

Bulletin, Vol. 14 # 108 345
Tues., Jan 23, 1979

X: PC

Joseph Hansen, FBI Informer, Dies at Age 68

Joseph Hansen, leader of the revisionist U.S. Socialist Workers Party, and long-time informant of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, died Thursday morning, January 18, in New York City. He was 68 years old.

Hansen goes to his grave not ever having answered, let alone refuted, the charges made by the International Committee of the Fourth International that he functioned as a double agent of the FBI and GPU, the Soviet secret police, inside the Trotskyist movement.

In July, 1977, the Inter-

national Committee first published official U.S. State Department archives which revealed that within weeks of the assassination of Leon Trotsky in 1940, Hansen secretly established a confidential relationship with a top FBI agent.

In September, 1978, the International Committee published more documents that showed that Hansen's relationship with the FBI was arranged and supervised by none other than Director J. Edgar Hoover.

The documents also revealed that the FBI considered Hansen to be associated with a gang of GPU agents who were ultimately responsible for the murder of Trotskyists. One FBI document linked Hansen to Ramon Mercader,

the man who killed Trotsky.

As the evidence against him built up, raising ever-greater questions about his real activity as Trotsky's secretary in Coyoacan, Mexico, and his subsequent role inside the SWP and the Fourth International, Hansen waged a desperate fight to prevent the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the charges.

Hansen's death comes amid growing reports in the U.S. press about the allegations of former FBI agent, M. Wesley Swearingen, that the Bureau has infiltrated the highest offices of the SWP.

'The Militant' reports that the SWP will hold a memorial service for Hansen on Sunday, January 28.

fits, college student benefits, and minimum payments and tightening disability benefits.

* EDUCATION and VETERANS PROGRAM. There will be a freeze on funding, meaning that inflation will cut savagely into programs.

While jobs and social services are being cut, military spending will rise from \$113.2 billion to \$124.5 billion, an increase of 10 percent.

This right-wing anti-working class program is the payoff for the labor bureaucrats' policy of supporting the Democratic Party and the "friend of labor" Carter in the 1976 election.

The Carter administration, hammered by the collapse of the dollar, the deepening of the world slump, and above all by the gathering force of the world revolution, expressed so powerfully in Iran, is compelled to turn viciously against the working class at home.

Unable to intervene directly against the revolu-

Saturday, January 27
Arabian Village
10040 Dix (near Vernor Ave.)
Dearborn, Michigan
4 & 8 PM \$2.50

tionary workers in Iran, the U.S. ruling class is even more frightened of the strength of the American working class.

They are relying entirely on the support of the labor bureaucracy, backed by the Stalinists, to prevent the working class from breaking through the straitjacket of the two-party system and building a Labor Party to open up the fight for power.

This is what is behind the maneuvers with Senators Edward Kennedy, who is being built up by labor leaders such as Douglas Fraser of the United Auto Workers as the potential leader of the "progressive" opposition to Carter in the 1980 elections.

Kennedy is nothing more than the most

fraudulent of all the ruling class politicians, who conceals the vicious anti-labor history of the entire Kennedy family behind demagogic speeches about his concern for the poor and downtrodden.

The most insidious role is being played by the Stalinists who are seeking a new version of their Popular Front policy of tying workers politically to some section of the capitalist class to set them up for counter-revolution.

The decisive question now is the building of the new leadership in the unions to carry out the fight for a Labor Party to establish the political independence of the working class and fight for socialist policies.

An Introduction to Marxism

BRITAIN . .

(Continued from page 1)

immediate four pound bonus payment.

\$75,000
Emergency