

'TRIAL' OF TROTSKY A JOKE, SAYS BEALS

Subcommission Members Are
Accused of Defeating All Spirit
of Honest Inquiry

'HUSHED ADORATION' CITED

Writer Says He Refuses to Be a
Party to Anything as Absurd
as Mexico, D. F., Hearing

By FRANK L. KLUCKHOHN

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MEXICO, D. F., April 18.—Carleton Beals, well known writer who resigned yesterday as a member of the subcommission of inquiry into the Moscow charges that Leon Trotsky conspired with Germany and Japan against the Soviet Union, today charged Professor John Dewey, chairman of the inquiry, with distorting the meaning of his letter of resignation from that body.

Mr. Beals's statement follows:

"Dr. Dewey in the name of the commission accuses me because of my resignation of prejudicing the Trotsky case. Why does he distort the meaning of my resignation and ascribe to me motives I do not have and have not stated?

Justo Praises Pink Cheeks, But Finds It's Only Rouge

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, April 18.—President Agustin P. Justo on a tour of Tucuman Province was impressed yesterday by the rosy cheeks of the school children in a district where malaria and other diseases have given the region a reputation for poor health.

The President remarked to the Governor of the Province that the children seemed to be in good health. The Governor replied:

"Your Excellency will have noticed that while nature has been kind to the little girls it has neglected the little boys."

Only then did President Justo realize that the teacher had rouged the cheeks of all the girls in the school for the President's visit.

trial] contracts with Trotsky. Aside from that, the evidence consists of his published writings which could have been bought in New York or consulted at the library without having put the commission to the cost of its fruitless trip to Mexico.

Propaganda Laid to Trotsky

"The cross-examination consisted of allowing Trotsky to spout propaganda charges with eloquence and wild denunciations, with only rare efforts to make him prove his assertions. The work of the commission has largely consisted in an effort to fill in the gaps left by Mr. Trotsky's own attorney in the proving of Trotsky's case.

"My resignation has nothing to do with the Moscow trials or the guilt or innocence of Mr. Trotsky. I am just as much in the dark about both matters today as I was when I joined the commission. I am merely passing a fair judgment on the commission and its intolerable methods.

"I do not know what sort of conclusions the other commissioners will bring in but I do know that to label their efforts as an investigation is to sully a fair word.

"The hushed adoration of the other members of the commission for Mr. Trotsky throughout the hearings has defeated all spirit of honest investigation.

"When our lawyer, Mr. Finerty [John Finerty of Washington, D. C.] got through with his long winded and meaningless examination of Trotsky the Russian leader actually had wings sprouting from his shoulders. The methods thus far followed by the commission have been a schoolboy joke and I do not wish further to be a party to something so utterly ridiculous. Thus far no investigations have been conducted, but merely a pink tea party with every one but myself uttering sweet platitudes.

Denies Liberty to Question

"Dr. Dewey is not stating the truth when he declares that I had full liberty to question the accused. From the very first the other members of the commission and Mr. Finerty sought ways in which to curb my liberty of action. The very first day I was told my questions were improper. The final cross-examination was put in a mold that prevented any search for the truth. I was taken to task for quizzing Trotsky about his archives. My questions were considered unfortunate 'because Mr. Trotsky answered badly' and it should not be publicly stated, I was told, that most of his documents were merely copies.

"The other commissioners repeatedly interrupted my questioning in order to destroy its efficacy. Dr.

"Mr. Trotsky was given five days and a half to present his case. The cross-examination by the commission lasted only a day and a half. One day of that was largely taken up by a banal cross-examination by Mr. Finerty on the history of the tactics and politics of the Russian revolution, conducted in such kindergarten fashion and with such eager adoration for Mr. Trotsky by the commissioners as to make the proceedings the laughing stock of any intelligent person.

"The rest of the commission's time was expended in pointless erudite questions on dialects and other matters little related to the Moscow trials. There was no valid attempt to get at the guilt or innocence of Mr. Trotsky.

"Dr. Dewey declared that I have the privilege of bringing in a minority report. My resignation is my minority report. It would be impossible to bring in any other kind of a minority report. The most serious phase of the commission's work was conducted in such a way as to render it valueless.

"How can I possibly pass on the guilt or innocence of Trotsky if the very foundations of the commission's work are eaten with the termites of partiality. No fumbling over documents later in New York can overcome the commission's errors already committed here in Mexico. For me to bring in any other minority report than that of my resignation would be to commit a grave injustice to Mr. Trotsky.

"The commission henceforth can do him only serious harm, more serious harm than the Moscow trials. And the one and only proved accusation against Mr. Trotsky at present in my mind is that he was and still is willing to be a party to such trickery.

"The commission may pass its bad check on the public if it desires, but I will not lend my name to the possibility of further childishness similar to that already committed. It is hard enough to get at the bottom of the Trotsky affair without having to struggle to reform the commission and its unjustifiable methods."

order to destroy its efficacy. Dr. Dewey lifted the April 16 session before I had a chance to complete my line of questioning and immediately called a meeting to take me to task for my questions.

"I was not consulted about the procedure of the trial and was not in harmony with the obvious effort to save time at the expense of getting at the truth or the obvious effort to forestall any serious cross-examination of the master. Nor was I consulted regarding the scope and purpose of the trial and had to register my public disapproval.

"No serious examination of the Trotsky archives is planned by the commission and cannot be carried out. It lacks the funds, fair mindedness and seriousness to carry out such a minute study even if the archives were accessible.

"The only evidence garnered by the commission at this crucial stage in the so-called investigation are some additional documents—not all of them trustworthy—of the Piatakoff and Romm [two of the defendants in the recent Moscow

Dewey Issues Statement

A statement was issued by Dr. Dewey today in the name of the sub-committee prior to his departure tonight for New York. It said "the commission feels that its efforts have been fruitful and that great progress has been made in the work of investigation."

The statement said the commission's attorney, Mr. Finerty, had objected to one of Mr. Beals's questions because it was "based on anonymous information allegedly in the possession of Mr. Beals, the source of which Mr. Beals refused to disclose."

The question referred to is understood to be the one Mr. Beals put to Mr. Trotsky as to whether Mr. Trotsky sent Michael Borodin to Mexico in 1919 to foment a Communist revolution. Mr. Beals inferred that Mr. Borodin was the informant.

Mr. Finerty said he had threatened to resign from the commission if such questions were asked, since "even a prosecuting attorney in a

regularly constituted court would not be permitted to ask a question based on information the authenticity and source of which the court had no means of determining." Mr. Finerty added that Mr. Beals then threatened to quit.

The only statement on the sub-committee's record for Mr. Beals's resigning, however, is that he did not believe the investigation body was conducting a "serious inquiry" into Mr. Trotsky's guilt or innocence of the Moscow charges that he plotted against the Soviet with Germany and Japan.

When it was pointed out to Dr. Dewey by the press that Mr. Beals's statement expressed no opinion as to Mr. Trotsky's guilt or innocence, Dr. Dewey said his statement yesterday that "we regret that Mr. Beals has prejudged the case" meant that Mr. Beals had "prejudged" the seriousness of the trial.

"I did not mean that he had prejudged the case about Mr. Trotsky," Dr. Dewey said.