The Stalinist Mafia

G.P.U. Conspiracy to Have Former C.P. Leader Deported

By JOSEPH ZACK

(We publish below Joseph Zack's own story of the Stalinist-State Department attempt to bring about his deportation. Joseph Zack, it will be recalled, is a veteran of the American labor and communist movements and was a high official in the Communist Party trade-union department for many years before his break with the party in 1934.—Editor.)

THE development of the Communist Party as a police agency was openly proclaimed at its last convention in the all-embracing formula, which pledges the party "to cooperate with the government to the utmost for the suppression by legal means of all parties, groups, cliques, etc., who seek to undermine or subvert the democratic institutions of the U. S." (read, of American capitalism —J. Z.)

Stalinist Stool-Pigeons

This obliges every party member to become an informer and undercover agent who, thru the intermediary of the party, cooperates with the police against all those that are considered enemies. Like all formulas, this one, too, is stressed and applied according to the political moment. Important to note here is that the party has in its degeneration reached the stage of offering itself as a reactionary police force publicly.

The above resolution speaks only of cooperation with the government by "legal means" but, as the Juliet Stuart Poyntz disappearance and the theft of Lovestone's papers show, illegal means are by no means excluded. The whole situation is well illustrated in my case, where the G.P.U. experts of the Communist Party are still cooperating with the government.

Here, in brief, are the facts of my case. In 1922, I was arrested in connection with the Michigan criminal-syndicalism cases, which also involved C. E. Ruthenberg and William Z. Foster. Like most of the others, I was held under $10,000 bail—plus $1,000 deportation bail. The deportation charge was on the ground of the alleged uncertainty of my nationality status. The case dragged on till 1933. By that time (1930), my mother, due to a severe illness, took steps to clarify my status as regards to birthplace. She had come to the United States with her husband prior to the 1893 economic crisis and here I was born. But, having found things here extremely hard, she returned to Slovakia, taking me with her at the age of two. The available proofs of this were submitted and the deportation proceedings were dropped in February 1934. The city of Scranton confirmed my birth registration and does so to this very day. In 1931, the State Department had occasion to confirm my status, when it moved to have me released from arrest in Venezuela, where I had fallen into the clutches of the Gomez dictatorship while travelling in South America.

Now, of course, Browder and Hathaway and other C.P. leaders knew all this as well as I know it. But they were out to get me. In 1934, because of increasing disagreements with the party line, I broke with the C.P. So I was put high up on the list of victims. In 1936, they got their chance. In that year, having learned that my wife—who had insisted on following me to Russia with our child in 1928 and had remained there after I returned—had "disappeared" from the state farm at which she worked in the Crimea, I addressed a letter to her to see what would happen.

Thru G.P.U. Channels

The G.P.U. forwarded the letter and obtained from her a dictated statement to the effect that she would not have anything to do with me any longer, because I had "betrayed" the movement, etc. The letter arrived here thru G.P.U. channels and was dropped into my mail box by one of the G.P.U. agents. The condition of the letter was instructive, particularly that of the envelope.

It was cut open with a pair of scissors. The postage stamps had been lifted to see whether a secret message was concealed underneath and the cancellation postmark was half erased to obliterate the location of her imprisonment. Inside, the letter itself also omitted mentioning the location from which it was written. Thus Stalin's over-zealous G.P.U. minions confirmed what I had already known of her imprisonment in reprisal for my leaving the party in the United States.

I sent the letter to the State Department in Washington and asked it to intervene on behalf of my son, a native American born in New York, held in Russia together with my wife. Months passed before there was any response, and then it was not on behalf of my family but in the form of proceedings against me! The result was a deportation warrant against me, which is still in effect and on which I am being held on $500 bail, furnished by the Civil Liberties Union, which is also taking up the case of my family in Russia.

Why this sudden attempt to deport me—to where only God knows now, after the Munich settlement? Thru authoritative government sources, I have been informed that the Stalinist G.P.U. was behind the whole move from the beginning. It very obligingly supplied the State and Labor Departments with a whole file of my writings and articles, including those during the time I was in the Communist Party, to prove that I was an "undesirable," being a revolutionist. More than that. I was also informed, and was allowed to see the documents, that two well-known Communist Party members had supplied affidavits to the government authorities to bring about my deportation. In a number of other ways, too, the

(*Continued on Page* 5)

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nebulous scheme of an "international conference," at a time when all considerations of humanity demand immediate action. Stalin bars German refugee Jews from Russia for his own "good reasons"; the American Communist Party not only approves and attempts to justify this shameful action but also refuses to support any effort to win a haven for the Jews in this country. The American Communist Party is today AGAINST the movement to open the doors of this country to Hitler's victims! This is a literal fact. In the New York Teachers Union, the Stalinist leaders actually denounced a proposal to call upon Washington to let down the bars to refugees, altho they did not dare to vote against it in the showdown. The same was the case in certain branches of the A.L.P. and in other organizations. The meaning is plain.

The mask is off. These people, who pretend to be the chosen apostles of democracy, are no more than a servile tool of Stalinist totalitarianism, for whom nothing is too vile to perform on command. Let the universal indignation and contempt of all decent people overwhelm these creatures to whom the promptings of socialism and humanity are as nothing compared to the dictates of the reactionary burocracy holding sway in the Kremlin.

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(*Continued from Page 4*)

Stalinist G.P.U. showed its hand in the proceedings.

There is still a stranger aspect to the situation. Three months ago, largely for sentimental reasons, I requested the State Department to return to me my wife's letter with the envelope, and imagine my surprise when upon receiving it, it came minus the postage stamps and with the cancellation postmark completely obliterated chemically and then scraped with a fine, sharp instrument! The work of the G.P.U. was completed by the State Department.

What they have done to my wife and child in Russia, I can only too well imagine. What they are trying to do to me is obvious. What protection can any one have against Stalin's Mafia, even in this country?