

## Castro Threatened Kennedy

Two timely subjects, assassination and the late President Kennedy, were much on the mind, of Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro in September of this year.

A Havana AP dispatch dated Sept. 8 declared: "Prime Minister Castro said Saturday night 'United States leaders' would be in danger if they helped in any attempt to do away with leaders of Cuba.

"Bitterly denouncing what he called recent U.S.-prompted raids on Cuba territory, Castro told a reporter in an impromptu interview:

"We are prepared to fight them and answer in kind. United States leaders should think that if they are aiding terrorists' plans to eliminate Cuban leaders, they cannot themselves be safe."

A UPI reporter at the same interview quoted at length Castro's vituperation of the late President:

"President Kennedy is the Batista of his time, and the most opportunistic American President of all times. . . . Kennedy is a cretin, and a member of an oligarchic family that controls several important posts in the government. . . . Kennedy is thinking more about re-election than about the American people."

## Silence Falls On 'Fair Play'

A pall of silence has fallen over the well documented activities of the pro-Castro Fair Play for Cuba Committee since the shooting of accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, a New Orleans member of the group.

But hearings this year by the House Committee on Un-American Activities — as well as an earlier probe by the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee — established the organization's role within the over-all Communist conspiracy.

Among the committee's active members is Helen Travis, an identified member of the Communist Party who addressed a meeting April 6 at the Los Angeles First Unitarian Church, 2936 West 8th St. She told the audience that the Fair Play Committee was working "to educate Americans about Cuba and to aid the Castro government," the HCUA report, dated May 23, 1963, asserted.

Mrs. Travis, who was also secretary of the Los Angeles branch of a so-called Medical Aid to Cuba Committee, opened the meeting, and introduced Rev. Stephen Fritchman in whose church it was held.

Fritchman was twice a witness before the HCUA at earlier hearings and declined to answer questions about his Communist affiliations.

Active for decades in Communist fronts (TOCSIN, Oct. 16, 1962), Fritchman was chosen to defend the viewpoint expressed in Communist Jessica Mitford Treuhart's anti-funeral tract over a televised CBS Report in October.

# TOCSIN

THE WEST'S LEADING ANTI-COMMUNIST WEEKLY  
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Vol. 4, No. 50

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, DECEMBER 11, 1963

20 Cents

### PREMATURE VERDICT

## Communists 'Clear' Oswald

The Communist Party USA has already tried accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald and found him innocent.

As public officials and metropolitan papers began a plea for an end to extremist statements, the Communist Worker distributed 21,000 copies of a two-page extra which laid the guilt for the slaying "at the door of the ultra-right and called for mobilization of the American people to meet the pro-fascist challenge to the nation's democratic institutions."

The slaying of the President was termed by the Communist Party in a statement Nov. 23 the "deliberate deed of an enemy of democracy, an agent of the ultra-right advocates of violence." The statement was headed "CP Assails Ultra-Right Assassins" (Worker, Nov. 26).

Said Pravda in a statement quoted in the Worker: "All America knows that the most reactionary, the wildest element, the Birchites, the followers of Sen. Goldwater and the racist Gen. Walker have built their nest in Texas.

"The very method of this terroristic act is not new for the U.S. It is reminiscent of other, smaller acts of gangsters, whose connections often lead to high-place extreme rightwing quarters."

### 'A RIGHT-WING PLOT'

Another Communist publication, the pro-Peking Progressive Labor, sent out a special supplement by first-class mail charging that the murder of Oswald was "engineered by the Dallas police" and "established their complicity in the assassination of the President."

Without waiting for further investigation, the Progressive Labor Movement organ declared, "If the administration makes no move against the open fascist forces in Dallas and the rest of the country it will be encouraging them to more terror and assassinations."

In an unintentional admission that pro-Communist forces view the assassination and its aftermath as a struggle between Communism and capitalism, Progressive Labor declared, "Whether or not they will do anything about it is another question, but there is every likelihood that we will see a sharp power struggle developed in the coming period."

Nor did the Communist press fail to get in a lick at its favorite target, the

FBI. "Culpability for the assassination of the President must be shared by J. Edgar Hoover," declared Communist James Jackson, editor of the Worker.

## Red Faction Hit Kennedy

Two months before the assassination of President Kennedy, Progressive Labor, organ of a pro-Peking dissident Communist group called the Progressive Labor Movement, made a series of extremist attacks against the President.

The Brooklyn (N.Y.)-based monthly is edited by Fred Jerome, son of Victor J. Jerome, important Communist Party propagandist who served a term under the Smith Act for conspiring to overthrow the government by force and violence.

Young Jerome visited Cuba on invitation from the Castro government in 1960 and 1961 and was a witness last May before the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

PL's West Coast editor is identified Communist Lee Coe, 840 Delaware St., Berkeley. Coe is also Bay Area representative for the Communist National Guardian.

Leaders of the 59 persons who defied a State Department ban on travel to Communist Cuba last July are leaders in the PL organization.

### ATTACK ON PRESIDENT

The references to the late President are printed below without comment:

"U.S. Grand Jury Calls PL Leaders — Milton Rosen (a founder of PLM and an identified Communist) Blasts Kennedy 'Fear'"

"The frantic attack now being directed against the Progressive Labor Movement by the Kennedy Administration and its stooge Un-American Committee clearly shows their fear of the rising tide of resentment in this country against the Administration.

"Kennedy's cowardly attack against the students who went to Cuba. . . reflects the Administration's utter failure to deal with the pressing problems confronting U.S. workers. Kennedy's red-baiting — like that of HUAC — attempts to divert attention from continuing widespread unemployment and from racism which is growing in all its forms despite — or be-

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