

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING No. 47, October 1, 1976

Present: Barnes, Berman, Garza, Horowitz, D. Jenness, Jones, Lovell, Lund, Seigle, Sheppard, Stapleton, Thomas, Waters

Guests: Benson, Jaquith, Morell, Rodríguez

Chair: Lovell

AGENDA: 1. Steelworkers and Miners
2. Right-Wing Counteroffensive
3. World Movement
4. Amadeo Richardson Campaign

1. STEELWORKERS AND MINERS

(Rose invited for this point)

Rose reported on developments in the United Steelworkers and our campaign to sell Militant subscriptions and The Fight for Union Democracy in Steel pamphlet.
(See attached leaflet.)

Jaquith reported on United Mine Workers convention and red-baiting offensive by right-wingers.

Discussion

Agreed on press coverage.

2. RIGHT-WING COUNTEROFFENSIVE

Seigle reported on right-wing counteroffensive in response to Levi's order to FBI to end its "investigation" of SWP and YSA. Nationally circulated newspaper Human Events and network radio commentator M. Stanton Evans have reraised slander that Lee Harvey Oswald was linked to the SWP.
(See material distributed earlier to N.C.)

Proposal to prepare major article refuting these slanders.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

3. WORLD MOVEMENT

Thomas reported on convention of the Groupe Marxiste Révolutionnaire in Montréal September 24-26, which Thomas and Benson attended as Political Committee representatives.

Benson reported on Central Committee meeting of the Revolutionary Marxist Group in Toronto September 4-7.

Discussion

4. AMADEO RICHARDSON CAMPAIGN

(Flax Hermes and Steve Clark invited for this point)

D. Jenness reported on the Amadeo Richardson campaign in New York City's 64th State Assembly District.

Discussion

Proposal to continue discussion at future meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

SPECTRUM

Varying shades of personal opinion on current issues

M. STANTON EVANS
CBS RADIO NETWORK
SEPTEMBER 23, 1976

I'm M. Stanton Evans.

I have before me some recent news stories, describing the flap between the FBI and the Socialist Workers Party -- SWP, for short.

To read these items one would suppose the SWP is a tiny group of dissidents persecuted for no good reason by an American Gestapo. Just some "socialists," according to a headline in The Washington Post, apparently engaged in nothing more alarming than a bit of vigorous dissent. The facts of the case are decidedly different.

For one thing, the Socialist Workers Party is not a "socialist" organization, in the sense of peaceful, Norman Thomas-type socialism. It is a Communist organization, devoted to the principles of Communist leaders V.I. Lenin and Leon Trotsky. These happen to be the principles of violent revolution.

The SWP is associated with something called the Fourth International, a global aggregation of Trotsky Communist Parties. Though viewed as heretics by Moscow, the leaders of the SWP have made it a point of principle to support the Soviet Union and other Communist nations as against the United States. In 1942 the party asserted: "We are Soviet patriots in war as in peace." In 1973 the party's national secretary stated: "You know, our ideas aren't originally American ideas. Our ideas are basically Russian."

The closest fraternal ties of the SWP to any foreign country are to Fidel Castro's Cuba. Party members have frequently traveled there, and the SWP was intimately involved in running the Castro-financed Fair Play for Cuba Committee. As amply demonstrated in congressional hearings, the Fair Play Committee was a front group in which SWP Trotskyists and members of the regular Communist Party worked in uneasy tandem.

The most famous alumnus of the Fair Play Committee was also a devotee of the SWP. His name -- Lee Harvey Oswald. The officially designated assassin of President Kennedy had himself photographed holding a rifle, a copy of the Communist Worker, and a copy of The Militant, official publication of the Socialist Workers Party.

Could be these details have something to do with the FBI's interest in this hearty band of "socialists."

This is M. Stanton Evans with Spectrum.



SEPTEMBER 25, 1976

Levi Continues to Weaken Internal Security

Jimmy Carter, as the President Ford Committee keeps trying to tell us, may be almost as bad as Beelzebub himself, but a number of conservatives are still going to need another reason before they can be moved to vote for Gerald Ford on election day. For them, Henry Kissinger's continued presence in the State Department is not the only pall cast over the Ford candidacy. They are becoming equally gloomy about the presence of Edward Levi in the Justice Department.

Levi is turning into a first-rate disaster. When security experts have come to the point where they would almost welcome the return of Ramsey Clark, something has got to be wrong. Knowledgeable people in the field of internal security were distressed when Levi was initially nominated. They believed, as HUMAN EVENTS noted at the time, that Levi's support of the far-left National Lawyers Guild in the '30s and '40s and his support of the American Civil Liberties Union later on were hardly auspicious omens for those interested in strengthening our anti-subversive laws. How right they were.

Levi's latest atrocity was last week's revelation that he had ordered the FBI to halt its 38-year-old investigation of the Socialist Worker's party, which the media continue to mythologize as a gentle, left-wing group on the order of Norman Thomas's old Socialist party. The FBI had placed counterintelligence agents in the 2,000-member SWP, and the party has sued the FBI, charging it and other law enforcement agencies with illegal harassment.

Spokesmen for the attorney general said Levi had ordered the total withdrawal of all FBI surveillance after a "systematic review" of how his April 5 guidelines covering domestic security investigations apply to the SWP and its official youth affiliate, the Young Socialist Alliance.

Security experts were appalled at Levi's order, and fear it portends the Justice Department's virtual elimination of all effective anti-subversive measures. Far from fitting the media image of a small, peaceful political David struggling against the heavy hand of the FBI Goliath, the SWP is a Marxist-Leninist splinter group that favors the forceful overthrow of the American government.

A willing tool of Moscow, the SWP gives aid and comfort to foreign Communist terrorists, actively seeks to subvert the U.S. military and because the



Many internal security experts are becoming increasingly alarmed by Atty. Gen. Levi's recent decisions regarding far-left organizations. At right, Lee Harvey Oswald was photographed holding a copy of *The Militant*, the publication of the extreme-left Socialist Workers party.

cutting edge of the pro-Hanoi movement in the United States in the late 1960s and early '70s. Moreover, while the majority of the SWP leadership oppose employing terrorist tactics within the United States at the present time, the SWP is a "section" of the Fourth International, many of whose various factions are openly engaged in spreading terrorism throughout the globe.

It is an intriguing bit of history that Lee Harvey Oswald, President Kennedy's Communist assassin, was once photographed (see picture) holding a rifle in one hand and *The Militant* in the other. *The Militant* is the chief propaganda organ of the SWP. In fact, Albert H. Newman, in a scholarly study of the JFK shooting called *The Assassination of John F. Kennedy*, makes out a solid case that Oswald considered himself a Trotskyite Communist when he murdered Kennedy in 1963. Newman also published portions of several letters by Oswald to SWP leaders requesting membership in that organization.

The guiding spirit of the Socialist Workers party is Leon Trotsky, a founder of the Soviet system who had a bitter falling out with Stalin and was later murdered by a Stalin agent in Mexico. In 1934, James P. Cannon, who had become a leader of the Trotskyite movement in the United States, merged his Communist League of America with a group led by A. J. Muste to form the Workers party. In 1936, on Trotsky's orders, the Workers party melted into the Socialist Party, U.S.A., which was

Trotskyites then tried to coopt. Nearly two years later, the Socialist party expelled the Trotskyites, and on Jan. 3, 1938, the Socialist Workers party was born.

In a "Declaration of Principles of the Socialist Workers party," the SWP founders acknowledged (page 7) that their aim was "the overthrow of the capitalist state" and the establishment of the "Workers' State—the Dictatorship of the Proletariat."

Further, on page 19: "The main specific task of the SWP is the mobilization of the American masses for struggle against American capitalism and its overthrow."

Page 23: "In the imperialist United States, the SWP fights against war preparations and militarization; but at the same time always makes clear that war cannot be permanently prevented unless the imperialist government of the United States is overthrown and its place taken by a Workers' State, that lasting peace is possible only under socialism."

On page 25: "It is consequently the elementary and imperative duty of all workers, and especially of the revolutionary party, to defend the Soviet Union unconditionally against any and every imperialist nation."

This information, contained in extensive testimony and documentation presented by Herbert Romerstein to the Senate Internal Security subcommittee

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Levi Continues to Weaken Internal Security

last year, should at least lay to rest any theories that the SWP is just an ordinary political party that tilts a bit leftward. The SWP, of course, could have changed radically over the years, but the truth is that it hasn't. It has, in fact, steadily pursued its twin aims of trying to subvert the U.S. government and implement Soviet foreign policy goals.

The SWP, for instance, has been avidly interested in weakening the loyalty of the American soldier to the United States, and, in 1941, 18 leaders of the SWP, including Cannon, were indicted and convicted under the Smith Act for trying to instigate an insurrection in the armed forces. (A fact that renders absurd the Washington *Post's* contention last week that the FBI has been "pursuing the SWP since 1938 without producing any evidence of wrongdoing by the party or its members.")

While the SWP opposed U.S. participation in World War II, it also supported the Soviet Union in the war. And a political resolution fashioned by the Socialist Workers party in 1942 says: "The war of the Soviet Union is our war, the war of the workers everywhere. The Soviet Union remains a workers' state, although degenerated by the Kremlin bureaucracy." That same resolution went on to say: "We are Soviet patriots in war as in peace." (What is remarkable is that the Trotskyites could draw up a resolution so slavishly devoted to the Soviet Union, only two years after Stalin had murdered Trotsky.)

After the war, the SWP continued on its merry path, and in 1948, the Truman Justice Department cited the organization as subversive.

The SWP's subversive nature has not abated in recent years at all; indeed, it has fairly blossomed.

As Rep. Larry McDonald (D.-Ga.), one of the nation's leading authorities on internal security, has pointed out in a series of reports in recent issues of the

Congressional Record, the SWP has had a close relationship with international terrorist groups as a result of its affiliation with the Fourth International.

The House Committee on Internal Security in April 1970 heard testimony from Thomas West, who had joined the SWP's youth arm, the Young Socialist Alliance, from 1967 to 1969 while working undercover for the Chicago Police Department. West pointed out that the YSA members were thoroughly grounded in Marxism-Leninism, and he told the subcommittee: "There is no question in my mind that the principal objective is to create a worldwide Socialist revolution." They believe, he said, that this will come about in a violent way. And while they don't advocate irrational violent acts, they "advocate violence as a tactic when it is necessary to be implemented toward a political goal."

The attitude of SWP members and its youth arm, the YSA, toward violence, said West, can best be summed up in James Cannon's work, *Socialism on Trial*, in which he said: "To realize socialism, Marxism posits that it is first necessary to destroy the state machinery of the capitalist ruling class: namely, the army, the police and the state bureaucracy. . . ."

West was asked: "How did they intend to destroy it?" West responded: "They planned to take over the means of production, namely factories, etc."

Question: "Would this takeover be a peaceful takeover or a violent takeover?"

West: "They feel that it will be a violent takeover by the very nature of the people who own the property, businesses, etc.; they would not just hand them over."

Question: "Do they actually advocate violence toward the takeover?"

West: "If it is necessary to do so, yes, they do."

Not only do members of the SWP still call for the overthrow of the U.S. government, but they remain

adamantly pro-Soviet. This was convincingly underscored in the SWP's August 1974 Internal Informational Bulletin No. 7, which contained a 1973 speech by Jack Whittier Barnes. Barnes serves as the national chairman of the Socialist Workers party, and has served on the International Executive Committee of the Fourth International under the code name "Hans." In his speech, as Romerstein revealed before the SISS, Barnes made a most interesting admission. He said:

"You know, our ideas aren't originally American ideas. Our ideas are basically Russian. That's what Comrade Cannon always emphasized. And if you look up at the banners of Lenin and Trotsky there, you will see the two main Russians whose ideas they are."

The SWP has been almost undeviating in its support for Soviet Communist goals, and has frequently submerged its differences with the U.S. Communist party to achieve ends beneficial to the USSR and its allies. The SWP, for instance, worked with CP members to help set up the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, a Castro-financed group that spread pro-Castro propaganda in the United States.

The SWP also cooperated with the CP to stage anti-war demonstrations in the United States. The SWP eventually controlled the key anti-war groups, including New Mobe, Student Mobe and the National Peace Action Coalition. In April 1971, Xuan Thuy, a top Hanoi official, proved instrumental in helping the SWP to stage a monster rally in Washington, D.C., by encouraging pro-Hanoi groups to join in. That rally, which hundreds of thousands of demonstrators attended, proved to be one of the most successful demonstrations during the war.

The SWP, in case one is under a delusion created by the *Washington Post*, clearly did not involve itself in these "anti-war" demonstrations for the purpose of easing America out of a terrible conflict. As the SWP's newspaper, *The Militant*, disclosed in its July 18, 1969 edition the major purpose of these "peace" activities was to help Hanoi conquer South Vietnam and inflict a horrible defeat upon the United States.

"Representatives of the Socialist Workers party and Young Socialist Alliance," said *The Militant*, "sought to demonstrate that revolutionaries who regarded themselves as partisans of the Vietnamese liberation struggle had the obligation to build a broad, mass movement in opposition to the war from the viewpoint of aiding the Vietnamese revolution as well as from the standpoint of accelerating the radicalizing process in this country."

To further the cause of Hanoi, the SWP and the YSA established the GI Civil Liberties Defense Committee, which, according to a 1970 study of the House Committee on Internal Security, was "designed to provide legal and other aid for... anti-war activist servicemen. The GICLDC has also cooperated closely with attorneys from the Communist-controlled Emergency Civil Liberties Committee."

Despite its disavowal of terrorist tactics at the moment, the SWP has a pro-terrorist minority faction, has formed the U.S. Committee for Justice to Latin American Political Prisoners, which actively aids Latin terrorists, and works closely with the Castroite Puerto Rican Socialist party, whose aim is to turn the U.S. Commonwealth of Puerto Rico into a Communist state. One of the top leaders of the Puerto Rican Socialist party at this time is Alfredo López, a former SWP member, who still meets with the SWP leadership.

In addition, the Socialist Workers party, in violation of the Voorhees Act, is part of the Fourth International, an international body representing Trotskyite factions from all over the world.

As Mr. Romerstein, former minority chief investigator for the House Committee on Internal Security, makes evident in his presentation before SISS, the SWP regularly sends delegates to Fourth International gatherings. Moreover, the majority of the factions in the Fourth International do support terrorist activities in various parts of the globe, though the SWP dismissed certain U.S. members for adhering to a "terrorism now" policy. But as Mr. Romerstein

Lee H. Oswald
 P.O. Box 30061
 New Orleans, La.

Dear Sirs,
 Please advise me as to how I can get into direct contact with S.W.P. representatives in the Washington D.C.-Baltimore area.
 I and my family are moving to that area in October.
 As you know, there is no S.W.P. branch in the New Orleans area where I have been living. I am a long-time subscriber to *The Militant* and other party literature of which, I am sure, you have a record.
 Thank you
 Lee H. Oswald

SEP 3 1963
 SEP 1, 1963

Reproduced above is a letter from Lee Harvey Oswald to the New York City offices of the Socialist Workers party, dated Sept. 1, 1963. The text is as follows: "Dear Sirs: Please advise me as to how I can get into direct contact with SWP representatives in the Washington, D.C.-Baltimore area. I and my family are moving to that area in October. As you know, there is no SWP branch in the New Orleans area where I have been living. I am a long-time subscriber to *The Militant* and other party literature of which, I am sure, you have a record."

makes clear, many of them have since been reinstated as good members.

In a statement dealing with Levi's actions on the SWP last week, Rep. McDonald, who has been reporting to the House on the SWP and its links with terrorist groups, called upon President Ford to fire his attorney general. His own findings, said McDonald, show the following:

"1. The Socialist Workers party is the American section of the Fourth International.

"2. Since 1969, the Fourth International has officially endorsed international terrorism as the best revolutionary tactic at this time....

"3. Although the Socialist Workers party has argued that terrorism is not a productive tactic under present conditions, it does state that terrorism may be useful for its revolutionary aims in the future. Leading SWP officials, including Peter Camejo, now their candidate for President of the United States, and Mary-Alice Waters have plainly stated this position during SWP internal discussions.

"4. Leading Trotskyite promoters of international terrorism have visited the U.S. a number of times in the past 10 years to attend closed meetings of the SWP and YSA. Among them were members of the

Fourth International Executive Committee, including Ernest Mandel of Belgium, Livio Maitan of Italy and Charles Michaloux of France. While in this country, these individuals held talks and private discussion with SWP members to argue in favor of the terrorism-now tactic.

"5. An SWP splinter group, the Internationalist Tendency, supports the terrorism-now tactic of the Fourth International leadership. While the SWP expelled most members of this faction in 1974 on a technical charge of violating party discipline (not for promoting the immediate commencement of terrorist violence), some remained within the SWP and about two dozen have been reinstated on direct orders from the Fourth International.

"6. The internal documents and discussion materials of the Socialist Workers party provide valuable information on current activities of the international terrorist groups with which they collaborate.

"Among those groups are the Palestine Liberation Organization (the Lebanese and Israeli Fourth International sections are actively engaged in operations on behalf of the terrorist PLO); the Basque terrorist ETA (the Spanish section of the Fourth International has merged its party with a terrorist ETC faction); the major Argentinian terrorist organization, the ERP, was until recently a section of the Fourth International, and after a factional split an ERP group remained within the International); the Official and Provisional wings of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) have been in contact with the Fourth International; in addition, a small, Trotskyite terrorist 'urban guerrilla' group called Saor Eire receives both support and manpower from the British Fourth International section.

"Detailed information on all of these terrorist groups has been available as a result of surveillance and the penetration of the SWP by informants."

The SWP, then, is a militantly pro-Soviet group, actively seeking the destruction of the United States. While the current SWP majority may not foment terrorism at the present time, the organization tolerates and comforts international terrorists and even includes a small terrorist faction within its own organization.

In addition, the SWP leadership participates in the Fourth International, an international Trotskyite organization whose majority favors using terrorism on a world-wide scale. Nevertheless, President Ford's attorney general has ordered the FBI to halt all surveillance of the Socialist Workers party, despite the fact that the FBI has obtained valuable information about international terrorism as a result of its surveillance of the SWP.

Moreover, there is now considerable worry that the Levi guidelines on domestic security will soon end any FBI probe of the Communist party as well. FBI officials themselves have expressed this concern. Indeed, Frank McNamara, in a May 1 article in HUMAN EVENTS titled, "Levi Imposes Severe Restrictions on FBI," warned that the Levi guidelines would become a boon to left-wing groups and would even bar the FBI from a "full investigation of the Communist party...."

While that may have seemed a far-fetched assertion in May, it seems very accurate in September. Perhaps Ford doesn't realize it, but it is just the sort of action that Levi took last week that makes a number of his potential supporters wonder whether they're going to vote for President at all this year.