

BRITAIN AND ITALY SIGN ROBBER PACT

Open Road For Bloc Of "Democratic" and Fascist States

Outstanding among the recent moves on the chessboard of imperialist politics was the signature in Rome last Saturday of an agreement between Great Britain and Italy which, for the time being at least, ends the acute state of tension that has prevailed between the two robber states since 1935, when Mussolini threatened vital British interests by his conquest of Ethiopia, last independent native state in Africa.

Not the least significant aspect of the agreement was the obvious haste with which it was concluded. Little more than one month elapsed between the opening of negotiations and signature of the pact. Chamberlain's government was anxious for a settlement with Italy so that British imperialism, its hands untied in the Mediterranean, in the Near East and in East Africa, would be free to conclude a satisfactory agreement with Hitler and—of equal if not greater importance—to handle the Japanese threat to Britain's imperial interests in the Far East.

Both Sides Keen
Mussolini, alarmed by Hitler's bold stroke in Austria which brought German troops to the Brenner Pass, was as anxious for an agreement as was Chamberlain, for this agreement now strengthens his hands in dealing with his partner in the Rome-Berlin axis who is due to visit Rome in the near future.

By the terms of the accord, Italy disclaims territorial or political ambitions in Spain and the Spanish colonies, declares that she seeks no privileged economic position there, and agrees to withdraw all Italian forces and war materials from Spanish territory at the end of the present civil war if their withdrawal has not been completed earlier in accordance with conditions to be laid down by the Non-Intervention Committee.

Britain, on the other hand, pledges herself to work through the League of Nations for recognition of the Italian conquest of Ethiopia, while the two powers "reconcile" their interests in the Mediterranean, East Africa and Arabia, agreeing at the same time to refrain from propaganda injurious to each other's interests.

Stalinist "Theory" Upset
The Anglo-Italian agreement has been concluded in rude disregard of the Stalinist "theory" that insurmountable "ideological" differences separate the "peace-loving" imperialist states from the "aggressor" states and that the working-class, basing itself on these differences and supporting the "democratic" imperialists, can preserve peace and protect weaker nations from the piratical aggressors.

By its virtual agreement to recognize the Italian conquest of Ethiopia "democratic" Britain has confounded the Stalinist theoreticians and shown that what British imperialism is interested in is the protection from Mussolini's imperialist banditry—not of poor little Ethiopia, but of British imperialism's robber interests in northeast Africa.

When Mussolini started his Ethiopian campaign and the British imperialists started belittling their protests and applying economic sanctions against the "aggressor," the Marxists pointed out precisely what was involved. "Democratic" Britain had not hesitated to embark on robber wars against native peoples in Africa and Asia in order to subjugate and enslave them. Even while the British imperialists were uttering their pious protests against Italian atrocities in Ethiopia the Royal Air Force was showering bombs on the villages of Indian tribesmen.

British Interests Threatened
What alarmed the hypocritical British imperialists was the Ita-



MUSSOLINI

FRENCH SIT-IN STRIKERS TOLD TO END FIGHT

Difficult Choice Now Faces Centrists In The S. F. I. O.

More than 150,000 workers in automobile, motor, and airplane factories around Paris have been ordered by the bureaucratic controllers of their trade unions to return to work immediately. Thus the spontaneous efforts of the striking workers to realize in practice the verbal threats of Jouhaux and Thorez to fight by "their own means" the dissolution of the Popular Front government has been given a temporary setback.

Without the united aid of the reformists and Stalinists Daladier would never have succeeded in halting the strike wave. His threats to curb the striking workers in the nationalized armament factories by mobilizing them for military service met with scant success. The workers refused to betray their solidarity with their comrades in the Renault and Citroen plants. Thus the only course left open was to smash the strikes from the left, that is, with the aid of the unions.

S. F. I. O. Split
Blum, meanwhile, has completed his record of cowardly capitulation before the bourgeoisie by "strong man" action in his own party. The Seine Federation (Paris district) of the Socialist Party (S.F.I.O.)

Workers Challenge Midwest Boss Drive Against Labor

MINNEAPOLIS.—Twelve thousand workers filled the Minneapolis municipal auditorium last week in a stirring demonstration of labor's militant determination to fight the developing boss attack on the labor movement of the Northwest.

John Boscoe, representing the Allied Printing Trades Council and Chairman of the meeting, declared one of the aims of the meeting was to smash the congealed open-shop drive by the employers of this city and state.

Roy Weir, organizer of the Central Labor Union, painted a vivid picture of the rise of the Minneapolis union movement since the 1934 drivers' strikes, and exposed the latest maneuvers of the bosses under the guise of the "Minneapolis Civic Council," an enlarged version of the union-hating Citizens Alliance.

False Rumors
Weir warned the audience against giving credence to false rumors of "gangsterism and racketeering" in the local labor movement, rumors being circulated by the employers and enemies of labor.

Speaking for the Building Trades Council, Walter Frank demanded the six-hour day, union wages for the unemployed and a \$15,000,000 housing program.

CIO Decision To Form National Body Brings Unity Issue Forward

Six-Month Interval Provided To Give Hillman Chance To Make New Peace Overtures; Leaders Fed Up With C. P.

By JAMES P. CANNON

The conference attended by the chief officers of 38 international unions affiliated with the Committee for Industrial Organization in Washington, April 13, announced the decision to form a permanent organization of the C. I. O. at a general convention to be held next September or October.

Julius Hochman, representing the powerful International Ladies Garment Workers Union, abstained from voting, pending the further action of the executive board of his organization. Otherwise, the decision was reported as unanimous. It is known that there is strong opposition in the leading circles of the I. L. G. W. U. to any further aggressive action tending to deepen the split with the A. F. of L. Informed circles predict with more and more assurance that the Dubinsky organization will not go along if the C. I. O. formally constitutes itself as a rival organization.

Unity Still On Agenda

The decision of the Washington conference of the C. I. O. heads does not, as it may appear at first glance, take the question of unity with the A. F. of L. off the agenda. It simply brings the question of unity or of a deeper and more formally organized split closer to a showdown.

On the surface, the decision to call a general convention of the C. I. O. may appear to close the door to unity for a long time to come. But this, in our opinion, is not really the case. The formal announcement of the calling of the C. I. O. convention is more likely designed to force the hand of the A. F. of L. and to lay the ground for new negotiations.

This is borne out both by the unnecessarily long period of time allowed for the preparation of the convention—five or six months—and by the subsequent unofficial announcement in the usually well-informed column of Edward Levinson in the New York Post of April 14, that Sidney Hillman, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, had been authorized to reopen negotiations with the A. F. of L.

Hillman and Conciliation

This appointment is significant. Hillman, a pseudo-statesman of the conservative give-away school, is far more qualified to lead a policy of conciliation than die-hard fighting. He is also known to be most uncritically servile to the Roosevelt administration, which, as has been made clear already, thinks labor can be best regimented for support of the coming war in a united federation.

Contradictory forces are at work inside the C. I. O. After the stormy success which accrued from the great labor upsurge of early 1937, the developing economic crisis naturally brought the recruiting campaign to an abrupt halt. Along with this, internal difficulties have come more and more to the fore.

First, is the conflict of outlook and policy, and to a certain extent of interest, between the

older and more firmly established unions and the new mushroom giants of the mass production industries. Running a close second, is the increasing malevolence of the Stalinist abscesses and ulcers plaguing the C. I. O. draining its strength and halting its stride every way it turns. These internal difficulties are reflected in the double decision of the Washington conference to call a constitutional convention five or six months hence and, at the same time, to begin new unity negotiations, under the aegis of the conservative Hillman.

Unions Want Democracy

On the one hand, many of the new unions are pressing for an extension of democracy in the selection of officers by constitutional means; the dictatorial authority of the self-appointed and hand-picked chiefs, national, regional and local, is becoming somewhat irksome to the rank-and-file of these unions.

On the other hand, many of the older and more stable unions, having had a good dose of Stalinist manipulation and domination, packing, finagling and maneuvering in the newly constituted local and state C. I. O. councils, look with apprehension to an extension of this nightmarish business on a general national scale. Fear of a permanent head-on conflict with the A. F. of L. is no doubt secondary to their panic at the prospect of further permeation by the Stalinist manipulators and expert disrupters.

The Stalinists, already well entrenched in the apparatus from top to bottom, have become the Achilles heel of the C. I. O. Lewis and his chief-of-staff, drunk with conceit and dazzled by monetary success, thought they could use everybody and outfit everybody, including the Stalinist bearers of Greek gifts to the C. I. O. The results up to date have been rather sad for these super statesmen, and especially for the unions which have been receiving the "help" of the Stalinist highbinders.

Deal With Browder

Lewis parceled out the Pacific Coast to the Stalinists like so much mandated territory, as a part of the national deal with Browder & Co. Besides being a cynical double-cross of the progressive elements of Pacific coast labor, this turned out to be a bad piece of business for Mr. Lewis and the C. I. O.

The bulk of the Pacific coast labor movement, including its most progressive and militant sections, turned definitely away from the C. I. O. and its appointed pro-consul, the garrulous Harry Bridges, otherwise known as the Pacific coast false alarm. Meantime, the Stalinist plants and stooges, caucus men, payroll bandits and delegates of paper organizations, have been running wild in the local and state councils of the C. I. O.

The result is truly devastating. In Los Angeles, for example, the older and more stable organizations, and the bona-fide unions generally, have simply quit participating. Other cities and states tell the same story, with slight variations. C. I. O. councils having been "captured," are being transformed into caucuses of the Communist Party, its stooges, hangers-on and hired men.

Situation in New York

The situation in New York, where the C. I. O. locals, expelled many months ago from the A. F. of L. central body, have

Takes Long Step



JOHN L. LEWIS

ILLINOIS C. P. BACKS KELLY'S MAN FOR SENATE

Apes Labor Non-Partisan League In Democratic Primary Fight

By ALBERT GATES

CHICAGO.—The Democratic Party put on another show in the Chicago and Illinois primaries which were completed April 12, holding the stage from the first day of the campaign to the last—much to the discomfiture of the Republicans who sought to recoup their losses as a result of the sharp inner-party struggle that invaded the Democratic organization.

No one paid much attention to the campaign of the Republicans. The real circus was elsewhere.

Democrats Split

Just as in the 1936 presidential elections, the Democratic Party was split between the down-state machine, with Governor Henry Horner at its head, and the Chicago machine directed by those two notorious political gangsters, Mayor Edward Kelly and National Committeeman Nash.

The struggle between these factions, originating in the Cermak area, came to a head following Cermak's death, when the Chicago machine sought unsuccessfully to eliminate Horner, running for a second term as governor in 1936. But when the elections took place, the two machines united to defeat the Republicans. The struggle soon began to revive, however, and the old line-ups were reestablished. The Kelly-Nash machine was determined to avenge its defeat in 1936 and Horner and his down-state machine were equally determined to take over control of the Democratic Party.

Scene of Struggle

Thus the 1938 Democratic primaries became a scene of violent struggle. Kelly-Walsh sought the removal of the incumbent County Judge Jarecki in order to insure elections in the future by controlling the ballot boxes and at the same time retain their leadership of the party. They nominated Judge John Prystalski against Jarecki, principally because his Polish name would run well against Jarecki, also a Pole. For the United States Senate, the Kelly-Nash machine nominated Michael L. Igoe, the U. S. District Attorney. Horner nominated Scott Lucas, Legionaire and down-stater. Lesser posts were also divided between the two factions, but not so sharply, and in many respects there was complete agreement as to candidates.

The show was on! Igoe, identifying himself with the Kelly-Nash machine lost his opportunity of nomination. He stood well in the party, down-state and in Chicago. He had what is generally considered a good labor record. Lucas was a down-stater, an organizer of the American Legion, not always certain in his support of Roosevelt, a small-time rah-rah boy. But he was not a Kelly-Nash man, and the Kelly-Nash machine is a discredited machine.

Mud-slinging Match

Both sides entered the campaign with the slogans: Against Bossism! For Roosevelt! They heaped insults upon each other. They accused each other of the vilest sins, of graft, bureaucracy, bossism, machinism. They del-

Roosevelt Seeking Fresh Panaceas To Check Depression

Proclaims U.S. Primacy In Western Hemisphere

Roosevelt Warns Off All Foreign Interests From Latin America; LaGuardia Gives Forthright Expression to Imperialist Aims

Tying in closely with the war plans of American imperialism which are proceeding at an ever more accelerated pace, President ("I hate war") Roosevelt last week delivered a pointed warning to rival powers to keep their hands off continental America.

This warning, in effect a reaffirmation (in modernized form) of the Monroe Doctrine which proclaimed the hegemony of dollar imperialism in the Western Hemisphere, was contained in an address before the governing board of the Pan-American Union on April 14.

Warning to All

Roosevelt spoke behind closed doors to the chiefs of diplomatic missions of twenty American republics represented in Washington and Secretary Hull, chairman of the governing board. His address was broadcast in this country and carried by short wave to Latin America, later being rebroadcast in Spanish and Portuguese.

"We will not permit it (the Western Hemisphere) to be endangered from aggression coming from outside our hemisphere," Roosevelt told his auditors, thereafter proceeding to reiterate his "good neighbor" policy with regard to Central and South America. Behind such pacific utterances, however, there lurked threats to fight for the maintenance of American hegemony in the Americas.

The New York Times reported the speech under the caption, "Roosevelt Warns Alien Aggressors." However, his remarks were not only a challenge to "alien aggressors," but also a warning to all the Latin American vassals not to abandon their "community of interests" with American imperialism.

Have-Nots At Work

For long years the Latin American republics were a field for competition between British and American investors. This situation has fundamentally changed. The have-nots among the imperialists—Germany, Japan and Italy—are tenaciously at work spreading their tentacles over the countries between Cape Horn and the Rio Grande.

Exhausted by their armament program and lacking capital for investment, they are concentrating their efforts in a drive to

gain a foothold in the field of commerce. Cotton, sugar, coffee and metals, which Latin America possesses in abundance, are important elements in their war economy.

In exchange Italy furnishes war vessels and airplanes; Germany, guns and machines. Cheap consumers' goods from Japan flood the South American markets. Political ambitions follow closely on the heels of the increasing trade.

The Latin American bourgeoisie not unskillfully exploits this courtship of new imperialist competitors to reinforce their own positions in relation to their old masters.

Playing Two Sides

After Vargas' fascist putsch, Brazil was well rewarded for the maintenance of "good neighborly" relations with the United States. Nevertheless Brazil did not refrain from again increasing her trade with Germany through a recent exchange agreement with the Krupp armament factories.

Argentina, still largely under British domination, was able, after declaring a moratorium on its foreign debts, to repurchase for a song, valuable bonds in British and American possession. Having in reserve possible agreements with Germany and Japan, it did not encounter any serious resistance.

In the same way, Ecuador recently multiplied its taxes on American corporations.

Washington's retreat in the Mexican oil conflict was dictated by similar considerations. Fearing a reverse in American-Mexican relations, Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau, after having suspended official silver

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But His Spending Cure— All Is Just Another Quack Remedy

Workers Will Pay

Eight months of unrelieved depression, whose sharpness is unprecedented in the history of American capitalism, plus the growing demands of the labor movement and the unemployed, have finally forced Roosevelt to action. Last week he sent a message to Congress asking for \$3,000,000,000 in direct appropriations and in Treasury loans to be applied to "recovery" projects. In addition he announced that about \$2,000,000,000 more would be made available for money and credit.

Immediately thereafter, Roosevelt broadcast his plans to the workers' faith in capitalism was weakening with the depression. At the very opening of his speech he tried to dispel their feeling of insecurity and to rekindle their faith. He ended up with an appeal for "united national will" to get behind him and his program.

Against the Tide

The Roosevelt program is intended to stem the economic decline which is spreading destruction everywhere—destruction of whole industries, destruction of employment, destruction of purchasing power, destruction of the living standards of American workers and farmers. It is intended also to turn economic decline into economic recovery.

The "recovery" aimed at by the program will not benefit the workers substantially. In the words of Roosevelt himself, the cause of the depression is the lag of consumption behind production, resulting from inadequate purchasing power. Explaining the depression of 1929-33 he says "supplies so over-ran demand which would pay that production was compelled to stop." Likewise in explaining the depression of 1937, he says: "By the Autumn of 1937 the nation had stocks on hand which the consuming public could not buy because the purchasing power of the consuming public had not kept pace with the production."

A program that would benefit the workers and bring economic recovery would have to increase the purchasing power of the workers and unemployed. But Roosevelt says outright in his message to Congress that his program "will not put more money in the hands of the consuming public."

Will Benefit Capitalists

First of all, and most of all, the Roosevelt program will benefit the capitalists. Of the \$3,000,000,000 which it asks from Congress, over two-thirds will go into public works and housing. The more than \$2,000,000,000 which the government is prepared to release consists of two items: the desterilization of \$1,400,000,000 in gold which will mean an equal increase in the circulation of money, and the reduction in the reserve ratio, which will increase bank reserves by \$750,000,000 and lending power by over five times as much. In addition, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation is authorized to make gifts and loans totalling up to \$1,500,000,000 which are to go to "businesses which are in grave danger of shutting down."

At best, the program will bring a feverish recovery that will be short in duration, precipitate in decline, and at all times will press down the living standards of the workers and farmers. The public works will employ a portion of those displaced from private industry by the current depression.

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Fruit Growers Open Parley After Workers Vote Strike

LOS ANGELES.—On Friday April 8, the Venice local of the Mexican Union of Agricultural Workers in Southern California, (C.U.C.O.M.) voted unanimously to strike if their demands for closed shop and a wage increase were not met by the Palm-Venice Growers Association within eight days.

The union meeting was attended by 150 workers who represented a large section of the harvesters of the local lettuce crop.

Score First Gain

The militant and determined stand of the workers netted an immediate gain. The Growers Association had refused to meet union representatives to discuss conditions since the termination of the old agreement in December, 1937. The day following the strike vote, a communication was received from the growers requesting negotiations with the union and desiring to hear its proposals.

The union presented its demands for a closed shop in the fields, the right of a field delegate to visit the fields, and an increase in wages from 35 to 45 cents per hour. So far no agreement has been reached, but negotiations are continuing.

The contract proposed by the workers is presented jointly in the name of the Cucum and the Filipino Federated Workers Union. Both organizations have

developed plans for cooperation in obtaining their demands. This marks an important step towards amalgamation of all workers in one agricultural union in Southern California. Frank Almar, leader of the Filipino workers, has declared support for the amalgamation of all workers in one union. A number of Mexican progressives are pressing for this necessary development, recognizing this must be accomplished before there can be any real defense to the wage-cutting campaign instituted by the growers.

Determined to Strike

Since December, 1937, the agricultural unions have been unable to secure contracts with the growers. The employers, considering the unions to be incapable of struggle, have begun to slash wages, in some cases to 17 cents per hour. The Venice local has been the best organized group of agricultural workers in the county and, faced with a return to the miserable wages of 1932 and 1933, has determined to take strike action to defend previous gains.

Because of the permanent poverty of these workers, the use of race prejudice against them, the extreme brutality of police action in all of their strike struggles, it is necessary to ask workers everywhere to be prepared to come to their assistance.