

# Ogden Hearing Delayed Until August; Major Test For Human Rights

Carter Administration efforts to railroad Alan Ogden, U.S. Labor Party candidate for governor of Virginia into a one-year jail term beginning tomorrow were delayed today by "eleventh hour" developments in federal court. Ogden's case, a major test for human rights in the USA, will be decided in a series of federal and state court hearings over the next three weeks.

Ogden, whose Democratic opponent Henry Howell has his campaign run by the White House, had been ordered to appear in Richmond circuit court before Judge J. Randolph Tucker tomorrow to show cause why he should not serve a suspended one-year jail sentence for a 1974 trespass conviction. Today, as Ogden attorney Robert Geary was in federal court seeking a temporary restraining order against the state's action, Virginia's commonwealth attorney said Judge Tucker had agreed to postpone the "show cause" hearing until Aug. 8. Therefore, the commonwealth attorney argued, no restraining order was necessary.

But Federal Judge D. Dortch Warriner agreed to rule on the request for the restraining order; the Labor Party contends that the state court proceedings represent an unconstitutional abridgement of Ogden's gubernatorial campaign. Judge Warriner asked for briefs from both sides, and promised a decision on the TRO request by July 29. The judge indicated he would follow the precedent set in the Blackwelder case decided in the 4th circuit, and would grant the request if Ogden's attorney could show that an alternative ruling would do him irreparable harm, and would cause no harm to the state.

## *Get the Labor Party?*

The effort to railroad Ogden is part of an international "Get the Labor Parties" offensive directed from the top levels of the Carter Administration — an offensive which includes planned kidnappings and assassinations of the Labor Party leadership and secondary leadership in North America and Western Europe presently scheduled for August. The present massive slander campaign against the Labor Party in Mexico is part of that international Carter Administration-directed deployment.

USLP officials interviewed in New York have labeled

this second attempt in less than six weeks to jail Ogden "a blatant Carter Administration show of force which will be the Achilles heel of the entire containment operation directed at the U.S. Labor Party nationally." Party officials pointed out that intensified Cointelpro operations against Ogden and the Virginia Labor Party over a two year period have always functioned as a signal for an overall escalation of harassment tactics against the organization.

But to take full advantage of this Cartergate opportunity will require a vigorous mobilization by U.S. Whig forces, who must fight any tendency to "throw the Labor Party to the dogs" in the hopes of saving themselves and avoiding "provoking a crisis" with the insane Wall Street-Carter Administration. Virginia's Republican Governor Mills Godwin, for example, was deluged by public protests over the state's handling of the case in which Ogden was sent to jail earlier this summer, but refused to grant either a pardon or clemency.

Such a course of action by Whigs now, in the context of the concerted international attack on the Labor Party and its co-thinkers, would be suicidal. The Labor Party and its allies internationally have demonstrated that they are the only force with an effective program and strategy for solving the present national and world crisis, a force whose elimination would remove the major barrier to a Carter Administration thermonuclear confrontation with the Soviet Union.

Ogden has been arrested more than a dozen times on trumped-up trespassing and similar charges since 1974; he has been acquitted or charges have been dropped in all but two cases. Earlier this year, he was illegally forced to serve eight days of a thirty-day sentence for trespassing by Judge Tucker; the state is now arguing that Ogden's arrest record constitutes a violation of the suspended sentence imposed in the second case, and Judge Tucker should therefore order him back to jail.

Labor Party officials have charged Carter Administration officials including press secretary Jody Powell with coordinating the campaign to jail Ogden, as they are known to be running the campaign of his Democratic opponent, Henry Howell. Powell's office has denied the charge.