

~~V:RC~~ A Letter to the 'Village Voice'

The Workers League has sent the following letter to the *Village Voice*, a weekly New York publication, concerning a column that appeared in that paper, written by one "Tom Smucker." As yet, the Workers League has not received any reply.

Ms. Marianne Partridge
Editor
The Village Voice
80 University Place
New York, N.Y. 10003

Dear Ms. Partridge,

In the July 3, 1978 issue of *The Village Voice*, an article appeared entitled "Tom Tattles" by one "Tom Smucker." It included the following passage:

"Craziest Trot group, though, has got to be the Worker's (sic) League. Its leader, Gerry Healy, over in England, thinks that biggest Trot group Socialist Workers Party leaders

George Novack and Joseph Hansen helped the KGB and FBI murder Leon Trotsky himself. As they used to say in California... far out! Almost sounds like... the Labor Party"

In light of the very serious issues involved, we consider the above paragraph to have been highly irresponsible and could not have been written by someone in possession of the facts.

The Workers League has publicly charged that Joseph Hansen, the leader of the SWP, is a double agent working on behalf of

the Federal Bureau of Investigation. You will appreciate that this accusation was not made lightly. The charge is based on the discovery of official U.S. Government documents obtained from the files of the National Archives in Washington, D.C., which show that Hansen requested and entered into secret relations with the FBI as early as 1940. These documents establish conclusively that Hansen passed private SWP documents and internal correspondence over to the FBI. These official Government documents also reveal that Hansen's relationship with the FBI was arranged by the U.S. State Department and that the agent with whom Hansen liaised was the New York Direc-

tor of the FBI in 1940, Mr. B.E. Sackett. Among the many documents in our possession is a letter signed by Joseph Hansen, dated October 23, 1940, in which he thanked a U.S. Government official for helping him establish contact with Sackett.

All these documents substantiating our charges have been published in our newspaper, the *Bulletin*, and in a booklet entitled, "The Lies of Joseph Hansen: Dossier of a Double Agent." We enclose herein a copy of the latter for your careful examination.

The Socialist Workers Party has never challenged the authenticity of the documents nor have they defended Hansen publicly against our accusations. Since the

charges were originally published in July 1977, neither Hansen nor the SWP has made any public statement whatsoever on them. As a matter of fact, the paragraph which appeared in the "Tom Tattles" article was the first published statement in any newspaper which actually suggested that the charges against Hansen are without foundation.

As for the matter of Hansen's links with the KGB, official documents obtained earlier and published in our press have established that he met secretly with a top Soviet agent in New York two years before the assassination of Trotsky. The name of the agent was Gregory Rabinovitz.

We are prepared to assume that whoever wrote

the "Tom Tattles" article was simply uninformed about the charges against Hansen and the evidence upon which they are based. If this is indeed the case, we would suggest that the *Voice* publish a retraction of that paragraph in the article.

If such a retraction is not published, then we will be obliged to revise our initial opinion and conclude that the paragraph in the article was published with malicious intent. The article would then be viewed by us as a very serious matter.

Please let us know of your decision on this matter as soon as possible.

Yours cordially,
David North
Workers League
National Secretary

THE BULLETIN: twice-weekly organ of the Workers League, is published by Labor Publications, Incorporated, GPO Box 1876, New York, NY 10001. Publishes twice-weekly except the last week of August and the last week of December. Editorial and Business office, GPO Box 1876, New York, NY 10001. Phone: 736-0150. Subscription rates: (USA) 1 year: \$5.00; 6 months: \$4.00; 3 months: \$2.00. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY. Printed in NYC.