

Roosevelt Speeds War Plans

Revolutionary Course In Spain Can Check Franco

Politicians Scurry For Safe Cover

Scapegoats Sought For Series of Heavy Defeats

Having utilized the People's Front to the fullest extent to insure a Fascist victory the bourgeois politicians of Loyalist Spain began last week to flee like scurrying rats or to cast about for scapegoats upon whom to place the blame for the catastrophes that have befallen the Loyalist cause.

An "exodus of government officials" has begun from Barcelona, the dispatches report. First among them were Jose Antonio Aguirre, ex-president of the Basque Republic, Marcelino Domingo and Manuel Portela, rightist politicians who were clasped to the bosom of the People's Front while it was shooting down in the streets of Barcelona and other Spanish cities revolutionary workers who wanted to steer a course toward a real anti-Fascist, i.e., anti-capitalist struggle.

Prieto Dumped

Premier Juan Negrin has dumped Indalecio Prieto, right-wing Socialist defense minister, whom he hopes the masses will hold responsible for the military debacle. He has assumed "personal command" of the armies for a "last-ditch" fight. That is, Negrin hopes to make sure that it will be the last-ditch and will not leave until he has effectively prevented any resolute turn in policy that could still mobilize the masses for a stand against Franco.

Most significant of all is the summary dismissal of those heroes of the Communist Party and the People's Front, the regular army generals headed by Gen. Sebastian Pozas, who have been removed from the high command. They have been replaced, interestingly enough, by civilian officers who played a role in the first months when raw militia composed of scantily-armed workers turned back Franco's legions.

Pozas Led Terror

Pozas was brought to Barcelona last May to conduct the brutal repression of the Barcelona workers. It was he who brought Catalonia under the heel of G.P.U. terror and assumed full command of all Catalan forces. All the bluster about the front and all the real bloody terror against the workers in the rear are now producing their inevitable results. Franco is cutting through a weakened Loyalist force that has suffered from more than just a lack of mechanized equipment. It has been deprived of the driving

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Palestine C. P. Joins Fourth International

The Communist Party of Palestine has announced its withdrawal from the Communist International and its adherence to the Fourth International according to Jerusalem reports which appeared in European newspapers last week.

Leaflets distributed by the Communist Party denounced the Moscow trials and executions.

W.A.A. Gathers In Convention

Progressives To Urge Militant Program As Reply To Policies of People's Fronters

NEW YORK.—The convention of the Workers Alliance of Greater New York opened at the Hippodrome on April 7.

This convention marks a year of "successful" People's Front activity on the part of the Alliance leadership, and a year of steadily worsening conditions for the unemployed.

Chief success of the past year was the election of "labor's" Mayor. Thus the unemployed have a "friendly" president, a "friendly" governor, and a "friendly" mayor. Let us see what these political "friends" have brought to the unemployed during the past year.

The "Successes"

First, the Relief Administration appointed by these "friends" cut down the number allowed on

WORKERS HOLD POWER PLANTS IN MICHIGAN

Murphy Steps In Again To Head Off New Sitdown Strike

JACKSON, Mich.—[The first major use of the sit-down tactic in many months—won workers striking against Consumers Power Co. a partial victory when the C.I.O. Utility Workers Organizing Committee was granted exclusive bargaining rights for all employees and the company renewed the contract expiring April 1 until August 4.

Within a few hours after the collapse of negotiations last Friday, members of the union peacefully took over the plants and service stations in Saginaw, Bay City, Flint and Lansing.

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Mexican Workers Greet Delegates Of The Socialist Workers Party

MEXICO, D. F.—The closest bonds of solidarity were cemented here between the revolutionary workers of Mexico and the United States at a mass meeting organized under the auspices of the Casa del Pueblo, a revolutionary trade union center in the Federal District, to welcome the international delegation of the Socialist Workers Party of the United States.

On two day's notice, an audience of 1,000 workers augmented by truckloads of peasants who came in from the surrounding countryside greeted James P. Cannon, national secretary of the S.W.P., Max Shachtman, editor of the Socialist Appeal, and Vincent R. Dunne, prominent Minneapolis trade union leader.

Against Imperialism

The meeting was arranged for the purpose of assuring the Mexican workers of the solid support of the Fourth Internationalists of the United States in the struggle against Yankee and British imperialism who are resisting the nationalization of the oil holdings of the foreign exploiters.

In the main address of the evening, which was translated by the distinguished revolutionist and artist of Mexico, Diego Rivera, James P. Cannon told the enthusiastic assembly that the S.W.P. stood shoulder to shoulder

Alliance delegations to the relief bureaus. In addition, a new rule was set up that emergency cases would be heard on only two days per week. The former rule that new applicants must be investigated within 48 hours was allowed to lapse, and there are now delays of three to ten days.

The response of the Alliance leadership to these attacks on the unemployed was to hold an election rally for LaGuardia. "Don't do anything that will embarrass our friends," was the rule.

Fruits of Victory

LaGuardia was re-elected. And then came the fruits of his victory. (1) The clothing allowance was cut to practically nothing for the months of February and March, and now for April. (2) The previous policy of paying rent for new W.P.A. workers until they got their first pay checks was stopped.

The response of the Alliance to these cuts was to stage a demonstration in Wall Street against the "sixty-families." Any whisper of criticism against the city, state and federal officials was taboo.

Then came the 10 per cent cut. In the face of a recommendation by the Mayor's Committee for increasing relief by 40 per cent, the Board of Estimate, on motion of LaGuardia, put through the starvation cut. A number of "explanations" have been given for the cut, the most plausible one being that it was made to forestall any effective fight for the 40 per cent raise.

Political Jockeying

Over this cut was waged a political squabble between LaGuardia and Governor Lehman, which was recognized by all informed people as political jockeying for advantage in the coming gubernatorial election campaign.

The Alliance leadership threw themselves into this political fight as partisans of LaGuardia.

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Roosevelt Trims Sails In Oil Fight

Tries Tacking To Meet Threat of Storm In Mexico

Pres. Roosevelt, master of mass deception and political double-crossing, has again demonstrated his incalculable importance to the cause of Yankee imperialism. "From the driver's seat of his new car" on his vacation trip, he announced with a professional smile his "satisfaction" with the progress of the Mexican discussions. As a special humanitarian act he let it be known that the companies can count "only" on compensation for their actual investments in Mexico.

Secretary of State Cordell Hull, who three days before had sent a note to Cardenas demanding in the language of an ultimatum immediate compensation for oil and land expropriations, suddenly declared his "belief... in a rapid, satisfactory and equitable solution."

Silent On Threats

Both, however, kept a significant silence about the threat of an oil blockade and the economic strangulation of Mexico through cessation of American silver purchases.

This silence throws a revealing light on the maneuver. Yielding to the insistence of the oil companies, Washington had proceeded too quickly. So quickly that even Congressman O'Connell was forced to declare: "The transaction reeks of oil and more oil." Hull's ultimatum threatened prematurely to tear the mask of pacifism from the Roosevelt administration, which is preparing at top speed for its imperialist intervention in the next world war. The protests of American trade unions piled up. Even in fascist Chile and Brazil active sympathy for Mexico was manifested.

According to the New York Herald-Tribune, competent func-

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Vast Army Games To Help Make Country War-Minded

Parade Today, Die Tomorrow!

This year's anniversary of America's entry into the World War of 1914-18 is being employed by the Roosevelt administration as an especially appropriate occasion for whipping up mass patriotism in support of the new war of imperialist banditry which is now being actively and consciously prepared.

New York is to be treated today, to a flag-wagging Army Day parade of 25,000, comprised of enlisted armed forces, organized reserves, veterans and members of patriotic societies.

Conscious Preparation For War

That Roosevelt himself conceives this patriotic demonstration as part of his preparations for the coming war is indicated all too clearly in his letter to Rear-Admiral Reginald R. Belknap, U.S.N., retired, who is in charge of the parade.

Roosevelt wrote that the observance of Army Day this year was particularly appropriate because of "the disturbed condition of the world" and would serve to focus the attention of the people on national defense.

Admiral Belknap's views, quoted by the same paper, were even more pointed. He declared that Army Day observance "has a most salutary effect in clearing the air of confusing doctrines which have been preached by those who do not have at heart the best interests of our national defense. By making it (the parade) both interesting and instructive, we mean to stimulate attention to national preparedness..."

Meaning of "Preparedness"

How ominous these words sound when it is recalled that "preparedness" was the slogan of American imperialism when the "pacifist" Woodrow Wilson was preparing to plunge this country into the last big robber war!

The workers of America must reply to the patriotic war-mongering of their exploiters with slogans of their own, the slogans of the socialist revolution which alone can save mankind from the horrors of war.

Down with imperialist war!

The enemy—imperialism—is in our own country!

F. L. P. Becomes Cog In Roosevelt Machine

Stalinist-Benson Clique Presents Hand-Picked Convention With Class Peace Program

DULUTH, Minn.—The Stalinist-Benson clique in control of the machinery of the Farmer-Labor Party utilized the biennial convention, March 25-26, at Duluth, to transform the party into the Socialist Appeal of April 2, still further into the Minnesota section of the Roosevelt machine.

In the 1936 elections Benson made a deal with Jim Farley whereby the Democrats withdrew in favor of the Farmer-Labor ticket in the state and in return the Farmer-Labor machine campaigned for Roosevelt. The bloc with Roosevelt has actually been maintained ever since, and the tone of the convention leaves no doubt that a deal with the Democrats is planned for the Fall elections. On the basic questions of war and unemployment, the Stalinist-Benson clique adopted a platform acceptable to Roosevelt.

Praise Roosevelt

The line to be taken by the hand-picked convention was indicated the first day, when a telegram was dispatched to Roosevelt, praising him for a recent speech in which "he lays bare the heart of our present economic stalemate... and places himself squarely on the side of the democratic philosophy as opposed to the feudal philosophy of special privilege."

The Minneapolis labor movement, unquestionably leader of

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Many-Sided Preparations, Military, Naval, and Diplomatic, Are Pointing U. S. Toward New World Conflagration

WILL BUILD SUPER-WARSHIPS

The war preparations program of the "peaceful" Roosevelt administration is being speeded up on all fronts. With the greatest peace-time navy maneuvers in the country's history still going forward along a 5,000-mile line, from Alaska to Samoa by way of Hawaii, the announcement was made last week-end of pending army and air force maneuvers which are to last until Fall.

Described by the *New York Times* as "the largest mobilization and concentration of men in the South since the World War" a single phase of the military exercises, involving "virtually all of the military forces in the thirteen states of the Fourth and Eighth Corps areas," will embrace 80,000 men, half of whom will be National Guardsmen and the others regular army troops and reserve officers.

SENATOR CLARK CONFIRMS N. Y. WAR MEETING

The report in the Socialist Appeal of February 26 describing a secret meeting in New York of high military and naval officers, financiers, and key officials to discuss a war propaganda campaign in this country was confirmed on the floor of the United States Senate on March 30 by Senator Clark of Missouri.

Senator Clark said that he and not he alone—had positive

At War Conclave?



NORMAN H. DAVIS

knowledge that such a meeting had taken place, "attended by certain eminent naval and military officers of the United States and certain great financiers in the City of New York, in which the proposal had been made that a regular campaign, amply financed, should be undertaken in the way of propaganda to make this country war-minded."

He strongly hinted that Norman H. Davis, President Roosevelt's ambassador-at-large, had presided over the meeting.

The meeting discussed a campaign to "educate" the American people into "the use of war as an instrument of national policy."

The Appeal also reported a recent meeting between President Roosevelt and four reading newspaper publishers with whom he discussed plans for the propaganda campaign.

At least one demonstration of the aerial might of dollar imperialism is being reserved for the inhabitants of New York. Some 350 planes of the army's General Headquarters Air Force—the largest number ever concentrated for maneuvers in the army's history; will fly over a large section of the Eastern seaboard, with operations centered at Mitchell Field, Long Island.

Another phase of the war preparations, coinciding with the army and navy maneuvers, was brought to light with the announcement from Washington April 1 that the navy hopes to start work before the end of the year on two of the super-battleships which the "democratic" powers, following Japan's refusal to continue observing the "qualitative" limitations imposed by the London Naval Treaty, have resolved to build.

These newest war weapons, described as the costliest, largest and most formidable ever constructed, will, according to navy circles, have a tonnage of from 43,000 to 45,000 and will mount 16 or 18-inch guns—12 to each vessel.

Hull Reveals Purpose

Those still clinging to the illusion that the armed might of American imperialism is being primed and augmented for "peaceful" purposes alone, in order to defend America's shores against some "aggressor" from beyond the seas, should take note of the remarks contained in a letter by Secretary of State Cordell Hull to the Senate Naval Affairs Committee.

Hull, according to the *New York Times* (April 2), "opposed a stay-at-home policy for the United States Navy, contending it must be left free to defend the rights of American citizens in any part of the world. The Secretary of State told the Senate Naval Affairs Committee that establishment of a 'naval frontier' beyond which United States warships should not operate would erect 'an imaginary Chinese Wall' and 'expose American citizens anywhere in the world outside this wall.'"

It is only necessary to substitute, in this quotation, "imperialist interests and profits" for "American citizens" and "the rights of American citizens" in order to get a true picture of the purpose for which the growing American fleet, and the Army, and the air force are to be used. Not for any idealistic aims, nor, primarily, for the defense of the United States against an "aggressor"—but for the robber aims of American imperialism, wherever these may be involved.

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