

A Tribute to Our Fallen Leader, Leon Trotsky

"... mankind is shorter by a head, and the greatest head of our time at that... Well, we must see it through. What else are we here for?"

—Engels to Sorge on the death of Marx

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THREE CENTS

Whenever a great leader dies, his followers and particularly his close collaborators, always proclaim that the best tribute to the illustrious dead is to carry on undauntedly in his spirit and tradition. So words are easy. Stalin said the same of Lenin. Yet by murdering Trotsky, Stalin has culminated his crimes by placing the revolutionary socialist movement in the gravest crisis it has faced during nearly a hundred years of its existence.

The movement was born in the decade that followed the emergence of the proletariat as an organized force in the class struggle. The Lyons insurrection took place in 1831; a few years later, Chartism challenged the power of the English bourgeoisie. During the early forties, Marx and Engels were clearing their way to the fundamentals of Marxism. In 1848 appeared the greatest pamphlet in all political literature—The Communist Manifesto—and our movement was launched.

Since that day we have never lacked a titanic intellect to guide, and a voice to speak, so that the message would be heard wherever class-conscious workers congregated. For nearly forty years Karl Marx taught the working class. By massive volumes, tracts, pamphlets and letters, he laid the foundation of our movement and guided the struggle all over the world. He was the mentor of the First International. During the American Civil War he lifted the English working class to the height of its historic task. When the bourgeoisie mobilized its battalions of liars and slanderers to drown the Commune in filth, Marx, from his modest home in London, spoke with such power and authority as to hearten and stiffen all who had to bear the burden in that black hour.

Upon Marx's death in 1883, Engels continued the same work until he died in 1895. Between 1895 and 1914, a group of brilliant Europeans—Plekhanov, Rosa Luxemburg, Kautsky, and specifically in Russia men like Lenin, Trotsky, and Martov maintained the movement not only among the workers but in the intellectual life of the day.

With 1917, a new era began. From the high tribune of the Soviet state Lenin and Trotsky spoke so that their voices were heard in the farthest corners of the world. After Lenin's death Stalin usurped the leadership of the Revolution, and proceeded to crush it. Trotsky, ever raising the banner of international socialism, fought Stalin's corruption of internationalism relentlessly. Against Trotsky, Stalin loosed a campaign of slander and eventual murder.

HIS LIFE IS A TESTIMONY TO OUR CAUSE

From the day Trotsky was expelled from Russia, untrammelled by Stalinist tyranny, he was beyond any doubt, the leading voice of the movement. His previous eminence, the personal force and brilliance with which he handled the Marxist method, his indomitable courage, and the power, expressed or latent, of the proletariat in modern society, all combined to give him a status and range in the political conflicts of this political age, out of all proportion to the meagerness of the political forces he personally directed. History has seen no similar phenomenon, a testimony certainly to the strength of our cause and to the passion of his advocates. A Stalin in exile would be consulted by the world press only on massacre, murder, and fake trials.

With the death of Trotsky, the movement is for the first time without an authoritative spokesman—and such a spokesman is needed now as never before. The movement and the international proletariat are like a ship on a vast ocean, not uncharted, but sown with perils old and new; and has lost the pilot who had guided it through many stormy seas. Today, for the first time since we began nearly a hundred years ago, the internationalists are thrown on their own resources. Only by the fullest recognition of what we have lost are we able to brace ourselves to meet the future. True, the principles of Marxism are far more easy to grasp than they were forty years ago. But each generation has not only to learn them afresh but recreate them in its own experience. The principles may be old and well-tried; their application is eternally new.

In this sense, we, in whose hands the torch has been left, suffer a special and, in a literal sense a personal loss. Trotsky did more than speak and analyze. He taught those who had our independence of spirit, never to forget that slavish repetition never created anything but slavish repetition in unending sequence. He was an inexhaustible source of ideas, of theoretical inspiration, of energy, of devotion. Every line he wrote was suffused with confidence in the mission of the proletariat and in our ideas however sparsely distributed, as a vital force in the cataclysmic social conflicts of our time. To know that he would hear what we said, or read what we wrote, was an ever-present spur to the best in us.

For those who sometimes disputed with him and finally came to his conclusions or, occasionally, rejected them—the only way to strength, the way he came finally to Leninism—the loss is irreparable. Not only his theories, his voice to the workers, but something internal in the equipment of all of us is gone, something that all previous Marxists had, and which we, for the most part an untried generation, facing awful responsibilities, needed more than any other.

LET US MEET THE CRISIS IN HIS WAY

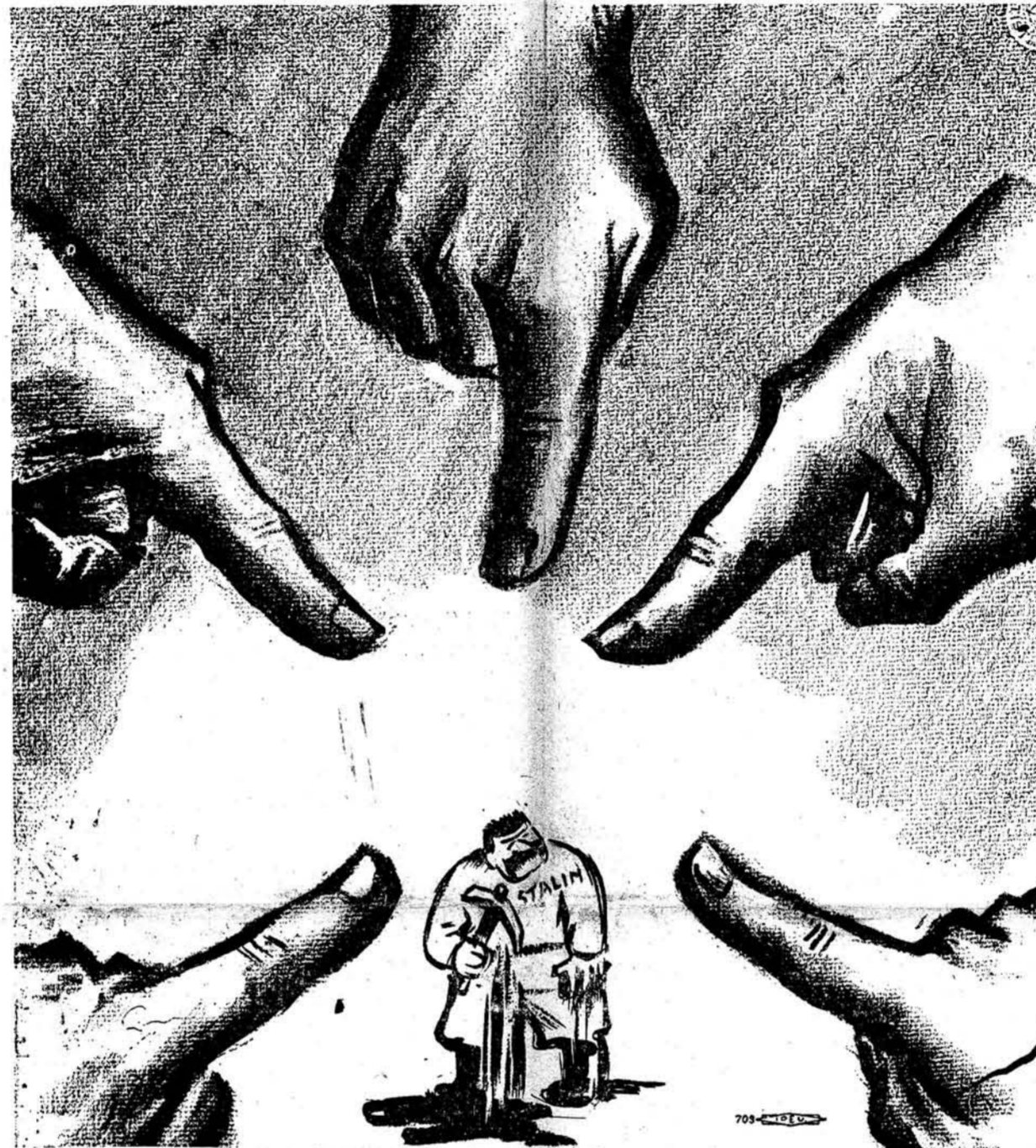
When we face these things squarely, we shall be able to do more than repeat the traditional exhortation to carry on in his spirit. Only when we know the gap that now yawns in us collectively and individually can we set about the task of filling it as far as it can be filled. We know that if he remained alone, a chained and solitary representative of our creed against all the states and armies of bourgeois society, he would spend his last half hour elaborating with scrupulousness and care a last defiance and a message of hope and solidarity for whoever might in a new generation grope for the ideas of socialism.

It is not given to many men to produce an epoch-making analysis of social forces, to lead a great revolution, to organize an army in its defense, to touch the peaks of human achievement as he did. But we can equal him, if not in the magnitude and scope, at least in the tenor and temper of his devotion. Marxists draw the lessons of every experience, and his life was a great experience. Let us meet this crisis as he would have met it, with a full realization of its import, and with unshaken confidence in the victory of our cause.

J. R. JOHNSON

F.D.R. PUSHES U.S. INTO WAR

We Accuse!



Mexican Masses Honor Trotsky

By DOUGLAS CONLEY

MEXICO CITY, Aug. 27—For five days the body of Leon Trotsky has lain in state in the parlors of the Alcazar Funeral Home, and for five days and nights an endless file has passed his bier—the workers of Mexico City and their families paying their last respects to this great revolutionary, felled by the hand of the GPU. Later today Trotsky's body will be cremated.

It is indeed a touching scene, to watch these people passing before the body of Trotsky and standing in great crowds in the street before the funeral home, discussing the tragedy in hushed tones. It brings tears to the eyes of many a revolutionary. In the first days the line was blocks long; one person passed every second and a half. Even now the endless stream continues, and it is estimated that the total number of visitors will run into the hundreds of thousands.

Watch the line a few minutes. There are all kinds of people; but the majority of them are from the working class. Here comes a group

of women in black shawls, carrying their children with them. Then some workers in overalls. Here are some young workers who have been here before; they have returned with their friends. Here comes a ragged group of children. Now comes a boot-black with his little boy who is a newsboy. "Please leave the box and the bundle of papers here in the hall" a policeman requests. The boot-black removes his hat, takes his son by the hand and quietly enters to pay his humble respect to the great working class leader.

Accuse GPU

Here and there appear persons of other classes. That man is evidently a foreign diplomat, and there comes a family of American tourists. But the majority are the workers of Mexico City. Almost all of them think that Jackson was the agent of the GPU. You ask this one and that one his opinion; you ask them what the people of the city generally believe, and the answer is invariably the same. "Who else but the GPU

wanted to kill him?" they reply.

Particularly distraught is one young man of about twenty-four. His extremely nervous state attracts the attention of the crowd. All night he has been standing there in the street, he says. What is the matter? "Till yesterday I was a Stalinist, but now I am convinced that this murder is the work of Stalin and the GPU. What can I do?"

At the head and the foot of the casket stands a constant guard. Day and night they stand, workers and friends of Trotsky. Endlessly the public marches by. They see a face, still full of intelligence, but hardened by hours of suffering. They see the mortal remains of the greatest revolutionary of his day. They see him pale, in a black suit.

Not only a great revolutionary leader, but a great personality has been taken from us. None can take his place. But watching the masses of Mexico City file past his dead body, we know that the workers' movement which he led can never die.

More Than 2,000 at N.Y. Memorial Meeting

Gather in Heart-Felt Farewell to the Great Genius of Revolution

NEW YORK, Aug. 29—More than 2,000 workers last night crowded into the Hotel Diplomat to pay deep-felt tribute to the memory of Leon Trotsky. The memorial meeting was organized by the Socialist Workers Party with the support of the Workers Party.

After the singing of the Workers Memorial Song, Farrell Dobbs, as chairman, opened the meeting. Dobbs told of how the State Department

had blocked the efforts made to bring the body of the murdered revolutionist to this country. Even in death, as in life, said Dobbs, capitalist nations fear the revolutionary inspiration of our leader, Leon Trotsky.

Albert Gates, speaking next for the Workers Party, echoed the sentiment of every person in the hall—those who were fortunate enough to know Trotsky personally, those who knew him only by his work—when he spoke of the great loneliness felt by all at the loss of our great comrade. So too he echoed the spirit of all who heard him when he said that "comrade Trotsky would not have us subject or sorrowful. His was the spirit of the proletarian warrior... There is but one way to avenge the murder of our heroic Trotsky: to carry on the struggle with audacity, devotion, and courage."

Gates spoke on the invitation of the Socialist Workers Party, though the Workers Party, for which he spoke, would have preferred a regularly organized joint memorial meeting by the two organizations who looked to Trotsky as teacher and guide. The Workers Party gave the S.W.P. its fullest collaboration in organizing this farewell meeting. Members of the W.P. distributed leaflets and otherwise aided the S.W.P.

Trotsky Heard

Trotsky's last recorded speech, delivered on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Trotskyist movement, and at the time of the founding conference of the Fourth International, was transmitted. His stirring voice, speaking out once more, deepened the sorrow of each individual.

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Without the People's Consent, The United States Has in Effect Entered the World War

You're against the war, aren't you? You don't think that the United States ought to enter the war? Good, we're with you on that!

But do you realize that Roosevelt and his boss-politician cronies put a fast one over on you last week? In virtually all respects, except official decree, the United States last week entered the war. What other meaning could the formation of the United States-Canadian Defense Board possibly have!

Canada is at war. It is a belligerent. As a belligerent, it is bound to expect acts of war committed against it. Yet Roosevelt has promised Canada, a dominion of England and a nation at war, that if it suffers any military attack the United States will undertake to work with the Canadian Army. In the meantime the "Defense" of both nations is to be jointly undertaken.

Trotsky Killer, GPU Agent, Is Indicted

Frank Jackson, alias Jacques Morand and Van Den Dreschd, agent of Stalin's murderous GPU has been formally indicted in Mexico City following a week of intensive investigation by the police into his Stalin-inspired attack upon Leon Trotsky.

Jackson, whose criminal act stirred the conscience of the world, confessed to the Mexican police last week.

Colonel Leandro Sanchez Salazar, chief of the Mexican Secret Service, in a statement to the press during the investigation of Trotsky's killer, confirmed the belief that Jackson is an agent of the GPU.

"This has all the ramifications of an international plot," declared the Mexican police chief.

A search into Jackson's movements in and out of Mexico revealed that he had twice entered that country as an American and once as a Canadian, despite his admission to the Police that he is a Belgian. Jackson's ability to disguise his real identity throws light on the fact that he was helped in this matter by the passport forging mills of the GPU. In this connection, Salazar's reference to an "international plot" indicates that Mexican authorities may have substantial information as to Jackson's real identity.

Meanwhile, Sylvia Ageloff, who is

Please say to our friends I am sure of the victory of the Fourth International. Go Forward!" —Trotsky's last words.

reported to have introduced Jackson to his famous victim, vehemently repulsed all efforts to link her to the killer, Miss Ageloff stated to the police all during last week that she had no previous knowledge that Jackson was either a GPU agent or that he had intended to kill Leon Trotsky. She added that his actions left no doubt that he is a GPU agent who had made use of her.

Familiarity with the unscrupulous methods of the GPU leads to the belief that Jackson made a special and successful effort to befriend Miss Ageloff in order to obtain access to the Trotsky villa in Coyoacan. Close associates of the fallen leader of the Fourth International have already stated that Miss Ageloff was an innocent tool of the insidious Jackson. That she was indeed an innocent dupe of the confessed killer is unquestionable.

Jackson, who has been officially arraigned in a Mexican Federal Court, faces a maximum sentence of thirty years of hard labor unless the GPU finds some way of springing him. Mexico does not have capital punishment.

LET THE PEOPLE VOTE ON WAR!

Churchill, speaking on the increasing collaboration between Britain and the United States, referred to the "mutual advantage" gained thereby. The Defense Board is indeed an act of "mutual advantage." It's for the "mutual advantage" of the imperialists of both lands.

"Mutual advantage" for the masses there will be none. The masses, that's you who are working in a steel mill, and you who are picking peaches for almost nothing a day, are going to get damn little "mutual advantage" out of it. Your pocket won't be lined with gold at the end of the slaughter. Instead, your body will itself be a lining for a wooden dress.

The Joint Defense Board is only the most flagrant of the acts of Roosevelt—taken in defiance of your wishes, and without making the implications clear. Ever since the war began, Roosevelt with the support of most of the politicians (that goes for Willkie, among others) has been working as a British ally. Roosevelt sealed the alliance when he released planes and other instruments of war destined for Britain. Some day the secret files of the State Department will become public property. The secret treaties between Britain and the United States will then be fully exposed.

Of the same nature and intent was the "leasing" of the British colonies in America to the United States. These will be used to guarantee Wall Street's grip on South America. They are the springboard for military operations in that arena which the U.S. expects to be its principal battlefield: South America. Thus, Britain has, out of the compulsion of war, given its ally military bases for the war which, we repeat, the United States has already entered—save for the actual declaration and for actual firing of guns.

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CHILEANS PAY HONOR TO TROTSKY

SANTIAGO, Chile, Aug. 22—Leon Trotsky's death caused a stir here today in a section of the masses where he had many supporters. Members of the Revolutionary Workers party and the International Workers party paraded the streets last night visiting newspaper offices and voicing protests.

A committee composed of leaders repudiated Joseph Stalin's methods throughout the world, asserting his agents were responsible for the crime.

(N.Y. Times, Aug. 23)

