

# The Rakosi Trial Is On

By JOHN PEPPER.

A NEW chapter in the rascality of the Hungarian counter-revolution is beginning. The trial of Rakosi and his comrades began on July 12 in Budapest.

Fifty-eight workers will stand before the counter-revolutionary tribunal of Horthy. Mutiny, coup d'état plans, offenses against law and order of the "kingdom of Hungary" and—most "terrible" of all—Communist propaganda, agitation for the ideas of the third international—these are the chief counts in the indictments.

## Forgery Trial.

Hungary once more shows its true face. The forgery trial is followed by the Communist trial. It would require a new Carlyle to depict the forgery trial—this Hungarian edition of the necklace case. Active and former ministers, the national police chief, the chaplain-bishop of the Hungarian army, high officers of the general staff, of the Horthy and Bethlen ministry, even the premier himself—all were involved in the franc forgery affair. An international scandal without parallel, the Bank of France appealing as prosecutor against the whole of official Hungary in the league of nations' council, Briand even proposed an international law for the punishment of counterfeiters. In Geneva Premier Bethlen had his ears boxed by an embittered "republican." Despite the endeavors of England, chief protector of the Horthy regime, the league of nations finance control was not withdrawn. Despite all the quackery and faith healing prayers of the league of nations' "rationalized" Hungary remains the "sick man" of central Europe.

## Chronic Depression.

Chronic economic crises, chronic unemployment, and a counter-revolutionary dictatorship grown chronic, with its secret societies, its irredentist propaganda, and its brutal contempt of all "formalities" of bourgeois democracy—such is the picture presented by Horthy-Bethlen-Hungary.

Now the trial of the 58 workers is to take place in these surroundings. This picture of the actual milieu would be incomplete, however, without the inclusion of the Hungarian social democracy. For Hungary also has its social democracy.

The relations between the Bethlen government and the social democratic party of Hungary is best characterized in the words of Heine's poem, "Krapulinsky and Waschlappsky:" "One louse and one soul."

In all the world no social democracy is so closely bound up with its "own" government as is the Hungarian. In a duly executed contract containing many paragraphs and much juridical finesse it sold out the Hungarian proletariat to the Bethlen government.

## "Bethlen Pact."

When this notorious "Bethlen pact" of the social democrats became known it gave the impetus to the consolidation of the illegal Communist movement, to the splitting away of the left wing of the social democracy, and to the founding of the socialist labor party of Hungary.

These two points, on the one hand the Communist movement getting its foothold, and on the other the foundation of a left social democratic labor party, furnish the foundation of this new trial. The 58 workers who will now stand before the bar of "justice" really fall into two groups.

The first is the Communists—Rakosi and his comrades, who, with tenacious detail work and heroic disregard for death, worked away at the building up of the illegal Communist Party.

The other group is a left social democratic one—Vagi and his comrades, who severed connections with social democracy on the publication of the "Bethlen pact" in order to found a new left socialist party on the basis of the "straight Marxist class struggle."

## The Rakosi Group.

The Rakosi group appears at the bar as the standard bearer of the Communist International, as the perpetuator of the great revolutionary traditions of the first Hungarian Soviet Republic, as the subterranean advance guard of the new Hungarian revolution.

The Vagi group was dragged before the counter-revolutionary court as a group of honest workers (practically without exception they are good trade unionists) that applied for entrance to the second international at Marseilles, and has not yet found the road to Communism, but that could no longer stomach the traitorous, counter-revolutionary policy of official Hungarian social democracy.

The indictment of the counter-revolutionary tribunal seeks to intertwine these two groups with one another. The charges maintain that the socialist labor party is only the legal cloak for the illegal Communist Party. As proof of this, the fact that certain Communists worked in the organization of the left socialist party, just as they do in the trade unions and in the organization of the official social

democracy, is being utilized against the workers.

## To Muzzle Communists.

Through this trial the government pursues two political goals: First, it hopes to muzzle the Communist Party by intimidation and imprisonment of its spokesman. Secondly, it seeks to force the socialist labor party into illegality.

It is the duty of the international working class to concentrate attention on this trial of Hungarian workers. The first attack of the Hungarian counter-revolution which last winter sought the life of Rakosi was beaten back thru the splendid solidarity action of the international proletariat.

Comrade Rakosi showed himself worthy of the great revolutionary traditions of the Hungarian working class in his first appearance before the court. He, the former people's commissar of the Hungarian Soviet Republic, the former secretary of the Communist International, went back to Hungary fully conscious of the danger of death and torture in order to carry out difficult illegal work. The life of Comrade Rakosi, formerly the property only of the Hungarian proletariat, has by this splendid international solidarity action become the precious possession of the workers of all the world.

## Support Hungarian Workers.

We are confident that neither he nor the other 57 workers now before the Horthy tribunal will be deserted at this juncture by the working class of the world.

## Maritime Labor Herald Suspends Publication

GLACE BAY, Nova Scotia—(FP)—July 29.—The Maritime Labor Herald, focus for many years of the militant miners of Nova Scotia, is forced to suspend publication until better times. In a statement published in its farewell issue the Herald says:

"This paper during its entire life was surrounded by those who sought to destroy it. We would advise these foes not to be too jubilant over the fate that has overtaken the Maritime Labor Herald.

"It's not dead, but suspended until such time as the workers of this province have learned the lesson of the need of a live uncompromising working class paper and are willing to pay the price to keep it going."

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