

# Bulletin

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Forward  
to the Daily  
Revolutionary  
Newspaper!

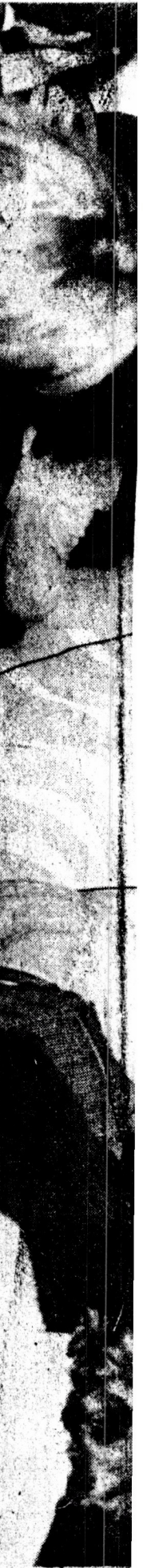
250 Attend Memorial Meeting for Comrade Tom Henehan

## MARTYRS OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL



X R. NEO BRAUER





# GO FORWARD!

† A powerful international memorial meeting was held in New York on Saturday to honor the life and carry forward the struggle of Tom Henahan, who was killed in a political murder last week, a martyr of the Fourth International.

From beginning to end, the meeting brought forward the international struggle of the working class against decaying world capitalism. Messages were read from Trotskyists all over the world, including Tom's comrades in Australia and Germany as well as his fellow revolutionary fighters in the United States who were not able to be present.

The audience of 250 heard Comrade Mitchell Banda, general secretary of the Workers Revolutionary Party of Great Britain, bringing a message on behalf of the International Committee of the Fourth International, with which the Workers League is in political solidarity.

"We are internationalists in every sense of the word," said Comrade Banda. "We don't make any apologies for it and we would gladly die for it in the way that Comrade Tom did.

"There's nothing platonic about our Internationalism. Our internationalism is aimed at one thing and one thing only, the taking of power, the resolution of the crisis of leadership, the establishment throughout the world of a system based on the planned utilization of all the resources of mankind, where man can consciously control his destiny and the productive forces of the world. That was the basis of the life and struggle of Comrade Tom."

• For a full report on the memorial meeting and the speeches, see the pull-out section, pp. 5-8.



# MARTYRS OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL



*Paul Tanner, addressing the memorial meeting.*



# MARTYR OF THE FOURTH

# INTERNATIONAL



# New York Memorial Meeting for Comrade Tom Henehan Oct. 22, 1977

Two hundred and fifty workers and youth attended a memorial meeting in New York for Comrade Tom Henehan, leader of the Workers League and the Young Socialists, who was gunned down in a political murder at a Brooklyn dance held by the Young Socialists one week ago.

Attending the meeting were Tom's comrades and friends from New York, other East Coast cities and from Canada, as well as Tom's entire family, his mother and six brothers and sisters, who traveled from Kalamazoo, Michigan to be present.

The meeting resolved to honor Tom's memory by pledging to continue his fight for the daily revolutionary newspaper.

The theme of all the contributions was one of great inspiration and confidence that the revolutionary work undertaken by Tom had to be carried forward as never before.

Telegrams and statements from those unable to be present were read to the audience. They included messages from Tom's comrades, the Australian and German Trotskyists. Greetings were brought personally to the meeting by Michael Banda, general secretary of the Workers Revolutionary Party of Britain, on behalf of the International Committee of the Fourth International and all of its sections.

Workers League and Young Socialists branches in other parts of the country also sent messages, along with Ray Collins, Secretary - Treasurer of *Washington Post* Pressmen, Local 6; Georgia Ellis of the UAW local 1663 Essex Wire strikers in Elwood, Indiana; and a group of auto workers in Detroit from UAW locals 3, 51 and 212. Mrs. Juanita Tyler, the mother of imprisoned frameup victim Gary Tyler, also sent a message.

The meeting sent its warmest best wishes for a full and speedy recovery to Comrade Jacques Vielot, who had been wounded at the same time as Comrade Tom was murdered.

The speakers included some of those who had worked most closely with Tom.

Adele Sinclair, editor of the *Young Socialist*, told the meeting that "just as Tom didn't hesitate to go to the aid of another comrade, we can't hesitate ourselves. We know that everyone now is trying to convince us that this murder was not a political murder, that it was just some lumpen elements in the neighborhood who went and killed him. But we know that that's not the case at all.

"We know the political forces that are behind this murder and we're going to get them. We're going to get them by building the Young Socialists and the Workers League. Because for every single Tom that they strike down, we're going to bring a hundred more forward and they're going to be much more powerful than any attempt that the ruling class makes to stop our Party.

"We stand with the youth not only in the United States but in every single country in the world. We stand with the revolutionary youth who defeated imperialism in Vietnam and Angola and in Lebanon right now. These are the youth that we stand with and that Tom stood with. We're not going to give an inch in this fight."

Paul Tanner, national secretary of the Young Socialists, also spoke:

"We must stress again and again that in all of Tom's work among young people, the critical element was his fight among them for an understanding of politics — for the principles of Trotskyism. Tom understood the need to turn to the youth as the most revolutionary element of the working class and to use their energy for the building of a revolutionary party.

"Tom continuously fought for the principles of internationalism among young people, pointing out over and over again that young people weren't just individuals in the United States but they were fighting with their brothers and sisters throughout the entire world in their struggle against imperialism and against the capitalist system. The determination that Tom showed in this fight and his willingness to sacrifice himself in this struggle inspired every single young person he ever met."

Ed Winn, from Transport Workers Local 100, speaking in a personal capacity, told the meeting:

"I hadn't known Tom very long but in that brief moment that we did know each other, Tom had a great effect upon my life and on the lives of transit workers in the area that I worked. He fought, he

lived, he died a great fighter in the Trotskyist movement and there can be no greater inspiration for all of us — the working class youth and older workers — than to follow his example."

Comrade Winn ended his speech by reading a passage from Trotsky's speech, *I Stake My Life*, given on February 9, 1937:

"The struggle in the offing transcends by far the importance of individuals, factions and parties. It is the struggle for the future of all mankind. It will be severe, it will be lengthy. Whoever seeks physical comfort or spiritual calm, let him step aside. In time of reaction, it is more convenient to lean on the bureaucracy than on the truth. But all those for whom the word socialism is not a hollow sound but the content of their moral life — for-



ward!

"Neither threats, nor persecutions, nor violations can stop us! Be it even over our bleaching bones, the truth will triumph! We will blaze the trail for it. It will conquer! Under all the severe blows of fate, I shall be happy as in the best days of my youth! Because, my friends, the highest human happiness is not the exploitation of the present but the preparation of the future."

Mrs. Mary Elise Henehan, Tom's mother, also spoke to the meeting:

"I really didn't come prepared to speak but my heart tells me otherwise. I want to thank you all so very much for being here on behalf of myself and my son Paul, and my sons and daughters Ann, Ellen, Brendan, Matthew, Mary and Tom's Joanne. I want

to thank you all for loving Tom as we do. I want to thank you for sharing his life. I want to thank you for fighting his fight. I want to thank you for helping us all to say goodbye."

The speech of Comrade David North, national secretary of the Workers League, is reprinted in full below.

The final speaker was Michael Banda, general secretary of the Workers Revolutionary Party, representing the International Committee of the Fourth International.

The meeting was concluded with a collection which raised nearly \$5000 to launch the Tom Henehan Memorial Fund for the building of the daily revolutionary newspaper. This was followed by the singing of the *Internationale*.



# 'You Are Our Comrade Forever', Comrade David North's Speech

## to Memorial Meeting

Today marks the passage of exactly one week since the murder of Comrade Tom. He has been gone for seven days, and yet we still find it almost impossible to accept the fact of his death. Those of us who knew him well, who worked with him day after day for the last four and a half years, find ourselves mentally reassembling as much of the past, of Tom, as possible.

As we look at the pictures on the wall, as we come across a thousand things each day which bring him to mind, we find ourselves hoping that the recollection of so many shared experiences will somehow bring our comrade, Tom, closer to us. But in the very process of recalling the past, of remembering Tom — what he was like, what he would say, how he would react to all sorts of problems and situations, how he would encourage others, how he would fight — we become increasingly conscious of the immensity of the loss we have suffered.

But in remembering Tom, we also understand what it was about him that lives on and continues to inspire us. Tom was Party. What stands out about Tom, what everyone who really knew him recognizes, is that he had within the space of just four and a half years bound his own existence entirely with the struggles of the Party.

There is no part of our Party which does not have stamped upon it the mark of Comrade Tom. The presses upon which he worked for the last four years, every issue of the Bulletin since October 1973, every pamphlet published by the Party, every leaflet produced for our interventions in the trade unions — none of this can be separated from Tom.

At the same time, he was at the very center of all the vital political work of our Party branches in New York and the branches of the Young Socialists all over the country. In New York alone, there are literally hundreds of workers and youth who learned principally through Cde. Tom all they know about the Party. For them — many of whom are here today — the force and determination of the Party found its expression first of all in the personality of Tom.

### Inspired

In Comrade Tom there was not a trace of demagoguery or pomposity. He identified himself completely with the struggles of the working class. As he inspired others through the force of his own example, he was himself utterly inspired by his unshakable conviction in the revolutionary role of the working class and his whole-hearted dedication to the great historic principles and traditions of Trotskyism.

I first met Tom in Feb-

ruary 1973 while he was still a student at Columbia University here in New York. For the Workers League, it was a difficult time for work on the campuses. By that time, the big wave of anti-war campus radicalism had largely subsided. Led by the revisionists and Stalinists into the dead-end of protest politics, most students were giving way to a widespread mood of cynicism and pessimism.

But Tom was looking for a way to fight. As he said many times later, when he met the Workers League he found for the first time a political movement with a real historical perspective, with an analysis of the world crisis, with a theoretical and political foundation upon which a mass movement of capitalism could be constructed.

Like everyone else, Tom came into the movement very inexperienced. But this must be said: When he came to Trotskyism, when he came to the revolution, he came all the way. I know that because I was with him the very moment when he decided to join the Party. For Comrade Tom Henehan, there was no looking back — there was no pinning after the lost comforts of middle-class life. And this

is because it never occurred to him that he was missing something. Once he turned his back and slammed the door on the philistines, he never had the slightest concern with what they thought or what they did.

And this is how Tom developed. There were others in the Workers League older than Tom and far more experienced who decided to surrender and make their humble peace with the ruling class. Their haunted introspections, their vacillations and their eventual flight made no impression upon Tom other than to strengthen his natural and inborn dislike for quitters.

For Tom never doubted — and this conviction was enriched continuously through the study of Marxism and Trotskyism and his own practical experiences — that the Workers League is inevitably destined to become the mass revolutionary party of the working class in the United States.

Comrade Tom began to make great political strides forward and emerge as a true Party leader at precisely the time when the Workers League had to conduct a struggle against the renegacy and betrayal

of Wohlforth. It was when the Party faced its greatest challenge, when it was fighting for its life, that the fighting qualities of Tom emerged.

He recognized at once that the struggle against revisionism was inseparable from a turn by the Party toward the industrial working class and the youth. And Tom was determined to lead and fight for that turn.

That is why in October 1974 Tom was chosen by the Party to lead its work among the most militant and powerful section of the working class: the coal miners. It was on the eve of the nationwide strike, and as this was an entirely new field of work for the Party every day's work had to count.

Within the space of two weeks, Comrade Tom travelled some 2,000 miles by car from New York through Ohio and West Virginia. The main focus of his work was in the very explosive District 29 of the United Mine Workers in southern West Virginia. In the early mornings and in the afternoons there were sales at the entrances and outside the bathhouses of important mines outside such small towns as Mullens, Pineville, Welch and War.



These towns, though perhaps barely identifiable on maps, loom large in the history of the working class. From the turn of the century on, they have been the battleground upon which the bloody mine wars have been fought.

## Class War

Here, Tom was entirely in his element. He conceived of each sale as a strategic intervention of the Party in the heat of a raging class war.

Every time Tom convinced a miner to buy a copy of the Bulletin and, better yet, give him his name and telephone number or address, Tom felt that the Party had won a modest but important victory.

Then, in the late afternoons and well into the evenings, Tom organized the visiting of miners who had expressed interest.

So determined were Tom's efforts that by the time of his second trip to West Virginia — in late November and early December 1974 — when the national UMW strike was already in progress, the Workers League and the Bulletin had emerged decisively as the center of opposition among the most politically conscious miners to the treachery of the union bureaucracy.

Perhaps the most important meeting Tom organized among miners occurred several days after the strike was betrayed by the bureaucracy. A his own life in a great historic cause, when he sacrificed all false notions of vain individuality, only Virginia were persuaded to attend a meeting which he had organized at the home of a well-known militant.

liberation, does he really begin to live.

The purpose Tom found in the epic struggles of Trotskyism, in the great principles of the International Committee of the Fourth International, enabled him — if only for a very short time — to participate consciously and happily in the struggle of the working class and oppressed masses all over the world for the socialist revolution.

Tom knew that he was a participant in the most important and decisive of all battles. It was with this consciousness that he was able to develop all the fine personal qualities inherited from his brave family which he brought with him when he came into the Party four and a half years ago.

In his final year in the Party, since his election to the Political Committee of the Workers League in January of this year, Tom's positive qualities as a leader came more and more to the fore. In his whole make-up, he could express with great force many sections of the working class — especially the young workers. This was the source of his great feel for the working class and of many accomplishments.

## Man of Action

Naturally, this brought him problems as well. Very much the man of action, he would at times give insufficient attention to the theoretical side of work. He always wanted to attack a problem along the straightest and narrowest route. For this he would devise a bold "master plan" which would prove

than he originally anticipated.

But even in this "individual" problem Tom expressed all the contradictions in the development of the working class itself. It is a class which though slow in coming to Marxist theory will come to revolutionary theory with unprecedented force through the weight of immense historical experiences.

Tom was learning and developing every day of his life. In the last months of his life, those who were very close to him could sense a very definite growth in his political self-confidence. He had fought for the Party under very difficult conditions and had become a cadre, a revolutionary fighter.

And this is why he was killed. There was nothing senseless or accidental about Tom's death. It was a brutal political murder — carefully planned and ruthlessly executed. Those who pulled the trigger which ended this life were nothing but the tools of the combined international agencies of American imperialism.

Tom was murdered because imperialism knows no way out of its insoluble crisis other than to strike ferociously against the working class, and, above all, its revolutionary leadership.

Imperialism and its strategists in the White House, the Pentagon, the CIA, the State Department, the FBI — and we must add to them their lackeys in the Stalinist and social-democratic bureaucracies — have no illusions about the possibility of stabilizing world capitalism.

They know that their entire system is heading toward an economic cataclysm. They know that the masses of the advanced capitalist countries are now being drawn into the greatest revolutionary battles in history. And so they resort to crimes more bloody and brazen and cowardly than ever.

## Trotskyist

There is no enemy they fear more than the Trotskyist movement, represented by the International Committee of the Fourth International. They know that this is the movement that has fought for and prepared for the world socialist revolution. They know that this is the movement that has produced countless martyrs, which has fought under conditions of the greatest defeats in the history of the working class, which never abandoned its principles and which has produced fighters who cannot be deterred or intimidated.

Tom marched in the footsteps of our greatest leaders. He was a communist. He was a Bolshevik. He was a Trotskyist. They killed him. But they cannot stop the movement of the masses and the growth of the revolutionary movement with which his name will forever be identified.

For us, Tom's life presents itself not as a tragedy but as the source of invincible revolutionary optimism.

The Tom whose memory we honor today, who won the respect of hundreds of workers and youth, who was able to express devotion and

ness the collective will of the masses raising themselves to the heights of revolutionary struggle, who will be remembered and loved by all those who fight for the destruction of capitalist exploitation and barbarism all over the world — this Tom was OUR TOM.

That it is the Workers League alone that could win to its ranks and train such precious human material as Comrade Tom is the greatest proof of all that Trotskyism is marching toward its historical appointment with revolution in the very center of world imperialism.

Goodbye, Tom. We will never forget you. We will hold your banner proudly before the working class. Your memory will inspire millions. Goodbye, Tom, dear friend. You are our comrade forever.



## Comrade Michael Banda's Speech to the Memorial Meeting

# "Rededicate Yourself to the Struggle"

"I shared with Comrade Tom many of his objectives and not a few of his ambitions because like Comrade Tom, I too was a professional and I spent 25 years of my life as a printer. I know what it is to be a professional printer for the Party and for the International Committee.

That requires, dedication. It requires a lot of patience, enormous resourcefulness, implacable firmness on principled political questions.

As previous speakers have said, we haven't come here to eulogize Comrade Tom. We have come here neither to weep nor to laugh but to understand the role of Comrade Tom and every cadre in the revolutionary movement — the role they will play in the coming period.

Yes, Comrade Tom was a loss.

I heard of Comrade Tom's death only a few hours before I addressed

the All-Trades Union Alliance Conference. That wasn't easy. But what kept me going was not just grief but the common feeling of determination shared by every one of those 1,500 delegates that we would avenge Comrade Tom's death, that we would create a revolutionary movement in Britain, in Europe, and principally, in the United States of America which would not be defeated, which would not be broken.

In the pathos of Comrade Tom's death, there is also the grandeur and nobility of a sacrifice which I know and I hope will be emulated by every single comrade in the

International Committee of the Fourth International and the Workers League...

Revolutionaries are not born — they are forged. They are trained out of the experiences of this movement, out of the intervention of its leadership, out of all the struggles of past generations...

### Generations

When you look around and see the generations that have come and gone, you think not only of those who have stayed but of those who have left. Some were maybe frightened by the prospect of the assassin's bullet, but that

wasn't what made most of them go.

What has made many of them leave and others turn their back and others, really, spit on the traditions and the history of the revolutionary movement, of the Trotskyist movement? It stems, above all, from a pragmatic skepticism about the prospects of the development of the



world revolution, the rejection and the denial of the international perspective; the perspective for which Comrade Trotsky fought, and gave his life, the perspective of socialism or barbarism.

Trotsky once said that American imperialism appears to be strong, but its contradictions are even stronger. This is what we have always based ourselves on and this is what Comrade Tom and the Workers League have always fought for against that brand of skepticism and subjectivism which stems from the ideology of the American ruling class. The whole pragmatic tradition and history in this country is to try and separate this so-called



strength of American imperialism from the overall weakness of world imperialism. It rejects this fundamental analysis, starts from all kinds of half-baked ideas and impressions, tries to exaggerate this so-called strength of American imperialism, to think that somehow this imperialist system will continue for a while yet and that in fact there is nothing you can do but make your protest and then make your peace with the establishment...

### Privileges

I don't think we have any historical privileges, that we can say we have one law for the Palestinians and Arabs and possibly have something else for the metropolitan working class. Nor that, because we have supposedly 200 years of capitalist civilization and development behind us, that therefore it is going to be different, that the ruling class in the United States or Britain is going to behave with more humanity, more tolerance towards its enemies than the ruling classes of the Arab countries and the Middle East.

To share that kind of illusion would be fatal for this movement. In fact, what we see today, and it comes out of the political murder, the assassination of Comrade Tom and the wounding of Comrade Jacques, is that this is not an aberration. To the pragmatist, this would seem something unique, something episodic, the particular which has no relation to the universal. On the contrary, to the Marxist, this so-called aberration, episode, only

expresses the working of law.

Law expresses itself through so-called accidents. We recognize a political murder when we see one. Through this political murder is expressed the whole essence of the crisis of US imperialism and, in particular, the crisis of the Carter regime...

This is the conscious reflex of American imperialism to try, as far as possible, to settle accounts with the working class at home and to prevent the radicalization of the working class, not just by the use of legislation, but by the use of its agencies, by playing on every backwardness in the working class to carry out repression and terror on a large scale.

This stems from the weakness of this regime, not from its inherent strength. It has no inherent strength at all. It comes from the incurable weakness of American imperialism and principally the Carter regime...

In order to smash the working class and to deny it its basic democratic rights, it has to aim at the head of that working class, not at the rump of it which is the trade union bureaucracy. It has to aim at the developing Marxist movement, at the Trotskyist movement in the United States. Those bullets that were fired at Comrade Tom and at Comrade Jacques were aimed at the leadership of the Workers League and the leadership of the International Committee ...

### Danger

The greatest danger confronting us is any belief, or

even suggestion of a belief, that we can continue the same way we were proceeding before last Saturday night. This is a warning — not only to the Workers League but to every class conscious worker in the United States and principally those inside the trade unions, the organized labor movement, that American imperialism is not going to accept this situation either abroad or in the United States with any feeling of equanimity or any kind of complacency.

They are going to mobilize every possible agency, it doesn't matter who or what, inside and outside the labor movement in part, to prevent the development of any coal, to prevent the politicalization of the American working class, to prevent the development of an independent revolution-ary party in the American working class, so that even if, at a certain stage, a labor party is formed in the United States, they can isolate it from the development of this tendency in the working class ...

Comrade Tom has a double role to play — he's an inspiration both to the adult workers and to the youth.

So I want to say this comrades — the greatest tribute we can pay to Comrade Tom is for those not in the party to join and take their place in the ranks of the Workers League and fight like Comrade Tom, not just to be members of the party but to be professional leaders of that party, professional revolutionaries, the full-time officers of the revolutionary army.

For those already in the party, to rededicate themselves to this struggle, to assimilate the lessons of the murder of Comrade Tom and the wounding of Comrade Jacques and in that way to make their contribution to the development of the world Trotskyist movement. I want to conclude by saying: We have been warned. Let us act accordingly.

Long live the Workers League and the Young Socialists and the International Committee of the Fourth International! Long live the memory of Comrade Tom!

# TOM HENEHAN MEMORIAL FUND

## For the Daily Revolutionary Newspaper



### We Pledge To Continue His Fight

- I pledge
- twenty-five dollars
  - fifty dollars
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  - other .....

To build the daily revolutionary paper

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Mail to: Workers League  
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New York, NY 10001



## \* SWP Joins in

Statement of the  
Workers League  
Political Committee

An irrefutable confirmation of the political nature of the murder of Comrade Tom Henehan is provided by the virtual news blackout which the capitalist press has observed in New York on his death.

# PRESS BLACKOUT OF HENEHAN MURDER

Had the victim been a politician of the Democratic Party or of the Republican Party, a judge, a banker or even some women's liberationist, the reporters would have started grinding out front page stories that would go on for weeks.

But the murder of a young working class revolutionary is another matter entirely. The *New York Times* has not even published one sentence on the murder of a member of the Political Committee of the Workers League and the serious wounding of another leading member. Comrade Jacques Violet.

The *New York Post* published one story on Comrade Henehan's

murder in its Wednesday editions, nearly four days after his death. Since then, not another word has appeared. As for the *Daily News*, it did not report Comrade Henehan's murder for one full week. Then, in its Sunday edition of October 23, 1977, the publishers ran a three-page article which described all 25 murders which occurred in New York between October 14 and October 21.

The entire point of this "feature" consisted in insisting that all murders which occur in New York are senseless crimes of passion and without any plausible motive. It was within this context that the *News* referred to Comrade Tom's death for the very first time. Aside from gross factual errors in the article—

his last name was not even spelled correctly—the article included deliberate falsifications aimed at masking the political nature of his death. The article never stated that Comrade Henehan and Comrade Jacques Violet, who was seriously wounded by gunfire, were both members of the Workers League. Nor did the article state that the shooting took place at a political dance organized by the Young Socialists. Youth movement of the Workers League. Comrade Henehan was referred to instead as a member of the Ponce Social Club which is, in fact, merely the name of the hall where the Young Socialists dance was held. The *Daily News* article was deliberately planted to cover up what both the

publishers and the police know—that Comrade Henehan was the victim of a political assassination directed against the revolutionary movement and the working class. Why has the press been determined to prevent the publication of any facts about the murder of Comrade Henehan—above all, that he was a leading American Trotskyist? Because they are desperately trying to hold together the gross fiction that the police began propagating the moment Comrade Henehan died—even before the cops began their "investigation."

The official line which has been decided upon is that Comrade Henehan's murder is "just one of those senseless acts of violence" that occur in New York City. Neither the police nor the press have taken the trouble to explain how they eliminated politics as a motive for the killing when the killer has not even been arrested. The silence of the press is an integral part of the immense political conspiracy against the workers' movement which has shown its hand in the assassination of Comrade Henehan.

But there is one other newspaper which has also established a news blackout on the political murder of Comrade Henehan. That newspaper is *The Militant*, the weekly organ of the Socialist Workers Party. Comrade Henehan was murdered on October 16, 1977. But the October 28 issue of *The Militant*, printed four days later, carries not one word on the murder of this revolutionary fighter. This is not because the leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and the editors of *The Militant* did not know of Comrade Henehan's death. In fact, they received a phone call about the murder from *The New York Times* several hours after the shooting. A top level decision was made by Joseph Hansen, George Novack, Jack Barnes and other leaders of the SWP to honor the news blackout established by the capitalist press and not write a word about Comrade Henehan's death. In the current issue of *The Militant*, reams of copy are devoted to the activities of feminists. But there is not one word



about the political assassination of a 26-year-old Trotskyist leader of workers and youth.

This is because Hansen, Novack and Barnes are dictating to the members of the SWP the same line being used by the cops and the capitalist press: that there is nothing "political" about the murder of a Workers League Political Committee member and that the death of a young Trotskyist is, at any rate, unimportant.

The hand of Joseph Hansen, accomplice of the Soviet secret police and collaborator with the FBI, is at work here.

For years he has resorted to provocations, lies and international slander campaigns to label the International Committee of the Fourth International, the Trotskyist movement, as "violent."

Last January 14, he organized an anti-Trotskyist rally in London, directed specifically against Comrade G. Healy of the Workers Revolutionary Party of Britain, under the fraudulent pretext of opposing "Violence in the Workers Movement."

But when the real practitioners of violence kill a member of the Workers League and seriously wound another member, Hansen sees to it that the SWP remains silent.

This is a policy which Hansen has been following for 37 years. He has used silence to help the GPU killers of Trotsky and other leading figures of the Fourth International.

Hansen has remained silent on the crimes of GPU agent Mark Zborowski, who is responsible for the murder of at least four

Trotskyists, including Trotsky's son, and who lives in comfortable retirement in San Francisco.

Hansen has remained silent on the crimes of Sylvia Franklin, the GPU agent planted in the office of SWP founder James P. Cannon, who played an instrumental role in the murder of Trotsky.

Now Hansen is silent on the practitioners of violence who murdered Comrade Henehan.

The politically sincere members of the Socialist Workers Party who were shocked last week when they heard of Comrade

Henehan's murder and angered by this political attack on the Trotskyist movement should be sickened by the failure of *The Militant* to report Comrade Henehan's death.

Perhaps these members will recall how *The Militant* indulged obscenely in the fanfare over the execution of the psychopath Gary Gilmore. *The Militant* even sent a reporter to Salt Lake City.

But there is not one line when a Trotskyist falls victim to a political assassination. Not one line.

Members of the SWP will perhaps recall that when a bullet passed through the window of the apartment of Caterino Garza, a member of their movement, the Workers League recognized the political nature of the provocation and reported it immediately in the *Bulletin*.

For the working class, for all those who mourn the death of Comrade Tom Henehan, who are outraged by his political assassination, and who are determined to expose the

perpetrators of this enormous counter-revolutionary crime, the sordid and reactionary alliance of the SWP and *The Militant* with the cops and the bourgeois press in covering up for the killers will never be forgotten.

October 24, 1977



# TOM HENEHAN Young Socialist Victim Of a Political Murder

The Central Committee of the Workers Revolutionary Party (British section of the International Committee of the Fourth International) denounces the murder of Comrade Tom Henehan and the wounding of Comrade Jacques Vielot in Brooklyn, New York, on the night of Saturday October 15, as an attempt to terrorize and behead the revolutionary movement of the working class. In every sense this is a political murder.

We send our deepest condolences to the comrades and relations of this courageous fighter for Trotskyism whose life and struggle will be an outstanding example to revolutionary youth everywhere.

Comrade Tom was a professional revolutionary and a printer by trade, a cadre trained in the spirit of the implacable struggle to unmask the falsifiers of Leninism and Trotskyism and to build the world party of socialist revolution.

His devotion to Marxist theory and program was equalled by his determination to engage in the practical struggle to build the Young Socialists and the Workers League and its twice-weekly newspaper, the *Bulletin*.

He will be remembered with pride and affection by all the Young Socialists from 22 countries who met him at the International Youth Conference in London, November 1975.

Fighting for revolutionary socialism in the USA — the powerhouse of world imperialism — in particular, is both tough and dangerous. It requires exceptional qualities of theoretical skill, political endurance and vigilant courage.

No bourgeoisie in the world hates and fears the specter of communism more desperately than the American bourgeoisie. In the past it has relied mainly on the political backwardness and pragmatic tradition of the working class and the control of the reformist and Stalinist leaders to preserve itself.

Today these measures prove increasingly ineffective with the triumphal march of the world revolution, the defeats of US imperialism abroad and the worsening crisis within the US itself.

New methods are being adopted. New agencies are being employed. The series of unsolved murders in the US labor and radical movement in recent years, prove that imperialism will stop at nothing — from police lynchings to contract murders — to stop the forward movement of the working class.

**STATEMENT BY THE  
CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE WORKERS  
REVOLUTIONARY PARTY**

The two men who murdered Comrade Tom know only too well what they were doing. They set out deliberately to kill a cadre and seriously wound another. As Comrade Vielot said: "They seemed intent on killing Tom."

The bullets that killed Tom were aimed at the leaders of the Workers League and the International Committee of the Fourth International.

Nothing however will intimidate us, silence us or deter us from our political aims. We shall continue to struggle with greater vigilance and energy.

We say again this latest attack is a political murder carried out by the combined agencies of imperialism. The International Committee of the Fourth International is determined not only to find the assailants of Comrade Tom and Comrade Jacques but also to trace those who planned this monstrous deed.

This is the best homage we can pay to the memory of our courageous Comrade Tom Henehan and the only way we can protect our movement.

**Central Committee  
Workers Revolutionary  
Party  
October 18, 1977.**