
The Case of Joseph Zack: An Editorial.

Unsigned Editorial in the *Socialist Appeal* [New York], v. 3, no. 30 (July 23, 1938), pg.
Editor of the *Socialist Appeal* was Max Shachtman, who almost certainly wrote this piece.

The case of Joseph Zack demands the active attention of every worker, every labor organization, every progressive in the country.

Joseph Zack is threatened with an order issued by the Immigration authorities for his deportation to Czechoslovakia. The order was issued despite the fact that Zack was born in Scranton, Pa., and is therefore an American citizen.

The circumstances of Zack's planned deportation are what lifts the case far above the ordinary.

A Socialist Party member before the war, Zack became one of the founders of the Communist Party in 1919 and one of its leaders. For years he was a member of the Central [Executive] Committee of the CP, more than once a delegate to Moscow, and before his separation from the party, he was in charge of its trade union work.

Broke with Communist Party in 1935.

In 1935, Zack broke with the Stalinist party, joined the Workers Party for a short time, and has since been active in small left wing movements.

In 1936, Zack wrote to the State Department in Washington, asking it to intervene in an attempt to get his wife and son, held in Russia as virtual hostages, to the United States. The State Department, far more interested in maintaining friendship with the Stalin bureaucracy than in "helping an American citizen," showed no inter-

est in Zack's request.

They did show a great interest in getting rid of Zack. And in their efforts, Zack now charges, the Communist Party gave signal assistance. In a word — and those who know the present Stalinist line will not be astonished — the Browderites turned coppers and deportation-agents at the same time. That's what is called service to America's "democratic institutions."

Able to Prove American Citizenship.

The claims of the State Department in backing up the deportation warrant are that Zack is not an American citizen, because there is a record of his baptism in Czechoslovakia. In reply, Zack is able to prove that his baptism took place in Czechoslovakia, on his mother's initiative, two years after his birth in Scranton, Pa., from which he and his mother left for her native land. Furthermore, Zack has not only been given regular USA passports in the past, but the validity of his claim to American nationality was recognized by the Immigration Division of the Labor Department when it cancelled the deportation proceedings in 1934 which had originated with the Michigan Criminal Syndicalism cases in 1923 — in which he was involved together with Foster, Browder, and Amter, that is, the same gentlemen who have now testified against him before the Department of Labor!

The Browders Act in Silence.

The deportation warrant against Zack is in every possible respect a shame and a disgrace. The Browder gang keeps silent in its press, because it does not yet have the brass to avow and urge in public the perfectly infamous thing they did in the closed chambers of the government's deportation experts.

As for the latter, they are, we believe, part of President Roosevelt's political and administrative machine. Roosevelt today poses as the great friend of the political refugees. He has just arranged an elaborate farce in Evian, to discuss the question of allowing the politically persecuted to find refuge in the "democratic countries."

At the same time, his Department of Labor deports, each year, more people than are admitted under all the immigration quotas! That is a statistical fact. More than that, it now proposes to deport a US citizen, solely because he is a revolutionary worker and does not suit the Stalinist machine in Moscow and on 13th Street.

This revolting plan of Browder and the Labor Department must be scotched in the bud — right now. Every voice must be raised against it immediately, and out loud, for everyone to hear.

Silence or indifference to this unique case is not only a crime, but means that the case will cease to be unique and turned into just another American Custom!

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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