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End the Silence on the Assassination of Tom Henehan

To the National Convention of the Young Socialist Alliance:

This convention must end the shameful silence of the Young Socialist Alliance on the brutal killing of Tom Henehan, Political Committee member of the Workers League and leader of the Young Socialists.

This young Trotskyist was gunned down on October 16, 1977. Over fourteen months later his death remains the number one unsolved political murder in the United States. During this entire period the YSA and the SWP have refused to condemn or even to report the crime.

No one has been arrested for the shooting of Comrade Henehan, which took place at the Ponce Social Club in Brooklyn. The killer, identified as Angelo Torres, remains at large.

The police have conducted no serious investigation. They insist that this murder was just one of many "senseless" killings, and refuse to even consider the possibility that it was politically motivated.

The police also continue to claim there is "insufficient evidence" to arrest Torres' accomplice Edwin Sequinog, although he has been positively identified by another leading member of the Workers League, Jacque Vielot, as the man who shot Vielot at the same time that Henehan was mortally wounded.

The Workers League has issued a call to trade unionists, civil rights activists and all workers' organizations to demand a thorough and proper investigation of the murder of Tom Henehan, to apprehend the gunmen and to discover who was behind them.

This silence on the death of Tom Henehan is clearly organized by FBI agents inside the leadership of your organizations. Evidence continues to mount that a large and powerful caucus of agents virtually controls the policies and activities of the YSA and SWP. These agents fear the exposure of their criminal activities. They are determined to maintain the silence in order to prepare new provocations and assassinations against the Trotskyist movement.

The *Militant* has itself recognized the sinister and mur-



derous role of agents in the workers' movement. In an editorial in its August 4, 1978 issue, it stated:

"Bell, on the other hand, is protecting a gang of criminals who disrupt legal political activity, burglarize, and — like Gary Rowe, the FBI's man in the KKK — beat up and murder people."

Any member of the YSA with a shred of class principles must surely draw the most serious conclusions from the presence within the SWP, on the government's own admission, of at least 66 such agents who "beat up and murder people." Any politically sincere member of the YSA or participant in this convention cannot fail to see the connection between this FBI penetration and the murder of Tom Henehan.

New evidence, contained in an interview with a former FBI agent, that agents occupy the "highest offices" of the

SWP makes it all but a certainty that the murder of Tom Henehan, about which the YSA has said absolutely nothing for over fourteen months, was contracted by FBI agents in the leadership of the SWP determined to stop the exposure of their activities.

Joseph Hansen, whom evidence uncovered in the last three years has proven to be the most important FBI agent in the SWP, is at the center of these moves.

This is a threat to the entire working class. The killing of Comrade Henehan was part of the wave of violence directed against the working class and especially its most active and politically conscious sections. Not only members of the Workers League but politically sincere members of the YSA and SWP are also placed in real danger as long as the agents have a clear field of operation.

The November 3 slaying of SWP member Tony Adams, in Salt Lake City, is another serious warning of these dangers. When the *Militant* called several weeks ago for an

investigation of this murder, the Workers League supported this call immediately.

We know that those members of the SWP who consider themselves Trotskyists were outraged by the murder of Comrade Henehan, and many are deeply disturbed by the silence of the SWP leadership on his assassination.

How can you continue to remain silent on the killing of Tom Henehan, when the agents of the counterrevolution use this silence to carry out their deadly work?

Those who are prepared to act on this most elementary class principle of defending the working class against assassinations and against the police must take a stand. You must support the call for an investigation of the murder of Tom Henehan. You must sign our petition calling for such a thorough investigation, and you must demand a public statement by the YSA ending its 14 month silence, condemning this killing and supporting the call for an investigation.

**Workers League
Political Committee
December 27, 1978**

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