

Socialist Appeal

Official Weekly Organ of the Socialist Workers Party, Section of the Fourth International

SOCIALISM WILL BE
TROTSKY'S MONUMENT

VOL. IV—No. 34.

NEW YORK, N. Y., SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 1940

FIVE (5) CENTS

WE BRAND STALIN AS THE MURDERER OF TROTSKY

Trotsky's Fight Goes On Under The Banner Of The Fourth International

Death Follows Brutal Attack

Leon Trotsky, co-leader with Lenin of the Russian Revolution, died in Mexico City on August 21 at 7:30 P. M., victim of a brutal assault by a GPU assassin.

He fought for life for 26 hours after Stalin's hired murderer had driven a pickaxe into his brain.

It was his last battle.

But he did not surrender until he had indicted the monster in the Kremlin as the organizer of his murder. He did not surrender until, in his very last words which he insisted upon dictating before he lost consciousness, he had handed on the banner of the Fourth International to the men and women throughout the world whom he had gathered together in the World Party of Socialist Revolution.

"Please say to our friends," he concluded, "that I am sure of the victory of the Fourth International. Go forward!"

It was characteristic of his great genius that, certain he was dying—immediately after the attack he told Joseph Hansen that "I will not survive this attack"—he devoted his last moments of consciousness to urging forward the activities of the Fourth International.

Equally characteristic was his conduct as he fell under the mortal blows of the GPU assassin and Trotsky's secretary-guards rushed in, arms in hand, and flung themselves upon the assassin.

"Let him live!" cried Trotsky repeatedly. Not out of kindness! But to assure the possibility that from the assassin might be wrested additional confirmation which would help to damn the Kremlin Cain in the eyes of the working class of the world.

The Hand of the GPU

Thanks to Trotsky's dissection of every available bit of evidence, key participants in the May 24 attempt to murder him are now in prison formally charged with that crime, a number of them having confessed their complicity. Having learned from the unfolding of that crime how Stalin's GPU works, the federal police authorities were quick to recognize its trademark in the successful follow-up to the May 24 attempt.

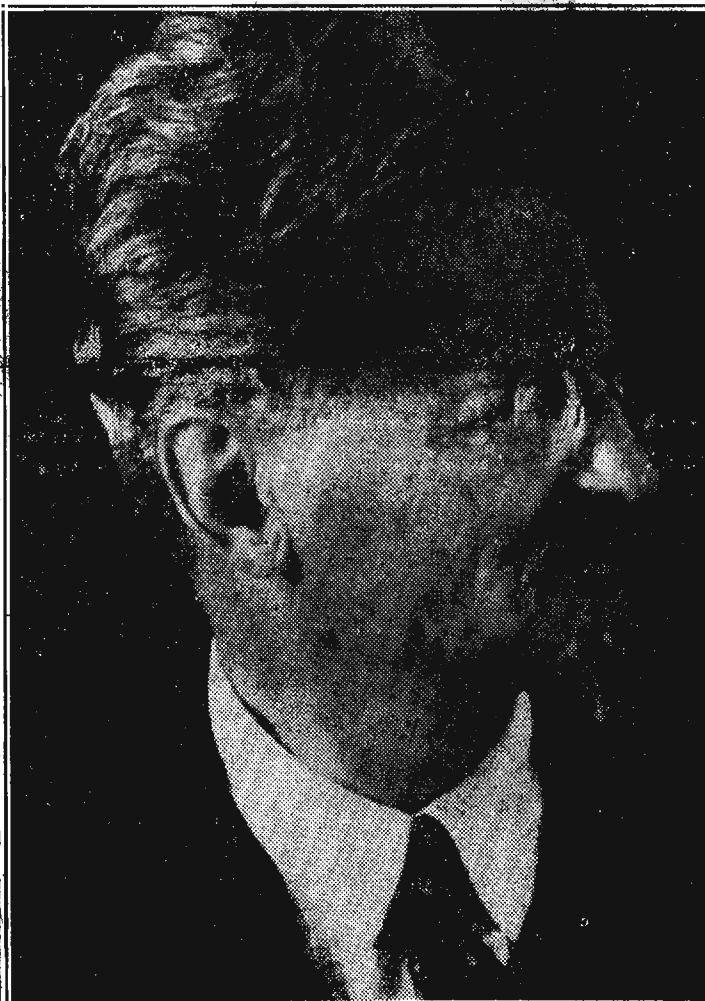
Col. Leandro Sanchez Salazar, chief of the detective bureau, told reporters yesterday that he is convinced the assassin's real name is Monrod, that he is a Belgian, and that he came to this continent as an agent of the GPU, the Stalinist secret police.

General Jose Nunez, Mexico's chief of police, also said yesterday:

"We are working on the theory that Monrod had accomplices and we are making a minute investigation."

(Continued on page 3)

Leon Trotsky 1879-1940



Just after he was attacked on the evening of August 20, Trotsky said:

"I will not survive this attack. Stalin has finally accomplished the task he attempted unsuccessfully before."

Later at the hospital, just before he lapsed into the coma from which he never revived, Trotsky called Joseph Hansen to his bedside and dictated his final message:

"I am close to death from the blow of a political assassin . . . Please say to our friends I am sure of the victory of the Fourth International. Go forward."

The Socialist Workers Party is planning to hold the funeral of Leon Trotsky in New York City.

"We plan to hold the funeral here," James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the party announced, "to give the working class of New York an opportunity to show their reverence for the memory of this great leader and their hatred and contempt for Stalinism, the gangster machine that murdered him".

Arrangements for the funeral are still in process as we go to press.

Fight Now As Never Before, Comrades!

Statement Of The National Committee

Leon Trotsky, organizer of the Russian Revolution and its true representative, has finally been done to death by Stalin, the betrayer of the Revolution and the mass murderer of the whole heroic generation that made it.

Trotsky was murdered in cold blood by an agent of the Kremlin-Borgia. With his last words Trotsky accused Stalin of the crime, and the whole civilized world proclaims him guilty. To all his unspeakable murders and betrayals Stalin has now added the crowning infamy, the assassination of Trotsky.

STALIN'S HORRIBLE MOTIVE CLEAR

The motive of the murder is as clear as the guilt of the murderer: insatiable hatred of the man whose truth and loyalty to the cause of the workers contrasted so sharply to Stalin's own falsifications and treachery; mad thirst for revenge against the fearless and incorruptible fighter who had exposed and pilloried Stalin before the world; ruthless determination to silence the voice of his accuser on the eve of new abominations and betrayals of the working class of Russia and of the world.

Unable to refute the penetrating analyses of Trotsky, or to answer his devastating criticism, Stalin in desperation finally drove a pick-axe through his brain. In the incredibly horrible manner of the murder itself there is contained a deep symbol of its meaning and its motives: *he struck at Trotsky's brain!*

Stalin has struck a terrible blow at the whole movement for the liberation of humanity. The heaviest disaster that has befallen the workers and all the oppressed, in this time of world calamity, is this destruction of its strongest heart, its greatest brain. The vanguard of progressive humanity is deprived forever of Trotsky's indefatigable labor, his incorruptible devotion. Lost is his wise counsel, the inspiration of his dauntless courage.

TROTSKY'S IDEAS ENDURE AND WILL PREVAIL

But the great fruit of Trotsky's more than forty years of dauntless work and struggle remains imperishable. For Trotsky, who stands on a historical eminence by the side of Marx and Lenin, worked like them not for a day, but for eternity. The richest products of his

genius are preserved in his writings. They constitute both a faultless analysis of the decay of capitalism and a clear program of struggle for the socialist future of humanity.

Armed with these weapons the oppressed of all the world will arise out of the bloody welter of the present society and fight their way to freedom. They have been deprived of the physical presence of Trotsky. But no power on earth can destroy the mighty inheritance he has left behind—the gift of his incomparable genius to the cause of humanity.

Trotsky, conscious that the ring of assassination was drawing ever closer around him, worked indefatigably up to the last hour to add to this inheritance. The last big product of his labor was the Manifesto of the Fourth International on the War and the Proletarian Revolution. This Manifesto constitutes the program and the banner of the impending revolution against the civilization-devouring war and the decaying social system that produced it. No Stalin, no Hitler can destroy that program!

NOT ONLY LEADER BUT ARCHITECT OF REVOLUTION

Comrade Trotsky was not only the teacher of the vanguard of the proletariat. He was also its organizer. He was the architect of the Fourth International, the new international association of revolutionary workers. It is arising on firm foundations in all countries of the world. The Fourth International will be the greatest monument to the memory of Trotsky. It will be the instrument for the final realization of the aim to which he devoted his entire life—the liberation of all humanity from slavery, exploitation and war.

We, his disciples, are overcome with grief at the loss of our beloved teacher, comrade and friend. But we shall not give way to this grief. We shall transmute it into fighting energy. Comrade Trotsky's last testament shall not be forgotten: "Please say to our friends—I am sure of the victory of the Fourth International. Go forward!"

Today we stand with clenched fists at the grave of our martyred leader. Tomorrow we take up the forward march with firmer determination and greater energy. Trotsky is dead! But the party of Trotskyism will live and conquer!

Leon Trotsky Memorial Meeting

Wednesday, August 28, 1940

8:00 P. M.

Hotel Diplomat 108 W. 43rd St., N. Y. C.

Hear Trotsky's last recorded speech.

SPEAKERS

James P. Cannon, Farrell Dobbs, Antoinette Konikow, Murry Weiss,

Leon Trotsky Lives On In Our Program; Ours Is Now The Task To Fight For Its Realization

Death Follows Brutal Attack

Assassin Says "They" Had Threatened To Kill His Mother If He Failed

(Continued from Page 1)

After reporting Monrod's first alibi, that the attack came in the midst of a political quarrel, Nunez dismissed it by saying: "He premeditated the attack on Trotsky, for he went to Trotsky's home with the pick concealed under his raincoat and also carrying a revolver and a poniard (dagger)."

Other Methods Failed

Stalin's GPU undoubtedly resorted to the desperate device of compelling one of its creatures to kill Trotsky without much chance of the assailant escaping, when it became clear that a repetition of the May 24 attempt could not succeed. All weak chinks in the fortifications of the house had been taken care of since May 24. Even an army could succeed only by laying long siege. Hence the method used by Monrod.

The limitless power of the GPU over its creatures was indicated when the assassin cried out, as the guards seized him after the attack:

"They made me do it. Otherwise they would have killed my mother."

No amount of questioning afterward would get him to reveal the whereabouts of his mother. He had recovered his poise and proceeded to act out the part assigned him by the GPU.

To justify Stalin's crime, he had been instructed to say that he "broke with Trotsky" when the latter asked him to go to Russia to commit "acts of sabotage." A thoroughly preposterous alibi, for every person with the slightest understanding of Marxist politics knows that such methods are alien to Trotsky and the Fourth International. But Stalin's arsenal is reduced to such flimsy arguments—and to the assassin's weapon.

Was Long Prepared

Undoubtedly but one of many plots simultaneously being carried forward by the GPU against Trotsky's life, this one had been even longer in preparation than the May 24 attempt. In the latter, participants confessed, direct preparations began some five months before the attempt. In the final attempt, preparations began as long as two years ago.

It was then that Jacques Monrod managed an introduction in Paris to some Americans visiting there who had connections with the Trotskyist movement. He played the oldest game of all: pretended attachment to a girl. He followed her to the United States, arriving here shortly after the outbreak of the war. He himself was careful not to come in direct contact in the United States with the organized Trotskyist movement. He reserved all his chances of escaping detection for one try in Mexico.

There, through his American wife, he secured the opportunity to become acquainted with the Trotsky household by occasional visits. Undoubtedly the information he gathered made easier the work of the assassins' band of May 24. When that failed Monrod was compelled by his superiors in the GPU to do the job himself.

Came With Weapons

With his weapons concealed under his clothes, he went to the house Tuesday at about 5:30 p.m. He met Trotsky in the patio near the chicken yard, where he told Trotsky he had written an article on which he wished advice.

Trotsky then invited Jackson into his study but without previously notifying his secretaries. The first indication of something wrong was the sound of terrible cries and a violent struggle in Trotsky's study. The two secretary-guards who were closest immediately left their posts and rushed to the dining room next to Trotsky's study.

Here they met Trotsky coming from his study with blood streaming from his face. One of the guards—Joe Hansen—immediately overpowered the assassin, felling him with a blow. The other, Harold Robbins, helped Trotsky to recline on the floor of the dining room.

Apparently the assassin had hoped that Trotsky would drop unconscious under the first blow from behind with the pick-axe. Instead Trotsky had struggled as he received repeated blows on his head and throat.

Trotsky thought that first blow had been a bullet. As he lay on the floor he told Joe Hansen: "Jackson shot me with a revolver. I am seriously wounded. I feel that this time it is the end."

Joe Hansen tried to convince him that it was only a surface wound and that it could not have been a revolver. Trotsky would not be convinced. "No," he told Joe. "I feel here (pointing to his heart) that this time they succeeded."

His Final Concern

But not on that fact did Trotsky dwell in those last minutes of consciousness left to him. Not on Stalin's success in murdering him, but on what must now be done by those whom he called upon to carry on the banner of the Fourth International.

At the hospital he asked Joe Hansen if he had a notebook so that he could jot down precisely a declaration. Two things were in it. The indictment: "I am close to death from the blow of a political assassin." And the conclusion: "Please say to our friends—I am sure of the victory of the Fourth International. Go forward!"

That was just before he lost consciousness. When he did, he never regained it. Thereby his declaration became his last words.

We can be sure that he would have wished it that way. If there were to be no more words, then let the last ones be the words of a fighter exhorting those who come after to continue the fight. For that was Leon Trotsky.

Farewell, Leon Trotsky

There are no words in which we can say our farewell to Leon Trotsky, man and revolutionist.

But we reproduce here the words Trotsky found to say on the day he learned of the death of Lenin in 1924, a day of loss equalled in irreplaceability only by the day the terrible words: "Trotsky is dead" crashed in their turn upon us.

The names of Lenin and Trotsky are inseparably associated in the history of the great October Revolution. Today the words of farewell penned by the one are the words of our farewell to the other.

"Lenin is no more." These words crashed upon our intelligence like a gigantic rock falling into the sea. How can we believe it, how can we admit it? The mind of the workers of the whole world will refuse to accept this fact, for their enemies are powerful and dangerous, the road before them long and painful, the task they have undertaken immense—the greatest that history has ever known, and not yet completed. Lenin is necessary to the working classes of the world as perhaps never in the history of humanity has a man been necessary.

The second phase of his illness, more serious than the first, had lasted for ten months. In the bitter expression of the doctors, the organs of circulation were "playing" all the time. It was a terrible game, with the life of Ilyich as plaything. We had reason to expect an improvement, and even complete restoration, as much as we could a catastrophe. All of us were expecting recovery, but it was the catastrophe which supervened. The nerve centers controlling his respiration refused to serve any longer and extinguished the flame of that titanic thought.

And now Ilyich is no more. The party is an orphan. The working class is an orphan. That is what one feels before everything else, on learning of the death of him who was our teacher and our guide. How can we go forward along our path, com-

rades? Shall we not wander now that Lenin is no longer with us? No. Leninism remains. Lenin is immortal in his doctrine, his work, his method, his example which live in us, which live in the party he created, and in the first workers state of which he was the head and the helmsman.

Our grief is as immense as our loss; but let us lend a thanks to history for allowing us to be born as contemporaries of Lenin and permitting us to work by his side and be his disciples. Our party is Leninism in action; our party is the collective guide of the workers; everyone of us contains something in him of Lenin. How shall we march forward in our path? With the light of Leninism in our hand. Shall we find the true road? By collective thought and the collective will we shall find it.

Tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, next week, in a month's time, we shall still be saying to ourselves that it is impossible that Lenin is no more. Yes, his death will for long still seem to us unbelievable, inadmissible, monstrous, arbitrary, unnatural. Let the wound which opened in the heart of everyone of us, at the memory of the great man who has disappeared, recall constantly to us that our responsibility has been doubled, let us be worthy of him who taught us. In our mourning let us close our ranks and hearts for new combats. Comrades, Lenin is no longer with us. Farewell, Ilyich. Farewell, leader.

The Biography Of Trotsky Is Part Of World History

The life of Leon Trotsky is written into the history of nearly 50 years filled with world-transforming events. The story of his life is part and parcel of the story of the three Russian revolutions in 1905 and 1917 and of the tremendous events that have since taken place.

Around the life of this titanic figure in the history of man's struggle for liberation, Stalin and his journalistic and professional hacks tried with total lack of success to weave a web of lies and falsifications. The living Trotsky towered ever far above his miserable would-be traducers. The Trotsky who has now entered into memory as well as into history will tower still higher as the heavy pressure of events bring home to greater and greater masses everywhere the revolutionary lessons of which he was so great a teacher.

Lenin's Summary

A succinct summary of Trotsky's political biography appeared as a note to the first edition of Lenin's Collected Works, in Volume XIV, part 2, pp. 481-482, published by the State Publishing House in Moscow in 1921. Here in these few lines, edited under the sharp eye of Lenin himself, were the answers to all the lies and falsifications concocted in later years by the usurpers and betrayers of the revolution.

"L. D. Trotsky, born 1881 (1879), active in the workers' circles in the city of Nikolayev; in 1898 exiled to Siberia; soon after escaped abroad and participated in the Iskra. Delegate from the Siberian League at the Second Congress of the Party. After the

split in the Party, adhered to the Mensheviks. Even prior to the revolution, in 1905, he advanced his own and today particularly noteworthy theory of the permanent revolution, in which he asserted that the bourgeois revolution of 1905 must pass directly into the socialist revolution, being the first of the national revolutions; he defended his theory in the newspaper Nachalo, the central organ of the Menshevik faction published during November-December, 1905, in Petersburg. After the arrest of Khrustalov-Nussar, he was elected Chairman of the First Petersburg Soviet of Workers' Deputies. Arrested together with the Executive Committee on December 3, 1905, he was sent into life exile to Otdorsk, but escaped en route and emigrated abroad.

Joins Bolsheviks

"Trotsky chose Vienna to live in, and there he issued a popular labor newspaper, Pravda, to be circulated in Russia. He broke with the Mensheviks and attempted to form a group outside of all factions; however, during the factional struggle abroad he made a block with the Mensheviks and the Vyperod group against the block between Lenin and Plekhanov who fought the liquidators. From the very beginning of the imperialist war he took a clear-cut internationalist position, participated in the publication of Nashe Slovo, in Paris, and adhered to Zimmerwald.

"Deported from France, he went to the United States. On his return from there after the February Revolution, he was arrested by the government of Ker-

ensky and indicted for 'leading the insurrection', but was shortly freed through pressure from the Petersburg proletariat. After the Petersburg Soviet went over to the Bolsheviks, he was elected Chairman and in this capacity he organized and led the insurrection of October 25. Standing member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union since 1917; member of the Council of People's Commissars; Commissar of Foreign Affairs up to the signing of the Brest Treaty, then People's Commissar of War."

As Commissar of War, Trotsky organized and led the Red Army to victory in the Civil War, 1918-22. He formed the Left Opposition to fight Stalin in 1923. He was expelled from the party by Stalin in 1927 and exiled to Alma Ata in 1928 and to Turkey in 1929. Then his odyssey led him to France in 1933, to Norway in 1935, and to Mexico in 1936. And in Mexico, in 1940, Stalin's assassin's finally took his life.

Trotsky's Last Work
MANIFESTO OF THE
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL
on the
IMPERIALIST WAR
and the
PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION
48 pages 5 cents per copy
Order from
PIONEER PUBLISHERS
116 University Place
New York City



Leon Trotsky and his lifelong comrade and companion, Natalia Sedov Trotsky

Stalin's Murders Form Long Roll Now

With the murder of Trotsky, Joseph Stalin has completed his program for the systematic extermination of the entire group of leading figures who, with and around Lenin, stood at the head of the Bolshevik Party at the time of the 1917 revolution in Russia. Trotsky was the last survivor, except for Stalin, of the Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party elected in the year of the revolution. All the others were either murdered or otherwise put out of the way by Stalin and the monstrous machine of the G.P.U.—secret police—upon which he built his power.

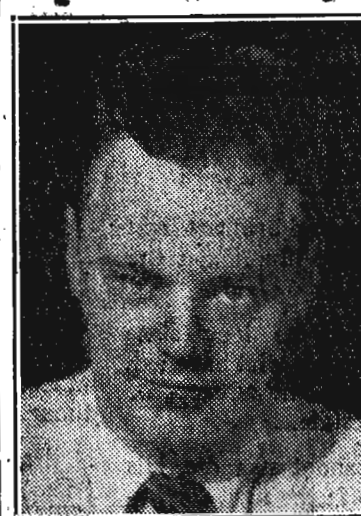
Murder Trials

In a series of fantastic trials staged in August 1936, January 1937, and March 1938, Stalin "legalized" his murder of the most prominent of Lenin's collaborators, among them Gregory Zinoviev, Nikolai Bukharin, L. B. Kamenev, Rykov, Pyatakov, and Christian Rakovsky. Simultaneously in continuous purges the details of which were rarely made public, Stalin disposed of scores of thousands of the best militants of the revolutionary generation of the Bolshevik Party. In addition unknown thousands of his own minions whom he feared were added to the list of those struck down. The entire general staff of the Red Army and Navy, the entire industrial and trade administration of the Soviet State, the governments of the various Soviet Republics, and literally thousands of officers and officials were swept into the darkness of GPU dungeons, never again to emerge.

Stalin had made the "mistake" of permitting Trotsky himself to leave the country in 1928. In the years before Stalin's assassins finally reached the exiled leader, Stalin satisfied his vengeful lust by hounding the members of Trotsky's family to their deaths, one after another.

Family Destroyed

Trotsky's daughter, Nina, denied medical care, died of tuberculosis in Moscow in June, 1928. Her sister Zinaida was driven by persecution of her father and herself to take her own life in Berlin in January, 1933. Their brother Sergei, who shunned politics and contented himself with the life of a scientific worker, was arrested by Stalin in 1937, accused of poisoning workers wholesale,



LEON SEDOV

and disappeared. Trotsky's last son, Leon Sedov, his friend and co-worker, died suddenly in a Paris hospital on Feb. 15, 1938, under suspicious circumstances which pointed to the GPU. The French police, under GPU pressure, refused to investigate. Trotsky himself was hounded out of refuge in France and again out of Norway under the open and public pressure of the Kremlin on those two countries. In Mexico, Trotsky's political hirelings tried to force his expulsion again but failed. His gunmen therefore took up the pursuit. On May 24 this year a band of Stalin's gunmen stormed the Trotsky home and sprayed his bedroom with machine gun bullets. He and his companion Nathalia escaped as by a miracle.

Trotsky predicted a new attempt would soon come and despite all the precautions it did come with the fatal results we know. Only Nathalia is left now for Stalin's assassins to seek out.

Other Murders

Stalin's use of hired assassins has not been by any means confined to Trotsky alone. Outside of the Soviet Union during the last four years Stalin's GPU has carried out a whole series of political murders and kidnappings of revolutionary militants of the Fourth International and of other sections of the labor movement which opposed the designs of Stalin. In Spain Stalin's GPU gunmen fastened themselves like leeches to the struggling body of the Spanish revolution and drew the blood

of its best militants.

The names of Berneri and Barbieri, anarchists, Andres Nin, of the POUM, Marc Rein, son of the Second International leader Abramovich, Kurt Landau, Austrian militant, adorn this roster. Moulin, leader of the Spanish Fourth Internationalists, was done away with in 1937. Irwin Wolf, former secretary to Trotsky, was kidnapped in Barcelona in September, that same year, and has never been heard from since.

Reiss and Klement. In 1937 Ignace Reiss, a GPU foreign agent, broke with Stalin, reaffirmed his devotion to the workers' revolution, and solidarized with the Fourth International. On Sept. 4, 1937, his bullet-riddled body was thrown from a car near Lausanne, Switzerland. Swiss and French police later established the guilt of known GPU assassins, one of whom, Rossi, later went to Mexico.

August Klement, secretary of the Fourth International, was kidnapped in Paris on July 13, 1938. Two weeks later his headless and legless body was fished from the Seine.

To this list Stalin in May this year added the name of Sheldon Harte, the young guard brutally murdered at the time of the unsuccessful assault on Trotsky's home. And now, his crowning achievement, the name of Trotsky himself.

But all the blood shed by this super-Mafia has not succeeded and will not succeed in exorcising the specter that still haunts the Kremlin and the cowering dictator who lives there. He has done away with Trotsky. He cannot do away with Trotskyism.

DRAFTED MEN KEEP SENIORITY UNDER NEW CONTRACT

ST. PAUL, Minn.—Warehouse Employees Union members will retain their seniority standing and receive leaves of absence from their jobs for the duration of their military service, it was established in a rider which the union insisted on adding to the general contract just signed with the employers' committee.

The union, an affiliate of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, recognized that during the last war the returning soldiers were thrown into the streets jobless, and this time they are determined that they will have jobs when they get back.

The union has gone on record several times against the war, calling it a commercial and economic one, and calling on the workers everywhere to fight against the war because it does not benefit the workers. By adding this rider to the contract, the union does not sanction the war. It simply recognizes that the war may soon involve the American workers, and the workers should be protected as best possible.

Advertisement

WANTED—Living room, bedroom furniture. See J. Lerner, N. Y. City office.

Join the Socialist Workers Party



Trotsky with Lenin and Kamenev in the Days of the Civil War



Trotsky addressing the Third Congress of the Comintern

