

We Must Fight the W.P.A. Cuts!

AN EDITORIAL

Demonstrate or starve! That is the alternative the Roosevelt Administration has placed squarely before the unemployed.

F.C. Harrington, Army Colonel in charge of W.P.A., announced last Thursday that unless Congress grants the W.P.A. an additional \$150,000,000 by April 1, he will be forced to reduce relief rolls from 3,000,000 to 2,000,000. On April 1 he will throw one out of every three now on relief into the streets to starve between the gutter and the garbage can.

Colonel Harrington stated that even if Congress votes the \$150,000,000, as suggested by President Roosevelt, it will still be necessary to reduce W.P.A. rolls approximately 150,000,000 a month.

He added—most significantly—that President Roosevelt planned this reduction from the first when he originally asked Congress for only \$875,000,000 instead of the much larger sum that is needed for no more than maintaining relief at its present enrollment. The President himself from the very beginning has deliberately planned to throw unemployed workers on the streets at the rate of 150,000 a month.

Now, most significant statement of all, the Colonel explains that Congress in granting only \$725,000,000 made clear that if an emergency arises the President can come back for more money. In plain language, IF THE UNEMPLOYED STAGE MASS DEMONSTRATIONS OF PROTEST AND REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE CUTS, THEN CONGRESS WILL GRANT MORE FUNDS TO APPEASE THEM.

On Friday, the day following the Army Colonel's announcement, President Roosevelt told the House Appropriations Committee that in a special message to Congress Monday he would renew his request for \$150,000,000 in order to stave off throwing more than 150,000 unemployed workers on the streets April 1.

He stated that a survey of relief needs by Colonel Harrington had determined him on this course.

Members of the Appropriations Committee told reporters after hearing Roosevelt's intention that they will vote against appropriating the \$150,000,000 unless an investigation shows that it is necessary. THAT IS, UNLESS SENTIMENT AMONG THE UNEMPLOYED THEMSELVES IS STRONG ENOUGH TO BREAK INTO MASS DEMONSTRATIONS OF PROTEST, THEY WILL NOT VOTE FOR EVEN \$150,000,000 MORE.

In order to determine if possible whether the unemployed will protest energetically they proposed to call in state and local relief administrators for questioning. In plain language, they want to find out from local administrators if they will be faced with angry, militant, determined unemployed who will protest at their offices against the cut.

They further explained that as economy-minded representatives of big business they intended their reduction in relief appropriations not as a "slap" at the president personally, but as a "gesture of economy designed to encourage business."

While these maneuvers were being carried out, circles close to Secretary Hopkins, who is in charge of Roosevelt's business appeasement program declared that they were bitterly disappointed at the move to demand \$150,000,000 more for the unemployed. As one of the major points on their big business appeasement program, they hoped to reduce not only taxes on giant corporations (whose profits in 1937 ran into the hundreds of millions) but also to reduce income tax rates in the very highest income brackets, so that the "exploitive" leeches in the economic system will have more money at their personal disposal.

Naturally, there is not the slightest hint to economize by reducing the \$2,000,000,000 appropriation for war.

In a few short words, the whole program of Roosevelt and his henchmen, Hopkins and Harrington, as revealed by their own incriminating statements is:

(1) No reduction of the \$2,000,000,000 war program.
(2) Slash relief appropriations until the point is reached where the unemployed rebel and protest with mass demonstrations.

(3) Give the money taken away from the unemployed to the rich by cutting corporation taxes and by cutting income taxes in the higher brackets.

It is as clear as the million dollar figures in the high bracket incomes that the unemployed are faced with the alternative: Militant mass demonstrations before all local relief headquarters on April 1, OR slow death by starvation.

There is only one answer Congress and the Roosevelt Administration can understand: DEMONSTRATIONS!

All unemployed down to the local W.P.A. headquarters on April 1!
Demand all war funds to the unemployed! W.P.A. jobs at union wages for all unemployed; a blanket \$30 weekly minimum; a \$2,000,000,000 public works program; opening of all idle factories to be operated with government subsidies under workers' control.

And no cuts whatever—not a single worker taken from the rolls!
There is no other way to save yourselves from starvation!

L.A. Police Gas Pickets Protesting Fascist Meet

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)
LOS ANGELES, March 8—Los Angeles police last night used tear gas to help fascist youth break up a picket line which was protesting a meeting at the Wilshire-Ebell Club where Aileen O'Brien, Franco supporter, was the principal speaker.

Today a delegation including representatives from the Socialist Workers Party, the Young People's Socialist League, and the American Fund for Political Prisoners and Refugees appeared before Mayor Bowron to protest the police brutality in breaking up the picket line.

Stalinists Reject United Front
The demonstration was called by the S.W.P., the Y.P.S.L. and the North American Committee to

Aid Spanish Democracy. Although the S.W.P. approached the North American Committee in advance seeking to prepare a unified demonstration, the Committee refused the offer for a united front and the S.W.P. and the Y.P.S.L. made independent preparations.

About 250 persons marched in the picket line, a majority of them with the militant and colorful S.W.P. and Y.P.S.L. contingent. A number of the 4th Internationalists graphically depicted Franco's slaughter of the Spanish working class.

Fascists Begin Provocation
The demonstration had continued without disorder for an hour when a group of fascist youth and students attempted to

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Socialist Appeal

Official Organ of the Socialist Workers Party, Section of the Fourth International

Issued Twice Weekly

VOL. III—No. 16

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1939

1000
New Subscribers
By April 1st!

375

3¢ per copy

HITLER IN NEW GRAB

Miaja Paves Way for Capitulation

HEROIC MILITANTS FACE GREAT ODDS IN MADRID STAND

Stalinists Vie With Others to Unload Responsibility C. P. SEEKS LINE

The Popular Front Junta had apparently succeeded by Monday morning in crushing, at least in Madrid, the widespread revolt against its preparations for peace with Franco.

The revolt had lasted a week, despite daily reports that fighting was over. With the exception of one short artillery bombardment, the fascists outside Madrid remained inactive during the fighting between the Junta and the dissidents. Franco was clearly waiting for Miaja to finish the blood-bath in Madrid. Then he will deal with Miaja.

In Burgos it was made plain that Franco was not quite prepared to accept the capitulation of the generals. The Burgos radio declared:

"The conception that the Communists are our only enemy is too simple. Nationalist Spain combats equally all four internationalisms without distinction."

So far as the fragmentary press reports indicate, the revolt against the Junta was limited to uniformed troops, with the civil population taking no part. But the Spanish Popular Front press continues to heap denunciations upon the Communist party, which it now blames for all past ills.

Echoing them, the New Leader, organ of the Social-Democratic Federation here, says under the headline, "All Loyalists united in ouster of Communists":

"If peace is obtained upon terms less beneficial to Hitler and Mussolini..."

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Muniz Describes Role of Loyalist Army Command

The seizure of power in Madrid by the General Staff of the People's Front Government was only the logical development of the role played by the military throughout the course of the civil war. A glimpse of the functioning of the Loyalist High Command is given below in an extract from an interview with Fernando Grandizo-Muniz, leader of the Spanish Bolshevik Leninists, which appeared in *La Lutte Ouvriere*, organ of the Fourth International in France. Muniz was held prisoner by the Negrin Government in Barcelona until a few hours before the fall of Barcelona, when he succeeded in escaping from the doomed city.

By F. GRANDIZO-MUNIZ
PARIS, Feb. 24—Despite the stifling censorship and Stalinist propaganda, the incompetence and outright disloyalty of the General Staff was long obvious to every one.

Let us cite one well-known case—that of Antonio Guerra, commissar-general of the army of the south, member of the Communist Party, and Borribar, communist deputy, the two men chiefly responsible for the fall of Malaga. The former remained in Malaga and became the right-hand man of the Franco inquisition in the repression of the workers.

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Stalin Offers Olive Branch to Hitler in Apologizing for the 'Fascist War-Mongers'

By MAX SHACHTMAN

The text of Stalin's report to the 18th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is as yet available only in abridged form and there has not, at this writing, been enough time to give the report the detailed and thoroughgoing analysis it merits.

Even the condensed version, however, is important and clear enough for a number of preliminary observations, both with reference to what it omits as well as to what it contains.

1. On the eve of one of the most catastrophic defeats ever suffered by the policy of the Communist International—which is another way of saying the Political Bureau of the Russian Communist Party—or, for that matter, ever suffered by the working class in Europe, namely, the collapse of the People's Front in Spain, Stalin delivers a report to a PARTY Congress without so much as a word about the Spanish defeat. So far as his speech is concerned, the Spanish civil war never existed.

2. Moreover, the policy and movement of the People's Front in general, Stalin's main contribution to the labor movement in recent years, goes entirely unmentioned. Its existence and the course it has followed is simply not referred to, much less reviewed and analyzed, so far as a close examination of the rather extensive report summary in the *Daily Worker* reveals.

There are some things it is better to be silent about!

A. F. L. BALKS AT C.I.O. PROPOSALS FOR UNION UNITY

Roosevelt Seeks to Assure a Unified War Front

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)
NEW YORK, March 14.—Representatives of the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations failed to reach an agreement yesterday and adjourned until tonight when they will meet for their fifth session since last Tuesday when President Roosevelt told labor leaders to put an end to the struggle between their groups.

The A.F. of L. representatives on the joint unity committee included Henry C. Bates, chairman; Matthew Woll, T.A. Rickert and Daniel J. Tobin. The C.I.O. was represented by John L. Lewis, Philip Murray and Sidney Hillman.

As spokesman for the joint committee, Bates yesterday stated to the press that the committee discussed the C.I.O. proposal to form a new organization, the American Congress of Labor, which would include the railroad brotherhoods as well as the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O.

A.F.L. Opposes Unity
The discussion then shifted to the A.F. of L. proposal that the C.I.O. return to the A.F. of L. under the provisions of the A.F. of L. 1937 proposal which had been rejected by Lewis. Other proposals such as A.F. Whitney's, of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, were to be considered at later sessions.

Spokesmen for the A.F. of L. are reported to have said that Mr. Bates' statement after the Friday meeting implied that the proposal of Lewis to form one big union had been definitely rejected. A.F. of L. bureaucrats linked with the Republican party are deeply opposed to any plan which would unite labor at this time. Unification they feel would tie the labor bureaucracy to the Roosevelt machine and hinder their swinging votes to the Republican camp.

C.I.O. circles, nevertheless, insisted that the one big union plan was still under consideration. They are anxious to swing the entire labor movement under the wing of the New Deal.

F.D.R. May Intervene
In Washington, well-informed persons close to Perkins and the conference said that if the C.I.O. and the A.F. of L. do not come to an agreement, Roosevelt probably will intervene, either personally or through a Cabinet member in order to bring about a settlement before the 1940 election.

It was reported that the official press release given by the President after the conference in which he spoke to the joint committee,

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Attack Launched in Senate Against Trotsky and SWP

Reynolds Blames Mexican Expropriations On Trotsky; Demands Intervention

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)
WASHINGTON—A demand for punitive action against Mexico's oil well expropriations was coupled with an attack on the Socialist Workers Party and Leon Trotsky by Senator Reynolds of North Carolina, during the Senate session, February 27.

Senator Reynolds is the gentleman who came back from Europe recently singing the praises of Fuhrer Hitler and who has since become the principal unofficial propagandist for the Fascists in Washington political circles.

Previously Reynolds, in a radio speech, had charged that Trotsky was the instigator of the Mexican government's expropriation policy and had waved aside Trotsky's denials.

"Senator Reynolds' assertion means that he holds my categorical statement is a lie," Trotsky had answered in a statement to the Mexican press on Feb. 3.

"Therefore I must say that Mr. Reynolds is misleading public opinion in the U. S. It is bad to lie and doubly bad to lie if one is a Senator, and even worse if the lie is uttered in the tribune of the Senate."

Refers to Anti-Nazi Actions
In his Feb. 27 speech to the Senate, Reynolds indignantly referred to the Socialist Workers Party's picketing against the Nazis at Madison Square Garden on Feb. 20 and then went on to read into the record Los Angeles news reports of the picketing there of a Nazi meeting by the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Peoples Socialist League on Feb. 22.

He was particularly irked by a description of the beating up of a man in a silver shirt uniform, and by the slogans carried by the pickets. He singled out for reading into the record the following slogans:

Fight against anti-Semitism!
"Repeat criminal syndicalism law!"
"Socialist Workers Party leads anti-fascist fight!"
"Build workers' defense guards!"

Anti-Semite Note
Reynolds then launched into a long diatribe against Trotsky, whom he called, after emphasizing his Jewish birth, "Bronstein Trotsky." He reminded the Senate that this "anarchist, together with Lenin, organized the bloody Russian Revolution of 1917.

The doctrines of the Fourth International appear to have made long strides in Mexico since Cardenas gave asylum to Leon Trotsky.

Why, with intimate knowledge of the background, the policies, and influence of this sub-

3. About the work of the sister parties—remember, he is speaking, after all, to the Russian section of the Comintern—not one word. About the Jewish refugees from fascist barbarism and the Soviet attitude towards them, not one word. About the collapse of his whole foreign policy, not one word. About the physical extermination of the entire Old Guard of the Bolshevik party, of hundreds of leading officials of the government, the party, the army and navy, the police—a passing reference, as to a trifle.

4. At least as significant as the omission of reference to his past foreign policy, is the series of statements concerning the present foreign policy. It would be more accurate to say that Stalin did not state a NEW foreign policy, except in such tentative and cloudy form as to enable him to make another "strategic retreat" to the old one. But even in its tentative form, it is already a complete condemnation of the policy that has hitherto been considered sacred and inviolate in all official Stalinist circles.

5. The "democratic front" on which all Stalinist foreign policy hinged—the "united front" of the democracies against the fascist aggressors and war-mongers—Stalin has dropped overboard without a splash. In its place, is something so "new" that it must have had a stunning effect upon the Stalinist parrots all over the world.

Stalin holds out the olive branch to the fascist powers, to Germany primarily. The thunderous denunciations of fascism which, up to now, have filled the pages of the Stalinist press, give

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COUGHLIN'S RALLY GATHERS LABOR-HATING RIFFRAFF

Froth at Anti-Nazi Actions Led By Trotskyists

By THOMAS O'REILLY
(Special to the Socialist Appeal)
NEW YORK—Father Coughlin's gang of labor-haters and anti-Semites, operating under the name of the "Christian Front," held a large meeting on March 9 in Prospect Hall where a motion picture, "Spain in Flames" and several speakers whipped the audience into a frenzy of reaction against the heroic workers and peasants of Spain, the Jews, the trade union movement of the United States and the Socialist Workers Party.

The meeting was opened by the chairman, a Mr. Harold Walsh, who at once launched into a bitter and slanderous attack on the workers who had joined the picket line with the Trotskyists at the German American Bund meeting two weeks ago. "I was at that meeting," said he, "and every good American citizen should have been there with me..." And he went on to point out the many empty seats in the balconies of the hall and remarked, "If we were running a Bingo game to-night every Catholic in Brooklyn would be here."

(Evidently the often-heard ref-

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India Congress Meets as British Begin New Terror

By SHERMAN STANLEY

The 32nd Annual Convention of the Indian National Congress—the mass movement of Nationalist India—is now in session in the tiny village of Tripuri in Central India.

The British slave-masters of India are openly signifying their desire to install throughout the country their brutal military dictatorship which they disguise under the name of Federation. Lord Linlithgow, the Chamberlain-appointed viceroy of India, openly states his intention to impose the new Slave Constitution upon the country within the next few months.

Prior to the Congress sessions the country was swept by a series of bloody religious and communal outbreaks between Hindus and Moslems. These riots are the clearest possible symptoms of the major battles that approach. Their meaning is equivalent to that of a falling barometer at sea. They are deliberately organized, planned and provoked by the British in an effort to relieve the powerful pressure of mass discontent. Already

they have resulted in hundreds of deaths and thousands of wounded in some of India's major centers—Lahore, Cawnpore, Calcutta, Benares, etc.

The action of the British in instigating these riots between men who really have the same interest in driving out the foreign oppressors, reveals the desperate position of the imperialist overlords. They are determined to hold on to India no matter how much slaughter and bloodshed is required. In the next few months even the most cynical bourgeois will be unable to talk of British "democracy." The British and Scottish troops of His Majesty's Colonial Army will be giving lessons in pillage and destruction to Franco's Moors!

Ghandi Strengthens Right Wing
Over 6,000 delegates from the most distant corners of British India's 11 Provinces are assembled at Tripuri. They are meeting on a rough plain where a temporary village of bamboo huts has been erected. Will they furnish the revolutionary leadership eagerly sought by the workers and peas-

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SLOVAKIA FOCUS OF NEW CRISIS IN CENTRAL EUROPE

Nazis Step In To Assure Their Hegemony MANY RIVALRIES

The thin fabric of the "peace" established at Munich six months ago was again ripped into shreds this week with the development of a fresh crisis, once more over Czecho-Slovakia.

In a swiftly-executed hammer blow, Hitler destroyed the remnant state of post-Munich Czecho-Slovakia, breaking it up into three tiny states whose "independence" was scheduled to be underlined late Tuesday with the entry of German troops to maintain "peace and order."

Thus, although Hungary moved at the same time to invade the Carpathian Ukraine and achieve a common frontier with Poland, Hitler has taken another long stride forward in the direction of Rumania and the road eastward toward the Soviet Union.

Events were precipitated over the week-end by the discovery of a separatist plot in Slovakia, the eastern half of the hyphenated state which is the object of rival appetites in London, Paris, Berlin, Warsaw, Budapest, and indirectly, in Rome.

When the Czech government at Prague moved to prevent the further dismemberment of the already mangled state—its first attempt to act independently since it passed into the German orbit after Munich—Hitler immediately stepped in. Joseph Tiso, the premier ousted by Prague, was invited to come to Germany. Goering cut short a "vacation" in Italy and rushed back to Berlin.

The "independence" of Slovakia is of course only the fiction thinly concealing the interplay of capitalist rivalries in Central Europe. Hitler has met with certain resistance, especially in Poland, Rumania, and Yugoslavia, to his drive toward undisputed mastery of Central Europe. He has reason to suspect his axis partner, Mussolini, of having a hand in the development of this resistance, because Mussolini may feel that Hitler has been a little too lukewarm in active support of Italy's Mediterranean "aspirations."

It is certain in any event that the swiftly changing map of Europe is again to be re-drawn but it is equally certain that the development of the Slovak crisis will come in a minor key to the development of the major antagonisms leading in Europe toward a new blood-bath, a new world war.