria seems to indicate that full military occupation of Bulgaria will take place without action by Turkey. There remains in the vagueness of the Turkish-Bulgarian pact grounds for faint Allied hope that this is not the case. In London this hope was eagerly grasped and it was asserted that it could be "safely assumed" that Turkey would fulfill its obligations under its pact with Britain in the event of a German Balkan move. The Germans seem to think otherwise and in these matters they have usually proved to be the more correct.

The Turks have left themselves an exit in the pact by stating that it does not affect their obligations under other treaties. These obligations, however, mean that Turkey is supposed to enter the war in case of a German attack on

Greece or the extension of the war to the Eastern Mediterranean. When Turkey failed to fulfill this promise upon Mussolini's Greek move, the British put the best face possible on it and stated that Turkish non-belligerence was maintained by "mutual" agreement. But if in the present juncture Turkey stands aside to let Hitler move to Greece's frontiers it means the loss of British positions in Southeastern Europe and the completion of continental consolidation by Hitler. For Greece will have to bow.

What the newspapers are most obscure about is the role undoubtedly played in this development by the Kremlin. There are reports which suggest that the pact is actually another "deal" between Stalin and Hitler under which Stalin forces Turkey to bow and Hitler promises to keep hands off the Dardanelles.

Other reports even say that Stalin threatened to march against Turkey's eastern provinces unless it did give in to Hitler.

Just what sop Stalin got this time for his help remains to be revealed in the march of events. It is clear enough right now, however, that Stalin did put screws on the Turks. Involvement of Turkey in hostilities against Germany would have brought the Germans into action on still another Soviet frontier. German victory over the Turks would install them directly adjacent to the Caucasus and establish them on a second coast of the Black Sea. This is what Stalin fears and this is what he would seek to avoid in compelling Turkey to meet Hitler's terms in return for a temporary and insecure "safety" from attack.

Bandiera Rossa!

No less an authority than WEHRMACHT, German army military organ, admits the truth of the recent reports that captured Italian soldiers, when informed of the fall of Koritza, sang the revolutionary working class song, "Bandiera Rossa" and other revolutionary songs!

The January, 1941, issue of WEHRMACHT, in its section on foreign military news, page 23, says:

"Reports originating from foreign and enemy sources concerning unrest among Italian front-line units are largely, but unfortunately not wholly, unsubstantiated.

"Lieutenant-Colonel Meissner (German military attache in Athens) has confirmed reports of the singing of revolutionary hymns by Italian prisoners formerly belonging to second class Landsturm regiments now being held in prison camps in Thessaly. The comparative scarcity of such incidents, considering the severity of the fighting on the Greek front and the privations endured by the soldiers of Italy, is a compliment to the endurance and the courage of the Italian Army both now and in the past."

By "Landsturm" regiments, the military organ refers to men between the ages of 35-45, serving mainly for duty behind the lines, and used at the front only in great emergencies. Four regiments of such troops, according to German reports, actually participated in front line actions in Greece in the December battles at Koritza. Far from belittling the significance of the revolutionary demonstration made by these Italian soldiers, the German military organ's "explanation" only serves to confirm the fact and to reveal the desperate plight of Hitler's ally, the fascist regime of Italy.

This is the greatest news that has come out of the war! For the revolutionary ferment in Italy will inevitably spread to both sides of the battlefronts!

And it will inspire the revolutionary forces everywhere, just as did the Russian revolution in 1917.

It was the Russian revolution that really put an end to the war in 1918. It is the coming Italian revolution and its aftermath of revolution elsewhere that will put an end to this war!

S.W.P. Will Back A.L.P. Candidate For Congress

Local New York of the Socialist Workers Party informed the New York County Committee of the American Labor Party this week that the S.W.P. is prepared to support the A.L.P. candidate for Congressman in the 17th New York District.

The S.W.P. sent a letter to this effect shortly after the news became public that the A.L.P. county committee had named a candidate, Eugene Connolly.

As part of the anti-war campaign in the 17th District, the S.W.P. will hold a rally at Trans-Port Hall, 153 West 64th Street, on Thursday, March 6, at 8 p.m.

The text of the letter to the A.L.P. follows:

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

In order that labor may present a united front against the candidates of the two capitalist parties in the special Congressional election in the 17th district, we are considering withdrawing our candidate, Arthur P. Burch, and urging labor to support your candidate, Eugene Connolly. We

We feel that the platform of the American Labor Party (New York County Committee) presents a pacifist rather than a militant proletarian opposition to war. For example: You correctly oppose the war-mongering "lend-lease" bill now pending in Congress, but you suggest no real alternative to it. Our program does provide a real alternative. We call for:

Military training of workers, financed by the government, under control of the trade unions.

The establishment of special officers' training camps, financed by the government and controlled by the trade unions, to train workers to become officers.

(See story on the S.W.P. campaign to place Burch on the ballot, page 2.)

Phrase Is A Part Of War Move

Is Step to Prepare Public for Actual War Involvement; Formula of "All Aid Short of War" Dropped Altogether

Roosevelt's spokesmen in the Senate produced an entirely new formula in the opening speeches in Congress on Monday.

"Even at the risk of war" was the new formula. And with its appearance the original formula with which the "lend-lease" bill was justified—"all aid short of war"—disappeared from the scene altogether.

It was obvious that the "risk of war" formula was not an accidental interpolation by anybody. It appeared first in the carefully-prepared address of Senator Barkley, majority leader, was repeated by Senator Thomas of Utah and even more bluntly affirmed by Senator Pepper of Florida.

This formula so dominated the presentation of the proponents of the bill that the New York Times headline (Feb. 18) was: "Aid bill urged in Senate even at the risk of war."

Pepper went far: "Call it war, or do not call it war," he declared—and a hush fell over the galleries, the correspondents report—"Lay it down as a premise, America will not let England fall to Hitler. If this (bill) will not save England, we will save it anyway."

Which Senator Austin of Vermont, assistant Republican leader, went one better, dramatically striding into the center aisle of the chamber to declare, in solidarity with the Democrats:

"If ever it becomes necessary for us to fight, we will fight!"

It was abundantly clear that, over the week-end, a new strategy meeting of the Roosevelt inner circle had decided to launch this new formula and abandon the "short of war" line of argument.

Perhaps the immediate motivation for this decision was the renewal of the Far Eastern crisis, rather than the ostensible object of the "lend-lease" bill: the European situation.

Contributing still further to the sharpening of imperialist antagonisms in the Far East, an expeditionary force of thousands of Australian troops, including mechanized units, was landed at Singapore early this week to reinforce Scottish, English, Indian and Malayan troops, as a measure to bolster the defenses of Britain's Far Eastern fortress.

What Big Business Says CIO "Defense Plan" Really Means

The Kiplinger WASHINGTON LETTER, circulated privately to business men, in its Feb. 1 issue urges its employer-subscribers to get and study the "CIO Defense Plan" issued by Philip Murray, CIO head.

Commenting on the results of this "Defense Plan," the Letter says:

"Labor is apt to get more and more under government control.

"Labor discipline is not good, especially within many CIO unions. The chiefs at the top know this and admit it (but not for quotation)."

"The Murray plan would put labor chiefs into the government and give them governmental authority WHICH THEY COULD USE ON THE UNIONS in cases of strikes and disturbances which are not controllable now." (Our emphasis.)

(See editorial, page 6)

What U. S. Army Officers Think Of Democracy

Remember the pious speeches about the "democratic process" of conscription that so many army officers spouted to help push the Conscription Act through Congress?

Well, they stopped making those hypocritical speeches, just as soon as Congress and Roosevelt made conscription the law of the land. During the conscription debate it was necessary for the brass hats to be on good behavior; but now that they've got conscription and are beginning to get hold of the first million conscripts, the army officers' corps, reactionary down to their bones, are beginning to behave as they always have felt. Here is how they are already talking among themselves—we cite an editorial in the February 1st *Army and Navy Register*, "semi-official journal of the armed forces:

"We hear many loose descriptive words being used about the American service today. For example, to say that conscription is at base a 'democratic' process is to display an ignorance of the history of conscription. It has been used by empires and monarchies as much as by democracies... For another example, to speak of the 'democracy of life in the ranks' is the most utter flapdoodle anyone ever enunciated. Any service where a soldier must address his commander as 'The Captain' and is called 'You' in return is hardly democratic. Any mass effort where one is endowed with sole responsibility and given full authority for purposes of efficient action is hardly democratic... It is no solution to use a mere label 'democracy' and then to continue with more martinet methods.

"The American citizen well understands, and there is Supreme Court authority for it, that he must sur-

render certain of his ordinary rights as a citizen when he enters the service. To make that surrender clear, and still to restrict it only to those things which are essential, is the great leadership problem of the American Army today."

The American citizen "well understands" nothing of the sort, and certainly wasn't given to understand anything of the sort by the propaganda poured out to ease the passage of the Conscription Act. The American citizen—the average workingman and woman—will read these words from the *Army and Navy Register* with a shock of surprise and consternation, learning from them for the first time, in most cases, what the conscription system really involves, as it is conceived and executed by the reactionary officer caste.

The language used by the *Army and Navy Register* is so unambiguous that even William Green or Sidney Hillman can't pretend that these blunt words from the officers really mean that we're going to have a democratic army.

Who is going to determine which "ordinary rights as a citizen" are surrendered and which are kept by the Conscripts? That "is the great leadership problem of the American Army today"—in other words the officers are going to decide what rights the conscripts will keep and which "are essential" to surrender to the tender mercies of the officer caste. To call this democracy is, as the *Army and Navy Register* says, the most "utter flapdoodle anyone ever enunciated."

Why must the conscripts submit to such a system of dictatorship, in which the officers have the powers of life and death over the ranks? The officer caste pretends this is necessary to any army.

But that is not so, not any more than it is necessary to industry. There was a time when the employing class used to insist that industry couldn't be run unless the bosses had the same powers of life and death over the workers as are wielded by the army officers. That was the bosses' justification for punishing all attempts at unionization as "conspiracy" against the established order. It took gigantic struggles of the working class everywhere to smash that boss idea and win the right of unionization, of "interference" in industry.

For the worker, there's no fundamental difference between the factory and the military training camp. The rights he has won by struggle in the factory are rights which he must have in the training camp. Otherwise he becomes a helpless tool in the hands of the reactionary officer caste, which is simply the employing class in fancy uniforms. A helpless tool, to be used, not to save "democracy" but to enslave himself.

There's no justification whatever in military science for putting the rank and file soldiers at the mercy of boss-officers any more than there was justification in industrial science for preventing unionization.

That's why our party stands for:

Military training of workers, financed by the government, under control of the trade unions.

The establishment of special officers' training camps, financed by the government and controlled by the trade unions, to train workers to become officers.

WORKERS' FORUM

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.

Wants Us to Review Dean of Canterbury's "Soviet Power"

Comments (sometimes annoyingly repetitious and highly laudatory) have been made to me recently in connection with the question of whether I have or haven't read the latest "Bible" of the Communist Party: "The Soviet Power," by the Dean of Canterbury. Inasmuch as my time has been taken up considerably with other matters, I have as yet had no chance to read it.

I feel, personally, that a review by you or a member of the staff of this book would aid me considerably. It is possible also that there may be others in my predicament who would also desire a review.

Also, the tone of voice and general impressions of these individuals suggest that it is something really worth looking into. Furthermore, an individual who I believe was telling the truth stated that the original edition of 100,000 had already been subscribed for and plans were being made for the publication of another. Since this book, as stated above, is beginning to appear as a "Bible" for the Stalinists it doubly demands a review. In looking back over the sentence at the beginning

of this paragraph regarding "tone of voice," etc. those factors appear nearly always and are not to be taken too seriously.

If a review has already appeared then count me as one of those who missed it and would greatly appreciate having it brought to my attention. If a review is to be made would you kindly inform me by letter of the issue and publication in which it is to appear? Thank you.

E. G. S.

Chicago, Ill.

We've Done It

Editor:

Reader Smollett will find an exhaustive review of the Dean of Canterbury's "Soviet Power" in the current (February) issue of our monthly magazine, **FOURTH INTERNATIONAL**. That review will provide him with the direct citations from the Soviet press and Stalin's ukases which give the lie to the pious Dean's fairy tales. We also intend to review the Dean soon in **THE MILITANT**. We'll also bet anybody even money that the Dean's book—which hasn't a word on the abolition of free education, the new statutes of the Red Army, the June 26 labor laws, etc. etc.—will soon be withdrawn from circulation.—EDITORS.

Battering Down Ford's Bastille



Women members of the CIO's United Auto Workers Auxiliary are shown as they aid the Ford Union organizing drive. They are distributing union literature at the River Rouge plant.

War-time Censoring Has Already Begun, Says Boss Organ

You may have noticed that thick fog that is settling down over your morning newspaper. Here's why, according to the Feb. 1 issue of the Kiplinger WASHINGTON LETTER, a weekly confidential bulletin circulated privately to business men:

"Censorship has started, like war-time, on paper, radio, movies. It's voluntary, by request, not mandatory. It covers certain navy news, unless such news is announced or authorized by the government itself. Editors are complying without much complaint, but it is recognized that the 'request rules' will be extended later to other kinds of news."

"This first dose of censorship-by-request is not a big dose, but it is a foretaste of what is to come when government takes control. The object will be not only to keep valuable secrets from the enemy, BUT ALSO TO PROVIDE THE PROPER CONDITIONS FOR PUBLIC MORALE." (Our emphasis.)

"Silk Stocking" District Has Many Poor --- They Like Our Program

Those Who Signed Nominating Petitions For Our Candidate
Knew What They Were Supporting: They Made Sure Of That

The campaign to place Arthur Burch on the ballot in the Seventeenth Congressional district in New York as the candidate of the Socialist Workers Party brought gratifying results. Although this district embraces many of the wealthiest and most reactionary families in the country, those gathering signatures report that thousands of workers who live in the poverty-stricken sections were not only willing to sign the nominating petitions, but discussed the anti-war program of the party.

The popular response to the anti-war program of the Socialist Workers Party is indicated by the fact that small shopkeepers in the working class sections offered their help in securing signatures for the candidate.

EXAMINED PROGRAM

In the homes of the workers the petitions almost invariably received a hearty welcome, especially among the Negroes, but only after they had read the party's material. In one apartment house where the most desperate poverty was evident, the Negro families refused to sign the petitions on the first visit. "Leave us your prospectus and your newspaper," was the response of many in the building, "we'll read them and if we agree we'll sign."

The comrade circulating the petition reported that when he returned the following day, seven-teen registered voters in the building then gave their signatures. The living conditions of the Ne-

groes are heart-rending. Their flats are unheated although it is the dead of winter. They are over-crowded and many without lights.

In one home an elderly widow answered the door. Her lights had been cut off because of her inability to pay the bill. She apologized for the darkness, explaining that her husband, formerly on WPA, had died and that she had nothing left but the miserable old-age pension granted by the government. She was glad to sign the petition that would place a revolutionary candidate on the ballot.

FRIENDLY RESPONSES

An old man who said that he was born in the West Indies and knew what capitalist democracy was like in practice in the colonies congratulated the signature collector on his party's winning a

revolutionary candidate. "During one disturbance in the West Indies," he said, "the British sent a battleship and shot down thousands of workers." He invited the signature collector to come in and tell him about the program of the SWP.

Those on relief were in many cases apprehensive that the LaGuardia administration would seek reprisals against them, but many signed despite this danger. The program of Trotskyism has a powerful appeal to them, caught as they are in the blind alley of unemployment under the capitalist system.

In one home, two men playing cards denounced the "reds" when the petition circulator rang the bell and announced the purpose of his visit. A woman nursing a baby in the same room told them to hush up, and took up the defense of the "reds." She signed the petition and said that she was glad to see the Trotskyists try to get on the ballot.

NOT SO FRIENDLY

It was not all clear sailing, however. At one apartment a well-dressed lady answered the bell. She refused to sign. "I was a Republican," she said. "I voted for Wendell Willkie. After what has happened since the election, I've decided I'm through with politics." And she slammed the door.

A Coughlinite upon learning the mission of the petition circulator smiled bitterly. "We know you fellows," he said. "You stopped our parade." He likewise slammed the door. The memory of how the Trotskyists led the fight against Coughlin is still fresh!

PENTHOUSE STALINIST

One comrade decided to try one of the exclusive streets where the wealthy live. He picked out the most sumptuous apartment house, rode with the uniformed elevator man to the top floor and started ringing bells. The first door he tried swung open on thick rugs. He caught a glimpse of a huge radio, a grand piano, an oil painting on the wall. A young man with soft white hands looked at the hulking worker asking for a signature to help a Trotskyist candidate get on the ballot. "You say you oppose imperialism war and stand for the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism?" asked the man in the door. "But I understand the Trotskyists are counter-revolutionary and against the Soviet Union."

"Are you a Stalinist?" asked the petition collector in amazement. "Well, not exactly. But all the liberal progressive circles say that the Trotskyists are counter-revolutionary. I can't sign." He closed the door.

The petition collector decided right then and there that perhaps it was an error to petition the penthouse for signatures and rode the glittering elevator back down to the street.

Last Sunday night Comrade Burch was invited by Father Divine's organization to speak at one of his mass meetings in Harlem. He had invited two prominent whites as guest speakers also, Judge Walcott and Mr. Shintag, a prominent attorney. More than

Highlights In The Labor Press

By CARL O'SHEA

President Sal Hoffman writes in the **AFL UPHOLSTERERS' JOURNAL** that during the past year "a procession of important Furniture Workers Locals previously affiliated with another International have asked to be received within our fold." Among the unions who have switched from the AFL Carpenters and the CIO Woodworkers to the AFL Upholsterers are locals in Paris, Texas; New London, and Ladysmith, Wis.; Winston-Salem; Hallam, Pa.; Hoquiam, Wash.; Minneapolis; Minn.; and Burlington Iowa.

Hoffman states "we have added 27 new local unions to the roster of our International during 1940. We have added some 10,000 new members to our ranks. We have consummated agreements with 2,000 individual firms. Almost one-half of our Local Unions now have 'one week vacation clause with pay'... The average wage increase gained was 10 cents per hour or \$4 per week per member."

Revolts against the ultra-reactionary regime of Hutcheson in the Carpenters and against the Stalinist misleaders in the Woodworkers explains this situation.

La Follette's **PROGRESSIVE** for February 8th reprints a comment from an anonymous English columnist confirming our view that Roosevelt's aid to England can have only reactionary effects. "The National Government remains national, but so does the national dilemma. We can have a National Government only on condition that it is an all-party government. But the domestic issues raised by the war are so profound that an all-party government can exist only by ignoring them. Since the issues remain, it looks as though the only way of preventing the facade of national unity from being broken by some sort of social revolution is that America should finance the war. American finance would enable us to retain the illusion of being a united democracy by sparing us the extra financial pinch that would expose the class cleavage. In other words, America would pay us to remain a capitalist democracy."

Ed like to display to our **MILITANT** readers a man whom I would certainly nominate for the best news-poet writing in the United States today, Mr. Charles H. Loeb, who each week composes an "editorial in rhyme" for the **Cleveland CALL-POST**, Negro paper. Here's his latest, on the housing shortage in Cleveland:

The Blowout
"If you've ever pumped a tire up
Mused my friend, Methusalem
Brown,
Then you'll know you never figger

On the pressure by the soup:
'Cause the limit of compression
(Specially when you got no gauge)
Is the limit of the tubin'.
An' a knowledge of its age.

"You don't have to go to college
Or read no fancy tracts.
To be 'quainted with the logic
Of a simple set of facts.
You can't crowd no ten-pound

Into jes' a two-pound space,
Without tube an' casing giving,
An' explosion tak'n place!

"So, the gents who plan our housin'
An' who aim to shut us off
From the 'strickly white-folks' buildings,

Aint goin' find the job so soft,
'Cause when houses are exhausted
(An' there aint a one in sight)
Crampin' black folks into ghettos
Is like dropp'n' dynamite!

"Though the Housin' Board director
Has the thing all cut an' dried;
He may find his Jim-Crow ideals
Bouncin' back to skin his hide!
You can't crowd no 10-pound

Into normal 2-pound space,
Without riskin' that your tire will
Blow right smack up in your face!"

Charles Yale Harrison, pro-war Social-Democrat, is now director of public relations of the Electrical Workers Union Local 3 in New York. He used to be featured columnist for the New Leader at which time he defended it against Trotskyist criticism. Now he's written a letter to the Socialist Call telling of the splendid strike of Local 3 against Leviton, and protesting that the New Leader is "the only newspaper in New York that so far has not printed a single line on this important struggle." Harrison's late political "friends are so busy going to war that they can't find the time or space to defend the workers against the employers."

Latest union to fall victim to the "conspiracy" charge is the Des Moines Drivers Union Local 90. Blanket indictments have been returned against five union officers for "conspiring" against an anti-union truck operator who took a punch at one of the union organizers and was properly punished. The case is similar to the link suit against the Minneapolis General Drivers Union Local 544.

Clarence Darrow once aptly described the conspiracy indictment as "a legal device which has been used as a modern and ancient dragnet for compassing the imprisonment and death of men whom the ruling class does not like."



SUB DRIVE GATHERS STEAM

With four additional branches making the record this week, and the totals of the early birds swelling rapidly, we can really state that the SUB DRIVE is off to an excellent start. Almost twice as many subs came in, during the second week of the drive, as in the first: 64 this week in comparison to last week's 31. Minneapolis brought in the lion's share: 23 subs in one week.

Here's the score-board, showing the subs for this week, the total thus far, and the total number of points (for half-dollars collected):

Place	Week's Subs	Total Subs	Total Points
Minnesota	23	26	59
New York	8	16	29
Chicago	8	11	17
Newark	5	8	11
Los Angeles	4	6	15
Allentown	4	4	7
Boston	3	3	3
Flint	3	3	3
New Haven	2	6	7
Detroit	1	7	15
Paterson	1	1	2
Philadelphia	1	1	2
Albany	1	1	2
Plentywood	0	1	2
Cleveland	0	1	2
Kansas	0	1	2
	64	98	Subs

The cities listed in bold letters are current leaders in their Challenge Categories. Some are leaders by sheer default of the others in the same category, which have not yet made their mark.

The best surprise of the week was ALLENTOWN, coming through with a fistful of subs fast enough to place high up on the list, along with the big fellows. Good work, comrades! In proportion to strength you put

some of the best of them to shame!

MASS WORK IN THE BRONX

BRONX, N. Y.—"Our MILITANT" work at an important union hall in the Bronx reveals what results can be obtained by a continued and steady distribution of our paper.

"After our covering this local for about two months the workers now come to us and ask for papers. At first they wouldn't even accept them, but now they actually ask for them. And when we miss a week they complain that they've been skipped."

"Previously when we covered a factory and didn't get any results we quit and looked around for another place. This was a bad mistake. It finally dawned on us that it takes the workers not a few weeks, but a few months to overcome their initial hostility to radicals and to have our point of view sink in."

"However, once factory and union hall work is carried on steadily, the results will inevitably come in. After a large group of workers reads the MILITANT for a number of months its effect is bound to be felt, and this is exactly what is taking place. Now we are starting to get real contacts among these New York union workers."

The New York comrades lagged a bit behind the rest of the country in learning the value of mass work with the MILITANT—but in the last few months they've been learning fast. Now in every borough of the city factories and union halls are covered regularly with our paper. More and more New York workers are coming to know the MILITANT and are asking for it each week.

A MILITANT START FOR THE MILITANT

The New 6-Page MILITANT

announces

in conjunction with the

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Grace Carlson Reports On New Locals

By GRACE CARLSON

PITTSBURGH — The most interesting news of the week on my tour comes from two cities where until the other day our party had nothing—Pittsburgh and Baltimore.

Today, however, the Socialist Workers Party is definitely on the political map in Pittsburgh. My meeting here was the only public commemoration of the anniversary of Lenin's death. Twenty-nine workers attended the open meeting, and indicated by their interested questions and participation in the discussion a real interest in the Trotskyist program. Subscriptions for **THE MILITANT** were obtained and other Trotskyist literature was sold, so we can be confident that these workers intend to study our program. There is real promise of a rapid growth of our party in this great steel center.

Baltimore is another important steel center. It is also becoming a center in the aviation industry. The "open shop" tradition of Baltimore is breaking down as the SWOC and the UAW meet with great success in their organizing drives.

The Baltimore branch of the party was organized a short time ago. Its first task, successfully achieved, was to get all of the members into basic industry and the unions of these industries. We may look forward with confidence to other achievements, and soon, by the Baltimore branch.

Stalin Assassinated Krivitsky: The New Proof

What The Police Translator "Failed" To Tell Was In The "Suicide" Letter

By THE EDITORS

The imprint of Stalin was plainly visible in the room where Walter Krivitsky was found murdered. But something then happened. The police "failed" to make public Stalin's imprint. Here is the story, which all thinking people can judge for themselves.

When Walter Krivitsky was found dead, the Washington police took possession of the three "suicide" notes and issued, after an inexplicable delay of nearly a day, the text of the letters, including a translation from the Russian of the "letter" to his wife and son. The police insisted on retaining possession of the originals but, again after some delay, released a photostat copy to Louis Waldman, attorney for Mrs. Krivitsky.

For most of the week after Krivitsky's death, Mr. Waldman remained in Washington, vainly attempting to get Federal authorities to conduct an adequate investigation. When it became clear that the coroner was going to be permitted to issue a verdict of suicide without a further investigation, Mr. Waldman threw up his hands and returned to New York.

He brought the photostat copy to Mrs. Krivitsky. As she read it, there stared out at her two tremendous words which had not appeared in the translation issued by the police.

In the translation issued by the police, the crucial sentences had read:

"Good people will help you, but not enemies. I think my sins are big."

The actual text of those sentences in the photostat reads:

"Good people will help you, but not enemies OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE. I think my sins are big."

We have carefully examined the photostat copy. We can

testify that the words which the police translation "failed" to include occupy enough space to make it impossible to assume that a hasty translator skipped over them.

It was but one of a score of "failures" in the police investigation of Krivitsky's death. None of these "failures" can be explained by the ignorance of "local police." The Washington police force is perhaps the most modern in the country. It is, indeed, not a local police force at all. Washington is run by the federal government. With the Far Eastern crisis exploding and relations with the Kremlin the crucial question in that crisis, it was the perfect week for a GPU murder in Washington.

Everything worked out perfectly for Stalin. By the time Mrs. Krivitsky had discovered the "omission," the publicity on the case was over; the story had been pushed off the front page and out of the papers by the Far Eastern crisis.

And now, with Mrs. Krivitsky having issued the correct version of the letter, it can appear in the Soviet press as "proof" that all the other death-bed recantations of "sinners" were true, for this one is authoritatively verified by the Washington police as the last words of a suicide.

In each new crime, Stalin has been driven by the logic of his situation to attempt to justify all his previous crimes. The world is skeptical of the truth and sincerity of the numerous recantations which have been "signed" by oppositionists? Stalin proves the truth and sincerity of these recantations by issuing tenfold more. From 1924 to 1927 recantations were relatively infrequent. They are "proved" by an increase in their frequency and volume, from 1927 to 1936. Those are not believed? Then the entire cadre of Lenin's closest collaborators is paraded from 1936 to 1938 in the ritual of recantations of their sins and whitewashings of Stalin.

But these are not Trotskyists, not real oppositionists?

Then Trotskyists-like must be made to recant. Rudolph Klement, secretary of the Fourth International, "writes" a letter from Paris to Trotsky, "breaking" with him and whitewashing Stalin, in July, 1938; just about the time this "letter" arrives to Trotsky in Mexico, the dismembered body of poor Klement is fished out of the Seine and mutely explains the "letter."

The debacle of the Klement "letter" drives the Kremlin to cram the murder of Trotsky somehow into the pattern of recantations and whitewashings: the assassin Jascon "confesses" that he, too, "broke" with Trotsky, that "perhaps Stalin was right."

And when Jascon's story is broken down in court by Trotsky's attorney, Albert Goldman, and when David Serrano, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Mexico, and the Stalinist, David Alfaro Siqueiros, are held as the organizers of the May 24, 1940 attempt on Trotsky, then Krivitsky must "testify" to the pattern of recantation and whitewashing.

Stalin is irrevocably the prisoner of this fantastic formula. He must repeat it and repeat it and repeat it. Human psychology must be transformed to fit Stalin's murder-pattern, otherwise the long series of murders become known for what they are. If a hundred instances are not conclusive, then Stalin will provide a thousand instances.

That is why Stalin had to put his signature to the murder of Krivitsky. Thanks to the "failure" of the police translation to reveal that, this fact will not be widely known except as we and other labor papers can publicize it. One must record this as one of Stalin's better efforts—so far. But we are not finished. Next week we shall deal with other clues which, despite the skill of the forgers and murderers, were left behind.

Krivitsky Slain, Says Barmine

Ex-Soviet Envoy, On Stalin's List, Warns Friends He Will Never Commit Suicide

Alexander G. Barmine, who as Charge d'Affaires of the USSR in Greece broke with Stalin just a few days before Krivitsky did, made the following declaration in New York last week—on February 13—in the presence of his wife and a number of witnesses.

"In the presence of witnesses I hereby declare that under no circumstances do I intend to do away with myself and whatever 'letters' might be found—in any eventuality—they will not be mine."

Before his break on December 1, 1937, Barmine had served for 19 years as a Soviet official, first as a soldier and political commissar in the Red Army in 1919, then as a brigade commander, Consul General in Persia, director-general of Imports, first secretary of the Legation of the USSR, then Charge d'Affaires. He had been a member of the Communist Party of the USSR since 1919.

In making his declaration, Barmine said:

"I have no doubt whatever that Walter Krivitsky was murdered by Stalin's agents. The letters that were found beside his body prove nothing at all. The GPU has experts who are capable of writing in any handwriting desired, whatever letters are required."

After pointing out that the Kremlin had in its files considerable written material of Krivitsky's which the GPU experts could easily utilize for forgeries, Barmine declared:

"When I read in his 'letter' to his wife the statement, 'I think my sins are big,' I was very much astonished that there did not follow afterwards: 'Long live Stalin!'"

(At the time Barmine made this statement, he did not know that the complete text of that "letter" told Krivitsky's wife: "Good friends will help you, but not enemies of the Soviet people.")

WHEN BARMINE BROKE

Barmine's public break with Stalin was consummated by a statement addressed to the French Committee of Inquiry into the Moscow Trials on December 1, 1937. The Moscow Trials, he declared, had finally brought him to the full realization "that a reactionary dictatorship had installed itself in my country."

"I would like to make the most pressing, most desperate appeal to public opinion," he then said, "in behalf of at least of those — my chiefs and companions, all old Bolsheviks—of whom who are still perhaps living, and against the false and ignoble accusations. I am thinking of my friends remaining at their posts in other countries of Europe, Asia or America, threatened daily with a similar fate and placed before the tragic dilemma: go back to certain death, or renouncing seeing their country again, to risk the bullets of the agents of the Secret Police abroad, of those agents who

Nazi Press Pleased At the Death of Walter Krivitsky

A Feb. 15 dispatch from Geneva reports that the controlled Nazi press has devoted considerable space to the murder of Krivitsky.

The Nazi press takes it for granted that Krivitsky was killed and goes on to say that he deserved to die because he was a Jew named Schmelke Ginsburg. Besides, the Nazis add, he was a "Trotskyite" and a "Jewish rat."

The Russian White Guard and anti-Semitic paper in New York, the NOVOYE RUSSKOYE SLOVO, is so pleased with the Nazi version of the case that it featured it last week.

quite recently still shadowed my every step.

"To remain in the service of Stalin's government would have been to doom myself to the worst demoralization and to assume my share of the responsibility for the crimes committed every day against the people of my country. It would have been to betray the cause of socialism to which I have devoted my entire life."

"I am obeying my conscience in breaking with this government. I am fully aware of the danger to which I expose myself in acting this way. I am signing my own death warrant and expose myself to the blows of paid killers. This consideration could not modify in any way my line of conduct."

Only a few days after Barmine's break with Stalin came that of Krivitsky, for which the latter has now paid with his life. Only three months before that, the man who, after twenty years of service to the USSR, had preceded Krivitsky and Barmine in breaking with Stalin—Ignace Reiss—had been found riddled with machine gun slugs in Switzerland on September 4, 1937.

Stalin's 18th Party "Conference" Opens

By JOHN G. WRIGHT

It was not Stalin who delivered the main report to the Eighteenth Party Conference which convened in the Kremlin on February 16th. The main reporter was a petty underling, one Georgi Malenkov, who is not even a prominent member of the Political Bureau but merely one of the secretaries of the Central Committee. This procedure is without precedent in the history of political parties in general and of the Stalinist Party Conferences in particular.

Not that silence on Stalin's part is in and of itself unprecedented. Far from it. In every critical situation on the world

robored by Malenkov's speech and by—Stalin's silence. The crisis in Soviet economy, the complete breakdown of the Third Stalinist Five-Year plan has now been officially acknowledged through the mouth of Malenkov.

In his speech he admitted that there was a "lag" in "several key industries"; that output had decreased "in such industries as building material and lumber"; that production costs have increased, and therefore the productivity of labor has fallen, in such industries as "oil, paper and timber." (N. Y. Times, Feb. 17). There is a "backwardness," declared Malenkov, in "coal, oil and textile industries in the Urals, the Don, Kharkoff, Gorki, Yaroslavl, Stalingrad, and Dnepropetrovsk districts." If the editors of the Daily Worker or the Dean of Canterbury were asked to call the roll of the most important industrial areas of the Union, they would have to repeat Malenkov's list of backward areas.

Still more, the crisis is so grave that Stalin is no longer able to rule through the party, as the avowed dominant force in Soviet life. The party has been shoved aside. Any nonentity may now address it with the voice of authority. Again, this is cor-

characterization of Stalin's rule: The Reign of Dirt!

Pravda, in commenting on Malenkov's speech wrote: "In eight industrial People's Commissariats 33,000 machine tools stood idle. At 7,629 enterprises, 170,000 electric motors were not mounted. The cement industry last year worked only at 64 percent of its capacity." (Daily Worker, February 18.)

Malenkov denounced so many People's Commissariats and Commissars as to make it obvious, in this case as in all others, that "many" really means all.

As if to prove this, he referred in his speech to the breakdown of the railways and of water transport. They have "failed to keep up to schedule in loadings of ores, petroleum, wheat, salt, wood and coal." (N. Y. Times, February 17).

FAMINE IN SIBERIA

Walter Duranty was permitted by the Moscow censors to cable news of serious food shortages, i.e. famine in Siberia, one of the great granaries of the Soviet Union, due to the breakdown of transport.

"The Russians," wrote Duranty, "also need something else for their great Siberian 'empire,' food. It is all a matter of transportation." (N. Y. Times, Feb. 13).

Even the Daily Worker, which was brazen enough to represent Malenkov's report as a picture of glowing progress, had to admit that he "spoke mainly of shortcomings."

Small wonder, that Stalin preferred, apart from all other considerations, not to have these "shortcomings" entered into public record under his own name.

The grave crisis in Soviet econ-

How Their Own Lies Expose the Liars

Stalin always tries to represent his regime as an idyllic march of progress: successes pile up gradually and steadily. The Kremlin marches from one victory to the next. What do a few purges, "shortcomings," murders, etc. matter, as against such a background?

On February 17, the Daily Worker carried under a Moscow dateline a version of Malenkov's speech obviously designed to gull idiots and infants. We quote the most imposing section:

"In 1938 the capital investments... constituted 22.3 billion rubles; in 1939, 25.03 billion rubles; in 1940, 27.7 billion rubles" (Daily Worker, February 17). Verily, the march of billions!

Let us confront these liars with their own lies: The official Soviet figure for capital investments in the year 1936 is given as 32 billion rubles.

So that, according to their own figures, in 1938 almost 10 billion rubles less was invested than in 1936; in 1939, almost seven billion less; in 1940, 4.3 billion less. In other words, in the last three years, —on the "threshold of communism!"—industry has been expanding at a rate far below that during the Second Five Year Plan, namely in 1936.

The levels already attained years ago have not been reached by the fourth year of the Third Five Year Plan. What bankrupts!

omy is blamed, as usual, on scapegoats. "A violent attack on top-heavy bureaucracy and buck-passing, blamed for slowing down Soviet industrial output was delivered before Joseph Stalin." (N. Y. Times, Feb. 17).

The world thus learns that a vast purge of the party has been and is in progress. The party apparatus is "top-heavy." Party functionaries are being purged as "bureaucrats," "armchair administrators," "buck-passers," "chatterboxes," etc. etc.

On February 15 the Daily Worker unwittingly announced that not less than one-fifth of the incumbent Central Committee would be lopped off at this Conference. "The All Union Con-

ference," reads the dispatch from Moscow, "has the special right of replacing individual members of the Central Committee... though the number so replaced must not exceed one-fifth of the total number." (Daily Worker, Feb. 15).

To replace the victims, Malenkov demanded "hard-headed" executives and called for "boldly promoting new capable workers with initiative." In 1939 at the last Party Congress Stalin made a pledge to the Party that no more mass purges would take place. All the more reason for keeping quiet in 1941.

But in addition to being purged the party has been divested of authority not only in the Army, but in the sphere of economy. Malenkov demanded, among other measures, "undivided and unchallenged authority for industrial managers and foremen." And to make doubly certain that this authority is not infringed upon, he announced as "contemplated" the following organizational "reform": In all "industrialized cities, districts and republics" the City and District Party Committees, that is the bureaucratic tops, will henceforth appoint special secretaries "to direct the party organizations of each industrial branch, and similarly... in railway and water transport" (Pravda, February 17).

Who Belongs to the Russian Party?

"In one of the old factories of Presnaya, where more than 1,300 workers are employed, the party organization consists of 119," complained Pravda on July 24, 1940.

Red Presnaya was one of the oldest traditional strongholds of the Bolshevik party under Lenin, even in the days of the Czar. Under Stalin, less than 10 percent of the total labor force is enrolled in the party, twenty three years after the October revolution.

The "10 percent" just about covers all the bureaucrats in the factory. This "ten percent" is composed of the self-same people whom Stalin has been purging of late as "scoundrels who eat the bread that they haven't earned" (darmoyedniki) and "scoundrels who do nothing" (bezdelniki)—if they happen to be trade union functionaries; and as "armchair administrators," "buck-passers," "chatterers" etcetera—if they happen to be party functionaries.

"Thieves" Break Into "New Leader" Office

The offices of the Social Democratic Federation and the New Leader, weekly publication of the Federation, were ransacked last Sunday in two separate raids. Both offices are located in the Rand School building, 7 East 15th Street, New York City.

No property was damaged, nor any money or valuables taken. The raiders simply made a systematic search of all papers, files and documents in the offices. But they left empty handed.

The raiders left clear indications of their purpose. They were seeking written matter, letters or documents. All desks, drawers, files and cabinets, as well as a locked safe in the SDF office, had been opened and their contents carefully examined.

Representatives of the New Leader informed this reporter that nothing of any consequence was stolen. A few old papers and letters of a completely worthless character had been taken haphazardly from the top of an open pile in the SDF office. This was done either to provide a false clue as to what the raiders were after, or as possible evidence which the agents might show their superiors to prove they had carried out their assigned task.

The first raid was made early Sunday afternoon upon the offices of the SDF, on the second floor of the Rand School. The discovery of the raid was made by the building superintendent. He hastened to make a survey of the business

and editorial offices of the New Leader on the fourth floor, but found nothing amiss there.

At 12:30 A. M., the building superintendent again checked the New Leader offices, but found everything in order. The next morning, however, a staff member of the paper entered the editorial office to find that the office had been raided.

Trained hands were apparent in the manner in which entrance into the locked offices and building had been made, as well as in the skillful fashion in which locked desks and a safe were opened.

What type of letters and documents were the clandestine searchers after to resort to such desperate expedients? Not any ordinary records or letters which might be found in the offices of such a paper as the New Leader or such a political group as the Social Democrats.

But the intimate ties between the murdered Krivitsky and persons connected with or friendly to the SDF and the New Leader, might have led the murder gang to fear their possible possession of posthumous letters or documents of Krivitsky.

Professional burglars, possessing the skill with which this job was done, would use their talents on much more profitable enterprises than breaking into the offices of a minor political party and a small paper.

JUST OFF THE PRESS

The Assassination of Leon Trotsky

THE PROOFS OF STALIN'S GUILT

By

Albert Goldman

Counsel for Leon Trotsky during the Investigation of the Moscow Trials
Counsel for Natalia Sedoff Trotsky in the Trial of the G P U Assassin

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