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Antoinette Konikow Mourned By Comrades

By Joseph Hansen

BOSTON, Mass., July 3—At 9:15 yesterday morning, Antoinette Konikow, one of the great pioneer builders of American revolutionary socialism, a founder of the Socialist Workers Party and an Honorary Member of its National Committee, died of a heart attack. One of the best-loved champions of the labor movement, the suddenness of her death came as a shock to thousands of workers in Boston and throughout the country. She was almost 77 years old.

Thus close, a most valiant career of self-sacrifice and devotion to the cause of world socialism. Antoinette Konikow was born November 19, 1869, in Czarist Russia. Almost six decades of that life—since 1888—were spent in the battle to end capitalism and build a better world. Although ill for some time, Comrade Konikow had been in excellent spirits. Never had she felt more confident of the final victory of socialism. In the morning, her daughter, Edith Konikow, had persuaded her to stay in bed while breakfast was prepared. When Edith called upstairs some ten minutes later, the old revolutionary did not answer. The end had come swiftly and painlessly. Neither artificial respiration nor the pulmotor of the emergency squad could revive the heart which had beat so long in the cause of the oppressed.

Funeral services were held today at 11 a.m. in accordance with wishes of the immediate family.

LAID TO REST

In charge was the Workers' Circle. Comrade Konikow was one of the founders of this workers' benefit organization. All her life had been spent in the cause of the working class. Now in death, the workers laid her tenderly to rest.

The services were simple—the plain casket of a worker and the words of close friends and comrades to bid her farewell. The most eloquent tribute came from the Boston workers who loved her. They banded flowers around her casket. Red carnations, the flower of working class revolution, and red roses. The floral offering that epitomized the life of Antoinette Konikow was a hammer and sickle with a "4" to represent the Fourth International. That tribute came from the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party in token of the sentiments of the whole world-wide movement which is now advancing Leon Trotsky's program of revolutionary socialism as the only way

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ANTOINETTE KONIKOW
1869—1946

REVOLUTIONARY LEADERS SEND SORROWING TRIBUTES

We print below the messages sent by James P. Cannon, Rose Karsner and Natalia Trotsky to the family of Antoinette Konikow.

Farewell Antoinette Konikow. Your unceasing and devoted loyalty to the cause of the working class remains our heritage and an inspiration to our youth. Your death is a great loss to us. Your heroic spirit lives on. Farewell Antoinette.

James P. Cannon
Rose Karsner

I share with you the bitterness of your loss.
Natalia
Coyoacan, Mexico

SWP National Committee Expresses Grief Of Party

The Socialist Workers Party mourns the passing of one of the leaders of the Trotskyist movement.

Antoinette Konikow was one of our living links with the founders of Marxism. Frederick Engels headed the revolutionary socialist movement when Antoinette became a Socialist in 1888. She saw the rise of the Second International and then its decline. She participated in the founding of the pioneer Communist movement in this country and of the Third International. When the Third International died as a revolutionary force she helped found the Fourth International.

She was with Plekhanov, the founder of the Russian Marxist movement. She was with Lenin, the founder of the first workers' state in history. She was among the first to rebel against Stalinism. And she fought side by side with Leon Trotsky in the great historic struggle in defense of the conquests of the October 1917 revolution. For almost sixty years Antoinette Konikow stood in the revolutionary vanguard of the world working class.

This incomparable wealth of experience became part of the revolutionary heritage of American Trotskyism. As a youth Antoinette Konikow rebelled against the injustice, the vile prejudices, the exploitation and the degradation that belong to capitalism. She set out to build a better world. Taking her place with the revolutionary socialists, she gave her best energies to overthrowing the dying economic system that breeds depressions, unemployment, hunger, war and fascism. No one could swerve her from that path.

She fought against the First World War and she remained a consistent internationalist in the Second World War. Up to the day of her death she was still doing her part with that magnificent selflessness and devotion so characteristic of her. Antoinette lived the full life of a revolutionary.

Many times she told young people who came to her with their problems that there is no better way to live than joining in the great task of ending the nightmare of capitalism and reshaping the world on socialist foundations. Antoinette has left us, but her spirit continues to march in our ranks.

Her example and memory provide the real inspiration for the youth of today. She never faltered in the supreme hope and confidence that this generation will solve the historical tasks of the world working class.

It was the great fighters like Antoinette Konikow and her generation that built the granite foundation of our movement. She lived to see the formation of those detachments that will surmount all obstacles on the path to the Communist future of man. Let it be repeated her confidence and faith in that future never wavered.

As we dip our stainless banner over the grave of Antoinette Konikow, we say goodbye to a leader and teacher who hands on to us the torch of revolutionary socialism from the founders of the movement in the last century. We shall carry forward that torch as you would wish it, Antoinette, courageously and with all our energy.

National Committee of the
Socialist Workers Party

Detroit Unions Urge National Labor 'Holiday'

By Al Adler

(Special to The Militant)

DETROIT, July 5. — Over 1,200 officers, committeemen and stewards from the United Automobile Workers and other CIO unions at a meeting here Tuesday night vigorously applauded the program outlined by UAW President Walter Reuther "to re-open all wage contracts if a new and better OPA is not passed by Congress."

This meeting representing the leadership of the workers in the plants, enthusiastically supported every militant proposal presented.

LABOR HOLIDAY

The meeting called for a national labor holiday demonstration to protest the runaway inflation hitting the basic standard of living of the American workers. It further instructed the local unions to re-organize their flying squadrons "so that the furniture of evicted workers may be put back into their homes as fast as the courts and police put them on the sidewalk."

After many delegates had spoken of the need for immediate action rather than adoption of well-sounding resolutions, chairman Richard T. Leonard, UAW vice-president and head of the Michigan PAC, was forced to promise that a proposed Cadillac Square demonstration and coordinated national demonstrations protesting the slashing of

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Jim-Crow Judge Aids Frame-up In Trial Of 25

By order of presiding Judge Ingram, 25 Negro victims of the February reign of terror by state troopers in Columbia, Tennessee, will be forced to stand trial in Lawrenceburg, where race-hate is even more rampant than in Columbia itself.

This is the answer of the Jim Crow judge and State's attorney Paul F. Bumpus to requests by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for a change of venue. After cynically denying that race hatred exists in Columbia and refusing to transfer the trial, the court has finally agreed—to a new site which will still further endanger the Negroes who face frame-up charges of "attempt to commit murder."

Defense attorneys underscored the fact that the lynch atmosphere in Lawrenceburg exceeds that in Columbia. But Judge Ingram over-ruled a defense motion that the trial remain in Columbia rather than be moved to the even worse lynch atmosphere of Lawrenceburg. The frame-up is thus scheduled to proceed.

Meanwhile NAACP attorneys will open pleas of abatement in Columbia this week in the case of two Negroes indicted separately on charges of assault with intent to commit murder in the first degree. As in the case of the 25, the NAACP asks that the indictment be quashed because Negroes were barred from jury service.

The lily-white grand jury which made the indictments denied that there had been any violation of the civil rights of the Negro victims of the February assault, despite wholesale evidence to the contrary. In addition it actually praised the 1,000 Tennessee state troopers who had stormed through the Negro community, destroyed homes and businesses, terrorized the people, arrested over 100 and shot down two Negroes in cold blood in the jail.

Defying Bilbo's Threats



Here are two of the estimated 5,000 Negroes in Mississippi who were permitted to register and who defied Democratic Senator Bilbo's threats of lynch violence by voting in last week's primaries. Hundreds of thousands of white and Negro workers are still denied the ballot through poll tax and other restrictions.

Packing Union Seeks Cost-Of-Living Bonus

(Special to The Militant)

CHICAGO, July 3—"A bonus based on rising living costs" is a main point of the wage program of the CIO United Packinghouse Workers, the union's paper, The Packinghouse Worker, announced on June 28.

This demand will be raised in next month's negotiations with Swift, Armour, Wilson and Cudahy. Other demands include a basic \$1 per hour minimum wage, a 12-cent an hour raise, a guaranteed annual wage and no wage differentials.

The UPWA Executive Board states that "fewer dollars are actually being taken home, on the average per week, than before; the 16 per cent increase went into effect" last February. In addition, "the cost of living has continued to mount." Therefore, the UPWA "will press during negotiations for the inclusion of a clause in the contract providing for a COST OF LIVING BONUS."

Details of the bonus have not

Meat Profits, Up Production Down

CHICAGO, July 5. — In the first six months of its fiscal year, October 28, 1945 to April 27, 1946, Armour & Co., one of the "Big Four" meat packers, made more profits than during the previous entire year, a statement recently filed by the company reveals. This big jump in profits occurred, according to Lyle Cooper, UPWA-CIO Research Director, while hog slaughter fell off, plants were down during last January's strike, a 16-cent wage increase was paid since January 26, and cattle department operations almost stopped.

yet been worked out. Ralph Helstein, UPWA president (reported in last week's Militant), indicated it will be an adaptation of the principle of the sliding scale of wages to meet rising living costs.

Truman-Sponsored Measure Designed To Fool Workers

By Art Preis

The new Truman-sponsored OPA bill being debated in Congress is a deception. It will not control prices any more than the previous measure, under which living costs soared during the war more than a hundred per cent.

This measure, like its predecessor, is intended not to halt rising

prices but to "regulate" inflation. Unwilling to take responsibility for Congress's openly-inflationary bill which he vetoed, Truman is seeking to re-establish a fictitious price control in the disguise of a "good" OPA bill.

Although the Senate Banking Committee deleted some portions of the vetoed bill, the "compromise" measure it proposed last week is merely a patch-work of the former feeble "price control" act and the vetoed bill.

It is clear that the administration would like to palm a measure like this off on the workers as "price control." This would then be used as the pretext for demanding a wage freeze—while prices continue upward as they did during the war.

The present bounding inflation is merely an intensification of the trend which developed throughout the imperialist war

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Profits High As 'Best War Years'

Reduction of corporation profits taxes and rising prices are enabling the corporations to continue raking in profits at the best war-time rate.

During the first three months of this year, despite drastic curtailment of war production, corporate profits after taxes remained "close to that of the best war years," reported the Department of Commerce on July 2.

The government agency revealed that although profits before taxes were lower than in 1945, the elimination of the excess profits tax and easing of other taxes had provided a sufficient offset to keep profits after taxes at high war-time levels.

Wage increases won by the unions are coming from these vast profits. But Big Business, greedy to make more and more, is trying to wipe out the wage gains and increase its profits through a hidden wage cut—inflation.

2 Top Washington Officials Linked To \$78,000,000 Arms Firm Fraud

By Ruth Benson

Hearings before the Senate Defense Investigating Committee, headed by Senator Mead, last week revealed that one enterprising arms

combine starting during the war with no cash, no plants and no workers, wound up with over \$78,000,000 in government contracts. This profitable deal was engineered, it is alleged, with the assistance of two of the highest-placed men in the whole war program — Representative May of Kentucky, head of the House Military Affairs Committee, and Secretary of War Patterson.

In October, 1941, Henry M. Garsson borrowed a letterhead from the Segal Safe and Lock Co. of Brooklyn. Garsson wrote to the Chemical Warfare Procurement Division of the War Department, offering to produce shells, through an imaginary Eric Basin Metal Products Co. which he claimed to be a Segal subsidiary. The War Department promptly sent him a million dollar advance.

he was not being allowed to bid on one contract. May demanded action and got it from General Campbell, who "jumped on" Gen. Thomas S. Hammond, chief of the Chicago Ordnance Division.

"These fellows are good friends of mine," said May, "and have been very kind to me."

May himself got control of the Cumberland Lumber Company late in 1943. The Garsson combine advanced a total of \$48,634,077 to the May firm for lumber which was never delivered. Garsson kept on getting contracts. Secretary of War Patterson put the screws on the War Manpower Commission on February 28, 1945, after a call from Garsson, who wanted the "ceiling" for his Batavia plant raised from 793 to 1,000 workers. Patterson agreed. The WMC was not to be "let off the hook" until it complied, admitted one witness, Col. Brennan.

As a final gift, the combine was handed an overpayment of

\$1,010,000 in a contract termination settlement!

The Garsson case, is just peanuts, though, compared to the profits of Kaiser and Higgins in shipbuilding, also made without any investment of their own funds. And it can't be compared to the vast steals made by General Motors, Standard Oil, General Electric, U. S. Steel, and the rest of the powerful monopolists who coined billions in profits, got government-built plants free, and are getting fat rebates on their excess profits taxes.

Then why the fuss over the Garsson case? The whole financing of government war purchases, worked out by Wall Street and administered by its own agents in "dollar a year" posts, reeks with fraud. It can't be hidden any longer. So the Senate Investigating Committee is turning the spotlight on one smelly deal perpetrated by relatively small-time crooks, who dared to muscle in on the Wall Street racket.

Workers Everywhere Voice Tributes To Heroic Life Of Comrade Konikow

The following messages were sent to the family of Antoinette Konikow by branches of the Socialist Workers Party.

Akron

The Akron Branch mourns the loss of a great socialist fighter, Antoinette. Her life will remain inspiring example to us.

Allentown

We all deeply grieve the passing of Comrade Antoinette Konikow. Her youthful enthusiasm and faith in the workers and our movement have inspired us. She will be sorely missed.

Bayonne

We are terribly shocked at the news of Comrade Antoinette's death. We have suffered an irreparable loss. She represented for us the personal embodiment of all our revolutionary ideals.

Buffalo

We are with you at this sad moment. Comrade Antoinette's devotion will always inspire us.

Chicago

We mourn with you in our common loss.

Cleveland

The memory of Antoinette Konikow will inspire world Trotskyism. Communist Greetings.

Connecticut

We have heard the sad news of Antoinette Konikow's death. Courage, loyalty and devotion is our heritage.

Detroit

The Detroit branch of the Socialist Workers Party, shocked and grieved by the death of Antoinette Konikow, at its meeting tonight stood in silent tribute to the memory of this sterling revolutionist who devoted a long, full life in the service of the working class. The Detroit branch extends the sincere expression of sorrow felt by each and every member.

Flint

The Flint comrades join with you in this hour of your bereavement. Comrade Antoinette Konikow will always be a towering inspiration to our movement. Her long and devoted service to the struggle for world wide socialism will never be forgotten.

Los Angeles

The oldest and most steadfast among us has passed away. Her life will be an inspiration to the revolutionary youth of the world over. Her name will be high on our honor roll as we achieve the victory she fought for.

Mid-West School

From the memorial meeting held this evening at the Midwest School and Camp in honor of our beloved comrade Antoinette, all the comrades and friends present send you their deepest sympathy. Although our movement has lost one of its most cherished and devoted leaders, her many decades of work for the advancement of socialism survive as an active force in the life of our party.

Comrade Antoinette embodied the great unbroken tradition of untainted service by Marxists to the cause of labor's emancipation. She enriched it by her activities, her achievements and above all by the power of her personal example. Her steadfastness, optimism and courage over a long lifetime remains a source of strength to us all.

Milwaukee

We deeply mourn the passing of Comrade Antoinette Konikow. The working class has lost a militant, persevering fighter for world socialism.

Newark

The Newark comrades extend our deepest condolences on the death of our respected comrade Antoinette Konikow. By her life-long devotion to the cause of the workers, her intransigent adherence to Trotskyism, her deep loyalty to our party, she personified the model revolutionist as she so often urged the younger comrades to do. We pledge that we shall follow firmly in her footsteps in the struggle for socialist victory.

New York

The New York Local of the Socialist Workers Party sends you deepest condolences on your great loss. Antoinette's valiant life and struggle will be a source of unending inspiration. Her memory will remain forever among revolutionists.

Philadelphia

With deep sorrow we pause to mourn and pay honor to our departed comrade. Her life has been an inspiration to the cause which she so ably served. We shall carry on the more determinedly because of her great example.

Pittsburgh

Antoinette Konikow was in our thoughts when we received the news. We will keep her strength and fighting spirit in our memory until we win our world.

San Francisco

The San Francisco and Oakland branches wish to convey their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Comrade Antoinette. We shall always honor her for decades of devoted service to the revolutionary movement which to our knowledge few people have equalled.

Seattle

The Seattle branch of the Socialist Workers Party wishes to express to you its deep sorrow at the death of Comrade Antoinette Konikow, devoted fighter to the cause of the revolutionary



The photograph sent to Antoinette Konikow by Leon Trotsky on the fifth anniversary of her entry into the revolutionary movement. The inscription reads:

"We are proud, my dear Antoinette, to have you in our ranks. You are a beautiful example of energy and devotion for our youth. I embrace you with the wish: Long Live Antoinette Konikow! Yours fraternally, Leon Trotsky, Oct. 28, 1938, Coyoacan."

liberation of the working class. Comrade Konikow's memory will be cherished by the party and will inspire the party in its forward march.

Toledo

It is with a deep sense of loss that we hear of the passing of Mother Konikow. Please extend our sympathy to all members of the family. Though Comrade Konikow is no longer with us her unconquerable spirit lives in our party and in the hearts and minds of the many comrades privileged to know her.

BULLETIN No. 1.

Published by INDEPENDENT COMMUNIST LEAGUE of America
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APPEAL FOR HELP!
Comrades! We are in a desperate situation! We are starving for food and clothing and shoes! We are in a desperate situation! We are starving for food and clothing and shoes! We are in a desperate situation! We are starving for food and clothing and shoes!

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY?

Certainly the principles of the Communist Party are not wrong. The leadership of the Party, as a transition to Communism, the effective work against capitalism and its conscious and unconscious support, the support of the Socialist Party — they are the strength and glory of the Communist movement.
This what is wrong? So deeply wrong that it is bound to become disastrous to the movement. What is the reason that so many communists find it impossible to work for communism within the party. The great mass growing larger and deeper in the common movement is its form of organization carried over from the time of the Russian revolution; namely, the centralized democracy NOW without democracy, the strict discipline NOW without previous discussion, the power accorded by a faction of the Communist Party of Soviet Russia to demand obedience not only in Soviet Russia, but all over the world.

The front page of a printed bulletin—one of the first Trotskyist documents published in this country. It was issued by Antoinette Konikow upon her expulsion from the American Communist Party in 1928. This "Bulletin" suspended publication after its first issue, because almost simultaneously came the issuance of "The Militant" and the formation of the original Trotskyist organization, the Communist League of America (Left Opposition), in which she participated and which she helped found.

Twin Cities

Our hearts mourn with you over the loss of our dear comrade Antoinette. Her example of selfless devotion to the revolutionary movement will be a constant inspiration to us.

Youngstown

The news of Comrade Antoinette's death was a great shock to the Youngstown branch. Our grief is allayed in part by the memory of her unswerving confidence throughout the darkest years and the inspiring example she gave to all of us. We bow our heads in sorrow. Her memory will be with us through all the struggles of the future.

What Antoinette Konikow Taught The Workers

The Class Struggle

"The troubles of this world," wrote Antoinette Konikow in the July 29, 1944 Militant, "we Socialists have always assured the workers, are not due to any conflict between the sexes—to a man's world or a woman's world. Poverty, disease, corruption, war, unemployment are due to economic causes; to the division of humanity into two classes: the boss class and the working class. Women, like men, belong to both classes, the possessing class and the dispossessed. Women of the rich class are generally satisfied with this world which gives them wealth, leisure and security."

"Housework is a stigma of poverty or near poverty. The poorer the family, the bigger the task of the wife and mother, since better wages for the husband gives her a chance to send out the laundry, to buy labor-saving devices, to indulge occasionally in a restaurant meal. No wonder that Hitler, who tried his best to keep women backward, proclaimed that church, kitchen and children are the women's sphere!"

Comrade Konikow then pointed out the value of women going into industry. "Work in the factory opens the woman's eyes. She knows now that her boss makes big profits out of her labor. She learns the lessons of the class struggle—and learns them in a shorter time than did her husband and other men workers. Women had to go through this same industrial schooling by which men learned, in order to understand the present system of living."

"Capitalism created the working class, which is historically bound to overthrow capitalism. In the Second World War, capitalism has brought forth an army of women wage earners, who previously had been far away from the battlefield of labor. Now women work side by side with men, women have joined the industrial army, women are due to become fighting members of the working class."

Leisure And Machines

How small machines like refrigerators, toasters, vacuum cleaners, automatic dishwashers, etc., lighten housework, was used by Antoinette Konikow to explain to "Mrs. Smith, my neighbor" how the vast machinery of the industrial system could give the workers more leisure and rest if they only possessed them.

"Mrs. Smith was quite amazed," continued Comrade Konikow in the June 8, 1940 Militant. "The comparison of machines in the factory and at home had evidently never occurred to her. Then she sadly shook her head. 'It sounds right, but machinery belongs to the bosses and they would never permit workers to use it that way.'"

"Well," was my answer, "the workers in Russia succeeded in getting all the factories and mines and transportation in their hands. True it did not work out as it should have been because workers of other countries did not follow their example. Also in Russia the workers were unable to stop

a bureaucracy from grabbing power away from them. But the revolution in Russia proved it can be done and the experience of the workers there will teach the workers of the whole world how to avoid the mistakes made in Russia."

Socialism And Housewives

In a "Letter to Housewives," Antoinette Konikow wrote in the March 30, 1940 Militant: "After attaining workers' power the first task to relieve women's life would be the creation of nurseries, kindergartens and playgrounds in a sufficient number—here in the United States their number is deplorably small. The next would be the organization of cooperative lunch rooms to relieve mothers of their kitchen drudgery. Even then mothers would still have plenty of work left: taking care of smaller meals, keeping the house in order, taking care of clothing, entertaining or supervising the children out of school and nurseries, nursing children with minor illnesses. Yes, even under socialism the mother will have her 6-8 hour day of work."

Motherhood Without Fear

"Mothers! The sugar-coated gifts hide the bitter pill of the boss system," wrote Comrade Konikow in the May 11, 1940 Militant. "Under capitalism there can be no improvement of conditions for women, mothers of families. Only in a Socialist society will mothers achieve that security which will permit them to raise children without fear for their future. But no one will give you that as a gift. You will have to struggle and fight for Socialism, you together with the workers, men and women, black and white, old and young—in this country and in others—for their cause is yours and only through the victory of the workers will mothers solve their problems. Only when mankind raises itself from slavery and exploitation and enjoys a free and full life will women choose motherhood happily, confidently and proudly. Rearing and preparing the young for a life in a socialist society, for useful labor, for boundless achievements in science, industry and art—that will indeed make of motherhood an interesting, important and honored profession."

Health And Beauty

Antoinette's championship of working class women included even things that might seem trivial. In an instructive letter on cosmetics quoted by Grace Carlson in the June 9, 1945 Militant, Comrade Konikow said: "The working woman uses cosmetics, not only for her own satisfaction—to have a nice appearance or to attract possible romance—but she has to look well and attractive to keep her job. I think that if women would lead a healthy and normal life, their faces would look different. They would acquire the rosy cheeks that we had

RELIEF COMMITTEE PAYS HONOR TO ITS CHAIRMAN

Message sent by Rose Karsner in behalf of the American Committee for European Workers Relief:

Antoinette Konikow, our Chairman, was one of the inspirers of our Committee. International Solidarity was part of her very life's breath. For nearly 60 years she had devoted her best energies in the interests of the world brotherhood of the working class.

Her departure leaves a great gap. The news of her death shocked us profoundly. Our Antoinette can never be really replaced. But it would have been her wish that we do not succumb to mourning. She was a fighter. Only a few days ago she wrote us about the importance of the Committee's work in sending relief to the European workers.

Our best memorial to Antoinette is to redouble our efforts. She herself expressed this unflagging spirit and determination time and again. She herself made this clear in words none of us could improve upon in the letter she sent us on June 8. And so on behalf of the Committee let me quote this letter:

Comrades and Friends: After participating fifty-eight years in the revolutionary movement, and having reached my seventy-seventh year, I am physically not able to do active work in our organization.

This realization of my disability, however, does not depress me, for I know that we now have an enthusiastic fighting group which has the inspiration to continue the energetic struggle started by us older comrades; a young group with more knowledge, more assurance, historically nearer the goal than their predecessors.

To these young comrades and friends, I appeal now to concentrate their well-proved energy, their splendid abilities on the important burdensome job of relieving the physical sufferings of our co-workers in Europe and other countries.

I turn to you, my young comrades and friends, to take upon yourselves the obligations which old and ill comrades like myself are not in condition to fulfill.

We have the picture of the comrades in other countries suffering from malnutrition, cold, exhaustion, mercilessly persecuted by political enemies. Still, they have not given up the struggle. They have lifted our banner high to carry on the work under most unbelievable hardships.

Our response to their heroic strength and self-sacrifice must be — HELP!

Food and clothing to our heroic brothers and sisters in other countries is our immediate and most responsible task! ANTOINETTE KONIKOW

On Imperialist War

When the capitalist world stood at the brink of the Second World War, Comrade Konikow warned the workers who opposed the slaughter that they must steel themselves against persecution. In her speech October 28, 1938 on the fifth anniversary of her work in the movement, she recalled her dramatic experiences in the First World War:

"I was sent on tour by the German-language federation of the Socialist Party to speak in Germany at anti-war meetings. This was no easy task at the height of the war frenzy. Many times comrades would approach me, pale and trembling, begging that I speak on another subject. They pointed to German detectives and the sheriff sitting in the crowd. Often I felt like weakening—but there was one magic word that gave me strength to do my duty. I tell it to you comrades—it may again help you. The magic word was Liebknecht."

(Liebknecht stood up all alone in the Reichstag in 1914 to battle in the name of the working class against the war and German imperialism. —Historical Note.)

Moscow Frame-up Trials

In the fight against Stalinism, Antoinette Konikow took a vigorous part. As late as 1943 she was still on the public rostrum exposing the role of the Kremlin in the Moscow Frame-up Trials. Thus The Militant for August 28, 1943, reports that as "the leading speaker" at a Boston meeting she "contrasted . . . the real Trotsky with the slanderous and lying picture of him presented in the Davies film, 'Mission to Moscow,' which she had just seen."

Again in the August 19, 1944, Militant she reviewed Duranty's book "USSR—The Story of Soviet Russia." Duranty "does not pillory Stalin for his proven guilty as 'Trotsky's murderer,'" she wrote, "but tries to discredit the victim of the Kremlin Borgia. The 'spiteful twilight' Duranty refers to was the years when Trotsky performed his greatest work—creating the Fourth International to sweep the monstrous obstacle of Stalinism from the path of the oncoming revolution."

"In his chapter on the Moscow Trials," continued Comrade Konikow, "Duranty reveals the main purpose of his book: to whitewash the Kremlin. No one could prove, says he, that any of the accused confessed under duress. Therefore, he concludes that the confessions were true and the trials were not frame-ups. Duranty accepts the verdict of the Moscow Trials, although he doesn't dare to repeat openly the faked charges against Trotsky. For he is aware of the findings of the Dewey Commission on the Moscow Trials which completely exonerated Trotsky on all charges and branded the trials as frame-ups."

Youth And The Future

Addressing herself to the youth at a mass meeting held in New York, October 28, 1938, to celebrate the founding of the Fourth International and the Tenth Anniversary of American Trotskyism, Antoinette Konikow said: "No sermons or admonitions, for you do not need them! I am proud of you. I want to tell you that I envy you, your youth and vigor. I would like to be 50 years younger to work with you, for your task in the coming years will be the most important in human history. You have great monsters to fight, Fascism, Stalinism. It was easier to work under the Russian Czar than under Stalin, easier under the German Kaiser than under Hitler. "But you have better weapons than we had, more knowledge, the experience of 50 years of