

A Shameful Unity of Traitors

By SAM DARCY

(Continued)

In addition to its attempt to utilize the death of McNerny to discredit militant class action by the workers, the Lovestonites tried to use another incident, that of the case of Leon Lewis. Lewis is a member of the Lovestonite group. On March 6 he was arrested at the Union Square demonstration. The International Labor Defense bailed him at \$2,000, and provided an attorney to defend him at court. When the case was called to trial, it was found that Lewis had completely disappeared. The Lovestonites deny that he disappeared. But Lewis' father, a Lovestonite of San Antonio, Texas, wrote a letter at this time to the ILD which proves how complete his disappearance was. The letter of his father read:—

"My son, Leon Lewis, who participated in March 6 demonstration and who was arrested then and was under bail furnished by the ILD and under the care of your lawyer, is now missing. I don't know where he disappeared and what became of him."

For several weeks, the ILD representatives telephoned and telegraphed every part of the city in an attempt to locate him. This was in vain. When telephoned, the office of the "Revolutionary Age" curtly informed the ILD that it did not know of the whereabouts of Lewis and knew nothing of his case. News of Lewis' jumping bail on a comparatively minor charge became known to the workers and considerable indignation was expressed at his action. The ILD even at the time of the March 6 Demonstrations knew of other Lovestonites, as for example, Roy Stephens in Boston, whose desertion lost workers' money in forfeiture of bail. Lewis was bailed out in spite of this. Lewis again appeared several weeks after the forfeiture. He was rearrested by the authorities and jailed. The Lovestonites then demanded that the ILD should again bail him. This the ILD refused to do. The National Committee of the ILD however, offered to provide the necessary legal defense.

Leon Lewis' father, who is a Lovestonite, as well as the other Lovestonites were asked by the ILD to provide adequate guarantee that Lewis would appear if the ILD bailed him a second time. This request they ignored. Now for the Lovestonites to attempt to use this case only makes more clear their lack of the most elementary honesty. The "Revolutionary Age," in the last issue, asks for contributions on the strength of the fact that the "Whole weight of ball and defense now falls on us (the renegades) with our (the renegades) meagre resources." This is sheer hypocrisy. It is an attempt to use the Lewis case in order to bolster the falling fortunes of this traitorous group. The International Labor Defense would continue to defend Lewis against the courts if that were made possible for it, but it will not jeopardize the contributions of tens of thousands of workers by bailing cynical and hypocritical renegades.

The working class must not be misled. The united front of all our enemies, no matter what the pretense is, is not better but worse than these enemies disunited. It is a united front to break up the defense organization which defends the many thousands of militant workers persecuted by our bosses.

The hypocrisy of such a combination at the grave of a heroic worker such as McNerny should indeed warn us of the degeneracy of our enemies and the extent to which they will go. The only effective answer to them is for thousands of workers fighting in the self-sacrificing spirit of McNerny and other class war prisoners throughout the country to join the International Labor Defense and help strengthen the class fight against capitalist government persecutions.

Correction

The article, "Vote Communist," on this page in yesterday's edition was a resolution of the International Labor Defense on the 1930 Election Campaign.