

Thousands Mourn at Olgin's Bier; Party and Labor Leaders Wire Grief



—Daily Worker Photo

Crowds file past bier of Moissaye J. Olgin as body lies in state at Royal Windsor Palace, 66th St. and Broadway.

By Angelo Herndon

Thousands of workers, sympathizers and friends of labor, and the Jewish people, in paying tribute to the great labor leader, writer and editor of the *Morning Freiheit*, M. J. Olgin, who died Wednesday morning of heart attack, could not hold back the tears of sorrow and grief as they marched yesterday past the last remains of the Bolshevik leader, at Royal Windsor, 66th St. and Broadway.

From 11 A.M. until late in the evening, a steady stream of people continued to pour into the hall.

The mourning of the people—their tear-laden eyes full of deep-felt sorrow over the death of a noble and staunch fighter for the oppressed—was the expression of

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grief and something else deeper and more fundamental. The people loved Olgin as a very warm and friendly person. They loved and admired him for his leadership and unique contributions to the fight for freedom.

As the guard of honor stood with banners near the body, scores of people who passed to see him for the last time, remarked as they wiped the tears from their eyes: "A great man! What a pity! He was never needed so much as now."

HUNDREDS OF TELEGRAMS

Yes, the countless individuals who made such and similar remarks know that in Olgin is represented something that will never die—the longing of a humanity for a better world. His death is an irreparable loss to the cause, but as long as there are men and women in whose hearts the torch of liberty, freedom and justice will forever be kept alive—the spirit of Olgin will live. His work before departing is an indestructible monument and people of this and future generations will always learn from his example.

Towards the close of the day, hundreds of telegrams of condolence, were received at the Royal Windsor and at the offices of the Freiheit. They came from every part of the United States and Canada, and all of them pledged solemnly to uphold forever the banner for which Olgin gave his life. From trade unions, the Communist Party, fraternal and other organizations similar messages were received. We publish here the text of a few which are representative of them all.

"FOR A BETTER DAY"

From Reuben Brainin, veteran Hebrew and Yiddish writer, and an outstanding leader of the Jewish people.

"It is difficult for me to collect my thoughts, so stunned do I feel

by the tragic, unbelievable news of Olgin's death. He personified in my eyes, the idealism and selfless devotion of those rare men who give everything to the cause they believe in.

"Not only was he an unique animator of men, but an extraordinarily versatile and gifted writer, critic and journalist, and above all a friend of the masses. His heart beat for all who hope for a better day. I feel that our world is much poorer today without him, but I know that his memory will live as long as idealism survives."

From Otis Archer Hood and Phil Frankford for the Communist Party of Massachusetts:

"We are shocked and grieved at the news of the passing of our Comrade Moisseye J. Olgin. His contributions to the revolutionary movement were not confined to the Jewish people. His writings and activities assisted our Party in explaining the fundamental issues to all of the American people.

"We lower our banners before our departed comrade and pledge anew to carry forward the work to which he devoted his life."

From the Mother Bloor Branch of the Communist Party, Fifth Assembly District, the Bronx:

"Grieved at Comrade Olgin's death. Will double our efforts to build the Party."

LABOR MESSAGES

From Joseph Roskovitz, president of the Painters Union, Local 442:

"The working man has lost one

of its greatest personalities who has given all of his life, energy, and brilliant endowment of mind to the cause of labor."

From Nathan Cohen, Detroit IWO:

"His self-sacrificing work and memory will forever inspire the masses in the struggle against reaction, anti-Semitism, fascism and war."

And from the National Group Commission of the New York State Committee of the Communist Party:

"All our comrades, including those of various national origins, have always looked upon Moisseye Olgin with love and affection. The great circle of progressives not only in our country but internationally, looked upon him with respect.

"Our grief is tempered by the fact that M. Olgin was a Bolshevik, and as a Bolshevik, he has left before us all his example, his teachings. We have lost his presence but not his spirit. That spirit will continue to guide the struggle for the liberation of all national and religious groups."

Many of the telegrams were accompanied with contributions of \$5 with which to buy flowers.

The body will continue to lie in state at the Royal Windsor until 11:30 A.M. Sunday. Funeral services will begin at 12 o'clock noon Sunday and the body will then be taken to the IWO cemetery for burial.

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