

Hitler Seeks To Mend Axis By Rome Visit

Britain Anticipates His Move By Concluding French Alliance

Surrounded by all the pomp of modern Caesars and by thousands of guards watching hawk-eyed for assassins, Fuehrer Hitler and Duce Mussolini met again in Rome this week to make a new series of moves across the checkerboard of European imperialist politics.

Despite all the fulsome froth about the solidity of the Rome-Berlin axis, the two Fascist dictators were meeting more for purposes of sparring than for hugging each other in an affectionate clench.

Mussolini has secured in the Anglo-Italian pact a counterfoil to the pressure of Hitler on Italy's spheres of influence in Central Europe. This together with the new Anglo-French military alliance, was certain to play an important role in the deliberations of the Fascist warlords.

The Anglo-French military alliance was concluded last week when Premier Daladier and Foreign Minister Bonnet went to London to meet Prime Minister Chamberlain and Lord Halifax.

The agreements concerning naval, military and aerial co-operation surpass by far the extent of military co-ordination reached between France and England during the last World War. A French officer will, in the event of war, head the combined troops of the two countries, a British admiral, the united fleet, and a British officer, the joint air forces.

To Pool Resources

At the same time, both countries will pool their purchases of war materials. In France, great stores of food, oil and munitions are to be established, purchased with British credits. France intends to buy mainly from Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Yugoslavia, Hungary, etc., in an attempt to stop German penetration into Central and South-eastern Europe.

Daladier and Bonnet went to London with full powers granted by unanimous vote of the People's Front which they had just deserted. They answered that vote by definitely abandoning the foreign policy of the People's Front. No more talk about collective security, indivisible peace, defense of democracy against fascism, etc. Without the slightest resistance, the French missionaries submitted to John Bull's conditions.

They not only accepted the plan to recognize Mussolini's rape of Ethiopia; they even agreed to legalize it with the seals of the League of Nations.

Hasten Franco's Victory

While the Italian legions assail Catalonia and Madrid, the representatives of the People's Front, being at the same time the mandataries of the French bourgeoisie, assumed the obligation to complete Franco's sea blockade with an effective land blockade along the French-Spanish border. The London correspondent of the New York Times correctly interprets this shameless delivery of Loyalist Spain to Franco and Mussolini: "Now the British and French have agreed (Mussolini) should complete his victory in Spain."

Faced with the military collapse of the Loyalists, Britain is forcing France to facilitate her attempt to divide the Spanish booty with Mussolini at the expense of Germany.

England has taken the lead in the negotiations with Italy. Without doubt she will, in the near future, also dictate to France the conditions for an "understanding" with Germany. The question of Russia will be decisive in the barter.

Czechoslovakia Deserted

All the French efforts to induce Chamberlain to accept obligations in regard to Czechoslovakia were in vain. The agreed-upon diplomatic representations to Berlin will only be bombs in a pail of water. Chamberlain's flat

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Indians Given New Taste of Democracy

Thirty-two persons were reported killed and 48 gravely wounded April 26 when British police opened fire on a throng of 10,000 persons attending an Indian Congress Party rally in the village of Vidurawata, in the Kolar region, 150 miles east of Bangalore.

The rally had been organized to protest the ban issued by the Mysore state government against hoisting of the Congress flag.

In subjecting the demonstrators to a blood-bath, the "democratic" British imperialist masters of India achieved a new high point in their ruthless suppression of the downtrodden victims of their rule. Intermittently during the past two years, the British slave-drivers have been carrying out aerial bombing operations against Northwest frontier tribesmen and spreading death and devastation through Indian villages.

SEEK TO OUST SAILORS FROM MARITIME BODY

Bridges Moves To Expel S.U.P. From Coast Federation

SAN FRANCISCO. — Driving hard for a split in the Maritime Federation of the Pacific, spokesmen for Harry Bridges' C.I.O. longshoremen's union demanded last week that the militant Sailors' Union of Pacific be expelled from the Federation.

Appearing before the meeting of the executive committee of the federation last week, Bridges' right-hand man Henry Schmidt declared that the S.U.P. accept the Stalinist program and be absorbed into the National Maritime Union or face a showdown fight with the Stalinist-controlled unions in the federation.

Attacks on Lundberg

To back this move, which will mean bitter internal warfare within the federation, the Stalinists in control of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen Union are issuing a bulletin devoted entirely to slanderous attacks on the S.U.P. and Harry Lundberg, secretary-treasurer of the union.

Declaring decisions of the National Labor Relations Board to be sacrosanct and reviving the old cry "you can't fight the government," the Stalinists see every picket line as a shipowners plot. The militant determination of the S.U.P. to force the Shepard line to live up to their

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Palestine Communist Party Members Denounce Frame-up

A vehement denunciation of the Stalinist frame-up system and an appeal to all true revolutionaries to unite against the "hangmen of the October Revolution" and for the revolutionary struggle of the international working class, is contained in the leaflet, just received here, issued by members of the Communist Party of Palestine who resigned from its ranks.

This leaflet seems to have formed at least part of the basis for the report telegraphed from Palestine several weeks ago to the effect that the Communist Party of that country had withdrawn from the Moscow International and affiliated to the Fourth International. This report has not yet been confirmed, but it is clear that the "monolithic unity" of the Stalinist ranks in Palestine has been unable to withstand the shock of the third big Moscow trial.

Stalin Big Moscow Movement

"Were bourgeois reaction to procure an agent provocateur and place him at the head of the labor movement with the object of besmirching it, paralyzing it and destroying it from the inside," reads the stirring leaflet, "it could not succeed any better than Stalin with his trials and his extermination of the party." Pointing to the disastrous consequences of the trials, the

LaFollette Third Party Movement Would Check Workers' Independence

National Progressive Party, Launched By Scion Of Wisconsin Dynasty, Seeks To Head Off Labor's Own Political Action

To a crowd of 5,000 gathered in the Wisconsin state capital last week Governor Philip LaFollette announced the launching of a new third party, the National Progressives of America.

Apart from the LaFollettes, a few of their immediate followers and a number of comparatively obscure individuals who came from other states to attend the meeting, the sponsors of the new party do not include a single figure prominent in recent middle class reform movements. Especially significant was the fact that no well-known labor leaders or organizations were invited to attend the formal launching of the new party, or if they were, they must have turned down the invitation, for none of them was present.

The absence of labor in the new LaFollette movement is supplemented and emphasized by the fact that the first move made by the Wisconsin Governor to expand his organization was towards the farmers of the agrarian west—Iowa and Minnesota. Even there, however, as in virtually every part of the country the reception accorded the new party has been anything but cordial and enthusiastic.

Cool Reception

New York's Mayor LaGuardia, who has been engaged in some political exploration on his own hook, both in the East and the Middle and South West, failed to endorse the LaFollette Party and expressed himself on it in the most reserved manner. The leaders of the American Labor Party in New York, like the leaders of the Minnesota Farmer-Labor Party, who are wedded to the Roosevelt New Deal, have made very critical statements against the Wisconsin enterprise on the ground that it is "splitting the progressive forces" which should, in their opinion, stand firmly behind the President.

The Communist Party, which is among the loudest drum-beaters of Roosevelt at a time when the bankruptcy of his course becomes increasingly plain, has taken a similarly hostile attitude towards the LaFollette organization, that is, it is criticizing "from the standpoint of conservatism, of the right, of maintaining the old political line-up."

Windy Words

Although the collapse of the New Deal and the growing reactionism of the Democratic Party compelled LaFollette to assail the old parties in his keynote speech, and to point out their inability to produce a progressive solution of the raging crisis or even to prevent it from deepening, the "Platform" put out by the National Progressives is one of the most futile and windy-worded political documents of our time.

The platform does not advance a single concrete step that the new party proposes to take in order to change the present unbearable situation in the United

BOSS HAGUE'S POLICE KIDNAP NORMAN THOMAS

Workers' Own Action Is Needed To Combat Jersey Fuehrer

The Jersey City police committed a typical act of violence during the May Days by brutally assaulting, kidnapping, and deporting Norman Thomas when he attempted to speak in Journal Square on Saturday night, April 30, against Boss Hague's personal dictatorship.

The leader of the Socialist Party declared that at least half a dozen people in the crowd had been struck on the base of the neck from the rear by police night sticks, a blow which paralyzes without leaving a mark. Among them was Louis Freader, Hoboken Secretary of the Workers Defense League. The secretary of the League, Morris Milgram, said that at least fifteen persons had been expelled from the city with Thomas, including residents of Jersey City.

Vicious Assaults

One of them was Ashley Garrick, Jersey City lawyer, whose arms, according to eye-witnesses, were held by two cops while a detective punched his face so brutally that he had to be treated by a physician. So frenzied was the melee around the seizure of Norman Thomas that the uniformed men failed to recognize the plain-clothes cops of their own force. As a result one uniformed patrolman struck a detective.

The Jersey City police chiefs declared that Thomas had been put out of the city "for his own personal safety." Safety, presumably, against even more serious manhandling by Hague's guardians of law and order! Thomas himself branded the whole police report as fiction, "doubtless as false as the evidence against Jeff Burditt," who is serving a six-month sentence for trying to make a speech on the same spot.

Thomas has demanded that the LaFollette Civil Rights Senatorial Committee investigate Hague's dictatorship, and has asked various Federal authorities to intervene. But Hague has been sufficiently exposed in the eyes of the people by his own actions in the past period. What is needed is not further investigation but further action against this petty satrap and staunch pillar of the Democratic Party.

Workers' Initiative Needed

The organized workers of New Jersey should take the initiative in launching a movement of self-defense against the unabated and ever more vicious attacks of Hague's gangsters - in uniform. They can secure the sympathy and support of every militant force in the labor ranks, who are already aroused to the menace represented by Hague and his regime. The independent action of the militant and organized workers is the best way to restore their democratic rights to the people of Jersey City.

Government Tax Program Hits Labor

Roosevelt Measure Gives Relief Only To The Exploiters

By DAVID COWLES

On the same day in which the Roosevelt tax bill was lickered into final shape, sixteen of the outstanding representatives of monopoly capitalism promised him their cooperation in his "recovery" program. The reason for the close connection becomes obvious if we examine the tax bill. The \$5,300,000,000 tax program, which emerged from the conference between leading House and Senate politicians last week, indicates a complete dropping of such direct taxes on big business as the undistributed profits tax, capital gains tax, the tax on government bonds. It also disregarded any tax on the incomes of the government bureaucracy. It shunted aside any proposal that would substantially tax the rich or their minions in the state apparatus. The meaning of the bill was summed up by the Democratic Senator Harrison: "The tax bill gives real relief to business."

Relieve Capitalists

On giving relief to the capitalists, Democrats joined Republicans, the House joined the Senate, and all worked together in perfect harmony. Along with the Democrat Harrison, the Republican Senators Vandenberg and Clapper thought the tax bill "a long step toward a restoration of tax sanity." In the conference between House and Senate, the N. Y. Times reported that "on matters of direct concern to business, where there was a difference of opinion between the House and Senate, the conferees inclined to the alternative that favored business."

At all times the tax bill is a political document of first importance. This is especially true today, when the critical condition of American capitalism finds its sharpest reflection in the budget policies of the Roosevelt government.

The budget contains two sides, expenditures and revenue. As was shown in a recent article in the Appeal, the expenditures are to go almost entirely to aid big business. The revenue side is shown in the tax bill. It shows who is to pay for the spending. The expenditure side of the budget distributes government monies between classes in the state, favoring some and discriminating against others. To that extent, the budget is a reflection of the use of the state by a class or groups in a class. Who is to pay the bills?—this question is determined by the class control of the state, with its power to re-distribute wealth and income, to take away from some and give to others. In acting thus, the class which controls the state further accentuates and aggravates class divisions.

Role of the State

The present tax bill resulted because big business controls the state. The bill "gives real relief to business." To see why and how it does so and at whose expense, is to see at one and the same time the decline of American capitalism and the use of the state machine by big business to pass on the burden of its decline to the workers.

At all times the capitalists pay their taxes, when they do pay them, reluctantly and with much chiselling. But now, when according to the Federal Reserve Board production is at the level it was in 1933, when the stock market is falling and profits are lower, the capitalists are especially opposed to paying taxes. They want to keep profits up and they can do so in two ways: first, by cutting costs of production; second, by reducing their tax bills.

They can cut down costs of production in three ways. One way is to fire workers, thereby reducing the number of wage-earners and the amount of wages paid out. Within the last seven months of unprecedentedly sharp depression at least 5,000,000 workers have been thrown out of work. While this cut the costs of production and kept up profits for the capitalists, it also

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Stalinists Start Drive To Capture Or Smash United Auto Workers

Faces Fight



HOMER MARTIN

Frankenstein, Browder's Candidate To Replace Homer Martin, Issues Open Challenge; Board Meets This Week

WOULD CRUSH UNION DEMOCRACY

DETROIT.—Richard T. Frankenstein, Earl Browder's candidate for the presidency of the United Automobile Workers of America, this week made his open bid for power. The internal struggle in the union, reported in the Socialist Appeal more than a month ago (April 2), entered a new phase with Frankenstein's challenge to the leadership of Homer Martin, president of the union.

Fresh from the ante-chambers of the Communist Party, Frankenstein rushed into the public prints with a program carefully drawn and doctored by Michigan's Stalinist high priests, William Weinstone and William Gebert. This program—a letter addressed to International Board members—will be brought into the session of the International Executive board of the union at its meeting on May 9 in Detroit. This will be the next move of the Stalinist gang to capture or smash the powerful union of the auto workers.

One month ago, the C.P.-inspired Unity Group launched its struggle for power in opposition to "the alarming trend... towards bureaucracy." We pointed out then the "new program of the Unity Group is shot through and through with hypocrisy, deceit and lies." Now Frankenstein has confirmed our analysis to the hilt.

Would Crush Groups

The first and only real point in his pronouncement is the abolition and prohibition of all factional groups within the U.A.W. But let us give the "floor" to Brother Frankenstein who, together with Weinstone or Gebert, or whoever drafted this program, is no slouch in the vocabulary of bureaucracy and dictatorship:

"1. Agreement to take disciplinary action against any party, group or section of the membership which does not go down the line with the program." No half-measures for the firm of Weinstone and Frankenstein! Discipline, suspend, expel, kick out everyone, entire locals, entire districts, the whole international union if they refuse to be regimented into hollering "ja" for the would-be dictators and their so-called program. Bill Green and his pals must be green with envy.

2. All caucuses to be abandoned immediately, specifically the Progressive and Unity Caucuses will no longer exist and the program advocated is to be the program of the International Union. To enforce this we abolish and prohibit all factional groups within the U.A.W."

Frankenstein Switches

Frankenstein is now cast in a new role. Eight months ago at the Milwaukee convention of the U.A.W. it was Frankenstein who denounced a motion of Victor Reuther to abolish all caucuses. He correctly stated then that the right to groups and caucuses was the pre-condition for inner-union democracy. Now the abolition of democracy

in the U.A.W. is the solution of a "crisis beyond that of the recession." If the truth were told, Frankenstein is only now approaching a semblance of sincerity.

He championed the rights of groups at the convention, not in the cause of democracy but in the cause of Frankenstein. He coveted the post of first vice-president and he needed a caucus to see him through. Now the forces behind him are strong enough to dispense with a caucus. But don't think a minute that they mean all caucuses. They mean open caucuses—and that's all!

On the day that the right to groups and caucuses is abolished, the most powerful caucus in the union will begin to exercise unchallenged power within the organization. That caucus is the Communist Party. Does anyone imagine that members of the Communist Party in the union will stop meeting and making decisions because a motion is passed to eliminate caucuses? In practical effect, this decision will hog-tie every militant worker and progressive unionist in the U.A.W. Only the Communist Party and its stooges will have a free hand.

Seeks Dictatorship

This means the return of the Francis Dillon regime to the helm of the auto union. But where Francis Dillon failed to saddle his dictatorship on the auto workers because the progressives were able to organize a caucus, Frankenstein wants to succeed by prohibiting all caucuses. The democratic right of union members to get together for a specific object or program is in the final analysis the only real guarantee that the rank-and-file will control its own union and keep the bureaucrats in their place. That is why, in the guise of democracy, the program of the Unity Group, espoused by its latest convert, is the most sinister danger confronting the auto union.

Undoubtedly, the demand for the abolition of the Unity and Progressive caucuses will strike a favorable chord with a large section of the rank-and-file. The workers have become disgusted with the dog-eat-dog fight between these groups only on the "program" of who is to get the job. The differences between these groups were never very great. The danger—now an actuality—which we pointed out on many occasions was that a rank-and-file weary of this squabble would lend an ear to the first demagogue who called for peace. Even if this peace means the loss of the most precious of union rights. Once again we repeat: only that group organized on a program of democracy and militancy can smash the unprincipled cliques and demagogues and open a new page for the union.

Code of Servility

If this part of Frankenstein's program is not revolting enough, then follow through to point 3, which wants to carry over his

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AFL USES DUAL UNION TACTICS TO FIGHT CIO

Charters Reactionary Miners' Union In Illinois

The A. F. of L. executive council pulled a series of strategic moves last week at its quarterly meeting that will place it in a stronger bargaining position in any unity negotiations with the C.I.O.

Charters of six C.I.O. unions were revoked by the council, leaving only David Dubinsky's International Ladies Garment Workers Union with its A.F. of L. charter untouched. This attempt to conciliate Dubinsky had an immediate effect.

Dubinsky announced his rejection of the post of chairman of the important C.I.O. housing committee to which he had been elected at the recent C.I.O. conference.

Dual Union Moves

The A. F. of L. council also announced that it had granted a charter to the reactionary Progressive Miners union of Illinois and that it has planned a dual union drive in the mine fields against the United Mine Workers of America.

William Green's threats in this direction are a "pressure" move against John L. Lewis and

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Rank and File Committee Brings In NMU Agreement

A rank and file committee elected from the floor of the National Maritime Union last week brought in a tentative agreement for ratification by the membership. The terms of the new agreement came as a great surprise to Stalinist forces in the Union whose appointed committees had twice before failed to secure any concessions from the steamship operators.

This agreement covers all companies in which the N.M.U. has won elections under auspices of the N.L.R.B. Working rules and wages are in conformity with agreements prevailing on the West Coast. While the seamen were able to gain recognition of the N.M.U. as the sole collective bargaining agent, they did not get a closed shop agreement. However, members of the N.M.U. have "preference of emp-

loyment," and negotiators for the union predict that ships' crews will be able to force all seamen signing on any ship covered by the agreement to ship through the Union hall.

Although the agreement for East Coast shipping is not on a par with the West Coast standard where closed shop conditions prevail, it marks a great stride forward for the rank-and-file seamen here. They have provided that given an opportunity to function as a group of Union men without Communist Party domination, important concessions can be wrested from the operators. In contrast to the now infamous "Tanker Agreement" recently drawn up by the Standard Oil Company with "Rasputin" Lawrensen, Stalinist agent in the N.M.U. as salesman, the new agreement is a masterpiece,