

SPECIAL DEFENSE ISSUE

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UNITE!



Organ of the Revolutionary Workers League of the U. S.

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Stop The Loyalist Murders Of Revolutionists In Spain

United Front For Negrete Started in Chicago

The Chicago Provisional Committee for the Defense of Negrete is calling for the defense of Negrete a United Front of all organizations to carry through the defense and work for the freedom of the latest American worker class war prisoner in Spain.

All workers organizations will be notified.

THE NEGRETE DEFENSE COMMITTEE (Provisional)

MARXIAN LABOR COLLEGE
INDUSTRIAL UNION PARTY
FRIENDS OF WORKERS SPAIN
YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE
Revolutionary Workers League.

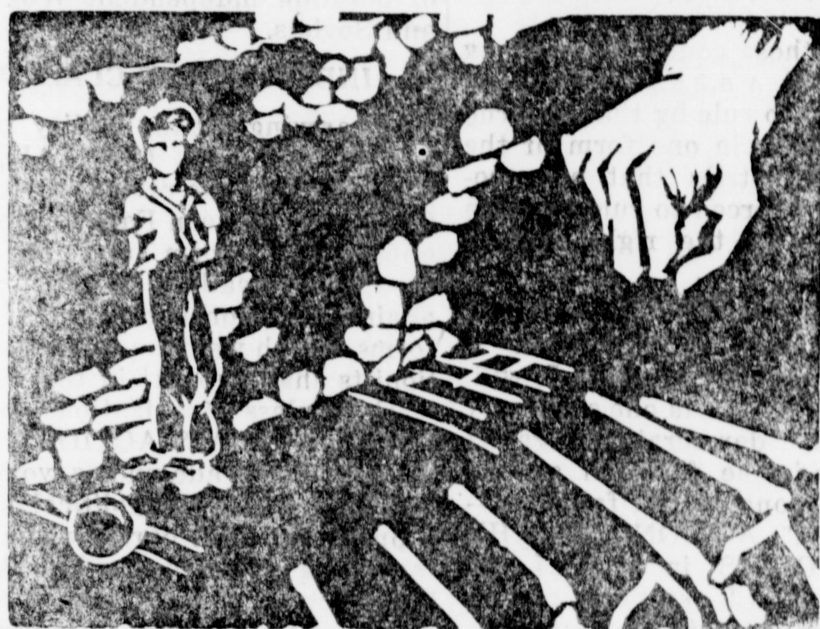
Y.W.L. Members Arrested

Comrades Jensen and Wilkman, members of the Young Workers League, were arrested in Chicago for pasting up anti-Roosevelt posters, opposing the preparations for the imperialist war. The town is still littered with Democrat and Republican primary posters, but the workers are not allowed to paste up small hand stickers.

The comrades have been released on bail and their trial is set for the early part of July. We are in urgent need of funds to handle this case, which will be handled in court by Attorney Heisler of the Workers Defense League.

Send all contributions to the. Jensen Wilkman Defense Committee. 2159 West Division Street. Chicago, Ill.

For Workers Control of Production FOR A WORKERS COUNCIL GOVERNMENT



Rosalio Negrete Arrested In Madrid

Chi, July 3 — Rosalio Negrete, well known American revolutionist, has been arrested by the Loyalist Government and is now in prison in Madrid, together with hundreds of other revolutionary and militant workers. Comrade Negrete will be remembered as a co-worker with Hugo Oehler, national secretary of the Revolutionary Workers League, during comrade Oehler's stay in Spain last year.

Negrete's arrest occurs in the midst of a new Loyalist hysteria, making his situation even more critical. The lives of left-Anarchist workers, Proudhon members, of all who dared to criticize the regime, are in the hands of the murderous GPU forces which recently have been enormously increased and commissioned to drown in blood the remnants of the workers' revolution.

WORKERS DRIVEN BACK

While the better equipped Franco forces, with supplies pouring in from Hitler and Mussolini, advanced steadily against the most heroic resistance of the workers and peasants deserted by their "allies", behind the lines in Loyalist Spain the People's Front Government has been moving consistently to the right, liquidating all the remnants of that first period of embryonic dual power of July 1936. The workers militias have been absorbed into the capitalist army, the soviets are dissolved, and iron clad dictatorship is clamped down against the working class by the Loyalists.

TAKE BACK FACTORIES

Recent decrees of the Barcelona government have taken back the management of the factories confiscated by the workers from the bourgeoisie at the beginning of the war. Hunger, long daily queues of

women and children for bread and supplies, terror and persecution of dissident elements, GPU importations, — intolerable conditions are being forced upon the working class. The middle and upper classes are being restored to their former wealth by the British-French imperialist bloc operating through their puppet, the Loyalist government. All the greater is the treachery of the Stalinists and the others that support this combination against the working class.

So great has been the vitality and reservoir of strength of the proletarian masses that two years were required to reach this point — two years of blows by the People's Front against the workers, at first subtle and indirect, now more and more open. By liquidating the soviets and workers control of the factories, the workers militias and Anti Fascist Councils, the People's Front government has been in reality liquidating the only force that can fight fascism the proletariat and its peasant allies.

FEAR WORKERS REVOLUTION

To really fight Franco it would have been necessary to release the tremendous social force of the proletariat in motion. But the Loyalists knew that once released the working class would sweep on to smash not only Franco but the Loyalists as well. Rather than see the workers take over the factories, warehouses and wealth, the Loyalists would hand them over to Franco. Fearing a worker revolution more than a Fascist victory, the Loyalist government has been forced to smash its proletarian support, and to thereby lay the basis for fascism to win. This has been the role of the Peoples Front from the beginning.

(Continued on page 3)

Scottsboro Boy Faces Death

The "democratic" courts of Mr. Roosevelt's "democratic" South specifically in the State of Alabama — have again confirmed the death sentence against Clarence Norris, and the long prison terms against Andy Wright and Charlie Weems, Scottsboro Negroes framed on the usual charges of rape many years ago. Unless mass protest rescues these innocent boys, Norris is to die on August 19th.

After years of struggle for the release of the Scottsboro Boys — nine in all — the Communist Party which almost a decade ago took the case from the obscurity of Alabama "justice" and made it into a national by-word of persecution of the negro people, has made a quiet horse-trade with the Alabama bosses by which four of the boys were freed in return for virtually ending the campaign for their freedom.

The charge of rape has been denied by one of the two women involved in the frame-up by Alabama "Democracy". In addition the vast amount of mulattos in the United States is silent testimony to the actual rape of literally hundreds of thousands of negro women in the South and elsewhere by the rich plantation owners and factory owners. Few if any have ever brought the white boss rapists to court. But there have been dozens and dozens of frame-ups (and lynchings) of negro workers on this charge.

The defense of the Scottsboro boys is a defense of the Democratic Rights fought for and gained in years of struggle by the American Working class against the "powers that be." To permit the frame up of these boys is to lay the base for further frame-ups of union organizers, strikers, etc.

Send protests immediately to the Alabama authorities. Organize meetings and demonstrations wherever possible. Demand from your union that it work to organize a national one day protest general strike for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys, Tom Mooney and all class war prisoners in the United States. Organize United Front Committees of unions and all other worker organizations for the Scottsboro Defense.

SEND FUNDS FOR SPAIN TO FREE ROSALIO NEGRETE

Stamm Group Suppresses News of Negrete Arrest

Information of comrade Negrete's arrest has been known to the Stamm "Revolt" group and has been suppressed by them for almost two months!

Comrade Negrete, not knowing of the expulsion of this petty bourgeois clique from the Revolutionary Workers League, has continued sending his mail to NY.

Early in May information reached the League of a letter in the hands of the Stammites since April of Negrete's arrest. Our attempts to verify this report in order to open an immediate defense campaign received the vicious reply that "Negrete is in a serious situation... we will handle the case". Requests for copies of letters were met with vituperation. League members sent to point out the urgency of the situation were physically ejected from the Stamm headquarters. Higher than the interests of the class, more important than the life of a revolutionist, stood Stamm's factional interests! But the Stammites themselves, having the information, did not launch a campaign!

CLASS COLLABORATION

Two months later, in June, a second letter from Negrete; a desperate plea for help. Two months of nothing done! Invaluable months with not a word said to the class!

Now the Stammites "acted". They approached the State Department, asking its intervention and aid. **Nothing to the class.** Their June 25 issue of the "Revolt" says **NOT ONE WORD** on Negrete!

The Stammite line for over two months has been to conduct a legal defense, to reject a campaign to mobilize the working class in support and defense of this class war prisoner. Instead of a broad united front of working class organizations, they counterpose a committee of individuals and place the struggle to free a revolutionary worker in the hands of liberals, petty bourgeois sympathizers, and "prominent individuals". Legal defense, securing the support of liberals and sympathizers is a necessary auxiliary. But to confine the struggle only to this means to practise class collaborationism. We can only hope that the criminal sabotage in suppressing this vital information does not prove fatal. We must make up for it now try an intensified campaign.

Comrade Negrete will be freed, not by kow-towing to the State Department who would like nothing better, but by militant working class pressure on an international scale, demanding "Hands off the revolutionists in Spain". "Stop the drive against Spanish working class."

FREE ROSALIO NEGRETE

• • •

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2159 W. DIVISION STREET CHICAGO, ILL.

HOW TO FIGHT FASCISM

THE STRUGGLE AGAINST FASCISM

The war in Spain provides one of the latest and most important examples from which to draw the class lessons on how to fight fascism. It has now been proven time and again that the support of the "democratic" bourgeoisie paves the way for Fascism. This seeming contradiction can easily be explained.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DECAY

Developing capitalism carried with it the political counterpart of Bourgeois Democracy. But the present period of decay capitalism with its contraction of the productive forces brings to the surface latent political counterparts in the form of open dictatorships, fascism etc. Dictatorships in decay capitalism are necessary capitalist steps to save the tottering structure against the proletarian revolution and to enable that national capitalist class to reorganize internally to more ably struggle on the international market in competition and for imperialist war.

In other words those countries in decay capitalism that still retain economic strength can afford to rule by the left arm, "democratic" methods in one form or the other. And those countries that are economically weak are forced to rule by open dictatorship, that is by the right arm of capitalism.

THE THIRD FORCE

This does not mean the situation is hopeless and Fascism is sure to win. It will, if the working class supports one section of the capitalists, the "democratic" against the fascists. There is one force in society a hundred times stronger than fascism — the **INDEPENDENT ACTION OF THE WORKING CLASS** in the **CLASS STRUGGLE** against ALL sections of the capitalists. That is the third force in this present day struggle — or more exactly it is a struggle of the working class against two sections of the exploiters ("democratic" and Fascist.)

DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND WORKERS DEMOCRACY.

This struggle of the working class against the right and left arm of the exploiters is not a new struggle. It is as old as capitalism. Take for example the United States where we never had a state in the open dictatorship form and always had **DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS**. Every gain the working class and oppressed masses have obtained in the United States from the revolutionary war up to date has been obtained by **THE CLASS STRUGGLE OF THE WORKING CLASS AGAINST THE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS OF CAPITALISM**. Support of the democratic institutions, class collaboration, obtained the workers nothing. The struggle for free schools was obtained by struggle against the democratic institutions. The right to the working class press, assemblage and free speech has been obtained by struggle against the democratic institutions. The right to organize, strike and picket has been obtained by class struggle against the democratic institutions. And even today after a hundred years of this struggle we still don't have these rights under the bosses "democratic" institutions. We have to continue the class struggle each day and will really only have these **WORKERS RIGHTS** (Workers Democracy) when we overthrow capitalism and establish a **WORKERS COUNCIL GOVERNMENT**.

In the struggle between the right arm (Fascism) and the left arm (Peoples Front) of the exploiters the proletariat can not support either. Rather it must carry out the opposite strategy of fighting both sections of CAPITALISM. The strategy is to utilize the friction between the exploiters. To utilize the friction is not to support one against the other; rather it is to march separately and strike together. March separate (from the group of exploiters that is not the **IMMEDIATE OPEN DANGER**) and strike together (against the group of exploiters who are the immediate danger) the Fascists. This is a tactic which Lenin exploited successfully for the Bolshevik Revolution. But at all times this tactic falls within the **FRAMEWORK** of the **INDEPENDENT ACTION OF THE WORKING CLASS** of the line of no support to the "democratic" bourgeois State, of the political and organizational independence of the revolutionary Marxian organization, of building independent Workers Militias and Soviets.

INDEPENDENT CLASS ACTION

In carrying out the policy of **NO SUPPORT TO ANY CAPITALIST STATE**, what shall be the revolutionists policy in a Civil War between Fascism and those who oppose it? Fascism and the democratic bourgeoisie really make their main drive against the working class but in different forms, which we cannot ignore. The revolutionists shall support in this struggle all working class organizations (non-political) that are in **CLASS ACTION** against the exploiters, ie trade unions workers militias, soviets, etc. On the political field Marxists support only that party within the country that has a revolutionary Marxian program. Where no such party exists the Marxists in other countries direct their aid to building such an organization. At no time can Marxists support Centrist and Reformist political organizations any more than they can support "democratic" States in the form of a Labor government, etc.

FASCISM CAN BE DEFEATED ONLY BY OVERTHROWING CAPITALISM. Fascism is only a form of bourgeois rule to save capitalism from the proletarian revolution. To support capitalism through the **PEOPLES FRONT** form is to pave the way for the Fascist form of capitalist rule.

In those countries where there is not yet fascism but where it is beginning to raise its head the workers must unite, must organize their own Workers Defense Corps and **SMASH FASCISM** by their own class action.

For Workers' Rule, The Only Way To End War!

RUSH FUNDS

Save Spanish Revolutionists

Enclosed please find \$....., my contribution to the defense of Rosalio Negrete and other class-war prisoners held by the Loyalist Government in Spain.

Address all funds to:

Provisional Negrete Defense Committee
2159 W. Division Str.
Chicago, Illinois.

Fifth Plenum Maps Negrete Fight

The fifth plenum of the central Committee of the Revolutionary Workers League held in Chicago, July 2nd, 3rd, and 4th took up as one of its major points the class-struggle defense of Comrade Negrete. Other points included the programmatic draft of the organization, trade union, and organizational. Further reports will be published in the next issue, and in the "Fourth international."

Chicago Meetings STREET MEETINGS

Sunday — 3 P. M.
WASHINGTON PARK FORUM
57th Street
A few blocks west of Cottage

Sunday — 8 P. M.
CORNER OF ROOSEVELT AND SPAULDING

Thursday — 8 P. M.
NEWBERRY SQUARE. CLARKE AND WALTON

Friday 8 P. M.
CORNER NORTH AND FAIRFIED.

Cleveland
PUBLIC SQUARE.

NEGRETE DEFENSE STREET MEETINGS EVERY EVENING

PROTEST MEETINGS HELD

Negrete Defense meetings have already been held in Chicago and Washington. Others are being planned in Philadelphia, Cleveland and other cities.

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Defend Rosalio Negrete

(Continued from page 1)

The early victories against Fascism were made by the worker soldiers in spite of the Peoples Front leadership; to the extent the Peoples Front took over the struggle against fascism it was choked.

Through bitter experience, at the cost of thousands of lives and untold suffering, the masses of Spain are learning that the Peoples Front paves the way for Fascism.

The struggle in Spain is a struggle of the working class against capitalism, but criss crossing with this is the struggle of Britain and France against Italy and Germany. Britain for her greater European interests, is desperately trying to keep the Spanish struggle localized. Together with France, and supported by Stalinism, Chamberlain has advanced his Non-Intervention plan, to embargo shipments of munitions and supplies into all Spain, and to evacuate all foreigners. This plan, far from being a "Soviet-Loyalist victory" as announced in the Stalinist press, is a guarantee if carried out, of an early Fascist victory or a "compromise" at the expense of the working class.

MISLEADERS PREPARING ESCAPE

The Loyalists, acting in their own class interests and in interests of their imperialist masters, have undermined the struggle, crushed down the social base for a struggle against fascism and capitalism, and have set the stage for some such "solution" to the war, or even for a possible complete defeat.

The misleaders at the top in the workers organizations and in the government, as well as the landowners and bosses in Loyalist Spain are preparing their escapes from the brutal terror and bloody vengeance which would inevitably follow a Franco victory. But for the masses there will be no escape.

LOSING FAITH IN LOYALISTS

Betrayed by its leadership, confronted with the terror of the Stalinist G P U machine, the Spanish working class is still a tremendous power. It has not yet been completely crushed. Its salvation lies in awakening to its own class needs, in independent working class action, in re-establishing the workers militias, soviets, expropriating the bourgeoisie, opening the warehouses, proclaiming the right of self-determination to the national minorities, expropriating the big landowners, freeing the peasant from his crushing burdens, etc.

To speed this awakening is the task of that handful of worker militants who see these needs and agitate for them, who are struggling to establish a new revolutionary party that can crystallize the working class around its own aims and demands for a victorious struggle against both Fascist and Loyalist Spain.

It is for this reason that the Negrin government has seized these militant workers and comrade Negrete. They represent the forces of working class independent action, they are the front line fighters in the class war, they represent a danger to the whole long two years work of the Peoples Front and their Anarchist and POUMist supporters in undermining the class solidarity and class independence of the proletarian masses.

ARREST IS BLOW AGAINST WORKING CLASS

The arrest of comrade Negrete, the persecution of revolutionists, is an attack against the entire working class, a blow at

workers democratic rights. It is an attempt to stamp out and crush all elements of the proletarian revolution. If the Loyalists succeed here, it will prepare the way for new blows to come.

LAUNCH PROTEST CAMPAIGN

The world working class must come to the defense of their Spanish brothers. The RWL has launched a broad campaign to free Negrete and all class war prisoners in Spain. Only the mobilization of working class power can save the lives of these workers.

NEED UNITED FRONT

A national call for a united front of defense on a class struggle basis is being sent out. Every organization is urged to respond immediately. A provisional defense committee — to organize a united front — has been established.

SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN

Join in the fight to free Negrete; a fight to defend the democratic rights of the workers in Spain; a fight to save the proletarian revolution from its executioners.

NEED FUNDS

The Provisional Negrete Defense Committee faces a tremendous task of defending a worker revolutionary jailed in a civil war in another country, facing death with his comrades from other lands. To carry on the defense, funds are needed for wires, cables, national and international communications, circulars, releases, meetings, etc. The Committee has issued an urgent appeal for funds. It asks that members, sympathizers, friends, supporters of workers democratic rights — all try to raise and rush in whatever funds they can to help put the campaign across.

Protest To Spanish Loyalists

The printed protests and requests for intervention sent to the Spanish Ambassador in Washington and the Secretary of State, respectively, by workers who sympathize with the efforts to defend class war prisoners, are reproduced below. All comrades are urged to purchase these cards. Cost is one half penny a piece, from the Provisional Negrete Defense Committee, 2159 W. Division, Chicago, or to write their own letters to the parties involved.

The following protests are being mailed to the Spanish Ambassador:

Sir:

I wish to protest in no uncertain terms the detention in Madrid of Rosalio Negrete, American worker and revolutionist, by your government.

I demand his immediate release and safe return to the U. S., and an end to the persecution of working class revolutionists by your government.

The following postcard is being mailed to the Secretary of State:

Sir:

News of the arrest on trumped up political charges of Rosalio Negrete, active figure in the American Labor movement, has just reached me.

As an American worker I call upon you to immediately investigate this case and work to release and bring him back safely to the U. S.

Class Action Saved Oehler Kupinsky Year Ago

The arrest of Comrade Negrete takes place almost exactly a year after that of Hugo Oehler, Lois and Charles Orr, Wolf, Kupinsky, and William Krehm.

At the time of Oehler's arrest, Negrete, who as a member of the same organization was collaborating with him, was forced to go into hiding in order to avoid his own arrest and to help notify the organization in the U. S. that these comrades had been arrested.

That information eventually helped swing the R. W. L. and other organizations willing to defend class war prisoners in Spain, into class struggle action which helped free Oehler after 43 days of solitary confinement in the Barcelona dungeons, and Kupinsky and Krehm sometime later. Lois and Charles Orr were freed almost immediately.

REFUSE UNITED FRONT

The refusal at the time of the Socialist Party and the Trotskyites, who were hibernating within the 2nd International, to form a National United Front in the defense of these prisoners, among whom was one of their own comrades, was an act of treachery to the class war prisoners, and to the class struggle.

The present situation of Negrete and the other revolutionists held by the Loyalist government, is far more precarious. The reverses of the Peoples Front on the military sphere; the arrest of Negrete way in the interior, in Madrid; and the greatly

emphasized nationalistic policy of the Loyalists — all this will make the present defense more difficult than the last.

It is to be hoped that the Trotskyites, Socialists and other organizations, will have learned from last years experience, and will be more helpful in the defense of class war prisoners today.

Heisler To Handle Legal End Of Defense

Francis Heisler, Labor attorney and representative of the Workers Defense League in Chicago, has been retained by Hugo Oehler, National Secretary of the Revolutionary Workers League, to handle all the legal details of the defense of Comrade Negrete.

Mr. Heisler will be remembered for his accepting the handling of the legal aspects of the defense of Comrades Oehler and Wolf Kupinsky when they were arrested in Barcelona more than a year ago. Despite the deliberate rejection of the case by the Workers Defense League leadership at the time, Mr. Heisler gave his support to the defense of these two class war prisoners until the end.

OUR POSITION

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OF THE EXPLOITERS.

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2 - THE PEOPLES FRONT.
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Defend Rosalio Negrete !

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Committees To Smash Capitalism In Spain!

For A New Communist Party In Spain!

For A Soviet Spain !



REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS LEAGUE OF U.S.

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