

A Shameful Unity of Traitors

By SAM DARCY

From the Trotskyite organ, "the Militant," to members of the American Legion extends the new united front against the militant labor movement. These, together with the I. W. W. and the renegade "Revolutionary Age," are making a concerted drive in an attempt to discredit the struggles of the International Labor Defense against government persecution of workers.

The current issue of the "Industrial Worker," one of the most bitter anti-working class, anti-Soviet Union, organs in this country, carries a six-column headline apropos the death of James McNerny, one of the Centralia prisoners, which reads, "Communists Sabotage the Dead." Ludwig Lore, in writing in his paper, the "Volkszeitung," joins the cry of these enemies of the working class. The "Militant," in its last issue, announces with pride the unity of the Lovestonites, the Loreites, the Socialist Party, the Anarchists, the Trotskyites, the I. W. W., etc., in bitter denunciations of militant workers, led by the International Labor Defense and the Communist Party. The "Militant," using even the same words as the I. W. W. paper, reads, "The leaders of the Communist Party and 'non-partisan' I. L. D. refused to participate or send a speaker on the grounds that they would not occupy the same platform with Trotskyites and Lovestonites!" This act of spiteful and criminal sabotage would not raise the prestige of the Party.

A combination of all the discredited renegades and class traitors, such as are connected with this united front could only produce the mass of lies, misrepresentations and vicious anti-working class propaganda, such as characterizes the mouthings of these worthies.

What are the facts in the death of James McNerny?

While in the Communist Party, Cannon, the leader of the Trotskyites, for years correctly fought against the syndicalist conceptions of the I.W.W. and held them in a large measure responsible for the continued imprisonment of the Centralia workers, of which McNerny was one. With his renegacy to the working class, Cannon and his colleagues became proper allies of the reactionary I.W.W., the "Socialist" Party and this new united front. The struggle over the Centralia cases is now more than a decade old. The I.W.W. has done everything it possibly could to frustrate any mass mobilization of the working class to force the release of the Centralia prisoners.

It turned the case over in full charge to Elmer S. Smith, a local lawyer. Because of something he said in support of the I.W.W., Smith had been disbarred from the profession. In July of this year, at the very time when the parole board was considering the cases of our Centralia comrades, Smith made an application for reinstatement as an attorney. Through the Asso-

ciated Press he gave out a story in which he stabs the Centralia prisoners in the back.

In this statement he informed the Associated Press that he "told the high court yesterday he would renounce all the principles which caused his disbarment." In his petition for reinstatement he wrote:

"I have lived a life of probity, industry and sobriety since my disbarment. I have been more than sufficiently punished for the extreme utterances made during the heat and fervor of public speeches made on social, political and economic issues."

In the spirit of the leadership of such an individual as this the IWW Centralia Publicity Committee, of which Elmer Smith is chairman, eliminated every trace of class action from the case and presented, with every resource of their command, the mobilization of the workers. With such agents to help them, the bosses found it possible to keep the Centralia prisoners incarcerated with little difficulty.

When McNerny died, Yetta Stromberg, the Seattle District Organizer of the I.L.D., herself sentenced to ten years' imprisonment for working class activity, headed a committee of three to visit the IWW Arrangements Committee to ask for permission to participate with speakers, etc., in the funeral. The officials of the IWW passed the buck from one to another, but finally the chairman of the Arrangements Committee gathered enough courage to tell Yetta Stromberg that he could not grant her request because "the program is all arranged and cannot be changed." When the I.L.D. committee asked for permission to formally present a wreath of flowers, even this was denied. The automobiles which were in the funeral procession did not carry a single slogan or class demand. Singing or other demonstrations on the part of the workers was systematically suppressed. The I.L.D. delegation asked that the "Red Flag" be sung. The IWW, through the attorney, Elmer Smith, answered, "I think not, for there are many people here who are not from Centralia and they would not understand, and since we get a lot of support from them, we cannot do it."

Although there was no room on the program for a message of class solidarity, there was room for Captain Edward Patrick Coll, former officer and now a member of the American Legion, who made a characteristic patriotic and sentimental speech differing in no way from the public letters which he, from time to time, wrote on this case. One of these letters so pleased the Centralia Publicity Committee that they published it in leaflet form in their own name. The following excerpts indicate the utter degeneracy of the IWW into a reactionary and even patriotic body:

"No one will ever point the finger of scorn at the physical courage of the Legion. The question is, has each one of us the moral brawn to stand by the constitution of the Legion and of our courageous opposition to those who are guided by mob violence."

In New York, the National Office of the International Labor Defense already had an indica-

tion as to the nature of these ghouls who were dancing around the body of our heroic comrade, James McNerny, to the tune of their own patriotic and jingo addresses, boosting the constitution of the American Legion. We decided in New York that rather than to befool the memory of McNerny by lending any strength to these enemies of the working class, that we would use the mass Sacco-Vanzetti Memorial Demonstrations, scheduled for August 22, two days after the funeral of McNerny, to claim his memory and splendid fighting tradition for the working class where it belongs and to take it away from the Legionnaires, the renegades, the Social Fascists, and those other elements grouped with them. On the evening before, ten street meetings were held under I.L.D. auspices, especially to commemorate James McNerny's life.

One of "Our" Brainy Boys

Santa Barbara, California, news say that—"Agreement among relatives on a resident physician to care for Stanley McCormick, incompetent multi-millionaire, at his Montecito estate was revealed today"—and so on.

This awfully "brainy" chap is worth; no, his fortune is worth, some \$50,000,000. And his "loving relatives," each afraid that if the other's doctor is given charge of the rich nut, they will get swindled out of their share, have to hold a family council and sign an agreement that none will gouge the others out.

Nice people! So they pay Colonel Joseph Bernard \$20,000 a year to "manage" the "incompetent multi-millionaire's" fortune for him, and have agreed on hiring a certain physician at \$30,000 a year to "take care of him"—probably to give him knockout drops when they can reach a final agreement on how the \$50,000,000 can be split to everybody's satisfaction.

Nice people! Great country! Wonderful civilization!

The Trotskyites and the Lovestonites have, of course, an easy time in uniting with such elements. They are all of the same ilk. It is not without significance that the very next day, August 22, one of these new-found allies of the Lovestonites and Trotskyites, namely the anarchists, murdered two workers who were protesting against governmental persecution at the Sacco-Vanzetti demonstration at Avella, Pennsylvania.

In New York, on August 22, 15,000 workers remembered James McNerny, together with Sacco and Vanzetti and pledged to carry on the struggle in the memory of their heroic life and death. The workers had absolutely no trust whatsoever in the meeting held by the renegades and betrayers the day before. The proof lies in the fact that all these groups combined, even including the Socialist Party, rallied a total of 400 people to their meeting. That is the usual crowd on any ordinary street meeting on this corner. Little wonder the renegades rage.

(To be Continued)