

Bulletin

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2 YEARS SINCE THE ASSASSINATION OF TOM HENEHAN

STATEMENT BY THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORKERS LEAGUE

On the second anniversary of the assassination of Comrade Tom Henehan, the Workers League renews its call for a full investigation of this political murder and for the complete exposure of all those who, working under instructions from the FBI-CIA, prepared, organized and executed this brutal reactionary attack against the Workers League and the entire working class movement.

On October 16, 1977, Comrade Henehan, a mem-



COMRADE TOM HENEHAN

OF TOM HENEHAN

X.P.C.

... and Still No Arrests

ber of the Political Committee of the Workers League and a leader of its youth movement, the Young Socialists, was gunned down with five copper-jacketed bullets fired from a .38 by a paid political assassin while supervising a dance sponsored by the Young Socialists at the Ponce Social Club in Brooklyn, New York. During the same attack, a second member of the Workers League, Jacques Vietot, was shot twice by

another gunman and seriously wounded.

To this day, no one has been arrested — let alone punished for either the murder of Henehan or the shooting of Vietot.

Tens of thousands of petitions have been signed by trade unionists demanding that the Brooklyn District Attorney, Eugene Gold, begin a proper investigation into the killing of Henehan. Trade union locals and of-

ficials representing several million workers have endorsed the Workers League's campaign for a full investigation.

It is now indubitably clear that the failure of the Police Department to make any arrests is the product of a criminal coverup of the conspiracy to kill Comrade Henehan that is being orchestrated at the highest levels of the capitalist state.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE STATEMENT CONTINUED

The two gunmen are still on the loose even though their identities were established within hours of the shooting.

Angelo Torres, the killer of Tom Henehan, was named by the police themselves as the murderer almost immediately. Within one hour of the shooting, the police were told where the gunman could be found. But they made no attempt to apprehend him. Nor did the police attempt to intercept Torres the next morning when he went to collect his paycheck.

For the last two years, the police have claimed that it is impossible to locate Torres. But the Police Department refuses to make public any information about the killer — his criminal record and underworld connections — that would facilitate his apprehension.

As for the man who shot Comrade Violot and was an accomplice in the killing of Comrade Henehan, the District Attorney has refused to issue a warrant for his arrest.

Edwin Sequinog was identified on a police line-up hours after the shooting by two eyewitnesses as one of the gunmen. Following this identification, he was immediately released on grounds of "insufficient evidence." He was then identified by the man he shot, Comrade Violot, but still not arrested.

The police have made no arrests and do not intend to make any. Their official position has always been that Henehan's death was just a "senseless killing" — a transparent excuse for conducting no investigation at all.

The inaction of the Police Department has been abet-

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ted by the silence of the capitalist press in New York City — whose two major morning dailies have never reported one word on the killing of Tom Henehan.

The silence of the capitalist press on the murder of Henehan and the shooting of Violot is the most ominous expression of the conspiracy behind the attack of October 16, 1977.

The Workers League is convinced that the assassination of Comrade Tom Henehan was contracted by powerful forces within the capitalist state for two central reasons.

The first was to prevent the building of revolutionary Marxist leadership in the American working class and the establishment of an independent labor party based on the trade unions that the Workers League — and no other organization — fights for.

The second reason — and this is inseparably connected with the first — was to put a stop to the Workers League's relentless campaign, alongside of the International Committee of the Fourth International — to expose the agents of the FBI-CIA within the leadership of the revisionist Socialist Workers Party.

Evidence obtained by the Workers League through the investigation of the International Committee into the backgrounds of leaders of the SWP convinces us that this foul police-ridden organization is deeply implicated in the assassination of Comrade Henehan.

It is a matter of the public record that there are at least 100 FBI agents presently operating inside the Socialist Workers Party. Last year, the US government defied a court order that it name 18 of these agents. The government's lawyer stated in court that "The exposure of these agents would do incalculable damage to the nation's ability to protect itself."

In an unprecedented decision, the Supreme Court ruled last week that the former Attorney General, Griffin Bell, could not be held in contempt of court for refusing to obey a court order that he release the names of FBI informers inside the SWP.

This ruling brings to a climax the government's frantic efforts to protect its agents inside the SWP.

As for the SWP, it has already announced that it will accept the presence of agents within its leadership in exchange for money from the government.

These developments must be seen in the context

of the documentary evidence obtained by the International Committee and published in the United States by the Workers League proving that the long-time leader of the SWP, the late Joseph Hansen, was an FBI agent.

For nearly 40 years, until his death on January 18, 1979, Hansen worked to build up a network of police agents within the socialist movement in the United States and internationally.

All the principal leaders of the SWP today were recruited by Joseph Hansen.

What is even more extraordinary is that all the main leaders of the SWP were recruited into the SWP off the same conservative college campus in the midwest in the early and mid-1960's: Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota.

They are Jack Barnes, national secretary of the SWP; Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *Intercontinental Press*; and national committee members Caroline Lund, Elizabeth Stone, John Benson, Cindy Jaquith, Doug Jenness, Larry Seigle and Barbara Matteson.

Another leader from Carleton was the late Dan Styron, a former national committee member of the SWP who mysteriously killed himself last April. Still another leading member of the SWP who attended Carleton College is Paul Eidsvik.

In the months leading up to the assassination of Tom Henehan, these leaders of the SWP organized a witch-hunt against the Workers League to label it a "violent" organization. Less than four months before Comrade Henehan was murdered, Hansen warned that the Workers League faced "deadly consequences" as a result of its exposure of agents inside the SWP.

Another matter of grave concern to us is that in the months immediately preceding the assassination of Comrade Henehan, the SWP began sending members to seek employment in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. This is the industrial site where Comrade Henehan sold the *Bulletin* several times per week and maintained close contact with workers at the facility.

Among those sent into the Navy Yard could well have been FBI agents instructed to follow the movements of Comrade Henehan while the murder was being prepared.

Most ominous of all has been the behavior of the SWP since the assassination. To this day, the

SWP has never reported in its press, let alone condemned, the assassination of Tom Henehan. It has endorsed the police and capitalist press cover-up of the assassination and has tacitly endorsed the killing.

Behind the scenes, the leadership of the SWP has been seeking to persuade trade union officials and civil rights organizations to withdraw their support for an investigation of the murder.

In the midst of these sinister efforts, Augustin Violot — a supporter of the Workers League and brother of Jacques Violot who had been critically wounded on October 16, 1977 — was suddenly and brutally murdered by two gunmen. On the afternoon of July 18, 1979, they walked into the auto repair shop he owned in New York and without any apparent motivation pumped 12 to 15 bullets into his body.

One day earlier in Sri Lanka, a member of the Sri Lankan section of the International Committee, R.P. Piyadasa, was brutally murdered.

Unless and until an impartial investigation of the assassination of Tom Henehan proves otherwise, the Workers League remains convinced that this crime was instigated and organized by FBI agents working inside the leadership of the Socialist Workers Party.

That the New York headquarters of the SWP is a center of FBI-CIA intrigue is a fact recognized throughout the world. In the two countries where revolutions overthrew CIA-backed regimes during the past year — in Iran and Nicaragua — close associates and political trainees of the strange group from Carleton College have been denounced as agents of US imperialism and sentenced to death.

As the working class in the United States enters into the greatest political battles in history against the state, it will require the most unrelenting vigilance against the crimes and provocations of the capitalist state.

The exposure of every aspect of the conspiracy behind the assassination of Tom Henehan is a vital political necessity for the entire working class movement.

Two years after the murder of Comrade Henehan, the Workers League pledges that it will leave no stone unturned until all those responsible for his assassination are exposed before the working class and brought to justice.

October 15, 1979