

SOCIALIST APPEAL
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FIGHT WITH THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY FOR:

- 1. A job and a decent wage for every worker.
2. Open the idle factories—operate them under workers' control.
3. A Twenty-Billion dollar Federal public works and housing program.
4. Thirty-three! \$30-weekly minimum wage—30-hour weekly maximum for all workers on all jobs.
5. Thirty dollar weekly old-age and disability pension.
6. Expropriate the Sixty Families.
7. All war funds to the unemployed.
8. A people's referendum on any and all wars.
9. No secret diplomacy.
10. An independent Labor party.
11. Workers Defense Guards against Vigilante and Fascist attacks.

Join Us on the Firing Line!

The Socialist Workers Party has been on the firing line from coast to coast in the most militant challenge to Fascist provocation that this country has yet seen.

The Socialist Appeal in its first month as a twice-weekly has succeeded in hitting hammer-blows for the cause of united workers' action against Fascism, for progressive unionism, and against the war preparations of the Roosevelt administration.

But these are still only the first steps! To make the needed advances in carrying the revolutionary, militant, fighting program of our party to the great masses of the American working class, the Socialist Appeal has to expand its circulation and gather the sinews that not only will enable it to continue as a twice-weekly but will enable it in the nearest possible future to become a thrice-weekly and then a daily!

Getting out the twice-weekly Appeal places a tremendous financial strain upon us. We took this bold step forward on the basis of calculated increases in circulation—in subscriptions, street sales, and bundle orders. The party as a whole responded magnificently in raising the \$3,000 we needed to begin. It now must bend all its efforts to the task of making it possible to continue and to expand.

Party comrades and sympathizers! Expanding the circulation of the Socialist Appeal is a basic way of putting our fighting program across! There must be—there can be no let-up! We're asking for at least 1,000 new subscribers by April 1 but this is only a minimum figure. Get your shoulders to the wheel! Get out into the streets with the Appeal and help build a mass circulation!

Yellow Journalism

There was a time when no self-respecting worker would be caught reading the Jewish Daily Forward; its scabbery against every militant action of the workers was the most revolting spectacle in the labor movement. But even that yellow sheet never sank to the levels now being plumed by the Stalinist sheets, the Daily Worker and the Freiheit.

The Forward, like its bourgeois Jewish colleagues, exhorted its readers not to attend our counter-demonstration against the Nazis last Monday night. In our last issue, we characterized this cowardly act for what it was. Following upon the counter-demonstration, the Forward did not exactly get enthusiastic about the demonstration in its news reports; it did not report the police's own estimates of the size of the crowd, cut it down to "Ten thousand Trotskyists and Socialists," etc., etc. But at least it admitted the existence of the anti-fascist demonstration and that the demonstrators ran into considerable numbers.

In its Tuesday edition, the Daily Worker achieved the unparalleled feat of running a copious story about the Nazi meeting—but not one single word about the anti-Nazi demonstration outside!

This was already outstripping the Forward, but on Wednesday the Daily Worker demonstrated that there is no bottom to the Stalinist pit of degeneration. Whereas the Forward had, at least, indicated in its story the fact that the police had assaulted the demonstrators, the Stalinists went even further than La Guardia in whitewashing the cops. La Guardia contented himself with merely praising the cops. The Daily Worker went on to speak of the cops as "preventing serious provocations and disorder!"

Here is the complete, damning sentence, at the end of the Daily Worker's appreciative story on the Mayor's whitewashing the cops. Mark it well, you workers who were ridden down, slugged, kicked and beaten by La Guardia's cops, you workers throughout the country who have seen the pictures of the cops attacking the demonstration:

"A group of Trotskyites who came to City Hall to protest against action of the police in preventing serious provocations and disorder at the meeting were not received by the Mayor." (Daily Worker, Feb. 22, 1939)

The only other reference by the Daily Worker to the existence of the demonstration against the Nazis was also on Wednesday, in a piece by Lowell Wakefield which begins: "Every loyal American inside Madison Square Garden the other night... was profoundly shocked." The Daily Worker is ready to give plenty of rats who attended the meeting the benefit of the doubt; maybe they didn't know what this widely-publicized meeting was about. Like innocent virgins they went there and were shocked, according to "comrade" Wakefield.

But the demonstrators outside get no benefit from Wakefield. His single reference to them is that they are "nasty little provocative knots of Trotskyites."

The Forward is no better than it ever was. But what has been established, beyond dispute, is that the Forward's scabbery is not the lowest type. Way down below it is the deliberate, conscious strike-breaking of the Daily Worker against the anti-Nazi fighters.

Where There Are No Cuts

The unemployed, who are being thrown off the relief rolls in accordance with the Guinea Pig experiment of Congress to determine just how low funds for relief purposes can be cut without bringing demonstrations of protest, will be pleased to learn that utterly fantastic profits for 1938 continue to be reported by the country's giant corporations.

None of the unemployed thrown off relief will want to protest about experimental cuts, naturally, when they have had their feelings soothed by reading about these enormous profits. Instead of cutting themselves a non-existent slice from an imaginary loaf of bread provided by relief cuts, they will satisfy their hunger on epicurean delicacies the same luxurious way the rich do... by just ordering whatever strikes their fancy.

The money for it? Don't let the Guinea Pig experiment of Congress stand in your way. People at long before Congress started cutting relief funds. The rich, for instance, solved that problem a long time ago.

Just open up your family vault, blow the dust off your stock, and clip a few million dollars worth of dividends for your year's idleness. That's an old secret formula developed by the upper classes. We pass it on to those of you who have been thrown off relief for what it is worth.

We will do our bit by sending to the unemployed the glad tidings as to just which of the many stocks in their family vaults they should clip. After a week of celebrating Dividends and Profits Week, we rejoice afresh and join with the unemployed in satisfying our needs from the following items:

The STOCKHOLDERS of the companies listed below may clip from the following takes for 1938: (Note:—We have listed nothing less paltry than a million dollar take. It is to be noted that all salaries of corporation officials have already been deducted—but this is a minor item, some officers like Fred W. Sargent, president of the Chicago & North Western Railway, receiving as little as \$50,000 a year; that is, according to the bookkeeping of the corporations.)

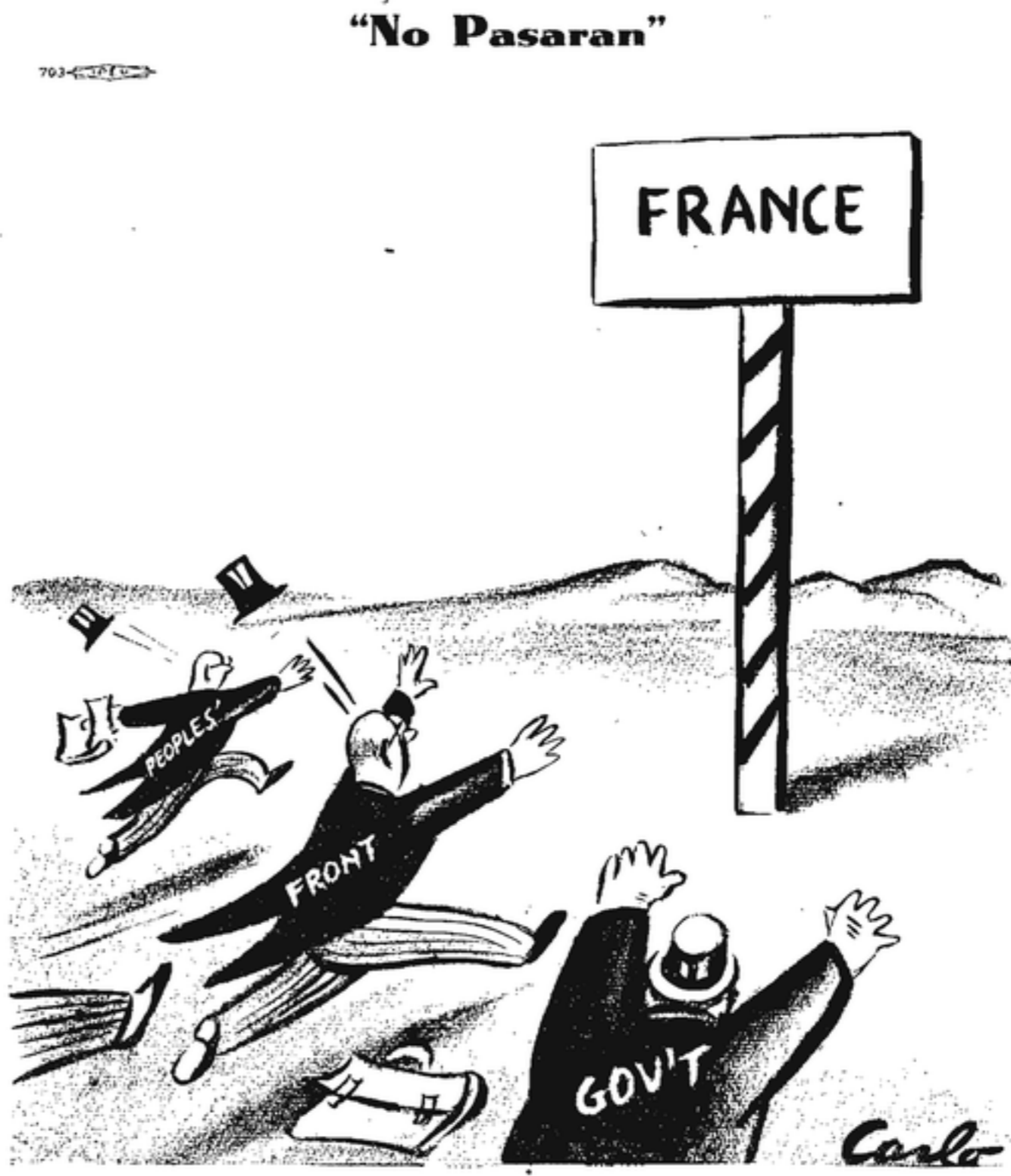
Table listing various companies and their 1938 dividends, including Columbia Gas & Electric Corp., Brooklyn Union Gas Co., Public Service Co. of No. Illinois, etc.

Everybody through clipping? It's really quite a task when there's so many profits. Someone should have the workers invent a machine that would do the clipping automatically. Then the unemployed and the rich wouldn't have to do any work at all.

When Fascism Reared Its Head

During the past ten years the Stalinist leaders of the Communist Party have organized literally hundreds of physical attacks on "Trotskyite" meetings. Their hooligans have assaulted our speakers and slugged our news-vendors.

When Fascism actually "reared its ugly head" openly in New York City in the very front yard of the Communist Party and organized a mass meeting on a scale reminiscent of those just a few years prior to the rise of Hitler, the Stalinist leaders were not merely discreetly silent, but quoted approvingly Acting-Mayor Morris, who pleaded with everybody to stay away.



Dark Cloak of Secrecy Lifted From FDR War Entanglement

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) WASHINGTON, D. C.—Further confirmation of the widespread belief that President Roosevelt has committed the United States to enter any war involving Great Britain or France came today when Representative Vinson of Georgia in a sensational address to the House of Representatives defended the sale of planes to these countries and announced that "America now finds it necessary to answer the dictators in their own language."

Congress convened again after a ten-day adjournment called by Democratic Party leaders to allow public opinion to cool off after disclosures that shocked the public from coast to coast had indicated that the President and his administration under cover of secrecy have engaged the nation to enter the coming world war.

Vinson's speech regarding the administration's war policy was the first bluntly outspoken defense of Roosevelt's war entanglements since the adjournment of the Senate.

It was thought by Roosevelt partisans that the country-wide opposition to his secret diplomacy was "without leadership" and "without plan" and that after the ten day adjournment, members of Congress who depend upon demagogic opposition to the war plans would not be compelled by an infuriated public opinion to further criticize the administration.

War Negotiations That the President and Congress are carrying on secret negotiations with foreign nations to plunge the United States into war is clearly evident from the following series of events: (1) A bombing plane developed for the United States army under great secrecy crashed accidentally near Santa Monica and it was discovered that it carried a member of a French Air Commission aboard.

(2) It was revealed that an official commission of the French government was in the United States for the second time, and at the request of President Roosevelt, secretly, in order to buy war planes. Plans for these planes, closely guarded by the Army, were made available to the foreign power.

Sworn to Secrecy (3) President Roosevelt attempted to stifle widespread apprehension that he had engaged the United States to enter any war involving the French or British, by inviting the Military Affairs Committee to a secret conference at the White House. All members were sworn to divulge nothing of what the President told them about his plans. Nevertheless, it leaked out that the President had stated that the boundaries of the United States extend to the Rhine.

(4) Roosevelt denied to the American people that he had made such a statement but both the Committee and the President categorically refused to make public the stenographic report of the meeting or to explain what had been divulged by Roosevelt under oath of secrecy.

(5) Fear and resentment swept the nation and the Senate was adjourned for ten days by Roosevelt leaders to avoid answering questions over Roosevelt's agreements and commitments to plunge the United States into the coming world slaughter.

(6) The President refused to make further comment on the affair, reporting that he was suffering from a "cold."

(7) The President left Washington for Florida to indulge in a little fishing in the Caribbean Sea... and incidentally take charge of war game maneuvers involving the entire Western Hemisphere.

(8) Senators who had been raging demagogically about the right of the American people to know about their coming slaughter and alleging that they would rip away the entire dark cloak of secrecy from the President's entanglements with Britain and France, agreed that the anger of their constituents had died down enough to make it possible for them to skip over the issue. The Senate was again convened.

(9) The Military Affairs Committee continued its hearings on "defense needs" (President's war program), and in secret sessions decided to make public an expurgated edition of part of the testimony to be given by witnesses.

(10) Senator Austin of the Committee disclosed that the United States Army has a "vast network of intelligence agents throughout the world," and that because of their special knowledge Army officials had differed with the President over the advisability of disclosing military secrets to the French and British.

IN THIS CORNER By Max Shachtman

Now that all the reports are in about the Madison Square Garden rally of the Nazis and the counter-demonstration called by our party, it is easier to cast up at least a tentative balance-sheet.

The press of the Jewish bourgeoisie and its social-democratic echo united in a joint plea to the Jewish workers of New York to shun the vicinity of the Garden on Monday night. These snivelling cravens haven't learned a thing from the horrifying events in Europe and still hope that if they crawl on their bellies or stick their heads in the sand or play dead, the fascists will either forget they exist or, if they remember, have mercy on them.

Stalinists Feature Morris Statement

The Stalinists and Thomsite and Lovestonite press preserved a dignified silence on the counter-demonstration. Every child knows that if the Stalinist press in particular had issued a call to its supporters to come out to the Garden, the Nazi mobilization could never have taken place, and New York labor would have registered a tremendous and inspiring victory.

Instead, after days of silence, it featured prominently the appeal of another professional democrat. Acting Mayor Newbold Morris, who urged the people of New York to stay away from the demonstration.

The bourgeois press took pains to underscore the fact that neither the Communist nor Socialist party was supporting the counter-demonstration, that "only" the Trotskyists were behind it.

In a word, everything was done by the "official" anti-fascist leaders to discourage attendance at the counter demonstration.

Results Show S.W.P. Was Correct

Notwithstanding all this pressure, tens of thousands of workers did come to the demonstration in response to the appeal of an admittedly small organization, the Socialist Workers Party, which does not yet have at its disposal the large numbers who follow the Communist party.

Now who, in light of the results, was correct: the Stalinists and their like, who called on the workers to hide in their basements, or the Trotskyists, who called upon them to come out?

Let us call as witness in our behalf two of the writers on the Daily Worker staff, reporting the demonstration in the Wednesday, Feb. 22 issue:

"The Nazis came out of the Garden in little groups under police protection," writes Lester Rodney, "and scurried for the subways like rats for their holes."

"Though brave inside, the Nazis slunk from the Garden," writes Lowell Wakefield. "They gave their swastika banners, even the American flags they displayed, to little boys and to young girls to carry home. They felt the tenor of New York's thoughts. I am not talking about the blood-brothers of Hitler, those nasty little provocative knots of Trotskyites [Well said, well said! But where were the non-provocative Browders and Hathaways?—M.S.] but of the thousands of silent anti-fascists, the after-theater crowds, the workers on the way home from late shifts who make the streets around there the city's busiest towards midnight."

What If There Had Been No Demonstration?

The Nazis "slunk from the Garden"; they "scurried for the subways like rats for their holes." That part of the Daily Worker's report is entirely accurate.

But suppose for a moment that the tens of thousands who joined the S.W.P. around the Garden had heeded instead the appeals of the Jewish Daily Forward, the Morning Journal, the Day, the Daily Worker and Newbold Morris? Suppose the Garden had been left completely free of the surrounding workers?

Would the Nazi thugs have slunk away under those circumstances? Would they then have scurried for the subways like frightened rats? Would they have gone home with the fear of the working class in their hearts?

Not for a minute! Rather, they would have said to themselves:

"We put over a bold and impudent provocation on the New York workers, on the Reds, on the Jews. We shook our fists right under their noses, and they ran away from the scene. They slunk away from work, they scurried for the subways, they beat it for home in the hope of avoiding a meeting with us. Here we are—just getting started, and our numerous enemy already fears an encounter with us."

And they would have acted accordingly. They would have strutted home from the Garden, imbued with new courage, self-confidence, insolence towards the workers.

The outpouring of New York's workers was the first important and salutary lesson taught the fascists in this city. And we have learned enough, I feel, from the shortcomings of the demonstration, so that the next lesson the workers teach the labor-haters and anti-Semites will be a decisive one.

To Victory With the Party!

That there were defects in the organization and carrying through of the demonstration, is undeniable. Some of them are pointed out elsewhere in this issue by Dwight Macdonald. But without being smug about our satisfaction, it is important to say: Everything in proportion.

We are frank to say that this was our first truly big mass action in New York, organized without the possibility of knowing in advance all the factors involved. At comparatively short notice, all our forces were mobilized for a bold action which proved successful far beyond all hopes because our party knew how to mesh the small gear which it represents into the huge gear which the militant workers of New York represent, thus setting the latter into motion.

Next time we will do better. But only on the condition that the "small gear" is strengthened and enlarged. The place of every militant worker, of every revolutionary intellectual who means business, is in the fighting ranks of the Socialist Workers Party. We do not have an eternity before us, and even if we did, "history" would not do our own job for us. Into the party, into the fight, and on to the victory!

COULD THE SPAIN: SPANISH WORKERS HAVE WON? Speaker: Felix Morrow. Sunday, Feb. 26-8 P.M. IRVING PLAZA. THERE IS AN ANSWER TO FASCISM! A series of three lectures by the only organization that knows how to fight fascism. FRANCE: There Is Still Time. By Max Shachtman, Sunday, March 5. UNITED STATES: It Need Not Happen Here. By James Burnham, Sun day, March 12. Subscription to the series: 50c—Single lectures: 25c.