

Deutscher Assesses Leon Trotsky's Role

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Chessman's Fate Up to Legislators

Governor Claims He Is 'Powerless'

LOS ANGELES, March 2 — The fate of Caryl Chessman is now in the hands of the California legislature which meets today. If it fails to act, the convict-author who won a 60-day reprieve from Gov. Brown, will go to the gas chamber. Brown is slated to ask the legislature today to consider abolishing the death penalty. But he has made clear that he will not make a serious fight on the issue, even though he claims he is opposed to capital punishment.

The governor gave Chessman his brief new lease on life after the State Department asked for a concession to an aroused world opinion. But last week Brown declared he would do nothing further to save Chessman's life even though due process of law was denied in his kidnapping conviction.

"If the legislature doesn't act, I am powerless to do anything except in extraordinary circumstances," the Democratic governor asserted. He added that he could not conceive of any further extraordinary circumstances.

Yesterday Brown told newsmen he was "pessimistic" about the legislature acting this session on an anti-capital-punishment bill. He has even refused to declare what specific form of legislation he favors, leaving the door wide open for the lawmakers to duck the issue.

Meanwhile, the movement to save Chessman and to win abolition of the death penalty is continuing. In a statement to the Militant correspondent here, the veteran civil-liberties attorney, Leo Gallagher, urged renewed efforts on this score.

"There are two types of justice," he declared. "One for the rich and one for the poor. I know of no rich man who has ever been executed. The only thing of importance in this period of the decay of capitalism is a man's bank account."



Students in Toronto stage picket-line demonstration in front of French consulate Feb. 12 to protest De Gaulle's

atomic-bomb tests in the Sahara. They called for a halt to Canadian and NATO support of De Gaulle's dictatorial regime.

Negro Youth Defy Jail In Drive on Jim Crow

Twin Cities Students Hit Woolworth

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 27 — A spirited picket-line demonstration was held here this morning at the F. W. Woolworth store on Nicollet Avenue in the heart of the downtown area. Some 50 youths carried placards in solidarity with Negro students who are fighting discrimination at lunch counters in the South. The store here is one of the ten largest in the national chain.

The picket line was sponsored by the youth council of the Minneapolis branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. White students made up a majority of the demonstrators. They came in response to an editorial in yesterday's issue of the Minnesota Daily, the world's largest campus paper.

The editors declared that students intended to help the civil-rights fighters in the South because "they don't agree with Woolworth officials that a company has to follow local customs" since they learned in grade school that the United States Constitution supersedes local customs.

Asked why he was picketing, one white student replied: "If we go to school with them, why shouldn't we eat with them?"

The store management invited the pickets in for free coffee. Some accepted and had their pictures taken at the lunch counter holding up their banners blasting Woolworth's policy of maintaining Jim Crow lunch counters in the South.

The pickets were well received by the public and several people joined the line.

Supporting Actions in North Hit Kress, Woolworth Stores

By George Lavan

MARCH 2 — Winning the admiration of freedom fighters the world over, the Negro students in the South are defying mass jailings in their campaign against racial discrimination at lunch counters. Their drive is spreading further through the South and increasing in intensity.

In addition, small but increasing numbers of Southern-born white students are taking part in the sit-down demonstrations. In the North, student organizations are stepping up their sympathy demonstrations, and a section of the labor movement has entered the fight in support of the Southern Negro movement.

Thus in New York, the student councils of several colleges and universities have endorsed a picket line to be held Saturday, March 5, from noon to 3 p.m. in front of Woolworth's store at 120 Thirty-fourth Street, opposite Macy's. Elsewhere, picketing has been conducted by students at the University of Wisconsin, University of Colorado, Rutgers University and by students at various schools in Philadelphia. Similar actions are in the offing at other leading colleges.

On the labor front, District 4, International Union of Electrical Workers (AFL-CIO), announced that its members would picket New York headquarters of Woolworth's as well as stores in four New Jersey cities. However, this move has not yet been emulated by other labor organizations.

Meanwhile harsh jail sentences are being meted out by the white-supremacist authorities. At this moment, in the country which capitalist politicians tout as the stronghold of the "free world," young men and women are behind bars for the

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Lahtinen Fights Order to Ship Him to Finland

NEW YORK — William Lahtinen, Finnish-born journalist and poet who, on Feb. 15, was ordered deported from this country under the reactionary Walter-McCarran Law, has appealed the decision of the local Immigration office to the Board of Immigration Appeals in Washington.

Lahtinen has lived in the United States since 1914, when he was brought here by his parents. He filed a petition of naturalization in 1942 which is still pending. But in 1958 he was notified by the Justice Department that he must appear at deportation hearings on grounds that he belonged to the Finnish Workers Federation—a legal organization—prior to 1940 when the group became defunct.

"The Lahtinen case is a telling example of the need for revising the Walter-McCarran Law," said the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born in a Feb. 24 release. One measure the Committee has advocated is a five-year statute of limitations against deportation and denaturalization.

Trujillo Boasts Climate "Ideal" For Profiteers

"Don't knock Trujillo," advise Americans who fear that their holdings in the Dominican Republic might be confiscated should a revolution topple the dictator. The Generalissimo, they say, is a champion of "law and order."

In return for such support, the Dominican Development Commission, a Trujillo outfit, is patting American capitalists on the back. In a full page advertisement, the commission cites 18 U. S. firms now reaping profits from the "ideal" business "climate" in the "friendly Caribbean nation that has NO TIME FOR COMMUNISM."

Labor "is economical," the ad declares, and "cooperative..." Investors may consider the climate good, but a different view is taken by an estimated 1,500 to 5,000 political prisoners. Their opposition won them torture in Trujillo's jails. However, others are reported to have taken up the cause and to be spreading the idea of revolt.

Maybe He's Right

Replying to critics, Senator John Cooper (R-Ky.) declared that it's good for the country when President Eisenhower takes vacations.

'Go Back and Get More' Say Ranks to Union Tops

Union members are now showing a more active concern over contract agreements negotiated by their representatives, according to Joseph L. Finegan, director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

In an interview with the Cleveland Plain Dealer Feb. 18, Finegan said, "In every region it takes longer to put a case to bed. There are more rejections by union members of tentative settlements worked out by their committees than ever before."

"The members," he continued, "are instructing their committees to go back and get more. Sometimes they send the committee back three or four times."

Finegan said the trends in collective bargaining point to a "rough year" in contract negotiations. Unions are stiffening demands for greater economic benefits. Employers are shooting more intensively at work rules.

He noted an increasing trend among unions to press for such fringe benefits as medical insurance paid for by the employer, rather than straight wage gains.

Council Vows Highlander Will Be Kept Alive

MONTEAGLE, Tenn. — Complete confidence in Highlander Folk School, its administration and program, as well as a firm determination to continue the program was expressed by the members of the school's executive council at a meeting here last week.

The council met to consider what action should be taken in light of Judge Chattin's decision finding Highlander guilty of violating the Tennessee code forbidding integrated classes in private schools. Myles Horton, director of the school, said: "Highlander will not die. This program of democratic education will be continued regardless of where we operate or what is done to us."

The Bitter Lessons Of the Wilson Defeat

By Tom Kerry

The labor movement suffered a tragic defeat last week when the top leadership of the AFL-CIO United Packinghouse Workers jammed through an agreement, terminating the 108-day walkout of 5,000 members at six Wilson & Co. plants, which called for arbitration of the key issue: Do the strikers get their jobs back or will the scabs imported to break the strike be retained?

It is estimated that of 1,100 workers who struck the Albert Lea, Minn., plant on Nov. 3 less than 50 were returned to the job when the strike was called off. Approximately 900 scabs hired during the course of the strike remained.

It was a tragic defeat because an important strike was lost that could have been won; because a large number of union militants were victimized; and because a magnificent display of rank-and-file courage, union solidarity and fighting spirit was systematically corroded by a cowardly leadership pursuing a false policy to inexorable demoralization and defeat.

And the end is not yet! To submit to arbitration a fundamental principle that permits of no compromise is a gross betrayal of the interests of labor. The union movement can pay dearly for such a precedent.

Hunger Striker Is Force Fed

A young Negro woman, Ero-seanna Robinson of Chicago, went on a hunger strike Jan. 26 when she was jailed for non-payment of federal income taxes. A pacifist, she has refused to pay income taxes because the money is spent primarily for war purposes.

Miss Robinson, who was carried bodily into court after refusing to co-operate with the authorities in any way, was sentenced to a year and a day on charges of criminal contempt.

During the early part of her imprisonment she was held in Cook County jail in Chicago. Authorities there, to break her spirit, withheld her mail, denied her visitors and placed her in solitary confinement. She is now in a federal hospital where she is being force fed.

Ku Klux Klan Tied To Austrian Nazis

The race-hating Ku Klux Klan is extending its operations abroad, according to Austrian police who disclosed that an underground Nazi group, recently uncovered in Vienna, possessed large quantities of anti-Semitic literature shipped from the U.S. by the Klan. Both groups were reported tied to an international fascist movement with headquarters in Sweden.

4,400 Wilson Jobs Placed In Arbitration

ST. PAUL, Minn., Feb. 27 — As a result of the agreement reached between the United Packinghouse Workers and Wilson & Co., an estimated 1,300 out of 5,700 Wilson strikers have been called back to work by the company. The remaining 4,400 strikers will have to await an arbitration decision to find out whether they or the strikebreakers have rights to jobs in the plants.

In Albert Lea, Minn., where the workers put up a terrific struggle against great odds, the company took back some 50 workers. In order to avoid any demonstrations the exact number was being kept secret by the company and the union.

Meanwhile the company has designated Edward Bullard, a Chicago attorney and member of the Wilson Board of Directors as its representative. The union has designated Rabbi Jacob Weinstein of the K.A.M. Temple in Chicago. The two have failed to agree on a third member, so a federal judge from Illinois will act as the third member.

The union leadership said they agreed to arbitrate the job rights of the strikers to "save face for the company." They stated that Wilson had hired several thousand scabs and now didn't know what to do with them.

The real aim of Wilson is to get a decision from the board in favor of the scabs, thus weakening the union or eliminating it entirely.

If the union leadership had half as much guts as the strikers the strike could have been won, and all the strikers back on their jobs without waiting for arbitration.

The company's attempt to smash the union was not only failing to break the ranks of the strikers, but from the way Wilson stock dropped on the stock market, the union's boycott against Wilson's scab meat was becoming more effective as the strike went on.

Ceylonese Trotskyists Report Growing Support

As Ceylon's March 19 elections for parliament draw near, the country's biggest working-class party, the Trotskyist-led Lanka Sama Samajist, appears to be gaining in strength. One of the consequences has been a gang-up against the organization. All the spokesmen of the capitalist class have singled it out for attack; and the leaders of the Communist party have joined in.

In reply, the Feb. 16 Samasamajist, English-language publication of the party, points to the "growing support in the country for the LSSP" and notes that the Communist party leaders are not fighting the capitalist parties, only the LSSP. "... anti-Samasamajist is the only consistent aspect of Stalinist politics."

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How War on Babies Began in 1798

By Joseph Hansen

Fifth in a series of articles.

We do not seem to have made much headway in the antibaby campaign. The experts have succeeded only in demonstrating that they know of no means which in practice will lower the birth rate sufficiently to save our planet from being overwhelmed by humans within two thousand years. Doomed to less than standing room — that seems to be our fate.

About all we have discovered is that prominent capitalist authorities on population favor keeping women infertile by sterilizing their husbands on a mass scale — in poverty-stricken countries, that is, not rich ones, at least for the present. We have discovered, too, that some of them take a racist attitude. If there must be babies, they prefer white to colored ones. Some display class bias, holding to the innate superiority of those born to wealth; and most of them think the production of great masses of human beings leads to political unrest, revolution and an eventual world-wide communist victory.

Before passing on, sadder and not much wiser, it might be well to pay a call on the authority whom so many population experts tip their hats to, the Rev. Thomas Robert Malthus (1766-1834). It could be that the neo-Malthusians are not doing justice to their prophet's theories. Let's check a sample statement from the original:

"The cause to which I allude, is the constant tendency in all animated life to increase beyond the nourishment prepared for it . . .

"It may safely be pronounced, therefore, that population, when unchecked, goes on doubling itself every twenty-five years, or increases in a geometrical ratio . . .

"It may be fairly pronounced, therefore, that, considering the present average state of the earth, the means of subsistence, under circumstances the most favourable to human industry, could not possibly be made to increase faster than in an arithmetical ratio.

"The necessary effects of these two different rates of increase, when brought together, will be very striking . . . "Taking the whole earth, instead of this island, emigration would, of course, be excluded; and, supposing the present population equal to a thousand millions, the human species would increase as the numbers 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, 256; and subsistence as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. In two centuries the population would be to the means of subsistence as 256 to 9; in three centuries as 4,096 to 13, and in two thousand years the difference would be almost incalculable."

Sound modern? Even ultra modern? You might, of course, take an opposite view with some justification — our atomic-age editors seem to be push-overs for anything in

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