

---

# ***NY Call* in Conspiracy Against Russia; Also in War on American Communists; NY Socialists Hold Underground Meeting.**

by J. Louis Engdahl

Unsigned article, attributed to editor J. Louis Engdahl, published in  
*The Worker* [New York], v. 6, whole no. 271 (April 21, 1923), pp. 1, 4.

The leaders of the Right Wing of the Socialist Party realize with increasing fear that not only is the Workers Party winning greater and greater prestige in the working class movement, but that the honest workers within the Socialist Party itself are ever more dissatisfied with its reactionary leadership.

This reactionary officialdom realizes that in its own Socialist Party there exists a strong Left Wing that is friendly towards Soviet Russia, and demands a United Front with the Workers Party.

It was this fear and this realization that inspired the holding of a secret meeting on Thursday, March 29 [1923], to determine the future policies of the *New York Call*.

The managers of the Socialist Party and of the *New York Call* have decided in this conspirative, secret meeting to cure the "too revolutionary" views of their own membership through an open counterrevolutionary policy of *The Call*.

We have absolutely trustworthy and authentic information on the proceedings of this conspirative meeting. The following representatives were present:

Members of the managing board of the *New York Call*.  
Four representatives of the New York Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers.  
Two representative of the *Jewish Daily Forward*.  
One representative of the Rand School.  
The Managing Editor of the *New York Call*.

The participants in this meeting made a bitter attack upon the managing editor of the *New York Call*, David Karsner, because he does not fight the Communists sufficiently in the paper, and because the paper is too friendly toward Soviet Russia.

At the end of the debate the following resolution was accepted:

**1. The *New York Call* should in the future ignore Soviet Russia, whenever possible. The paper should reprint all news and cables from the capitalist press, even if they are unfavorable to Soviet Russia, but the editors are to rewrite the cables, so that their source shall not be recognized.**

**2. The *New York Call* should begin a systematic attack upon the American Communists, and seize every opportunity to carry it on.**

**3. The sharpest fight should be waged in the *New York Call* against the trade union activity of the Communists, and their policy of "boring from within."**

The resolution was adopted unanimously, and the managing editor of the *New York Call* pledged himself to carry out these new policies loyally.

And every issue of the *New York Call* since this meeting proves in every respect that the managing editor and the entire editorial board of the *New York Call* are showing 100 percent loyalty towards the yellow leaders, and 100 percent treachery towards the working class in carrying out the new policy.

On March 29 the conspirative meeting was held and on March 31 the official declaration of war by the Socialist Party against the revolution made its appearance in the *New York Call*.

An editorial on the Michigan trial appeared in extra-large type with the following declaration of war against the Communists and against the Workers Party:

The can be no compromise with this compound of childishness and fanaticism. Let it be heard, but laugh it out of existence. It has never made a move that was not a mistake. It is no more a part of the normal labor movement

built by the working class than a feeble-minded janitor is a part of the literary society which he tries to enter.

And since then there has been not one issue of the *New York Call* which has not printed the most shameful insults and the vilest slanders against all that which is militant in the American or the world labor movement.

In the issue of April 3, a long article appeared with this two-column caption:

**Communists Hired Thugs, Offered Officers Bribes,  
Fur Union Head Charges.  
Kaufman Exposes Attempt of "Left" Elements to  
Lead Committee Members into Giving Gangsters  
Opening to Create Riot of Meeting of Operators —  
Discovery Blocks Scheme.**

It goes without saying that not a word of this slander is true.

In the same issue, the *New York Call* asserts with joy that:

**ILP of Britain Turns Down Plan to Join Moscow.  
Proposal to Affiliate with the Third International  
Shelved in Convention in London.  
Taken as Good Omen.**

All the lying reports about Soviet Russia in the interest of Archbishop Zepliak, head of the Roman Catholic church in Russia, appear in the same issue.

In the issue of April 4, there are once more reports covering many columns, about the "farical trial" of the Catholic Priests in Soviet Russia. In the same issue an editorial appears with the caption "Plotting in the Furriers." The editorial deliberately calls for a pogrom upon the Communists:

This is the gravest charge that has been brought against the Communists. Considering that President Kaufman force the Yiddish editor to admit that he had no evidence in the former case there is good reason for believing that Kaufman "has the goods" in this one. If the facts as alleged are proven the guilty parties should be expelled. The crime belongs to that type of low cunning that secret agents practice. There should be no mercy in dealing with this contemptible thing. Out with it!

In the same number of the *New York Call*, there is an editorial which makes a cowardly, hypocritical, veiled attack upon Soviet Russia in conjunction with the death sentence passed upon the clericals in the Moscow trial. And following this another one discuss-

ing the imprisonment of 6 Bulgarian ministers. This editorial approves the heavy punishment. Why this contradiction? Simply because the Soviet government is a government of the workers and is therefore hated by the yellow traitors, and the present Stambulisky government of Bulgaria is a labor-hating government, and for this reason it has the sympathy of the traitors of the *New York Call*.

The issue of April 6 is almost completely taken up with counterrevolutionary propaganda. An article appears with the following heading:

**Soviets Apologize for Ban on  
Workmen's Circle Delegates.**

There is a second article with this title:

**Two Russian Government Heads,  
Bribed, Sent to Death.**

There is a third article with this heading:

**Central Trades Flays Russian Vicar's Slaying.**

The climax of the campaign of miserable slander against the Russian Revolution is reached by the *New York Call* in its issue of April 7. The *New York Call* prints the lying article of the Moscow correspondent, Mr. Francis McCullough, who has recently been expelled from Moscow because of his slanders and lies against Soviet Russia. And to show how low the *New York Call* has sunk in its own prostitution, we reprint the editorial introduction to the counterrevolutionary article taken from the *New York Herald*:

**Eyewitness Finds Prelates' Soviet Trial  
Religious Only.  
No Evidence of Revolutionary Plot Adduced Nor  
Political Reasons for Persecution Found — Defense  
of Priests was Martyrs' Defense of Christian Church,  
Says Correspondent.**

By special permission of the *New York Herald*, *The Call* publishes today what purports to be a first-hand account of the trials of the Roman Catholic prelates condemned to death by the Soviet government of Russia. The *New York Herald* staff correspondent, Francis McCullough, is no longer in Moscow. The *Herald* states that he is across the border and free to tell things he has seen, which few are able to do in Moscow unless their viewpoint is in entire accord with the Moscow regime.

McCullough's dispatch gives a vivid picture of the trials which preceded the execution of the Roman Catholic vicar

general, Father Butchkavitch, which occurred a few days ago, an event that shocked the people of two continents and laid a heavy burden upon the friends of the Russian Revolution to defend the Moscow government as being dedicated to the proposition of freedom for the individual and intellectual tolerance.

*The Call* cautions the readers of the following dispatch to *The Herald* to bear in mind that its author may not be in accord with the Soviet government. Certainly it cannot be said that the *New York Herald* or Frank A. Munsey's evening paper, *The Sun*, have evinced either sympathy or understanding of the economic and political principles which are the fabric of Russia's revolutionary endeavor. Be that as it may, an understanding of and sympathy for the cause and effect of social revolution does not carry with it blind and unreasoning hatred of the persons identified with the church or any other group.

Editor, *New York Call*.

The article reprinted from the *New York Herald* speaks of the counterrevolutionary priests as of the most sympathetic martyrs, and of the Russian officials as of the most miserable bloodthirsty dogs.

McCullough, the professional liar, and the editor of the *New York Call* [David Karsner], the professional sentimentalist, are showing good teamwork in their concealment of the counterrevolutionary sins of the Archbishop and his vicars.

### **The Holy Trinity.**

It is no mere coincidence, but it is rather an open manifestation of the secret alliance which exists between the *New York Call* and the capitalist press, that on the same day, on April 7, when the *New York Call* reprinted the lengthy article from the *New York Herald*, on that same day, the *New York Times* quotes the *New York Call* as follows on the Foster trial:

The *New York Call*, organ of the *orthodox Socialists*, pays this tender tribute to him (Foster) and his friends:

"In the history of the organized labor struggle of this country there has never appeared a more asinine or inept group than this collection of furtive Communists. It cannot stand the withering blight of publicity thrown upon its activities during the past four years.

This long trial has made the blight of publicity still more withering. All labor, all *sane socialism*, is the better for this new exposure of the little squad of disguised Communists skating on the edge of the law."

The *New York Call* stands today in the ranks of the most reactionary bourgeois newspapers. It goes arm in arm with the *New York Herald*, the Daugherty newspaper, and the *New York Times*, the newspaper of big business.

And during all this campaign of slander against the Communists and the Russian Revolution, we find in the *New York Call* nothing but friendly words towards the reactionary and traitorous labor leaders. The *New York Call* does not say a word about the fact that Eugene V. Debs, the veteran revolutionary, expressed his solidarity with the defendants in the Michigan trial. On the contrary, it quotes the jeers and insults of Matthew Woll against Foster. There is not a word in the *New York Call* mentioning that Eugene V. Debs, the honest militant, endorsed the policies of the Trade Union Educational League, but on the contrary, *The Call* endorsed the policies of Gompers and Matthew Woll. The *New York Call* has not a word to say about the fact that Eugene V. Debs is an enthusiastic adherent of the Russian Revolution, though it glorifies at the same time [Iulii] Martov, the Menshevik leader, who hated the Russian Revolution.

The *New York Call* has songs of praise for [Friedrich] Ebert, the chief betrayer of the German working class. It has not a word of condemnation for the British labor leaders who dine and sup with the English king in fancy costume.

**The *New York Call* has become altogether a prostitute. But we ask Eugene V. Debs and Scott Nearing and every honest worker who is still within the Party, how long they will allow their names and work to be used as a cloak for this prostitution?**

**We ask Upton Sinclair, author of *The Brass Check*, which mercilessly exposes the prostitution of the capitalist press, when will he join us in exposing the prostitution of the *New York Call*?**

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

*Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2006. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.*