

TRADE UNION WAGES ON  
ALL DEFENSE WORK!

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## FRENCH 'DEMOCRATS' TURN FASCIST

### Communist Int'l Preparing to Abandon "Anti"-War Policy; Only Workers Can Protect Freedom

*We Must Fight Its Support of Wall Street's Imperialism*

By FELIX MORROW

Panic-stricken by the consequences of the Stalin-Hitler pact which so enormously facilitated German imperialism's conquest of Europe, the Kremlin is embarking on a new orientation—toward an alliance with the imperialist enemies of German imperialism, above all with the United States.

As always in its bargaining with the imperialist powers, the Kremlin is offering the services of the Communist International to those whom it woos. From 1935 until August, 1939, the Kremlin sold the Comintern to "the democracies"; then it sold the Comintern to Hitler along with oil and manganese, and now it is offering the services of this corrupt prostitute to American imperialism.

Each time the Comintern is offered up for sale to the imperialists by the Kremlin's ambassadors, the private negotiations are accompanied publicly by a deliberately-created atmosphere of confusion, of mixing the old line with the new for months, so that the Communist party rank and file cannot see what is happening. The way for the new line is paved by a series of hints which appear buried in the Stalinist press amid shouting along the old line; there is no explicit announcement of the new line as it is brought more and more to the fore; finally step by step it replaces the old line altogether. Thus, step by step, the deceived rank and file of the party is maneuvered from one rascal line to a new one.

This time the Stalinist leaders are certain to be more cautious than ever in switching to the new line, for now they must get their followers to leave an avowedly anti-war line for a line of support of American imperialism's foreign policy—and that policy, every child knows, is a war-making policy whether that war policy is carried out by American imperialism and her capitalist satellites alone or whether that policy is also

supported by the Kremlin. Followers of the Kremlin in 1935-1939 could still be deluded to believe that "collective security" was a "peace policy"; they can scarcely be persuaded to accept that at this stage of the war! This difficulty imposes extreme caution on the Stalinist leadership in putting over the new line.

#### New Line Tried On the Youth

The most explicit statement so far of the latest turn was made Saturday morning, July 6, at the American Youth Congress, by Mac Weiss, head of the Young Communist League. The perplexed delegates—the vast majority of them young YCL and CP members or sympathizers—prepared in their localities for the Congress along the "isolationist" and "pacifist" line, suddenly heard Weiss declare:

"The people of the U.S. must collaborate with Russia to stop Hitler. I want to associate myself with the great mass of American people who feel that the conquests of Hitler represent a serious menace to the United States."

Non-Stalinists immediately pressed Weiss for an explanation of his change of line. All that Weiss could lamely say was: "If there is a change of line, perhaps the explanation should come from those who once favored a moral embargo against Russia and now favor sending Russia tools and machinery."

An extraordinary argument! The Kremlin's foreign policy according to Weiss is in the hands of the White House! Roosevelt's release of some tools and machinery previously ordered by Russia but held up, is enough to cause a reorientation of the Kremlin—and of the Comintern.

Weiss's statement was perplexing, however, only to his own followers. Others had noted the beginnings of a new turn in the resolution on for-

eign policy which had been introduced by the Stalinist fraction and which the Youth Congress adopted (of course) by a vote of 384 to 19.

Instead of a resolution along the line of recent Stalinist agitation—one which would declare unalterable opposition to any war engaged in by a capitalist government of the United States, a denunciation of Roosevelt's "national defense" program, etc.—the Stalinist tops introduced a resolution which said:

"We declare our readiness to contribute to the maximum our energies, our services and IF NEEDED BE OUR LIVES to the great task of DEFENDING OUR COUNTRY and our democratic rights against any attack of enemies from without and against any betrayal from within, as in France."

Although continuing a perfunctory opposition to compulsory military training, the resolution declared that youth would make the sacrifice required by war "only in a just cause." Stalin and Roosevelt, or Roosevelt's successor, will naturally determine that "just cause."

It is typical of the hypocritical and deceitful Stalinist method of changing political lines that the Stalinist short and casual report on the adoption of this resolution (*Sunday Worker*, July 7), does not quote the key paragraphs which we have quoted from the resolution.

#### First Hints of the New Line

The first hint of the new line came on June 16, when France asked for the armistice. Whereupon Israel Amter, addressing the YCL convention that day, declared that the Kremlin's occupation of the Baltic countries "is also furthering the interests of the workers of France and the rest of Europe by weakening Hitler's position on his eastern front." (*Daily Worker*, June 17).

Three days later William Z. Foster gave the next hint. For seven months the Comintern press—in the democratic countries—had been denouncing the idea of supporting the defense of a capitalist country. Foster himself had been writing little homilies about the responsibility of all capitalists for war and that socialism is the only way out. Now, suddenly, Foster offered "a program of national defense" as opposed to that of Roosevelt. The main point was the demand for a "peoples' democratic government." Foster recalled: "The Communists always vote to furnish arms to such democratic governments, as in the cases of the first popular front government in France, and the democratic people's governments of Spain, China, Mexico, Chile and Cuba." (*Daily Worker*, June 20).

#### Foster Recalls Roosevelt Support

This was the first time in seven months that any Stalinist spokesman had recalled the awkward fact that the Stalinists had voted arms to Daladier-Blum. Four days later Foster recalled another fact unmentioned for seven months. He asked the question: "Doesn't Roosevelt's pro-war policy show that the Communist Party was wrong in giving support to the New Deal?" And he answered:

"Our Party had to back up such tendencies as the Roosevelt government was then showing towards a policy of collective security and more democratic relations with the countries of Latin America. This in spite of the fact that Roosevelt was then and is now a defender of capitalism. He has today completely abandoned his reform program and is promoting an imperialist war policy. What our Party supported was not Roosevelt's capitalism, but the pro-

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### "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity" Thrown Overboard Without a Splash, Teaching Us Not to Trust Boss Politicians

Republican France is now Fascist France. The "stout defenders of democracy" are the latest recruits to fascism.

A hastily-scrawled constitution was put through an assembly of docile Deputies and Senators at Vichy on July 9.

By this simple act the Republic of "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity" was erased from the political map of the continent.

The men who have taken the lead in turning France into a fascist country are the same who only a few weeks ago were among those hailed the world over as the Horatios at the bridge of western civilization.

Pétain was the soldier-hero who came out of retirement at his country's call in the struggle for freedom and democracy. Weygand was the military genius who all but bared his breast to the legions of the modern Attila. Pierre Laval was the man—you remember—who went to Moscow in 1935 and there made the historic pact with Stalin which was to insure western Europe against the menace of Fascism.

#### Now They Tell

In our newspapers now we are all reading long and detailed accounts of what villains these men really are. We are being told how they and their associates veritably delivered France into the hands of the enemy. They are—we now learn—nothing but traitors and saboteurs.

But only a few weeks ago the same newspapers told us they were heroes, mighty fighters under the banner of democracy, men who were ready to give their all to keep the dread iron heel of fascism from crushing out the heritage of "liberty" in Europe.

#### "Democracy" Was A Lie

Both these versions are lies. Politicians and generals are nothing but the servants of the class that rules. Up to yesterday the bosses of France were pleased to use the fictional insignia of "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity" to conceal their naked power. Now things have changed. Having been defeated by a more powerful rival they adapt themselves to him and their first method is to change the form of their rule. It is easy enough for them to erase Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity from their political manuals. They were never anything but words to them.

Now we can see what a thin tissue of lying phrases forms the real content of capitalist democracy so far as the capitalists are concerned! At one stroke they brush them away and the French capitalists, protected from the deceived and betrayed masses by the legions of Hitler, begin to rule without all the mummery of parliaments and hot air about freedom.

#### The Great Lesson

The lesson for workers everywhere—and above all in the United States—is once more not trust boss politicians and boss governments to assure us freedom. Unless we act first to secure and protect our own freedom and economic well-being and security, we leave the capitalists free at any time it suits their interest to clap us into the chains of Fascism.

The French workers were told that revolution would open the way to Hitler. They let the bosses stay in power. They got Hitler. They got Fascism. And they got him after they were rendered helpless to resist. That is what we have got to understand and act upon before it is too late.

SEE EDITORIAL

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## Behind the Lines

Hints of Appeasement Begin to Come From Roosevelt's Horse's Mouth

by GEORGE STERN

The main effects of Hitler's European victories on U.S. imperialist strategy are already quite plain. The rivalry with Japan for domination of the Pacific area has had to be abandoned, in deed if not in word. The Atlantic, not the Pacific, has become the focus of U.S. war strategy. Finally, against the day when U.S. imperialism will have to fight its rivals both in Asia and in Europe for world domination, this country will have to play somehow for time, for time enough to build the monster two-ocean fleet and air force it needs to meet these formidable rivals of tomorrow.

Consequently we need not share the astonishment and consternation of the liberal know-nothings when hints of appeasement begin to emanate from the sacred portals of Roosevelt's own private offices. Last Saturday morning Stephen Early, the presidential secretary, threw a group of newspaper correspondents into complete confusion when he relayed what he said were some notions of the president about the Monroe Doctrine. The U.S. did not want, he said, to "interfere" with territorial settlements in Asia and Europe arising out of the war. Let the countries of Europe settle their territorial problems and the countries of Asia, theirs.

As the newspapers generally pointed out the next day, this seemed to be saying that Europe should be left to Germany and Asia to Japan, while this hemisphere would be left to the U.S. and everything would be smooth and happy. This smacked like Chamberlain-Daladier appeasement projected on a far vaster scale.

The presidential statement was at such variance with the formal policy still expressed by Hull, especially with respect to the Far East (Indochina and the Dutch East Indies) that Early next day clouded over his previous remarks a little bit by

saying he had failed to stress another presidential point: that all this had to be done "cooperatively" and not by methods of conquest. This did not change very much and observers here, as well as in Berlin and Tokyo, were fully entitled to wonder just what Roosevelt was actually thinking about and whether this new line of policy is soon to replace the present one, in form as well as practice.

Actually the incident would seem rather to reflect the very real confusion that must exist both in Washington and in Wall Street about the course that has to be pursued right now in the sphere of foreign policy. They know they have to discount the defeat of Britain. They know they dare not move against Japan. They know that they may have to compete with Hitler for Stalin's partnership before very long. They also know that they need at the least two years—more probably five—to arm themselves adequately enough for the big jobs they have set for themselves in the future.

At the same time they have to face the fact that they may not have so much time, that they may not be able to dictate the circumstances or the tempo of the rapidly unfolding world struggle, that a decision may be forced upon them one way or another before they are ready for it.

It must have been out of a conversation along these lines that the Roosevelt-Early remarks emerged. They reflect the process of change rather than any definite change that has already taken place. The fact that Roosevelt, upon returning to Washington from Hyde Park, called the Commander-in-Chief of the fleet back from Hawaii and consulted with the chief of staff of the armed forces in the Philippines, showed that these problems are still being weighed from all angles.

## GOV'T TAKING APPLICATIONS IN JOB-TRAINING

"Locked-Out" Generation Flood Employment Stations

Over 5,000 workers attempted to register here Monday for government-controlled training in the skilled trades. All the unemployed were turned away and only those now working in machine shops were permitted to register.

Courses in auto and aviation mechanics, welding, sheet metal work, radio and pattern making were to start this week, as part of the federal drive to train additional skilled workers for war industries.

The entire project is part of the program of the National Defense Commission and is being financed by a \$1,000,000 federal appropriation. The project is under the formal supervision of the federal Bureau of Education, but is to be administered in the different localities by the state, county and city Boards of Education.

Daily newspapers carried misleading stories that the bulk of the trainees are to come from the unemployed. According to the statements of the officials in charge of the registration in New York, however, the unemployed will be the last group to be admitted, and in the smallest proportion. The first group to be admitted are those working at present in machine shops. The second will be taken from other shops which use power machinery. The third group are those who are employed in any industry, and who have had previous experience in one of the first two categories. The unemployed come last.

In New York, which is the first city to get the program under way, registration takes place at 131 Livingston Street, Brooklyn. Unemployed workers must register first with the State Employment Service and will be notified when they will be admitted.

## Demand Decent Pay For 'Defense' Jobs!

Hearings of the Senate Military Affairs Committee on the compulsory military training bill introduced in the Senate by Democrat Burke and in the House by Republican Wadsworth, have so far developed one difference of opinion.

The bill provides for paying conscripts \$5 a month for the eight months of training, and an array of big businessmen and militarists have insisted that this provision should stand.

Typical of these gentlemen is Julius Ochs Adler, owner of the New York *Times* who, these days, is always referred to by the title of "colonel." Colonel Adler was shocked at the idea that anybody wouldn't think \$5 a month was enough: "patriotism," etc., etc.

Others, and it may be that the Army will take this position when its representatives appear at the hearings, say the conscripts should get the prevailing army pay of \$21 a month.

So that the difference of opinion among these gentlemen: \$5 or \$21 a month for an eight month period of military service.

At least one million skilled mechanics are going to be taken away from their civilian jobs and put to work in the ground crews for the air force. In the case of these men the government cannot even pretend that they are going to learn a trade during the conscription period. The men will be doing work along their usual line—except that they will get \$5 a month for it, or maybe \$21 a month.

The government will be repeating here what it is already doing with WPA workers: putting them to work at the WPA coolie wages doing tasks which, under the regular civil service statutes and the Walsh-Healey Act, would have to be paid for at trade union wage-scales.

The government is behaving like the worst chiselling boss.

Labor must answer:

All work on the "defense" program must be done at trade union wage-scales and under trade union conditions!

A \$30 weekly minimum for all workers conscripted under the defense program!

## STALINISTS IN ALIBI HUNT FOR TROTSKY ATTACK

C.P. Members Acted "Personally," Says C.P. Statement

MEXICO CITY, July 3—Stalinist strategy in disclaiming responsibility for the attempted assassination of Leon Trotsky and the murder of Trotsky's secretary, Robert Sheldon Harte, this week takes the following forms:

1. That those found responsible are (a) not members of the Communist party or (b) those who are members of the Communist party were in the attack purely as individuals.

This line of defense is formulated in the latest official statement of the Communist Party of Mexico, a declaration of its political bureau, in its organ, "La Voz de Mexico," June 30, as follows: "David Alfaro Siqueiros, who appears to be responsible for the assault, is not a member of the Communist party of Mexico. Neither are [Siqueiros' aides] Antonio Pujol, or Luis and Leopoldo Arenal.

"The declarations of those under arrest establish clearly their personal responsibility; but not that of the Communist party."

2. Defense of the innocence of David Serrano and Luis Mateos Martinez, two of those arrested, and two whom by no stretch of facts can the Communist party disclaim, for Serrano is a member of its Central Committee and Martinez a figure among the teachers.

The same issue of "La Voz de Mexico" carries a list of Stalinist-controlled organizations which have protested to the government against imprisonment of Serrano and Martinez because "there has not been established their participation in the assault."

This part of the Stalinist strategy may be in the process of being abandoned, for the June 30 statement of the political bureau does not even mention by name Martinez and

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## LYNCH MOB LEADERS NAMED, TERROR REIGNS

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has placed before President Roosevelt and the Department of Justice a list of the names of the mob who drove a number of prominent Negroes out of Brownsville, Tennessee, following the lynching of Elbert Williams, 33-year old laundry fireman, Negro leader of a "register and vote" drive.

The names of the mob leaders include two bank officials, several police officers, a state highway commissioner, and several merchants. Williams' body was found in a river near Brownsville on Sunday, June 23. There were two wounds in his chest, his head was battered and beaten to twice its normal size, his arms and feet were tied with a rope and his body was weighted down by a heavy log tied around his neck. Two other victims, both riddled with bullets were found later, neither as yet identified.

It is reported that eight other Negroes are missing. Brownsville is the county seat of Haywood county and Negroes, who constitute three-fourths of the county's population, have not voted since 1884.

#### Sheriff Got Williams

The N.A.A.C.P. investigation shows that on the night of June 16 a group of white men, headed by Sheriff Hunter, called at Williams' home. When Mrs. Williams answered the door, Hunter told her to tell her husband to step to the door. Williams came to the door dressed in his pajamas. Hunter told him that he was wanted at the jail for questioning and led his prisoner to a waiting automobile. One of the gang, upon leaving turned to Mrs. Williams and informed her: "This is the last time you'll see that n...; we're goin' t' kill 'im!"

Fearful of her husband's life the woman followed the automobile until it was out of sight and then went to the town jail. She was told that Williams was not there but that he would "bikely turn up later." He did, dead, at the bottom of the river.

Hunter now claims that he took the prisoner to jail where, after three hours of questioning, Williams was released. "He started towards home; that's all I know," the sheriff claims.

#### Reign of Terror

Negroes have been forbidden to gather in groups in Brownsville, even for church services, and the Rev. Buster Walker of the Baptist church was chased out of town shortly after the lynchings. Walker incurred the mob's wrath by speaking favorably of Negro suffrage.