

# **Stalin-Type Smear Used on Leninist Group in Calif. CP**

LOS ANGELES, April 16 — Seven figures prominent in the Communist movement, with many years' experience in political, union and Negro activities on the West Coast, were the victims of a Stalinist-style frame-up at the Southern California District Convention of the Communist Party, April 12-14. The main target of the frame-up was Eleanor Broady, respected leader in the local Negro community.

The seven have been heading an intense political struggle for

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William F. Warde  
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a Leninist program in opposition to the policies of the Gates-Dennis-Foster tendencies in the leadership and have been gaining widespread influence in the L.A. Communist ranks. The action against them at the Convention was clearly designed to cut off free discussion of political issues now absorbing the membership and replace it with an organizational scandal based on the story cooked up by the local CP leadership.

The seven leaders of the Leninist Group were specifically charged with engaging in a secret "Trotskyist conspiracy" with local leaders of the Socialist Workers Party. Their accuser

at the Convention was the Section Organizational Secretary of the 46th Assembly District of the L.A. Communist Party.

In a twenty-two minute "confession" on the Moscow-Trial model, she told the delegates that the Khrushchev revelations had raised many doubts in her mind about the Communist Party and its policies. In her search for enlightenment she was brought into touch with leaders of the Socialist Workers Party through Eleanor Broady.

She said that she had begun to read the previously forbidden writings of Trotsky and other SWP literature and had been influenced by it. She took part in the formation of the Leninist Group composed of activists in the Communist movement who were also looking for answers to their political problems.

She had written a criticism of the Draft Resolution of the CP National Committee which she mimeographed and widely circulated in the pre-convention discussion. This document condemns the Draft Resolution positions on "peaceful co-existence" as subordinating "the struggles of the colonial peoples against imperialism to that of maintaining the status quo

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# Los Angeles CP Smear

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on a world scale" and "a betrayal of the struggle for socialism."

It also took issue with the CP attitude toward the Democratic Party as follows: "The Draft Resolution implies that the workers can take over the Democratic Party and use it to advance their own interests. The Democratic Party is a capitalist party — owned, controlled and operated in the interests of capitalism. The task of communists must be to constantly point out the futility of working through the Democratic Party and pointing out the need and the way for the workers to build their own party along class lines: that is a Farmer-Labor Party which will defend their class interests."

After making "frank and open confession" of her complicity in the "conspiracy" to spread Leninist ideas in the Communist Party, she told the Convention that she had suddenly seen the error of her ways and several weeks before the convention informed the local CP chairman, Dorothy Healey, about her activities. She then announced to the Convention that she was withdrawing her document because it was "Trotskyist in character."

In repudiating this document,

she alleged that the real aim of the Socialist Workers Party is not to promote an ideological and political discussion, but simply to destroy the Communist Party; that the leaders of the SWP have one line for the public and another which is circulated in secret internal documents known only to initiated members; and that all their public propaganda is camouflage to conceal conspiratorial aims.

She concluded by fingering her associates in the leadership of the Leninist Group and by advising them to leave the Communist Party and join the Socialist Workers Party.

Immediately after the "revelation" of this "Great Conspiracy," one of the seven named demanded five minutes to answer the false accusations. A motion to give him the floor was passed 5 to 1 by the delegates.

The spokesman for the seven accused Leninists said that there had been no secrecy about his meetings with SWP members. Both his own branch and the Harbor Division organizer had been told about these discussions. He had been talking with SWP members and reading their publications as well as those of other groups to find answers to questions bothering him and many other comrades.

"This is not only the right but the duty of every member in order to find the way out of the terrible crisis of our movement."

"We have been told that the ban on free association and discussion with other socialists had been lifted. I will continue to talk with people of any other political party or tendency, including the SWP. If this be treason, make the most of it," he concluded.

The convention moved to refer the matter to the incoming District Council for action.

## GET BACKING

During the rest of the Convention sessions, the victimized individuals present received encouraging expressions of support from delegates for their right to maintain their own opinions and associate freely with other tendencies. One CP member, angered at this attempt to reinstitute bureaucratic gag-rule over the membership, remarked: "After thinking about it overnight," he said, "I believe that this smacks of the Moscow Trial techniques we want nothing more to do with."

Another well-known militant said: "I have usually found that where people can't answer ideas, they have to trump up organizational tricks like this."

A third hit the political essence of the affair right on the head. "For nine months now we have been waiting for our leaders to come up with some kind of political program. This Convention was the end of the road. What we got on the trade union question, Negro work, the Jewish problem and Hungary was no program or one that was no good. It's clear to me that this diversion has been staged as the star performance of this Convention to try and cover up the political bankruptcy manifested by the leadership."

The Monday after the Convention, Eleanor Broady was informed by Dorothy Healey, local CP Chairman, that she would be denounced in the Daily Worker and the People's World as a "paid agent of the Socialist Workers Party."

This attempt to defame some of the most respected people in the local Communist movement in order to cover up false political policies is expected to boom-erang against its authors. Here is a typical outburst of revulsion: "Dorothy Healey cannot get away with reimposing thought control and the old dictatorship over us. This is not the season for petty bureaucrats to call back Stalin's ghost as a solution for our problems. What we want is the freedom to find out what's wrong with our party and then do what is needed to bring it back to a genuine Marxist-Leninist course."

## Los Angeles SWP Chairman Hits Use of 'Moscow-Trial' Methods

LOS ANGELES, April 16 — William F. Warde, Los Angeles chairman of the Socialist Workers Party, who was accused of plotting the destruction of the local Communist Party, made the following

statement to the Militant reporter: "At the March 29 symposium at Embassy Auditorium I proposed six points for joint action by all socialist organizations, and individuals in Los Angeles. On that occasion, much to the disappointment of many people, Dorothy Healey refused to comment on this program:

"She gave her answer two weeks later at this district convention by contriving this false allegation of a Great Conspiracy on our part to destroy the Communist Party.

"There is no need for us or anyone else to destroy the CP. That task is being very effectively done by the Communist leaders from Khrushchev to Dorothy Healey whose policies are responsible for its present condition. This latest scandalous action can only further that discreditment.

"Our openly proclaimed aim is to participate in the work of ideological and political clarification on the basic issues of American radicalism that the

Communist Party members themselves are asking for and not getting. We want to cooperate with every genuine communist in the CP by discussing with them our common problems in the anti-capitalist struggle. No repetitions of Moscow Trial techniques will deter us from pursuing this political work.

"Nor will we permit any provocations by local CP leaders to poison the atmosphere of the regroupment movement in which we seek frank and free discussion of our political differences while acting together against the common class enemy."

Warde also told the Militant reporter of his final interview with the Section Organizational Secretary of the 46th Assembly District of the Los Angeles CP about her intentions on the day of the Convention. "She came to me and told me," Warde said, "that she was going to say things about the Socialist Workers Party which were not true and which she did not believe."