

Communist Party of Illinois
36 W. Randolph, Room 80
DEarborn 2-2747

August 26, 1956

For Immediate Release:

Alfred Wagenknecht, 75, veteran Midwestern Communist and Socialist leader, died today at Michael Reese Hospital, following an operation. He was born in Goerlitz, Germany, on August 15, 1881, and was brought to this country at the age of 18 months by his father, a German socialist.

He was an associate of Eugene V. Debs, "Big Bill" Haywood, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, John Reed, Anita Whitney and other pioneers of the American Socialist and Communist movements.

He entered the labor movement at the age of 17, becoming the youngest delegate ever elected to the Cleveland, Ohio Trade and Labor Council. At 20, he was an organizer for the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union in Seattle, Washington. At the age of 21 he was elected State Organizer for the Washington State Socialist Party.

Wagenknecht came to national prominence when, as a leader of the Ohio Socialist Party, he was sentenced to jail for his opposition to U.S. entry into World War I. In 1918, Eugene V. Debs made his historic Canton, Ohio, speech outside the state prison, in protest against the imprisonment of Wagenknecht and two other socialist leaders, which led to Debs' subsequent trial and conviction for "sedition".

He became the first chairman of the Communist Labor Party, founded in Chicago in 1919, which later merged with the Communist Party of the United States. From that date he remained a prominent national figure of that organization.

As the national secretary of the Workers International Relief, he played a leading role in supporting the most dramatic labor struggles of the 1920's - the textile strikes in Passaic, New Jersey, and Gastonia, South Carolina, the National Miners' strike, and others.

He was Chairman of the Communist Party of Missouri from 1938 to 1941, and Chairman of the Communist Party of Illinois from 1941 to 1945.

He is survived by his wife Caroline, a brother Ernest, of Cleveland, Ohio, three daughters, among whom is Mrs. Helen Winters, of Detroit, a Smith Act defendant,

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He is survived by his wife Caroline, a brother Ernest, of Cleveland, Ohio, three daughters, among whom is Mrs. Helen Winters, of Detroit, a Smith Act defendant, and numerous grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held Tuesday, August 28th, 8:00 P.M. at Weinstein Bros. Chapel, 3600 W. Roosevelt Road. He will be buried Wednesday morning.

American - Aug 27 - 1956

He leaves his widow, Bernice and a daughter, Mrs. Carol Lee Baumann of Van Nuys, Cal.

Alfred Wagenknecht, 75, veteran Midwest Socialist leader, who died yesterday in Michael Reese Hospital, will be buried Wednesday following memorial services at 8 p. m. tomorrow in the chapel at 3600 Roosevelt rd. He was an associate of Eugene V. Debs, "Big Bill" Haywood, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, John Reed, Anita Whitney and other pioneers in the American Socialist movement. He entered the labor movement at the age of 17, when he was elected the youngest delegate to the Cleveland, O. Trade and Labor Council. He leaves his widow, Caroline; a brother, Ernest, and three daughters.

Miss Harriet Errett, 78, of Carbondale, Ill., who formerly lived at 46th st. and Ellis av. and for 42 years worked in the Illinois Central Railroad freight car

WAGENKNECHT DIES; MIDWEST COMMIE CHIEF

Alfred Wagenknecht, 75, communist and socialist leader in the midwest since 1919, died yesterday in Michael Reese hospital following an operation.

A statement from the Communist party of Illinois said Wagenknecht was the first chairman of the Communist Labor party which was founded in Chicago in 1919. The organization later merged with the Communist party of the United States. Mr. Wagenknecht, a native of Goerlitz, Germany, was chairman of the Communist party of Missouri from 1938 to 1941 and chairman of the Communist party of Illinois from 1941 to 1945, according to the statement.

He leaves his widow, Caroline; three daughters, and a brother. Memorial services will be held at 8 p. m. tomorrow in the chapel at 3600 Roosevelt rd.

John Carroll Sons

"Home for Funerals"

Whitehall 4-6060

ERIE AT WABASH AVE.

that will be offered at 10 a.m.

Wagenknecht, Communist

Pioneer, Dies

Memorial services for Alfred Wagenknecht, 75, one of the founders of the Communist party in the United States, will be held at 8 p.m. Tuesday in the chapel at 3600 W. Roosevelt.

Mr. Wagenknecht died Sunday in Michael Reese hospital. As a young man he was a union organizer and later a member of the Socialist party.

Mr. Wagenknecht later became first national secretary of the Illinois Communist Labor party.

That group merged with another in 1923 to become the present Communist party.

EUGENE V. Debs, the Socialist leader, was jailed in 1918 for sedition when he protested the imprisonment of Mr. Wagenknecht who had opposed America's entry into World War I.

In 1949 an undercover FBI agent identified him as telling a Communist class here that "for the workers to take over here, we'll have to have a revolution."

He is survived by his widow and three daughters including Mrs. Helen Winters of Detroit who was sentenced to four years in prison in 1954 as a Communist under the Smith Act.

Ed Furgol

Sees 'Red Squad'

At a Funeral

The several hundred persons who gathered to pay their last respects to the late Alfred Wagenknecht, a friend and associate of Eugene V. Debs, Bill Haywood, and other pioneers of American socialism, were shocked to find that the funeral services were under the surveillance of the "red squad" of the Chicago Police Department.

Perhaps the police commissioner can explain how the security of our country is enhanced by such a callous disregard for human feeling and decency. The names of those attending were no doubt entered in the police files, to be brought forth as "derogatory information" in relation to future applications for jobs, passports, and the like.

This kind of "security" from "the cradle to the grave" is something we can do without, to enjoy genuine democracy in this country of ours.

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San Times - Aug 27 56

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Mr. Wagenknecht, who was 75, was a native of Germany. His father, a Socialist in that country, brought his son, then 18 months old, to the United States.

Mr. Wagenknecht was an associate of Eugene V. Debs, Big Bill Haywood and other pioneers of radical political movements.

He entered the labor movement at 17, becoming a union organizer and later a member of the Socialist Party.

He gained national prominence when, as leader of the Ohio Socialist Party, he was jailed for opposition to U.S. entry into World War I.

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Surviving are the widow, a brother and three daughters, including Mrs. Helen Winters of Detroit, who was convicted in 1954 under the Smith Act as being a Communist. She was sentenced to four years.

Memorial services will be held at 8 p.m. Tuesday in the chapel at 3600 W. Roosevelt. Burial will be on Wednesday.

Charles S. Wursch

Manchester, Tenn., while returning from a trip to Florida.

Surviving are the widow, Ruth; a daughter, Mrs. Marlene Pedersen; his mother, Mrs. Mabel Wursch, and a brother, Melvin.

Harold H. Hughes

Services for Harold Hughes, 56, captain of Squad of the Fire Insurance Patrol will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the chapel at 3440 North Central. Burial will be in Green Cemetery.

Mr. Hughes, of Major, died Saturday at Rection Hospital.

He had been employed by a private patrol firm and was a member of the man's Post No. 1 of the American Legion.

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Dr. Charles S. Wursch
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Manchester, Tenn., while re

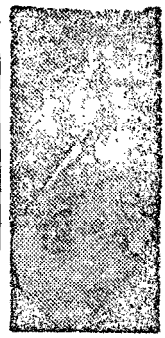
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Deaths and Funerals

U.S. Red Party Founder Buried Some of Nation's Top Commies Attend Wagenknecht Rites

Alfred Wagenknecht, 75, one of the founders of the Communist Party in the United States, was buried Wednesday.

Wagenknecht, who died Sunday, was buried in Waldheim cemetery after a brief service in the chapel at 3600 W. Madison.



At a memorial service Tuesday night speakers cited the hardships in the life of an American Communist. But none of the speakers—who included some of the nation's top Reds—mentioned Wagenknecht's name.

"After all, he was an atheist," one said.

The director of the chapel said mourners who requested that Stars of David be removed from candles at the altar to eliminate religious symbols.

WAGENKNECHT was the migrant son of a German Marxian-socialist. He devoted 55 years of his life to Socialism and Communism in this country.

Some 300 friends, relatives and comrades crowded the chapel.

Maxwell Dies;

Illinois High Court Judge

ST. LOUIS—(AP)—Illinois Supreme Court Justice Ralph L. Maxwell, 51, died Wednesday at St. Joseph hospital in suburban Kirkwood.

Judge Maxwell, a resident of Nashville, Ill., entered the hospital four days ago.

The jurist was named to the Supreme Court in 1951 from the first Supreme Court district. Previously he served as state's attorney for Washington County and as judge of the third circuit.

Surviving are his widow, Miss Buehla House Maxwell, and daughter, Miss Madalyn Maxwell.

Edward H. Cutter, Edward H. Cutter, tired consulting engineer in Sherman Tuesday in Sherman.

Ex-Legislator Tinkham Dies at 86

GRAMERTON, N.C.—George Holden Tinkham, 86, died Tuesday at 86.

Mr. Tinkham, whose length of his jaw places in the violent made home at St. Joseph hospital in suburban Kirkwood.

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Surviving are his widow, Miss Buehla House Maxwell, and daughter, Miss Madalyn Maxwell.

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Chicago police department marked in an unmarked black THE "RED" squad of the firm that closed the Cutter-Cro and was one of He settled in 1902.

Mrs. Martha Stone, a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party from New York City.

Among mourners and speakers were: Claude Lightfoot, Illinois Communist Party chairman.

Carl Winter, of Detroit, one of the top-flight Reds convicted in the first Communist conspiracy trial in 1949, and his wife, Helen Mary, daughter of Wagenknecht.

Mrs. Martha Stone, a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party from New York City.

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Daily News - May 29, 1955

C O P Y

MAINSTREAM
832 Broadway
New York 3, N. Y.

February 18, 1957

Dear Helen Winter:

I'd have written you sooner, except that the manuscript you sent for us was delivered rather indirectly and we were not quite certain what we were intended to do with it. We did, however, read it very carefully and with great interest. The material is so full of promise, and anyone like myself reading it must be tantalized with regret not to have met your father and drawn out of him the thousands of stories that lie buried in his manuscript.

But just there is the problem. As it now stands, the manuscript is really the outline for an autobiography; the anecdotes are not sufficiently dramatized, and even the political material needs more "flesh" on it. Frankly, Milton and I were unable to come up with any suggestions toward the solution of this problem. I know that you will find it difficult to accept this, but I think we could convince you if we sat down together and went over the manuscript in detail. You would find that the stories as told here are not as vivid as when they were told to you by your father. Unfortunately, no one can make them that vivid again.

There is, however, one thing I want to suggest. If you, all of you, children and friends, could work with a competent reporter and writer, the record of your recollections of your father could be made into a splendid book, into which much of the material in this manuscript could be incorporated. This would, of course, involve many interviews, note taking, etc., but there's no question in my mind that something unforgettable could come out of it. Please think of this as a possibility. I would say that a good model for such a book is Phil Bonosky's on Bill McKie, and the early parts of Agnes Smedley's work on Chu Teh, The Great Road. The main thing is to find the writer. I'm sorry not to have any contacts in Detroit, but perhaps you know of someone who would like to work with you.

This letter more or less repeats what I told Morris Childs just before he left New York. I was sorry to miss you, and hope we can meet some time. Milton sends you his very best.

Warmly,
Charles Humboldt

He Got His Strength
From the People

He saw some of his
dreams) fulfilled
ideas)
ideals)

His life was devoted to
the struggle for a better work

Lived unselfishly for
the good of mankind

His memory is a
monument for a better world

His life made possible
a better world

His life ideal.

- - - A Better World

CITY OF CHICAGO—BOARD OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

STATE OF ILLINOIS }
COUNTY OF COOK } SS
CITY OF CHICAGO }

I, Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.,
Registrar of Vital Statistics of the
City of Chicago, do hereby certify
that I am the keeper of the records
of births, stillbirths and deaths of
the City of Chicago by virtue of the
laws of the State of Illinois and the
ordinances of the City of Chicago;
that the accompanying certificate on
this sheet is a true copy of a record
kept by me in pursuance of said
laws and ordinances.

This Certified Copy VALID
Only When Original BLUE
SEAL AND BLUE SIGNATURE
Are Affixed.

OCT. 11, 1956

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VS & R 200 (1955 Reprint based on the U.S. Standard Certificate of Death)

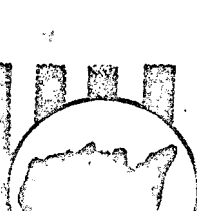
ORIGINAL		STATE OF ILLINOIS		STATE FILE NUMBER
DECEDENT'S BIRTH NO.		MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		58390
1. PLACE OF DEATH a. COUNTY		2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived. If institution, residence before admission.) a. STATE		REGISTRATION DISTRICT NO. 16.10 REGISTERED NUMBER
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS		ILLINOIS COOK		
b. Death took place <input type="checkbox"/> OUTSIDE city limits and in TOWNSHIP. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INSIDE city limits and in the city, village, or town named at c.		c. Residence was <input type="checkbox"/> OUTSIDE city limits and in TOWNSHIP. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INSIDE city limits and in the city, village, or town named at d.		
c. CITY, VILLAGE, OR TOWN		d. LENGTH OF STAY IN 1b or 1c	d. CITY, VILLAGE, OR TOWN	e. LENGTH OF RESIDENCE AT 2c OR 2d
CHICAGO		15 YEARS	CHICAGO	15 YEARS
e. NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION (If not in hospital or institution, give street address)		f. LENGTH OF STAY IN 1e	f. STREET ADDRESS	g. Did decedent reside ON A FARM? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MICHAEL REESE		24 DAYS	849 SUNNYSIDE AVENUE	
3. NAME OF DECEASED a. (FIRST)		b. (MIDDLE)	c. (LAST)	4. DATE OF DEATH (MONTH DAY YEAR)
ALFRED			WAGENKNECHT	AUGUST 25 1956
5. SEX	6. RACE	7. MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED (specify)	8. DATE OF BIRTH	9. AGE (in years last birthday)
MALE	WHITE	MARRIED	AUGUST 15, 1881	75
10a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired)		10b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY	11. BIRTHPLACE (City and state or foreign country)	12. Citizen of what country?
ORGANIZER		POLITICS	GERMANY	UNITED STATES
13. FATHER'S FULL NAME		14. MOTHER'S FULL MAIDEN NAME		
(UNKNOWN) WAGENKNECHT		(UNKNOWN)		
15. Was deceased ever in U.S. Armed Forces? (Yes, no, or unknown) (If yes, give war or dates of service)		16. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	17. INFORMANT a. SIGNATURE	
NO		UNKNOWN	Helen Smith	
18. CAUSE OF DEATH		b. ADDRESS		c. RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED
PART I. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY: [Enter only one cause per line for (A), (B), and (C).]		2839 SOUTH ELLIS AVENUE		HOSPITAL
IMMEDIATE CAUSE (A)		INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH		
Ruptured aneurysm of abdominal aorta		1 day		
Conditions, if any, which gave rise to the above IMMEDIATE CAUSE (A), stating the UNDERLYING cause last.		due to (B)		
		due to (C)		
PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO THE TERMINAL CONDITION GIVEN IN PART I(A).		19. AUTOPSY?		
		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		
20. DESCRIBE CIRCUMSTANCES OF INJURY, IF ANY, WHOSE NATURE IS MENTIONED IN PART I OR PART II ABOVE.				
21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from AUGUST 2, 1956, to AUGUST 25, 1956, that I last saw the deceased alive on AUGUST 25, 1956, and death occurred at 11:25 P.M. from the causes and on the date stated above.				
DATE SIGNED		ADDRESS		PHONE
8/26/56 Charles Shapiro M.D.		29th & Ellis		Cal. 5-5540
22. DISPOSITION: BURIAL, REMOVAL, CREMATION (DATE)		23. FIRM NAME		
8-29-56		WEINSTEIN BROS. INC.		
CEMETERY: WALDHEIM		ADDRESS: 3606 W. PROSPECT AVE. CHICAGO		
LOCATION: FOREST PARK		C.H. ILLINOIS LICENSE NUMBER 204		
24. Received for filing on		54 West Hubbard Street, Chicago 10		LOCAL REGISTRAR
AUG 28 1956 (Signed)		CHICAGO BOARD OF HEALTH		

USE DEATH 151x

FILL IN WITH TYPEWRITER OR LEGIBLE PRINTING

A. Wagenknecht, Socialist

Champion, Dies at 75



**ILLINOIS
IMMIGRANT
EDITION**

The Worker

THE WORKER, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1956

An Editorial

CHICAGO. — On Aug. 28, the Daily Worker printed the following editorial:

Alfred Wagenknecht, a founder of this paper, whose lifetime was devoted to socialism, to peace, and to labor, is dead at 75. Countless thousands will gratefully remember "Wag," the dauntless crusader who was a leader of the Socialist Party in Ohio during his youth, later one of the founders of the Communist Party. His vigor, foresight and organizing talents contributed greatly to American labor especially during the 20s and 30s when he headed powerful relief drives to aid strikers and their families.

Champion of peace, he went to jail for his opposition to World War I. Among the many who visited Wagenknecht in prison was his fellow Socialist Eugene V. Debs who delivered shortly afterward, his famous anti-war speech for which he served years in Atlanta.

Wagenknecht was a man of sunny spirit whose bearing and teaching of socialist thought gave light to multitudes. It was characteristic of him that he said, from his sickbed only a fortnight ago: "Here I am at 75, and wishing I was 50. The years ahead will be wonderful and beautiful, though ripe with struggle."

It is an epitaph to a remarkably rich life in which this son of German immigrants gave every

Many Mourn Passing Of Communist Leader

CHICAGO.—Among the many messages of condolences to the family of Alfred Wagenknecht there were the following:
National Committee of the Communist Party: "We extend our deepest sympathy to you on the loss of your husband and comrade. His selfless devotion and leadership has been an inspiration to our Party and the many thousands of workers who knew him. We mourn the loss of our dear comrade who had devoted his entire life to the lolly struggle for a Socialist America."

Norman Thomas, noted Socialist leader and long time co-worker with Alfred Wagenknecht: "I saw in the New York Times a brief notice of Alfred Wagenknecht's death. I want to send each of you in his family my sincere sympathy. I knew your husband and father in the years when we were Socialists together, and I admired the service he gave to the cause around the time of World War I. When he became a Communist our

By SAM KUSHNER
CHICAGO. — More than 350 Chicagoans crowded into the Weinstein Brothers Chapel to hear the tributes paid to Alfred Wagenknecht, outstanding labor and Communist leader, who died on Aug. 26 at the age of 75.
Martha Stone, member of the National Committee of the Communist Party and chairman of the New Jersey Communist Party spoke for the National Committee.

She brought the personal condolences of the members of the National Committee including those of William Z. Foster, chairman and Eugene Dennis General Secretary. In the course of her remarks she stated that she also expressed the sympathies of many textile workers of New Jersey who knew Wag as a strike leader in the historic 1925-6 Passaic strike. Wag headed the relief set up for the 16,000 textile workers. *

THOMAS Slater, secretary-treasurer of Local 1 of the Carpenters union, recalled his long acquaintanceship of 40 years, with Wag in the labor and progressive movements. He stated

America for world peace. The staff and editors tender their deep condolences to his wife and colleague Caroline, to his daughter, Helen Winter, and others of his family grieving today for a man whose labors for humanity will not be forgotten.

Lightfoot Statement
CHICAGO. — The following statement was issued by Claude Lightfoot in behalf of the Illinois-Indiana District of the Communist Party:

"The death of Alfred Wagenknecht is a great loss to the people of our country, to our entire Party of Illinois. For the past 17 years we have had the benefit of Comrade Wagenknecht's advice and activity. The wealth of knowledge and experience that he personified added richly to our understanding and appreciation of the great struggles in our country.

"Wag was not a man to live in the past. He drew upon his experience in order to enrich the present and the future. He had great faith in the working class. His 55 years' activity in the Socialist and Communist movements marks an historic contribution to the welfare of the American working class and the Negro people."

Mourners Give To Worker
CHICAGO. — Responding to Wag's last letter, which appeared in the Daily Worker just four days before his death, many friends who attended the funeral brought donations with them to be turned over to the Worker Fund Drive. Enclosed with the letter to the Daily Worker Wag had sent a \$50 donation.

A group of AIL workers, a group of Czechoslovak workers as well as many others brought in, as well as pledged, contributions to the paper.

of the working people. Claude Lightfoot, Illinois state chairman of the Communist Party, spoke of the great contributions that Wag had made to the struggles of the American working class and to the Negro people. He cited Wag's 55 years of devotion to the Socialist cause. He singled out Wag's particular interest in the Daily Worker.

Carl Winter, chairman of the Michigan State Communist Party who recently served a 5 year term as the result of a Smith conspiracy conviction, spoke for the family in responding to the many messages. Carl is married to Helen Winter, Wagenknecht's daughter.

ALSO speaking at the funeral were a number of people from the field of Jewish work, from the Polish people's movements, from Vilnius, Lithuanian newspaper, from the civil rights field as well as others. All in all ten people spoke in tribute in the one hour program.

On the morning of the burial Morris Childs, long time associate of Wag's, addressed the great audience on Wag's great contributions to the people's movement. Childs also spoke at the cemetery before the body was lowered into the grave.

Surviving Wag are his widow and co-worker Caroline, four brothers and one sister, three daughters, ten grandchildren, and a great grandchild. The funeral was held at Waldheim cemetery within the shadow of the beautiful park of the Haymarket grounds.

A few led from the place where Wag is buried, by the grades of a nearby street, to a place where he was buried. Among them were Hans Borner for many years leader of the Communist Party, Frank Muechi, Illinois Communist Party leader and former coal miner, and Jack Johnson, one of the leaders of the 1919 steel and packinghouse strikes and national Communist leader.

aware of your loss. ALEXANDER Trachtenberg, noted publisher and Marxist leader: "Please accept deepest personal sorrow on death of your father and your husband (message was addressed to Caroline Wagenknecht and Helen Winter). His passing was a singular loss to his people and his party. He will remain a shining example of devotion and loyalty to the cause of human liberation and free America. I salute a fallen comrade."

William L. Patterson, outstanding Negro leader and prominent fighter for civil liberties: "The cause of civil liberties and those who fight for respect for human dignity have both sustained a great loss in the death of Alfred Wagenknecht. He was one of those heroic American lovers of equal justice who found their places in the front ranks of struggle for the bill of rights and for the rights and lives of Negroes who were the victims of racist terror. May his memory live always."

FROM THE Ohio State Board of the Communist Party:
 "Our most heartfelt condolences on the death of beloved Alfred Wagenknecht. His name has become an indelible part of labor and socialist traditions in Ohio. His contributions to the cause of the American working people, in association with people like Debs and Ruthenberg, will always be remembered. We join in mourning his passing.

Messages were also received from the Michigan State Committee of the Communist Party, the Minnesota state committee of the Communist Party, Ben Davis, Communist Party, Ben Davis, Ann, Nat and Pat Ganley, The Manewitz family of St. Louis, Stéye and Margaret Nelson, as well as from many national group and industrial workers in Chicago.

Death Ends 55 Years Of Pro-Labor Activity
CHICAGO. — Alfred Wagenknecht was born in Goerlitz, Germany, on Aug. 15, 1881. His father was a shoemaker by trade and a socialist. When Wag was 18 months old, the family migrated to the United States and settled in Cleveland, Ohio. The family left Germany because of the attacks at that time upon all socialists. Wag's father became active in the American socialist movement upon settling in Cleveland.

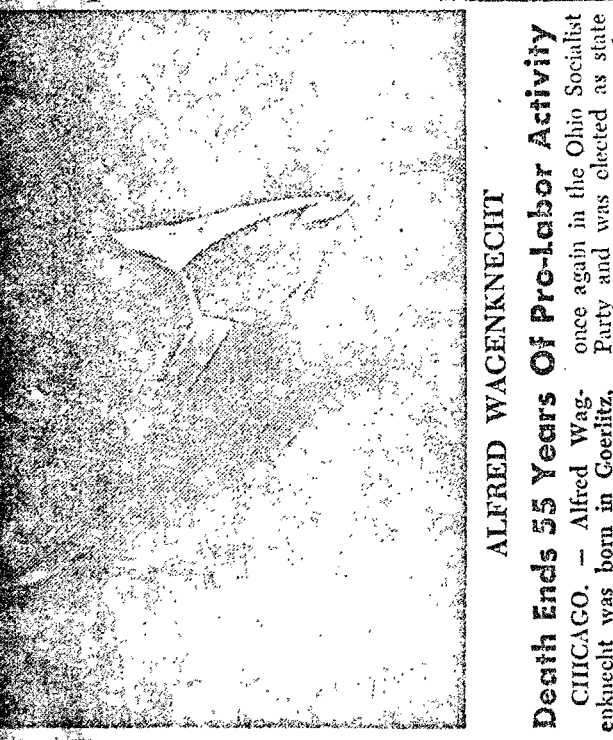
In the early 1900s Wag went to the Pacific Northwest. In the state of Washington there were many struggles against the exploitation of labor. He became an organizer for the AFL Waiters and Bartenders local of the AFL. He traveled the lumber camps and participated in the organizing of workers in many industries throughout the area.

While in Washington, Wag married Hortense Allison. It was in Washington that three daughters were born, including Helen (now married to Carl Winter). At the age of 20 Wag was already a state organizer for the Socialist Party.

Wag was the major organizer of the tremendous relief campaign that raised more than a million dollars in food, clothing and machinery to aid the young struggling socialist state, the Soviet Union.

As a delegate to the Pan-Cleveland, Ohio, became active

IN 1912, Wag returned to Cleveland, Ohio, became active



ALFRED WAGENKNECHT

(Continued on Page 15)

Republican leaders from other states where labor is strong.

The Wayne County Eisenhower Labor Committee elected as its president, Vincent Murry, an employe of the Dodge truck plant planning department and a member of UAW Local 889. Elected as vice-president was Walter Warren, Negro member of Local 306.

According to reliable sources, the real "brain" behind this operation is one Al Bellaire, member of Packard Local 190, and Al Short, reported to be the party's cam-

Civil Rights declaration than the Civil Rights plank of the Republican Party adopted at its recent convention.

It is quite certain that the Republicans will campaign on the basis of Eisenhower's popularity rather than on the national platform, particularly stressing the point made by Sen. Case that the Democratic Party is split into two teams, with the southern conservatives on top" precluding any progress for labor and the Negro people in particular.

Wagenknecht

(Continued from Page 16)

Pacific labor conference in the early 1920s Wag met with Sun Yat Sen and other Asian leaders on worldwide labor problems and the fight against imperialism.

During the 20s Wag was one of the founders of the Daily Worker and for a period of time served as the business manager of this newspaper. In 1925 and 1926 he headed the relief work in the historic Passaic textile strike. In 1927 and 1928 he performed the same herculean task or the striking mine workers and the Gastonia, N. C., textile workers.

*

IN THE early 30s. Wag became the first national chairman of the Unemployment Councils. For a period of time he served as state chairman of the Communist Party of Connecticut. He also served as the state chairman of the Ohio Communist Party. Twenty years ago he became the head of the Communist Party in Missouri, Arkansas and Kansas district and in 1939 came to Chicago where he has lived ever since.

In Illinois he has served as chairman of the Communist Party, has been the candidate of the Communist Party for many public offices, including that of Governor of the state, and has been one of the leaders of the Illinois Communist Party.

During recent years Wag has devoted his main efforts in Illinois towards the advancement of the socialist work among the national group.

*

WAG died on Aug. 26, 1936, 11 days after his 75th birthday, at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, 10 days after entering

the hospital. He had been operated on for a kidney ailment.

The immediate family surviving Alfred Wagenknecht, includes his wife and co-worker during the past several decades, Caroline, three daughters, Helen, Margaret Gene (named after Eugene V. Debs) and Gertrude. One daughter Ruth is deceased. Four brothers, one sister, ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren also mourned Wag's death.

Auto-Lite Seeks 30% Wage Cut, Threatens To Use Strikebreakers

TOLEDO. — The Electric Auto-Lite Company here has imposed wage cuts up to 30 percent on workers and has forced a strike vote in one of the most flagrant examples of attempted union busting seen here.

In an ad in one of the local newspapers, "Auto-Lite" threatens workers that if they don't come to work they will be "replaced" by laid off employees or new hires.

Unionists had walked off the job when a member was discharged.

Particulars Sought in Attack on Freedom of Press

DETROIT. — An appeal for a bill of particulars will be sought from the government in Federal Judge Paul Picard's courtroom, Sept. 10 by attorneys for the newspaper *Roussell American* and its board of directors. The liberal newspaper and its board of directors face a frameup count, part of the cold war hysteria. The government is being asked to spell out its vague and imprecise charges about "agents." So far they have revealed little speed in doing so.

against Cobo, virtually single-handed some years ago and scared Cobo by his huge vote, will certainly not allow himself to be pushed out for some "favorite" son.

Lincoln has made some telling hits recently. He has a question to Cobo: Why doesn't Cobo lift his eyes from his flooded basement and tell the taxpayers why he stalled on spending eight and a half millions okayed by the Council for new sewers? Cobo never answers. Everytime a good sized rainfall hits Detroit the backwash of protests from flooded basement waders keeps the City Hall switchboard lit up like a Xmas tree.

Liberal Democrats for some unexplained reason have been sitting on an egg, City Hall politicians, hope will never hatch. That's to start a petition drive for a charter amendment to change methods of electing council members from city-wide to wards. This would be done by setting up 14 wards in Detroit and having candidates run only in a ward, not city-wide.

That and who will be the labor, Negro, liberal people's candidates is worthy of some kind of people's confab.

OLYMPIC FLIGHT PLANS ANNOUNCED

LOS ANGELES.

mass air lifting of American Olympic Games athletes to Australia will begin Nov. 4 via Pan-American World Airways, an airline spokesman said today.

Seven aircraft, including three new Douglas Super 7 Clippers, will be used by the airline to ferry the 380 athletes and 48 officials, trainers, doctors and nurses on the four-day trip from the West Coast to Melbourne. All flights will leave from Los Angeles.

The Olympic Games will open Nov. 22 and close Dec. 8. Schedules for the return flights of the athletes have not yet been announced.

What's On?

CHICAGO "STALIN and After," Anna Louise Strong, Saturday, Sept. 22, 8:15 p.m., Hall B-3, 32 W. Randolph. Admission \$1. Audiences: Chicago Council of American-Soviet Friendship.

HISTORIAL NOTE
old UAW district council supervision of General M

TRUCE TEAMS from
ing State Senator Cora
make peace and get her s
She polled 24,000 votes in
Gov. Williams came out
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PLUMBERS say that
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SEPT. 7 is deadline
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for all crafts. Thousands

DSR unionists who w
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SINCE last April \$3
General Motors buses for
Curtice, GM president, a
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WE SEE Henry Ford
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GM who is still biting 1
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QUOTE of the week,
est ebb," Automotive New

PROTEST U AT FUNERAL

CHICAGO. — Caroline enknecht, widow of Alfred enknecht filed a sharp with the Mayor of the C Chicago and with the Commissioner against th decent role played by Ch infamous "red squad" funeral of her husband.

In a letter sent to the can Civil Liberties Union, them to join in the protes Wagenknecht said, "Park rectly in front of the dc the funeral chapel) ment the Chicago 'red squad' w officially known as the S Detail, were busy, trying

HAYMARKET

by A. Wagenknecht
compared to holograph draft
ev 5/12/71

H

The nation-wide movement for the 8-Hour day struck deep roots.

The slogan was timely and the laboring masses, gave it concrete consideration, rallied around it, debating its benefits, idealizing it in discussion.

In Chicago, the radical city, 50,000 workers were on strike, McCormick Reaper, Pullman Palace Car, Brunswick Billard, Packinghouse, lumber and others. Police were being prepared for riot duty. There were rumors of federal troops being brought in. The employers' daily press stressed the riot motive. The Chicago Tribune claimed that trade unions were dominated by Communists and should be dealt with as conspirators.

A collision of workers against scabs occurred at McCormicks. Police

Result

were called. Six workers dead. Then came May 4, 1886. The previous days had been quiet, without incident. A mass meeting had been called for Haymarket Square. The organizers of the meeting expected an attendance of several tens of thousands. An audience of 3,000 assembled. Mayor Harrison came to the meeting, conferred with Police Inspector Bonfield, concluded everything was under control. The meeting continued. The audience grew smaller. When about 200 were left, including reporters, and Pinkerton agents, and the meeting was about to adjourn, about 186 police, in military formation marched into the audience. Then a bomb exploded.

Police Inspector Bonfield, so he reported later, gave orders to the police to cease firing. This was proof that the police were shooting up the meeting, and in the hysteria and bedlam were probably also shooting each other. It was reported that there was one killed and about 75 wounded, some fatally. How many worker casualties there were never became known.

Then came the round up. Police stations bulged with prisoners.

Thirty-one were indicted and eight placed on trial. ~~The Chicago Tribune~~

~~found them guilty before trial, a tradition which has been retained to this day~~

~~and those who have retained this tradition~~ In the lexicon of the ruling class the exploited class is always guilty, so The Chicago Tribune found them guilty

Haymarket

before the trial, a practice they have retained to this day. It stated: "Public justice demands that the European assassins, Spies, Schwab, Fielden, shall be held and hanged for murder, that Parsons who disagrees; who disagrees with this country, but nevertheless was born in it, shall be seized, tried and hanged for murder."

Editor Melville E. Stone of the Daily News took credit for the wording of the charge brought in by the coroners jury. "Mathias J. Degan came to his death from a bomb thrown by a person unknown, but acting in conspiracy with Spies, Fielden, Parsons and others unknown." This charge was then refined into legal terminology. Judge Gary, the trial judge, admitted this would be "new law."

No shred of evidence was had that the accused had personally any connection with the bomb, or the person who threw it. Yet Judge Gary held that as a result of the defendants "advice" somebody did throw a bomb. No proof was had during the trial that the person who threw the bomb had any connection with, or was influenced by the accused.

Albert Parsons, August Spies, George Engel and Adolph Fischer were hanged by the neck until dead. They were executed not because they were murderers, but because of their beliefs, because of what they thought, spoke, wrote. *(and that is what Spies said before he died)* *(see page 120)* *(same pattern)*

Governor Altgeld pardoned Fielden, Schwab and Neeber. The vicious attacks against him reached a high point when he was campaign for William Jennings Bryan in 1896. Harpers Weekly said he was "an ambitious and unscrupulous Illinois Communist who had become the leader of all the disturbing forces in the country." Bryan was but a puppet on the blood-embraced hands of Altgeld. According to the New York Tribune, Theodore Roosevelt said he "would connive at wholesale murder, would substitute the governments of Washington and Lincoln for a red welter of lawlessness as

Haymarket

vicious as the Paris Commune." The Chicago Tribune called him viper Altgeld and the slimiest demagogue of all.

William McKinley was the Republican Party candidate against Bryan. He was running on the promise of a "full dinner pail." The capitalists were threatening the workers with a shutdown of industry and mass unemployment if they failed to vote Republican. Torchlight parades were organized. Workers from the shops were shoved into these parades while on their way home while still carrying their dinner buckets.

The working class faced a veritable tornado of hate, terror, murder, vile charges, foul attacks in the period preceeding the Haymarket movement. Charges of conspiracy came in rapid succession following the conviction of the leaders, as for instance charges against striking shoemakers for assembling to raise their wages.

The strikes and struggles of workers were met by the employers with viciousness and disregard for life and human needs. I remember in my childhood days I had watched the Italian sewer diggers eating their noon day meal. Back breaking work it was, shovelling ten to twelve hours a day. At mid-day they would set on the wet soil, open their buckets and devour a half loaf of bread and an onion. In the Polish neighborhood north of us, beds never got cold. The day shift went off to work and the night shift returning tumbled their weary bodies into the beds the day shift left vacant. Workers did have grievances - a basic urge to just live.

In 1873 there occurred what was called "a business slump." In Chicago and other cities police met incoming trains to force the unemployed to travel on. During this period a Chicago paper reported that hundreds of well-born, well-bred, well-informed men were walking the streets without a cent, without knowing where to eat or sleep. And what about the thousands not so well-born or well-bred?

The Chicago Tribune had a remedy. "The simplest plan...is to put a little strychnine or arsenic in the meat and other supplies furnished the tramp. This produces death within a comparatively short time, is a warning to other tramps to keep out of the neighborhood, puts the coroner in good humor, and saves one's chickens and other portable property from constant depredation."

Chicago was reported to be the most radical city in the United States. The strikes of railroad workers, and numerous other strikes for living wages was taking place. The city was in panic. Employers and other leading citizens fled town. Regiments of federal troops marched into the city. Nineteen strikers were killed. The strikers were defeated. They were forced back at lower wages. Marshall Field organized a Citizens Committee to fight Communists. The Chicago Tribune engaged in spying and provocation. Employers and businessmen demanded 5,000 Militiamen to stop "the ragged, commune wretches." Pinkerton Detective Agency profited immensely by labor spying and strike breaking. City police began training as soldiers.

A meeting of furniture workers met with their employers at Turner Hall to discuss wages. Police invaded the hall. They held a club in one hand and a revolver in the other. They beat the workers as they tried to escape down the stairway. A Citizen Association presented a gatling gun to the city.

Such were the conditions in the country while the struggles for the 8-hour a day movement swept the country. The tremendous growth of trade unionism ~~and~~ marked the birth of the American Federation of Labor of today.

From ANN'S MESS
and misc copy

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~~Don ...
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The Sparrow
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Kate ...~~

Shave's ...
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Artist Brown

Debs
Everett

Split
Rostrum - St. ...
Dances

Hats - Bananas + Pills + ...

Major ...

St ...
... ..
Arthur ...
Tom Lewis

Free Speech
St ...
Literature

Seattle ...
Walter ...
Little ...

Haywood - Bill - Trial - Orchard
Boise Idaho

Appeal to ...
Wilshire ...

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Spitton ...
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Some years after the event I was informed that I was born in 1881 in Goerlitz, Germany, delivered by a midwife.

This was around the time that I became inquisitive about a sign that hung in front of a house advertising that a Hebamme lived within, that she brought babies to mother ~~and I was of that opinion~~.

So I also had been brought, suckled my mother's breasts for nine months and then introduced to the more solid foods. And it was food that I was my main interest at the time I learned that I had been born. I was just old enough to join the boys in the block in stealing potatoes from the corner grocery and taking them down to the pasture to bake; going to the swamp to whack queer frogs; eating ^{over-ripe, mushy} bananas, ^{peeling} inaluds, bought by the family from the peddler at five cents a dozen. We were always hungry -

no engagement in discussion for
clarity in the party, to lead me.

Free lance anybody could.

Split in Socialist Party could justify
as they were not distributed
pamphlets.

Let them live and learn.

No center —

1908 - national Com

hat of SP

1. Split in party

2. married

3. Asst. St. Secy —

Debs - Haywood —

1915 - Ohio —