

Babes Escape Death While Parents Work



The children of workers have no nursemaids while their parents are slaving in the shop or factory. Picture shows James L. White, 226 McDougal St., Brooklyn, with his two youngsters, Robert 3, and Arthur, 18 months, after they were revived from the effects of gas asphyxiation when they were left alone at home.

What a Labor Party Could Have Done for Sacco and Vanzetti

By MARTIN ABERN.

Article IV. in the Labor Party Series

Probably in no other field could a mass American Labor Party, rooted in the trade unions, exert a greater influence than in a campaign on behalf of the class war and political prisoners wearing away their lives in San Quentin, Folsom, Leavenworth and other dungeons of American capitalists.

Particularly could this have applied in the case of Sacco and Vanzetti, whose lives were snuffed out by a combination of Massachusetts and United States judicial and governmental Bourbons, under orders from the financial and economic rulers of this country.

European Labor Parties Defend and Aid Political Prisoners.

In all other countries, the labor and revolutionary parties, as in England, and the working class parties in general, have through their pressure on capitalist governments often compelled the capitalists to release

tain party gives the trade union leader an important job in connection with the campaign and places certain funds at his disposal, which he uses for his own purpose. In this way he obtains a high prestige connected with his job. It turns out, therefore, that the leaders of the trade union support one or the other of the bourgeois parties. Naturally, when there is any talk of forming a third party, a labor party, these labor leaders refuse to do anything in the matter. They argue that if a third party were formed there would be a split in the trade union movement.

DOUGLAS: The fact that only skilled workers are organized in trade unions is due principally to the fact that in order to be able to join a union a man must have money and be well off, because the entrance fees are high and the unskilled worker cannot afford to pay. Moreover, the unskilled worker is under constant danger of being thrown out of work if he attempts to organize. The unskilled workers can be organized only with the active aid of the skilled workers.

In the majority of cases this aid is not forthcoming and this is one of the principal obstacles to the organization of the unskilled workers. The principal means by which the workers can defend their rights are political means. This in my opinion is the principal reason why the unskilled workers are unorganized. I consider the economic condition the principal factor in the unorganized state of the unskilled workers in the political and industrial fields. I must point to a special feature of the American electoral system. The direct primary election, in which any man may get to the election booth, declare himself a democrat or a republican and cast his vote. I am convinced that Gompers could not keep the workers on a non-partisan political program if he did not have the argument of the direct primary. He always told the workers that if they wished to act politically, they could join either of the existing two political parties, get the responsible positions in them and command influence. With this argument Gompers managed to keep the workers away from the idea of organizing the working class and of forming a Labor Party.

new Plays

antisek Langer will be the fourth opening Monday night at the Cost is headed by Alexander Meisei, mig, Paul Hartmann, Hans Thimig

William Collisson at Daly's 63rd St. Sidney Shields, Curtis Cooksey, undie in the cast.

medy, at the Globe Tuesday night. and Harry Ruby wrote the book, tart the music and lyrics. Beatrice

dy, will be revived for four per- m beginning Wednesday afternoon

their death-hold on working class victims, or compelled them to retreat for a time from their intended working class victims.

There is the case of Lanzutsky in Poland, Rakosi and Szanto in Hungary, and many others. (New Hungarian trials against these and others are now in process.) Mass pressure from the unions, Labor Parties, and other organs of the labor movement in Europe have often resulted in the diminution of prison sentences, commutation, amnesties, etc.

American Labor Party Could Fight Frame-up.

There is no reason why in the United States of America a Labor Party cannot likewise be a powerful instrument to prevent the capitalists, their police and their courts from torturing and imprisoning class-conscious workers whose only "crimes" consist in fighting, organizing and defending the interests of the working class.

In the Sacco-Vanzetti case, a Labor Party could have been used as a lever to force open the files of the Department of Justice, which held the truth about the innocence of Sacco and Vanzetti. It is known to nearly every one that the Department of Justice aided in the framing of these innocent workers.

The Labor Party In Congress.

Surely a Labor Party, through representatives in the United States congress, could have raised the issue of class justice and demanded a complete investigation of the corruption, malpractice, skulduggery and stinking frame-up involved in the Sacco-Vanzetti case.

As it was, isolated senators, representatives and groups fearful of the effect on the workers' minds because of the extreme grossness of the Sacco-Vanzetti case, felt impelled to consider congressional investigation. These groups hoped to still the growing protest of the American workers and their loss of faith in the institutions of government, particularly judges and courts, given in the much-vaunted trial by jury of one's peers.

Working-class Politics Trial in

Sacco-Vanzetti Sacco and Vanzetti were tried on murder charges, obviously framed and false to every person with a grain of sense. Everyone who understands American politics knows that Sacco and Vanzetti were on trial because they were workers, were class-conscious workers trying to awaken and organize the workers as a class to resist American capitalism.

The politics of the working class were on trial in the Sacco-Vanzetti case; not the politics or beliefs of any particular group of the working class, such as the anarchists, the socialists, the Communists, but the politics of a class as a whole, that is, of workers who understood their position in society as an oppressed and exploited class and tried to devise ways and means to get rid of capitalist exploitation.

The Real Crime of Sacco and Vanzetti Therein lay the real crime of Sacco and Vanzetti, who symbolized this rising tide of class-consciousness and revolt (even in the comparatively better-paid American working class, so largely affected by bourgeois ideas, habits and beliefs.)

Labor Party Would Make Issues Clear Through a Labor Party, a party of the working masses of America, there could have been made clear the real issues involved in the Sacco-Vanzetti case.

These issues were not "criminals" and "murderers" against "society," but the workers versus a privileged ruling class. The respective economic and political views of the various working class groups, such as the Communists and the socialists, might also have received a broader and clearer hearing and the working class might thus have obtained wider political education.

The Labor Party could have conducted a mass educational campaign—mass meetings, leaflets, lectures, papers, etc.—to show how, in this classic case, class justice works.

Labor Party Could Show Up "Justice" The complete fraudulence of the American courts of "justice," judges,

police, "liberal judges" (more fraudulent than the outspoken judicial murderers such as Governor Fuller and Judge Thayer) could have been shown.

More clearly than ever before, American justice and government could have been shown, through the educating influence of a Labor Party, in its true role and real character: as the most corrupt, venal and vindictive capitalist government in the world.

Labor Party Could Push Impeachment of Thayer and Fuller.

A Labor Party could have pushed impeachment proceedings against Judge Thayer, Governor Fuller, the heads of the Department of Justice and others involved in this frame-up, and in this way could have rendered a service to the masses of workers.

A Labor Party could have been expected to raise the general issue of class war and political prisoners in America, a country which still passes as one which stands for free speech, free assemblage, etc.

The Labor Party and Other Class-War Prisoners.

Not only Sacco and Vanzetti, but Mooney, Billings, the I. W. W.'s in San Quentin and Walla Walla, McNamara and many others—why are they rotting away in jail and prison? Release these victims of American Wall Street government! could have been the cry of an awakened, class labor party.

A Labor Party would of course have to recognize the fact, and act accordingly, that if the protest movement were to mean anything besides words and phrases, its strength lies not in its resolutions, letters, etc., but in the mass strength and level of class-consciousness of the trade unions and political parties and bodies in the Labor Party ready to follow the lead of the Labor Party in a campaign on behalf of political victims.

If the Labor Party followed a militant and correct line, the cry of demonstrations, mass strikes, could have been raised by every local union, every district council, and in the councils of the A. F. of L. Executive.

A political movement of the working masses, correlated and united with the mass trade unions in all struggles—wage demands, amnesty drives, political demands of broader kind—could cause even the powerful American plutocracy to think twice before it executed workers who fought for working class organization and power.

But no one should have any illusions about what even a strong Labor Party can do under the conditions and limitations of capitalism, and its or-

ganizational and political characteristics. Such illusions would make for reformism.

The Sacco-Vanzetti case presented us graphically with an American imperialist class, a CLASS WITH POWER, beating down brutally a CLASS WITHOUT POWER, but indicating its potential power—a rising class getting ready to overthrow capitalism and establish its own political supremacy as a class.

A Labor Party might have saved Sacco and Vanzetti from the electric chair at least. Certainly it could have helped tremendously in a vast organized protest and given American capitalism a taste of working class strength when released for a moment from capitalist ideological fetters.

But the American ruling class, imperialistic America, which burned Sacco and Vanzetti to death, is also the ruthless imperialism which has caused the loss of hundreds of lives of Nicaraguan workers and peasants trying to establish a Nicaraguan nation independent of Wall Street domination.

It is the same American imperialism which is responsible for the death of thousands of Chinese workers fighting for the independence and liberation of China from foreign and native exploitation. It is that same brutal, vulgar capitalism which allows, condones and gloats over the lynching of Negro workers in the "fair south" when these colored workers assert their human and social rights.

Labor Party Can Make a Start on the Right Track.

A Labor Party of the American toilers and farmers, nevertheless, can struggle against all these capitalist evils: can start the American working class on the road toward independent political action as a class against capitalism.

In these struggles, the American working class will learn the necessity of having as its main objective the overthrow of American imperialism and the establishment on its ruins of a workers' and farmers' government.

Such a struggle and objective requires in the last analysis the leadership of a revolutionary party of the workers, a Communist Party.

Education By Mail in U. S. S. R.

MOSCOW, Dec. 18. (By Mail).—Education by correspondence is being rapidly developed in the Soviet Union. At present more than eighty thousand people are being educated in this manner.

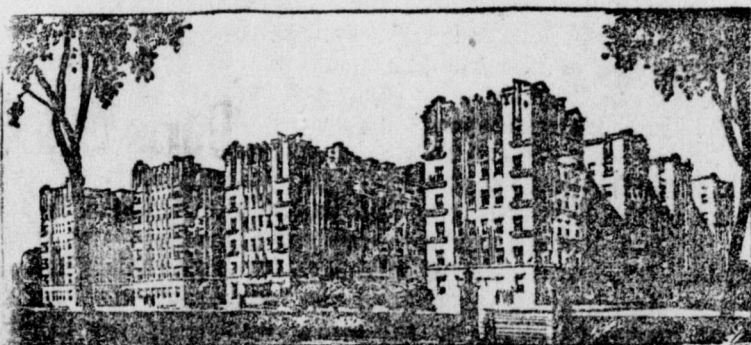
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