

Edith Berkman Must Be Freed!

By ANNA DAMON.

Edith Berkman is sick, confined in Carney Hospital, South Boston. I visited her last Saturday. She is critically ill with tuberculosis. She was well when she was arrested. Five months in the miserable hell-hole of the East Boston Immigration Station where she was confined in unsanitary surroundings, getting rotten food, denied the possibility of working and of taking an active part in the class struggle, has wrecked her constitution, and resulted in infecting both her lungs with the well-known and dreaded workers' disease, consumption.

The seriousness of her condition forced even the brutal Mrs. Tillinghast, commissioner of mass immigration, to rush her to the hospital. She is now preparing very quietly to ship her out somewhere to an isolated "health camp." Dr. Denning, tool of the bosses and head of the Catholic Carney Hospital, refused to commit himself by issuing a full record of her case. He refused the demand of the Boston International Labor Defense on the grounds that Edith Berkman is a federal prisoner and that without permission from Dr. Newton, head of the Immigration Department, he will not give the record of her case.

Try to Murder Berkman

Anna Tillinghast refuses to release Edith Berkman on bail. It is of no concern to her if Edith Berkman lives or dies. The federal authorities are deliberately attempting to murder Comrade Berkman by refusing her the necessary medical attention, which she can get only in a sanitarium. The critical condition of Comrade Berkman demands her immediate release and we can not wait until the case comes up in Boston on April 12th.

What crime has Comrade Berkman committed, to be held in jail without bail for the last five months? What crime has she committed to be facing deportation to fascist Poland where sure death awaits her at the hands of the blood-thirsty Pilsudski regime? The only crime that Comrade Berkman is guilty of is loyalty to the working class, a crime the American capitalists and their government do not overlook, a service that the working class does not forget.

Berkman—Tireless Fighter

Edith Berkman is only 26 years old, but even at this age she has fought untiringly for the working class, and has established a record that bears comparison with that of many old fighters. She began to work at the age of 16. A knitter by trade, she joined the National Textile Union in 1929 when she came east from San Francisco. In July, 1930, she was sent by the NTWU to Lawrence, Mass., where she proved herself to be a most militant and gifted organizer. She organized a successful strike in the Wood Mill in September, 1930, to fight against the stagger plan. This fight was won, and it paved the way for the great strike in February, 1931, when 10,000 workers struck under the leadership of the National Textile Workers Union against wage cuts. In the struggles of the unemployed, in fighting for unemployment insurance and for immediate relief, Comrade Berkman took a most active part.

It was after this strike that Edith Berkman was arrested and charged with "conspiracy to hurt, injure, and destroy the mill owners, their property and business." This arrest was on a telegraphic warrant. She was held in jail for ten days, and then released on \$5,000 bail. The boss class wanted her out of the way. They told the United States Department of Labor to recommend deportation, which the United States Department of Labor immediately did.

On a certain day, when Berkman spoke before ten thousand workers on the Boston Common,

the police had announced they would arrest her again, but they did not dare. But they got her again when she took part in organizing the second Lawrence strike in October, 1931—this time against a ten per cent wage cut. And she has been held for deportation, with her bail revoked by the Federal Court, ever since that day, October 5, 1931.

Working Class Can Free Berkman

The only way in which Comrade Berkman can be freed is by mass pressure and protest. We must show the capitalist government and its agents that the workers in the U. S. will not permit themselves to be robbed of their militant and revolutionary fighters. We must show the capitalists that no matter how many persecutions and arrests, no matter how strong the terror, the struggle of the American working class for the right to live will go on.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party and the Trade Union Unity League, workers will continue to fight against murderous attacks

on their standard of living. They will carry on the fight for unemployment insurance, the struggle against imperialist war, in defense of the Soviet Union and the Chinese masses. The murder and deportation of revolutionary workers will not weaken the militant fighting front of the American working class! They will raise it to a greater class consciousness, inspire it to greater struggles for the overthrow of the capitalist system which breeds misery and starvation for the working class. Let the deaths of the Ford victims, the Kentucky strikers and organizers, Ella May Wiggins, Ralph Gray, Gonzales, Katovis, Levy, the jailed Comrades Berkman, Mooney, the Scottsboro and other victims of the capitalist courts serve to strengthen the fight against capitalism.

Let us raise a mighty protest to stop the terror against the foreign born. Let us pledge ourselves to wrest Comrade Berkman out of the hands of the executioners.

All trade unions, workers' organizations, should hold protest meetings, wire resolutions of protest to Secretary of Labor William Doak, Immigration Commissioner Mrs. Anna C. Tillinghast, Mayor Curley of Boston and Governor Ely of Massachusetts.

Fascism in Finland

By RICHARD PESOLA.

IN news items about the armed march to Helsingfors attempted by Lappos at the end of last February, the capitalist press here explained that there is civil war in Finland, for the armed fascists led by General Wallenius, with headquarters in Mantsala, have already fired at workers' club houses there, and it was rumored that they threatened the government with a fascist coup, etc. It was further reported that President Svinhufvud's government had passed "emergency decrees," which forbid all meetings, mass movements, etc. In this way a censorship over letters, telegraph and telephone was effected.

These "news items" of the bourgeois press talked as if all this were necessary to combat the threatening fascist revolt, as if Svinhufvud and his government were really fighting against fascism.

Any person acquainted with affairs in Finland could easily see that this was all planned deception, that this is only a maneuver by the Finnish fascist government through which it wanted to give the impression that the "people" are demanding the strengthening of the fascist dictatorship.

This stand has proven to be correct, for the armed troops of the marchers to Helsingfors disbanded and went home at the government's request. Some leaders of the march have been "arrested" for the sake of appearance. Instead, there is now a strengthened fascist dictatorship in Finland, which was the original purpose of the march.

Fascism Rules Finland

The opinion that Svinhufvud and his government are fighting against fascism is entirely incorrect, for in reality the fascist dictatorship led by Svinhufvud has been in power in Finland since 1930.

Fascism rose to power in Finland without any coup d'etat. The so-called "Lappo movement" of 1930 was developed with the aid of the government, and in the name of the "people" began to stress "the necessity of destroying Communism." It made audacious attacks against workers' presses and halls. One night in March, 1930, fascists attacked the press of a revolutionary workers' newspaper in Vaasa, destroying its machinery. Of course the perpetrators of this atrocious deed were not punished in the fascist

the Lappo "people's movement" and to form an open fascist dictatorship government.

Immediately after fascism rose to power, the Finnish Diet passed, with the co-operation of the social-fascists, a law abolishing the right of assembly, and then anti-Communist laws, which really took away all rights from revolutionary workers. These laws gave the government unlimited powers in case of "rebellion." Although the Diet was still left in power, the possibility of electing representatives to it was taken away from all those opposing the fascist rule.

Why a Fascist Dictatorship?

After the class war in Finland the workers' class struggle movement had begun to raise its head, although the bourgeoisie had murdered about 30,000 workers during the class war and in the white terror following it, and had boasted that never again would the workers' class struggle movement rise in Finland. But the workers of Finland were not content with the social-democratic movement. Considerable masses left it and tried in many ways to appear as a legal movement following the teachings of the Comintern (the Communist Party has never been able to appear as a legal party in Finland.) They conquered the trade union organization, whose membership soon grew to 90,000. In addition to this the class conscious workers had large co-operatives, numerous workers' clubs with large memberships, etc.

When there was economic growth in Finland during the period of so-called relative stabilization of capitalism, because of which work was available, there even being a lack of labor power in places, the capitalist class did not then think it the proper time to begin suppressing the legal workers' movement. The revolutionary workers and peasants had 25 representatives in the Diet, and it was apparent that the workers' mass organizations were growing.

But then at the end of the year 1927 and the beginning of 1928 Finland began to feel the effect of the crisis in capitalism. First of all it appeared in the lumber industry, which is Finland's chief industry. That was followed by a crash in credit and a lack of money. Then the bourgeoisie realized that the time had come again to crush the revolutionary workers' movement. Besides, foreign money lenders began to demand that the Bolshevik movement must be crushed in Finland before any money can be loaned there. French imperialism stressed this