

Workers
of the World
Unite!

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"PEACE" PLEA CLOAKS WAR AIMS

PRES. ROOSEVELT IS DRAGGING US INTO WAR!

President Roosevelt is dragging the United States into the coming war!

He has received no mandate from the people who hate war and do not want to give their lives and freedom for either one of the rival imperialist gangs.

He has not even received authorization from Congress which is supposed to have the exclusive power to declare war.

Yet he is boldly committing the armed and potential forces of the United States to one side in the coming show-down for mastery of the world's wealth and power.

Woodrow Wilson plunged the United States into the last "War for Democracy" with the cry of "Force—force to the utmost!"

Franklin D. Roosevelt is preparing to plunge the country into another treacherous "War for Democracy" with the cry of "Force against force!"

The President has addressed Hitler and Mussolini with a pious appeal for peace to last at least ten more years, if not twenty-five. He asks them to guarantee the independence of thirty-one countries.

Only babies and fools will be deceived by this appeal.

In the first place, Roosevelt and everybody else in the world knows that there isn't a chance in the world of getting the Fascist monsters to give such a guarantee. Even if there were, it wouldn't be worth the paper it is written on.

In the second place, Roosevelt knows—and everybody else should realize—that a number of the countries mentioned by him have already been deprived of their independence by the "Great Democracies."

Ireland, Palestine and Egypt are under the heel of British imperialism.

Syria is the conquered booty of France, whose airplanes and machine-guns have taken a heavy toll of the native tribesmen.

Roosevelt's spurious appeal is merely for the record—otherwise it would have been preceded by the granting of complete and genuine independence to Roosevelt's own colonies: the Philippine Islands, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Samoa, etc.

It is made for the record so that Roosevelt may be able to "justify" entering the war on the grounds that he did all in his power to prevent it.

It is made for the record, because Roosevelt has already taken decisive steps to commit the United States to participation in the war.

At the same time the appeal was issued, virtually the entire American Navy was ordered to the Pacific Ocean. The order universally understood to be a belligerent gesture against Japan, the partner of the Rome-Berlin axis. The threat to Japan is not made in the interests of "democracy,"

but for the preservation of Wall Street interests in China. The naval order was obviously issued in harmony with the orders recently issued for the movement of French and British warships in the Mediterranean. Roosevelt is already acting in concert with the war plans of Anglo-French imperialism.

By whose authorization? The day before his appeal to Hitler and Mussolini, the Associated Press reported that "United States Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy called on Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, congratulating him on his statement in the House of Commons yesterday in which he extended guarantees of independence to Greece and Rumania."

Who authorized Roosevelt's Ambassador to take any such step?

Who has decided that the United States is to be sent into a war to "guarantee the frontiers" of Poland, or of Rumania, or of Greece? Those frontiers were established by a bandit war which ended with a peace so atrocious in its provisions that the American Government of the time was compelled to refrain from signing it.

Roosevelt has been in office more than six years. He has not solved a single fundamental problem of the crisis. Millions are still unemployed and on the verge of starvation. Industrial life continues at a low level. The whole labor movement is struck blow after blow — by employers, by the government, by the courts.

Roosevelt's latest solution for unemployment is to kill off a few million in the ghastly war that impends. He hopes to turn attention away from his bankruptcy at home by rattling the saber of war.

The workers of America have the deepest horror and hatred of Hitler and Mussolini. But at the same time they have no reason in the world for trusting the imperialist pirates of France, England and the United States who sail under the flag of "democracy."

They must not allow themselves to be tricked into another "War for Democracy." Roosevelt talks a good deal about "democracy" and "rights."

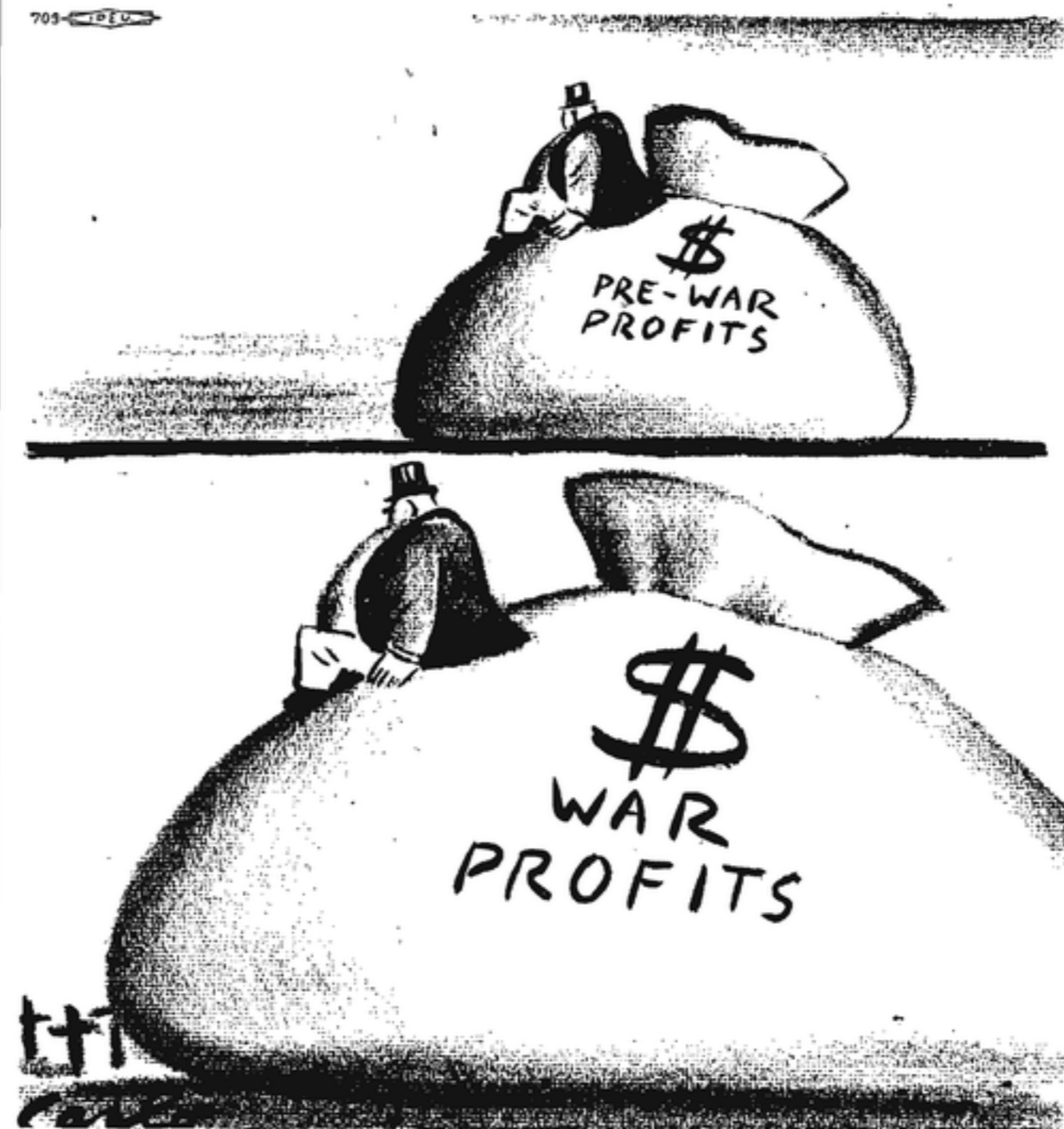
At the same time, he drives full speed ahead to war without bothering to consult the masses of the people—whose opposition to war is perfectly well known.

Let the people demand the democratic right to vote on whether or not they want to enter the war, on whether or not the United States shall participate in it!

Demand the right to a popular referendum on war, no matter where it is to be fought!

Organize to stop the Roosevelt regime from dragging us into a new world slaughter!

What the Last War for "Democracy" Was About!



Order to Fleet Is Designed to Head off Japan

Main Sphere of U.S. Action in War Will Be Pacific; Navies on Move in Europe; Chamberlain Woos Stalin

HITLER READY FOR DANZIG COUP

President Roosevelt's open declaration that he was ready to plunge the United States into the war now impending in Europe was the week's major development in the world's permanent war crisis.

That he expected war, and not peace, to be the most likely sequel to his dramatic intervention was shown by Roosevelt's simultaneous order to the United States fleet to return with maximum speed to the Pacific.

The fleet move was made because the Pacific will be

the most vital war zone for Yankee imperialism. Japan has taken another stride forward in its own expansionist program by annexing a string of islands 300 miles long in the China Sea, acquiring potential naval and air bases athwart the routes to and from British Singapore and Borneo, French Indo-China, the American Philippines, and the Dutch East Indies.

To Parry Japan

It is to parry the further Japanese moves that are inevitable when war breaks out in Europe that Roosevelt wants to keep the fleet in the western ocean, the mastery of which will be one of the key issues of the coming war as far as Wall Street is concerned.

Meanwhile in Europe guns, ships and men continued to move in pace with war-making diplomacy on all fronts. The navies of Britain, France, Germany, and Italy squared off in the Mediterranean and along Europe's frontiers armies were moved into fighting positions.

As Hitler set April 28 to make a formal reply to Roosevelt, his army prepared to move into Danzig. Britain was trying to get Poland to give up the Free City without making it a cause for war. Roosevelt seconded this by omitting Danzig from the list of states in his message to Hitler and Mussolini.

Fear Gibraltar Coup

Simultaneous concentration of troops in Spanish territory close to Gibraltar and in Morocco kept the western admiralties on the jump in fear of a coup in Morocco or even against Gibraltar itself.

On the diplomatic front the

major development was the opening of negotiations between Britain and the Soviet Union for bringing the latter into the Anglo-French bloc. These negotiations were complicated by a whole series of factors. Neither Poland nor Rumania—both now guaranteed by Britain—are willing to accept the prospect of Russian troops marching across their countries. They are still torn by the contradictions of their unfortunate position between the Nazi ogre on the one side and what they regard and have always regarded as the Russian "menace" on the other.

Moscow Cautious

Moreover the Moscow government on its own part has been unwilling to accept the Anglo-French courtship at its face value. Stalin wooed and thought he had won France in 1935 and he deliberately strangled the Spanish revolution in order to stay in Marianne's bed during the next three years. At Munich he was rudely kicked out.

Having long since abandoned the international working class as an ally and being no longer capable of returning to the program of the world revolution—the only program capable of saving the Socialist foundations created by the Russian revolution—Stalin has since been occupying a cautious middle position. In the present crisis he has sedulously left the door open to any possible deal with Hitler and held the suddenly deflationist Chamberlain and Daladier off at arm's length.

The present negotiations appear to be tending in the direction of a limited undertaking by Stalin to join the Anglo-French bloc. This is by no means determined, however, as Walter Duranty, in his own sordid, incoherent way, has been insisting daily in the New York Times.

Not So Hostile

"At the risk of appearing tiresome," he said in a dispatch last Sunday, "I am once more forced to repeat that in my opinion in regard to a potential conflict between Italy and Germany on the one side and France and Britain on the other, the Russians are not so entirely hostile to the Germans and the Italians as the British and the French may believe."

It has long been a well-known fact that Duranty does not write as he pleases but as the G.P.U. pleases. These dispatches of his indicate that either Stalin himself or an important faction close to him favors continuing advances to Hitler rather than a plunge into the Anglo-French combination.

But Stalin is no longer a free agent. Around him are the ruins of the revolution he strangled and beyond that the hostile capitalist world—in all its factions—which still wishes it could find a way of solving its problems by carving up the rich markets and resources of Russia. That is a hope that will be abandoned only when the workers of a war-torn world grasp the reins of power from the bloody hands of the capitalist war-makers.

RANKS OF MINE WORKERS SOLID AS PARLEYS LAG

Principal Demands Are
Surrendered by
Lewis-Murray

Some 320,000 soft coal miners are out on strike in the Appalachian region. Since April 1, pits and shafts from Pennsylvania to Alabama have been idle. Almost continual conferences have been held for over a month at the Hotel Biltmore in New York City between the operators and representatives of the United Mine Workers of America, but both sides declared up to April 17 that the negotiations were "hopelessly deadlocked."

Meanwhile all large metropolitan centers of the east are facing imminent coal shortages. The transit lines of New York City have only a week's supply on hand. Other large eastern cities are in a position similar to New York.

New York's Mayor La Guardia wired President Roosevelt last Sunday, asking the latter to intervene in the strike. It was believed that the President would make some move in this direction.

Contract Provisions

The contract between the coal operators and the U.M.W.A., which expired on March 31, provided for a 35-hour week in the bituminous coal fields, and a daily basic wage of \$6 in the north and \$5.60 in the south. A miner would consider it a miracle, however, if he earned an average of \$1,000 during the year.

All eastern coal miners have been unemployed more than half the time during the last two-year period and many coal miners throughout Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Alabama have hardly been able to find a day's employment during the last contract period. The rank and file of the soft coal area demanded therefore a reduction of the work week, an increase of pay, and an established minimum annual salary guaranteed every coal miner.

While the Plan clearly requires the fixing of wages, the M-day bills introduced in Congress attempt to gloss over this feature; but the men behind the I.M.P. are not so ambiguous. Colonel Taylor, American Legion agent in Washington and reputedly the author of the Sheppard-Hill M-day bill, testified as follows on its price-

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How Much 'Democracy' Is There To Defend?

President Roosevelt has sought to appear before the American working class as the defender of the "democracies." In justifying his war program he has pointed to the defenseless "democracies" lying to the south which need "our" neighborly protection. As part of the attempt to build up the illusion, Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles stated before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that he knows of no government on the continent that is not a republic. To which Senator Borah added that "We will call them 'republic'—it does not make any difference what they are but we will designate them 'republics'."

A roll call of the 22 countries of Latin America reveals that 19 of them are ground under the heels of dictatorial regimes every bit as brutal and oppressive as the Fascist regimes on the other side of the Atlantic.

The 19 dictatorships are Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico—an American colony—British, French, and Dutch Guiana, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Haiti, Costa Rica, Panama, Argentina, and Cuba. Only in Chile, Colombia, and Mexico can the democratic form of government be said to exist! This is Roosevelt's continental axis designed not to defend democracy but the profits of Yankee imperialism from inroads of Wall Street's rivals.

THREE WITNESSES ARE HEARD AT N.Y. PASSPORT FRAUD TRIAL

By NAT LEVINE

NEW YORK—A mountain of damning evidence is being piled up by government prosecutors at the trial of Ossip Garber, Edward Blatt and Aaron Sharfin, the three men charged with a conspiracy to forge and alter passports for eighteen men and women, among them the Moscow-imprisoned G.P.U. agents, Donald Lewis Robinson and Ruth Marie Rubens.

Although the government has not thus far attempted to establish the Stalinist relations which existed between the Robinson-Rubens couple and the defendants, it has been previously revealed in the Socialist Appeal that the missing secret agents were on intimate terms with various people close to and in the Communist Party, U.S.A.

On various occasions, passports either forged or altered by Garber and Blatt and put into the process of certification by Sharfin, were returned in care of the Drama Travel League at 12 West 46 Street, whose head, Helen Ravitch, is the wife of Dr. Solon Bernstein, one time personal physician to William Z. Foster.

May Be G.P.U. Agents

The charge of G.P.U. agents against the Robinson-Rubens couple was first launched by the Socialist Appeal and was followed soon after by a similar

charge in other periodicals. Suspicion of the couple as Soviet agents was raised when it became known that on their arrival in Moscow in November 1937, they registered at the National Hotel under the name of Robinson, a name that had been openly proscribed in July of that year by the Soviet press with the announcement, "wanted by the police."

As stated in the last issue of the Appeal, the couple's premeditation in arranging with Blatt for the care of their daughter "if we are detained abroad" lends weight to the charge that they were a party to their own phony arrest.

Frame-up Elements

On inquiry from the State Department, the arrests were

LABOR WILL BE REGIMENTED UNDER MOBILIZATION PLAN

By HAL DRAPER

The Industrial Mobilization Plan of the War Department, now resting in the files ready to be sprung on M-day, has the labor problem all figured out. As Colonel Harris of the War Department stated in discussing the Plan, "Labor is the greatest single element of cost" in wartime; and therefore expenses must be cut down, in order that once again the earnings of U.S. Steel may rise from \$52 million to over \$500 million, as they did from 1914 to 1918.

It has often been pointed out that workers' wages rose sharply during the World War. Insofar as this is true, the War Department is determined that it shall not happen again. But even for the last war, this fact does not tell the whole story.

Real Wages Drop

(1) While the money earnings of all employed wage-earners rose by 63 per cent, their real wages (as compared with the rise in prices) rose by only 4 per cent.

(2) Even this figure is arrived at by considering all strata

of wage-earners in one lump. Actually, the wages of the large mass of workers did not share this rise, but in most cases declined in comparison with the cost of living.

It is no wonder that the Secretary of Labor made the following report during the war years: "With the exception of the sacrifices of the men in the armed service, the greatest sacrifices have come from those at the lower rung of the industrial ladder. Wage increases respond last to the needs of this class of labor, and their meager returns are hardly adequate, in view of the increased cost of living, to maintain their meager standard of life. It is upon them the war pressure has borne most severely. . . . Too often there is a glaring inconsistency between our democratic purposes in this war abroad and the autocratic conduct of those guiding industry at home."

Will Fix Wages
This time the government intends to give "those guiding industry" a hand in keeping down wages. The Plan specifically provides for the fixing of wages by a government war board; or to use its own language, the projected Price-Control Commission (which incidentally will consist of industrialists, with no labor representation) has the right to the "formulation of policies and methods for the control of prices and profits, and for the stabilization of fair wages."

It has been many times demonstrated, by the Nye Committee of the Senate and others, that wartime price-fixing by the government could not begin to be effective. Not so with wage-fixing, when any attempt by the workers to protect their interests will be met with military repression.

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