

Free Morton Sobell

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

FOR GOING ON six years now Morton Sobell, who is at present confined in Alcatraz Federal penitentiary, has been held in jail after having been

convicted on trumped-up charges, of "conspiracy to commit espionage." Sobell stands condemned to serve a total sentence of 30 years on the



American Devil's Island. His conviction, during which no real evidence whatever was brought against him, was railroaded through by the government in gross violation of every principle of law and common decency. It is imperative that the democratic masses of this and other countries should insist upon the release of this outraged prisoner.

Sobell was tried and convicted jointly with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, who were condemned to death and eventually electrocuted in Sing Sing prison on June 19th, 1953. The same disgraceful methods that were used to condemn the Rosenbergs were also used to condemn Sobell. The trial was a notorious frame-up, and it provoked a world-wide movement of indignation and protest. A legal lynching, it was conducted in an atmosphere of wild hysteria and frantic red-baiting, in which a fair deal for the prisoners was manifestly im-

possible.

In the spirit of the legal lynchers, the Eisenhower Administration, defying innumerable protests from all all over the world, cynically carried through the brutal murder of the Rosenbergs and the jailing of Sobell.

Morton Sobell is a victim of the McCarthyite anti-red, pro-war mania, which at the time of his trial, was running rampant throughout the United States. Significantly, one of the government prosecutors who helped to railroad the Rosenbergs to the electric chair and Sobell to the Alcatraz dungeon, was none other than the unspeakable Roy Cohn, the right-hand man of the pro-fascist Senator McCarthy.

DURING THE PAST 25 years of American history there have been many atrocious examples of the framing up and unjust execution and imprisonment of militant workers and fighters in the class struggle. Among them were the Chicago martyrs, Parsons, Spies, Engel and others, Mooney and Billings, Sacco and Vanzetti, the Scottsboro Boys, and countless others. And during the past few years, Gene Dennis, Elizabeth Flynn, Ben Davis, Bob Thompson, Steve Nelson, and scores of other victims of the Smith Act have felt the whips and scorpions of the Government's frame-up policies.

The Rosenberg-Sobell case, with all its brutality and cynical disregard of elementary rights, is in line with all this judicial savagery and injustice. Nor will

the Eisenhower Administration ever be able to clean itself of the guilt of its murderous mishandling of these innocent people.

The world-wide fight to save the Rosenbergs was lost. The McCarthyites had their way, notwithstanding outraged world opinion. For the Rosenbergs now, all that can be done is to enshrine their names in the lofty honor list of the heroes and martyrs of the world fight for freedom, and this the workers everywhere are doing. But very much more can still be done in behalf of Sobell. He must be freed from his present imprisonment; the workers can and must force open the prison doors for him.

In the fight for Sobell, the main issue now is to see to it that he is granted a new trial. The kangaroo character of the trial by which he was condemned should be thoroughly exposed. The mask must be torn from the false facade of legality that was hung about the whole infamous proceedings, which were rotten with stoolpigeons, perjury, jury intimidation, and all the other monstrous trickeries of the red-hysteria trials of this period. To this end every worker and every other citizen who is awake to the vital need of doing justice to Sobell and of defending the Bill of Rights should demand of Attorney General Herbert Brownell and of President Eisenhower that a new trial be granted to Morton Sobell.