

Labor in Focus by Marianna Wertz

Brother Zlobin, hero of speed-up

Gorbachov's P.R. men are courting the American trade unions, and Kirkland's buddies are greeting them with open arms.

Just as many left-liberal congressmen make their traditional summer-time junkets to Moscow, to demonstrate how peace-loving and anti-nuclear they are, so, too, do certain leaders of the American trade unions. But since union coffers are a little bare these days, Moscow sometimes obliges by sending its representatives to them.

According to an enthusiastic report in the *Washington Post* of June 18, a group of American trade-union officials spent the day with Mr. Nikolai Zlobin, the "labor leader" from the Soviet Union who is the Soviets' showcase "happy worker."

Not just an ordinary labor leader, Zlobin is a deputy in the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the Soviet equivalent of the U.S. Congress. Though this is not reported in the *Washington Post*, he was put on the Supreme Soviet as a result of his pioneering work in self-induced speed-up! Zlobin is the inventor of the "Zlobin Method," which uses a contract signed by teams of workers, who set for themselves a certain amount of work to accomplish in a delimited time, and receive bonuses if they surpass the agreed-to amount. No wonder Lane Kirkland's crew was so anxious to meet him!

Zlobin is on an extended visit of the United States, sponsored by the Washington, D.C./Moscow Capital Citizens' Exchange, a group launched last year "in the spirit of Geneva," as the *Post* puts it, by one Miss Charlotte Goodwin.

Zlobin has been all over America,

meeting "peace-loving people" wherever they are to be found. He met more than his quota of peaceful folk in Washington.

Breakfasting at the Gramercy Hotel with Zlobin were Josh Williams, president of the Metro Washington AFL-CIO, Bernard Demczuk of the American Federation of Government Employees, John McDermott of the Electrical Workers, John Johnson, also of the IBEW, and 20 other trade-union VIPS.

Williams introduced Zlobin with words that might have made Walter Mondale blush: "Brother Zlobin," he said, works in a nation where "every piece of work performed is performed by organized labor. We cannot say that in the United States." Brother Zlobin must have really enjoyed that one.

But "Brother" Zlobin's mission here was not entirely peaceful. "We want disarmament," he told his American interlocutors. He didn't say whose arms he wanted to get rid of, but everyone probably already knew anyway.

He played his audience like a pro: "If you speak of the accident at Chernobyl, you can't have an insurance that this won't happen again. And not only with nuclear power, but with nuclear weapons. Who can guarantee? Who says that there might not be some weirdos or fools around? They could push the button and then we'll all fly." Does this line of argument sound familiar, like something coming from Lane Kirkland perhaps, or William Winpisinger? It should; they all read

Pravda or the *Washington Post*.

This reporter tried to reach Mr. Zlobin for an interview, but found that he and Miss Goodwin were unreachable before deadline. I wanted to ask which peace-loving members of Congress he was able to meet. I guess we'll know as soon as one of them starts babbling about how Chernobyl proves that the United States should disarm.

Winpisinger, president of the Machinists Union, apparently doesn't have money problems, because he and a delegation of Machinists made it over to Moscow on June 4, to meet with secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Anatolii Dobrynin, the former ambassador to the United States. Winpisinger, a leading light of the Socialist International, presented Dobrynin with a greetings message made in bronze by Mikhail Gorbachov, general secretary of the CPSU. The message "symbolizes the 41st anniversary of the joint victory of the peoples of the U.S.S.R. and the United States and other countries over German Nazism, their fight for peace and general security," according to the Moscow publication *Trud*, the trade-union magazine.

"Nazism" is never referred to as "German Nazism" today, unless the reference is purposefully meant to emphasize what the Soviets term "revanchism"—an alleged return to Nazism—in modern West Germany today. Is it by accident that Winpisinger's delegation arrived at exactly the point when Moscow was revving up its Green Party terrorists to launch civil war against West Germany, under the guise of a movement for "disarmament" and "prevention of nuclear war"? This just happened to be Winpisinger's agenda, too, in a meeting which *Trud* characterized as "genial."

What happened to the days when traitors were supported by nooses, not votes?