

Roosevelt Speeds War Plans

Revolutionary Course In Spain Can Check Franco

Politicians Scurry For Safe Cover

Scapegoats Sought For Series of Heavy Defeats

Having utilized the People's Front to the fullest extent to insure a Fascist victory the bourgeois politicians of Loyalist Spain began last week to flee like scurrying rats or to cast about for scapegoats upon whom to place the blame for the catastrophes that have befallen the Loyalist cause.

An "exodus of government officials" has begun from Barcelona, the dispatches report. First among them were Jose Antonio Aguirre, ex-president of the Basque Republic, Marcelino Domingo and Manuel Portela, rightist politicians who were clasped to the bosom of the People's Front while it was shooting down in the streets of Barcelona and other Spanish cities revolutionary workers who wanted to steer a course toward a real anti-Fascist, i.e., anti-capitalist struggle.

Prieto Dumped

Premier Juan Negrin has dumped Indalecio Prieto, right-wing Socialist defense minister, whom he hopes the masses will hold responsible for the military debacle. He has assumed "personal command" of the armies for a "last-ditch" fight. That is, Negrin hopes to make sure that it will be the last-ditch and will not leave until he has effectively prevented any resolute turn in policy that could still mobilize the masses for a stand against Franco.

Most significant of all is the summary dismissal of those heroes of the Communist Party and the People's Front, the regular army generals headed by Gen. Sebastian Pozas, who have been removed from the high command. They have been replaced, interestingly enough, by ex-civilian officers who played a role in the first months when raw militia composed of scantily-armed workers turned back Franco's legions.

Pozas Led Terror

Pozas was brought to Barcelona last May to conduct the brutal repression of the Barcelona workers. It was he who brought Catalonia under the heel of G.P.U. terror and assumed full command of all Catalan forces. All the bluster about the front and all the real bloody terror against the workers in the rear are now producing their inevitable results. Franco is cutting through a weakened Loyalist force that has suffered from more than just a lack of mechanized equipment. It has been deprived of the driving

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Palestine C. P. Joins Fourth International

The Communist Party of Palestine has announced its withdrawal from the Communist International and its adherence to the Fourth International according to Jerusalem reports which appeared in European newspapers last week.

Leaflets distributed by the Communist Party denounced the Moscow trials and executions.

W.A.A. Gathers In Convention

Progressives To Urge Militant Program As Reply To Policies of People's Fronters

NEW YORK.—The convention of the Workers Alliance of Greater New York opened at the Hippodrome on April 7.

This convention marks a year of "successful" People's Front activity on the part of the Alliance leadership, and a year of steadily worsening conditions for the unemployed.

Chief success of the past year was the election of "labor's" Mayor. Thus the unemployed have a "friendly" president, a "friendly" governor, and a "friendly" mayor. Let us see what these political "friends" have brought to the unemployed during the past year.

The "Successes"

First, the Relief Administration appointed by these "friends" cut down the number allowed on

WORKERS HOLD POWER PLANTS IN MICHIGAN

Murphy Steps In Again To Head Off New Sitdown Strike

JACKSON, Mich.—The first major use of the sit-down tactic in many months won workers striking against Consumers Power Co. a partial victory when the C.I.O. Utility Workers Organizing Committee was granted exclusive bargaining rights for all employees and the company renewed the contract expiring April 1 until August 4.

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Mexican Workers Greet Delegates Of The Socialist Workers Party

MEXICO, D. F.—The closest bonds of solidarity were cemented here between the revolutionary workers of Mexico and the United States at a mass meeting organized under the auspices of the Casa del Pueblo, a revolutionary trade union center in the Federal District, to welcome the international delegation of the Socialist Workers Party of the United States.

On two days' notice, an audience of 1,000 workers augmented by truckloads of peasants who came in from the surrounding countryside greeted James P. Cannon, national secretary of the S.W.P., Max Shachtman, editor of the Socialist Appeal, and Vincent R. Dunne, prominent Minneapolis trade union leader.

Against Imperialism

The meeting was arranged for the purpose of assuring the Mexican workers of the solid support of the Fourth Internationalists of the United States in the struggle against Yankee and British imperialists who are resisting the nationalization of the oil holdings of the foreign exploiters.

In the main address of the evening, which was translated by the distinguished revolutionist and artist of Mexico, Diego Rivera, James P. Cannon told the enthusiastic assembly that the S.W.P. stood shoulder to shoulder

with the proletariat and peasantry of Mexico in their fight for political and economic independence from imperialism and for liberation from all exploitation and oppression.

"Our common enemy, the exploiter of the proletariat of our country as well as yours, is American imperialism. We cannot triumph over it by ourselves, but our victory is assured if the masses of the United States and of all the Latin American countries fight jointly against exploitation under the banner of the Fourth International. Our emancipation is guaranteed," he concluded, "when we have established the United Socialist Republics of North and South America."

Fruits of Victory

LaGuardia was re-elected. And then came the fruits of his victory. (1) The clothing allowance was cut to practically nothing for the months of February and March, and now for April. (2) The previous policy of paying rent for new W.P.A. workers until they got their first pay checks was stopped.

The response of the Alliance to these cuts was to stage a demonstration in Wall Street against the "sixty families." Any whisper of criticism against the city, state and federal officials was taboo.

Then came the 10 per cent cut. In the face of a recommendation by the Mayor's Committee for increasing relief by 40 per cent, the Board of Estimate, on motion of LaGuardia, put through the starvation cut. A number of "explanations" have been given for the cut, the most plausible one being that it was made to forestall any effective fight for the 40 per cent raise.

Political Jockeying

Over this cut was waged a political squabble between LaGuardia and Governor Lehman, which was recognized by all informed people as political jockeying for advantage in the coming gubernatorial election campaign.

The Alliance leadership threw themselves into this political fight as partisans of LaGuardia.

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Roosevelt Trims Sails In Oil Fight

Tries Tacking To Meet Threat of Storm In Mexico

Pres. Roosevelt, master of mass deception and political double-crossing, has again demonstrated his incalculable importance to the cause of Yankee imperialism. "From the driver's seat of his new car" on his vacation trip, he announced with a professional smile his "satisfaction" with the progress of the Mexican discussions. As a special humanitarian act he let it be known that the companies can count "only" on compensation for their actual investments in Mexico.

Secretary of State Cordell Hull, who three days before had sent a note to Cardenas demanding in the language of an ultimatum immediate compensation for oil and land expropriations, suddenly declared his "belief... in a rapid, satisfactory and equitable solution."

Silent On Threats

Both, however, kept a significant silence about the threat of an oil blockade and the economic strangulation of Mexico through cessation of American silver purchases.

This silence throws a revealing light on the maneuver. Yielding to the insistence of the oil companies, Washington had proceeded too quickly. So quickly that even Congressman O'Connell was forced to declare: "The transaction reeks of oil and more oil." Hull's ultimatum threatened prematurely to tear the mask of pacifism from the Roosevelt administration, which is preparing at top speed for its imperialist intervention in the next world war. The protests of American trade unions piled up. Even in fascist Chile and Brazil active sympathy for Mexico was manifested.

According to the New York Herald-Tribune, competent fun-

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Vast Army Games To Help Make Country War-Minded

Parade Today, Die Tomorrow!

This year's anniversary of America's entry into the World War of 1914-18 is being employed by the Roosevelt administration as an especially appropriate occasion for whipping up mass patriotism in support of the new war of imperialist banditry which is now being actively and consciously prepared.

New York is to be treated today, to a flag-wagging Army Day parade of 25,000, comprised of enlisted armed forces, organized reserves, veterans and members of patriotic societies.

Conscious Preparation For War

That Roosevelt himself conceives this patriotic demonstration as part of his preparations for the coming war is indicated all too clearly in his letter to Rear-Admiral Reginald R. Belknap, U.S.N., retired, who is in charge of the parade.

Roosevelt wrote that the observance of Army Day this year was particularly appropriate because of "the disturbed condition of the world" and would serve to focus the attention of the people on national defense.

Admiral Belknap's views, quoted by the same paper, were even more pointed. He declared that Army Day observance "has a most salutary effect in clearing the air of confusing doctrines which have been preached by those who do not have at heart the best interests of our national defense. By making it (the parade) both interesting and instructive, we mean to stimulate attention to national preparedness..."

Meaning of "Preparedness"

How ominous these words sound when it is recalled that "preparedness" was the slogan of American imperialism when the "pacifist" Woodrow Wilson was preparing to plunge this country into the last big robber war!

The workers of America must reply to the patriotic war-mongering of their exploiters with slogans of their own, the slogans of the socialist revolution which alone can save mankind from the horrors of war.

Down with imperialist war!
The enemy—imperialism—is in our own country!

F. L. P. Becomes Cog In Roosevelt Machine

Stalinist-Benson Clique Presents Hand-Picked Convention With Class Peace Program

DULUTH, Minn.—The Stalinist-Benson clique in control of the machinery of the Farmer-Labor Party utilized the biennial convention, March 25-26, at Duluth, to transform the party still further into the Minnesota section of the Roosevelt machine. In the 1936 elections Benson made a deal with Jim Farley whereby the Democrats withdrew in favor of the Farmer-Labor ticket in the state and in return the Farmer-Labor machine campaigned for Roosevelt. The bloc with Roosevelt has actually been maintained ever since, and the tone of the convention leaves no doubt that a deal with the Democrats is planned for the Fall elections. On the basic questions of war and unemployment, the Stalinist-Benson clique adopted a platform acceptable to Roosevelt.

Praise Roosevelt

The line to be taken by the hand-picked convention was indicated the first day, when a telegram was dispatched to Roosevelt, praising him for a recent speech in which "he lays bare the heart of our present economic stalemate... and places himself squarely on the side of the democratic philosophy as opposed to the feudal philosophy of special privilege."

The Minneapolis labor movement, unquestionably leader of

Minnesota unionism, had taken its stand on the basic questions just prior to the convention. On the war danger, it had adopted a militant resolution (printed in the Socialist Appeal of April 2), directly and explicitly opposing the Roosevelt administration. On the economic crisis, the Central Labor Union, together with the teamsters, printers and building trades joint bodies, has called a gigantic mass meeting for April 11, and has issued a program of demands on the governments of state and nation. That program points out the swift deepening of the crisis and accordingly demands new Federal works projects; increased funds for relief and W. P. A. budgets from Federal and state governmental agencies; union rates on all W. P. A. and other projects; no government chiseling and undermining of the unions; no pauper's oath for W. P. A. jobs and 100 per cent unionization of all building construction jobs.

The platform presented to the convention by the Stalinist-Benson clique included none of these demands of the Minneapolis labor movement!

Stand On War

On the war question, the platform as adopted comes into head-on collision with the resolution of Minneapolis labor. Nor

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Many-Sided Preparations, Military, Naval, and Diplomatic, Are Pointing U. S. Toward New World Conflagration

WILL BUILD SUPER-WARSHIPS

The war preparations program of the "peaceful" Roosevelt administration is being speeded up on all fronts. With the greatest peace-time navy maneuvers in the country's history still going forward along a 5,000-mile line, from Alaska to Samoa by way of Hawaii, the announcement was made last week-end of pending army and air force maneuvers which are to last until Fall.

Described by the *New York Times* as "the largest mobilization and concentration of men in the South since the World War" a single phase of the military exercises, involving "virtually all of the military forces in the thirteen states of the Fourth and Eighth Corps areas," will embrace 80,000 men, half of whom will be National Guardsmen and the others regular army troops and reserve officers.

SENATOR CLARK CONFIRMS N. Y. WAR MEETING

The report in the Socialist Appeal of February 26 describing a secret meeting in New York of high military and naval officers, financiers, and key officials to discuss a war propaganda campaign in this country was confirmed on the floor of the United States Senate on March 30 by Senator Clark of Missouri.

Senator Clark said that he—and not he alone—had positive

At least one demonstration of the aerial might of dollar imperialism is being reserved for the inhabitants of New York. Some 350 planes of the army's General Headquarters Air Force—the largest number ever concentrated for maneuvers in the army's history—will fly over a large section of the Eastern seaboard, with operations centered at Mitchell Field, Long Island.

Another phase of the war preparations, coinciding with the army and navy maneuvers, was brought to light with the announcement from Washington April 1 that the navy hopes to start work before the end of the year on two of the super-battleships which the "democratic" powers, following Japan's refusal to continue observing the "qualitative" limitations imposed by the London Naval Treaty, have resolved to build.

These newest war weapons, described as the costliest, largest and most formidable ever constructed, will, according to navy circles, have a tonnage of from 43,000 to 45,000 and will mount 16 or 18-inch guns—12 to each vessel.

Hull Reveals Purpose

Those still clinging to the illusion that the armed might of American imperialism is being primed and augmented for "peaceful" purposes alone, in order to defend America's shores against some "aggressor" from beyond the seas, should take note of the remarks contained in a letter by Secretary of State Cordell Hull to the Senate Naval Affairs Committee.

Hull, according to the *New York Times* (April 2), "opposed a stay-at-home policy for the United States Navy, contending it must be left free to defend the rights of American citizens in any part of the world. The Secretary of State told the Senate Naval Affairs Committee that establishment of a 'naval frontier' beyond which United States warships should not operate would erect an imaginary Chinese Wall and 'expose American citizens anywhere in the world outside this wall.'"

It is only necessary to substitute, in this quotation, "imperialist interests and profits" for "American citizens" and "the rights of American citizens" in order to get a true picture of the purpose for which the growing American fleet, and the Army, and the air force are to be used. Not for any idealistic aims, nor, primarily, for the defense of the United States against an "aggressor"—but for the robber aims of American imperialism, wherever these may be involved.

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NORMAN H. DAVIS

knowledge that such a meeting had taken place, "attended by certain eminent naval and military officers of the United States and certain great financiers in the City of New York, in which the proposal had been made that a regular campaign, amply financed, should be undertaken in the way of propaganda to make this country war-minded."

He strongly hinted that Norman H. Davis, President Roosevelt's ambassador-at-large, had presided over the meeting.

The meeting discussed a campaign to "educate" the American people into "the use of war as an instrument of national policy."

The Appeal also reported a recent meeting between President Roosevelt and four reading newspaper publishers with whom he discussed plans for the propaganda campaign.

New Crisis Looms As Blum Totters Again

RIGHT PREPARES COUP IN FRANCE

National Union Government Will Pave Way For Repression of Workers To Help Capital Meet Deepening Crisis

By ARGUS

As these lines were being written, the cabinet of Leon Blum was about to disappear. Its imminent fall was greeted by the Parisian stock exchange with a sharp rise in the value of the franc, in anticipation of the long-desired government of Public Safety.

A bourgeois correspondent has accurately described the Blum government as a bull being chased by the terrors of the right wing in the parliamentary arena. Indeed, Blum's financial proposals represent nothing but the "intention... of being defeated" in the least dishonorable way.

The French reaction has permitted the People's Front government only one function: the stifling of workers' strikes. Completely sabotaging all parliamentary activity, the senators of the future National Union shifted in chorus at the government: "What about strikes? What about the sit-down strikes? The sit-down strikes have spread until there are now 45,000 involved in strikes around Paris.

Clashes Loom

At the same time the class contradictions advance irresistibly toward a violent clash. A little note in the American press gives the key to the present situation in France: In Calais, in Northern France, "a mass meeting of 1,000 unemployed members... of the Socialist Party declared their intention... to join (the fascist) French Social Party rather than starve with Blum." Having excluded the Socialist mayor of Calais from their meeting, the demonstrators unanimously "voted a resolution denouncing the People's Front program as 'a dream' and charging it had accomplished nothing..."

A Danger Signal

Desperately seeking decisive actions, the unemployed fall from the dream of "peaceful penetration" of the capitalist state into the dreadful nightmare of fascist "anti-capitalism." The Calais incident is an impressive danger-signal to the French working class. The revolution has lost much time. Now it is threatened with the loss of important parts of its forces to the fascist camp.

Back At Starting Point

Thus the working class has arrived, after two years of People's Front government, at the starting point of its fight against fascism and reaction. The emphatic promises of workers' and peasants' liberation through parliamentary democracy now face complete collapse. Jouhaux, secretary of the C.G.T., who has broken one strike after another through "loyal opposition" to the People's Front government, now threatens that "if the present People's Front government should resign, his organization would 'set it up again by our own means.'"

C. P. on Armaments

A decision of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of March 18 invoking Stalin's famous declaration to Laval of 1935, "understanding and completely approving France's policy of national defense for the maintenance of its armed forces at the level of its security," stated: "The C. P. once more emphasizes that the Communist Party was right, and in the present hour, facing the necessity of raising the manufacture of armaments to the heights required by circumstances, associates itself with the declarations of the Trade Union Confederation (C. G. T.), headed by the reformist Jouhaux and the Stalinist Racamond) in favor of augmenting production," that is, the practical liquidation of the 40-hour week.

FUND FOR CHINESE COMRADES MOUNTS

The fund being raised by the Socialist Workers Party to aid the Communist League of China (Fourth Internationalists) is still mounting—but not fast enough. We are still quite a way off the minimum goal set, namely, \$200. Following are the results to date:

Previously acknowledged	\$143.71
Akron Branch	2.02
Lynn Branch	2.00
Los Angeles Branch	3.80
TOTAL	\$151.53

Comrades throughout the country are urged to put the collection over the top by not later than the current month. It can be done. It must be done!

SUBSCRIBE NOW TO THE SOCIALIST APPEAL

Ta-tu Thau, Indo-Chinese Militant, Held In Prison of People's Front

His right side paralyzed as a result of hunger strikes in the People's Front prisons of Saigon, French Indo-China, Ta-tu Thau, leader of the Indo-Chinese Fourth Internationalists and a member of the Municipal Council of Saigon, is serving a sentence of two years' imprisonment imposed upon him by a People's Front court for his leadership of the struggle against French imperialism.

A broad campaign is being conducted in France by the P.O.I. (Workers' Internationalist Party) and the International Aid for his immediate release.

Ta-tu Thau is one of the veteran leaders of the national liberation movement in Indo-China. As editor of *La Lutte* he has been at the center of all mass struggles in the French colony for nearly a decade.

People's Front Repression

Always the scene of bloody repression, Indo-China has never been ground down harder beneath the heel of French oppression than it has been during the past two years of People's Front rule. During most of this period a Socialist, Marius Moutet, sat at the Colonial Ministry in France directing the blows at the national liberation movement in Indo-China, French North Africa, and other parts of the French Empire.

Moutet Orders Suppression

In August, 1936, after the victory of the People's Front, the *Lutte* group started agitation for the creation of committees of action throughout the country with the aim of setting up an Indo-Chinese Congress. Orders arrived in September from Moutet for the suppression of this movement. The governor-general promptly arrested Ta-tu Thau on September 28. He went on hunger strike for 11 days and was finally released on November 15. During the winter of 1936-37 great strikes swept the French colony and once more Ta-tu Thau was put behind People's Front bars.

Arrested and Expelled

Ta-tu Thau, as a young student in Paris, was one of the first Indo-Chinese revolutionists to rally to the Left Opposition, joining the group of *La Verite* in 1929. He participated in a demonstration organized by that group before the Elysee Palace

in 1930 in protest against repressions in Indo-China. He was arrested and expelled. Back in Saigon in 1931 he founded *La Lutte*.

La Lutte and the group around it was unique in the international revolutionary movement up until 1937. The newspaper was the organ of a united front between the Stalinists and Trotskyists of Indo-China. They fought side by side in united front actions and elections. Ta-tu Thau led the ticket of this unprecedented coalition in an election some two years ago which made him a member of the Saigon Municipal Council, a body created by the French in a niggardly attempt to satisfy the aspirations of the Indo-Chinese to independence.

The paper, and in particular its editor, became the target of police attacks which grew sharper as the group grew in influence and prestige as the leading factor in numerous strike movements and agitation for political and civil rights. Arrested in 1935, Ta-tu Thau and several of his collaborators were held for several months and then heavily fined.

Is Paralyzed

While the "Socialist" colonial authorities in Paris smirked and told protesting militants that Thau was "simulating" his illness, the Indo-Chinese leader was actually paralyzed along his right side. Medical commissions which examined him in prison confirmed that he was in a serious condition. Nevertheless all appeals for his release have gone unheard. Instead, an old sentence from 1932 was invoked against him, increasing his full term to four years.

International Solidarity

Active solidarity by the world working class, applying its own sanctions against the shipments freely going to Franco, direct aid in providing material support to the Spanish masses, can still become the most potent factor in transforming defeat into victory.

War Movements Gain Momentum

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The Japanese imperialists display growing alarm over the expansion of the armed might of their great rival. Referring to the navy maneuvers, the Japanese newspaper *Hochi* April 1 declared: "It is only too clear the United States is practicing trans-Pacific offensive operations."

Garber, Sharfin, Known As C.P. Supporters Or Members

By JUNIUS

Arthur Sharfin, member of Section XV of the Communist Party in the Bronx and "fall guy" for the G.P.U. in the Robinson-Rubens frame-up plot which was and may still be intended to involve the Trotskyist movement in this country in some kind of "conspiracy," has been indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in connection with a series of passport frauds.

Garber Indicted

Along with Sharfin, a Fifth Avenue photographer named Ossip Garber, also a Stalinist and formerly of Springfield, Mass., has been indicted on a similar charge. He is one of the few persons who has admitted publicly that he knew the mysterious Rubens.

Sharfin Evades Questions

Last week Sharfin, who is still at liberty in the custody of his attorney, M. Edelstein, was brought before a Federal Judge

Politicos In Spain Flee For Cover

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power of a revolutionary party and the upsurge of the masses behind it.

Thousands are fleeing and deserting. There is confusion and demoralization at a time when all forces have to be gathered to make a stand against the Fascist drive and its Italo-German spearheads.

"Anarchist Sabotage!"

The leaders who have been responsible for these defeats now seek by all means to divest themselves of responsibility. "Anarchist sabotage," cried Gen. Pablo Martinez, was responsible for the Fascist victories.

But not all the whining in the world can provide enough of a cover for the foul betrayal and treachery of the Stalinist People's Front which is now leading Spain into the hands of Fascism. The military victory of Franco will be complemented by an accord between "democratic" England and "Fascist" Italy putting a cross, if they can, over the Spanish revolution.

On this the last word has yet to be said, by the Spanish working class, and by world labor. The unleashing, even now, of a resolute revolutionary struggle which will hold out to the workers and peasants of Spain the hope of really breaking with the hated bourgeois regime can still turn the tide against Fascism.

Stalinists Keep Mum

Whether Targun has political connections is not yet known, but it is already clear that at the heart of the whole affair are 14-karat Stalinists—Rubens himself, his wife (who is still in Butirky Prison while the G.P.U. tries to decide what to do with its latest frame-up), Sharfin, Garber, Shaw, Helen Ravitch (who accepted the phony passport sent from Washington to "Donald L. Robinson"), Rubens' attorney, and others.

Another War Move

From Washington on March 30 came the announcement that a high ranking navy officer had been assigned to the U.S. legation at The Hague, thus bringing to light, in the words of a staff correspondent of the *New York Post*, "the little-known fact that this country and the Netherlands are cooperating closely in military preparations in the Far East."

The U.S. has had no naval attaché in Holland since 1932 and "the sudden decision to assign an attaché at this time was widely interpreted in diplomatic quarters as meaning only one thing—the State Department and navy want to establish closer ties between

Stalin Does Not Believe

That Stalin himself does not believe in the fabricated testimony of the trials, Professor Hook asserted, is indicated by the fact that he offers alliances to countries, such as England, with which Trotsky is alleged to be conspiring for the overthrow of the Soviet Union. He said, "as Blum pointed out in connection with the Menshevik trials, is the necessity of the Stalin regime to find scapegoats for its domestic failures and international isolation."

Testimony Proved False

Replying to Mary Van Kleek, of the Russell Sage Foundation, who presented the orthodox Stalinist position on the same program, Professor Hook pointed out that the logical structure of the three trials rested on eight defendants who alleged they were intermediaries between Trotsky and the other defendants. He showed that in every case the testimony of competent persons and documentary evidence had proven the alleged communications with Trotsky to have been impossible.

"Instead of offering evidence, the last trial unfolded a story compared to which the Arabian Nights is as sober as a grocer's bill. The apologists of the Stalinist trials would have us believe that of the sixty leading political figures around Lenin all but Stalin were spies, assassins, and wreckers. This would be comparable to saying that out of the 56 American revolutionists who signed the Declaration of Independence all but one turned out to be British spies....

"When the Russian Revolution the sea forces of the Netherlands and the United States. In the event of a far Eastern war, joint operation of the Netherlands and American navies would be essential."

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SOVIET UNION NOTES

Stalin's Bloody Purge Surpasses All Previous Bonapartist Excesses; Red Army Decimated; Soviet Transportation Disorganized

By JOHN G. WRIGHT

The Purge in Progress

The current blood purge bids fair to surpass all those that preceded. Hardly an issue of *Pravda* appears without an attack on some department. The "criticism" of the Northern Sea Route Administration headed by Prof. Otto Schmidt has attracted most attention abroad. But it is only one of the departments under fire. In recent days the Soviet press has carried ominous charges against the Commissariat of Transportation, the People's Commissar for Agriculture in White Russia, the Presidium of the Moscow Soviet, its Chairman, H. Sidorov, and its secretary, Dedkov, etc.

The appointment of two new deputy Commissars for Heavy Industry, M. I. Tselishev and P. P. Kucherenko, which is reported in *Pravda* for March 20, denotes still another purge in that department—for the third time since last October!

According to the leading article in the same issue of *Pravda*, 132,000 employees in the trade network have been "brought up on charges for alleged embezzlement and dissipation."

The Purge in the Red Army

From top to bottom the Red Army has been decimated by the purge. As was to be expected, the Young Communist League in the army has been hardest hit. So many Y.C.L. units in the regiments have been left without bureau heads and secretaries that the Central Committee of the party and the Central Committee of the Komsomol have abolished the old restriction that only those who have been party members for at least two years were eligible for posts as secretaries of regimental bureaus of the Y.C.L. Says *Pravda*, "Members and candidates of the C.P.S.U., regardless of how long they have been in the party, are eligible for the post of secretary of the bureaus of the Y.C.L. and in exceptional cases, even those Y.C.L.'ers who are not members of the party." (*Pravda*, March 19.)

The same leading article goes on to add that another restriction has likewise been abolished. Hitherto "political representatives" in the Army had to be party members. "Henceforth, according to the decision of the C.C. of the C.P.S.U., the most tested and politically qualified Y.C.L.'ers are to be drawn into the political organs of the Red Army as deputies or assistants of the political directors."

The Crisis in Transportation.

We have already reported the grave condition of Soviet railways. Numerous items in the official press indicate that there has been no improvement in this field. We cite a few instances.

On Feb. 8, *Pravda* reported that 2,800 automobiles were left standing in the yard of the Gorki automobile plant. On March 17, in the Gorki yard 2,141 cars remained standing. "Some of them are becoming spoiled, others are half-covered with snow and ice... The yard where the finished machines are left standing for months is guarded poorly. Various parts are being stolen from the machines." (*Pravda*, March 18. Our emphasis.)

Flood threatens on the shores of the rivers Volga, Kama, Viatka, Belaya and others in the Tartar Republic, where valuable freight has been stored: 128,000 tons of grain, 13,149 tons of hay belonging to the state and unspecified quantities of kolkhoz hay, together with car-loads of sugar, salt, lumber, cement, alabaster, brick, etc. At the single station of Sosnovka, on the shores of the Viatka river 1,990 cars of lumber are stranded. The same situation exists on the river Sura. Meanwhile the railways are unable to move this freight. Especially criticized for "inactivity" is the administration of the Kazan railway line. (*Pravda*, March 19.)

Stalin's remedy: more executions among the railway personnel.

Hook Blasts Moscow Frame-Ups In New York Radio Broadcast

"Certainly anybody who calls himself a socialist, a friend of the labor movement, or even a liberal, must cry out with indignation against these totalitarian trials which Stalin offers us as proof that he has established socialism." Professor Sidney Hook, of New York University, was stated in a radio address over station WEVD, New York, on Tuesday, March 22.

"Between Stalin, the executioner, and the very idea of socialism, there yawns an impassable gulf. Human hopes for a better social order everywhere depend upon an understanding of the truth about the Moscow trials, and the lessons they teach," he declared.

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Fall Guy



OSSIP GARBER

and ordered to answer questions put him by the Grand Jury. He particularly desired to avoid questions relating to his connection with Harry Zukerman, who has charged that it was Sharfin who passed to him the phony Robinson-Rubens passport applications.

Stalinists Keep Mum

Whether Targun has political connections is not yet known, but it is already clear that at the heart of the whole affair are 14-karat Stalinists—Rubens himself, his wife (who is still in Butirky Prison while the G.P.U. tries to decide what to do with its latest frame-up), Sharfin, Garber, Shaw, Helen Ravitch (who accepted the phony passport sent from Washington to "Donald L. Robinson"), Rubens' attorney, and others.

In view of these facts, the Daily Worker naturally continues silent as the grave on the subject of the Robinson-Rubens-G.P.U. case. And the "fall guy," Arthur Sharfin, continues equally silent.

Grand Jury Indicts Two In Rubens Mystery Case

Garber, Sharfin, Known As C.P. Supporters Or Members

By JUNIUS

Arthur Sharfin, member of Section XV of the Communist Party in the Bronx and "fall guy" for the G.P.U. in the Robinson-Rubens frame-up plot which was and may still be intended to involve the Trotskyist movement in this country in some kind of "conspiracy," has been indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in connection with a series of passport frauds.

New Names Enter

The Sharfin-Garber combination is linked by the indictments to passport activities carried on in the names of Jacob Rosenberg, 28 E. 55 Street; Gerald Mark Moren alias Marko Filipovic; Ernest Wekin of "Chiles" Street; Carl Westerdahl of 468 W. 148 Street; and Max Schulman of 2802 Olivine Avenue. Government officials did not reveal just who these people are or even whether they are alive or dead.

It is known that Sharfin was intimately acquainted with one Max Wershov, alias Marshall Shaw. Under the latter name, Shaw was active in the Friends of the Soviet Union. Wershov is the husband of Muriel Wershov, also a Stalinist, who is active in the Bookkeepers Union, having formerly been active in the Stalinist Office Workers Union. It was apparently in the latter organization that she became acquainted with a Stalinist employed by a New York publisher, who has never before been publicly mentioned. Whether this Stalinist, who was acquainted with Rubens, is mentioned in the sealed indictment cannot yet be learned.

Sharfin Evades Questions

Last week Sharfin, who is still at liberty in the custody of his attorney, M. Edelstein, was brought before a Federal Judge

show that Garber had used the

