

Stop Fascism In America!

Will Father Coughlin Become Dictator of the United States?

By JOSEPH HANSEN
(EIGHTH INSTALLMENT)

Will It Happen In America?

For ten years a blighting depression has stifled production in the United States. In the great industrial sections, factories are running far below capacity. Many of them are practically idle. Around the plant gates, men rot waiting for jobs.

Unemployment rages in the land like a pestilence and a scourge.

Estimates of the number of unemployed vary from twelve to seventeen MILLION!

Warehouses are crammed with food, clothing, automobiles, building materials. Crops are destroyed, pigs slaughtered, cotton plowed under. The skeleton of hunger stalks through the richest land on the earth.

No one dares count the number who are starving.

The depression has shattered the future for youth under capitalism. Millions of young people each year leave school to pursue that mirage called a job in private industry. In the cities they pound pavement, make out fruitless applications, pore over the want-ads, learn all the bitterness that one word "sorry" can contain. . . . On the farms they stagnate, their future under capitalism as hopeless as the crops rotting in the fields.

The depression has laid ruin and bankruptcy on the door step of the small merchant. Taxes steadily increase. The chain stores have taken over his customers.

The depression has eaten like a corroding acid into the fixed salaries of the white collar workers. Cut after cut has been forced upon them to "help" the company out of its inability to keep paying out the old rate of profit. Files are crammed with applications from skilled men ready to work for anything.

The depression has taken away the income of doctors, dentists, and other professional people. It has forced them into a quiet grave in the back office of some giant corporation, or left them stranded with a heap of bills in an office that no one ever visits. Their clothing begins to reveal the seedy appearance of failure.

The depression has placed the housewife on a wrack of torture. Dwindling pennies must be stretched endlessly into rent, meals, clothes and shoes for the children, doctor bills. The fear of unemployment hangs over the home like a death sentence.

Food prices and sales taxes rise relentlessly.

The depression has cut hundreds of thousands of small farmers away from their land. They wander like pariahs from the middle west to California where they are lashed with all the land-owner prejudice that once was wielded against the Chinese, the Japanese, the Filipinos, the Mexicans . . .

The depression has brought those who own their farms into slavery under the whiplash of the Big Banks—the mortgage doesn't hang on the wall like the shot gun but it is far more deadly. And the farmer and his family live off the vegetable patch, worry about cash for clothes, seed, repairs to the farm machinery. In the evening for cheap recreation they thumb through the only touch of prosperity in the house—a shiny mail order catalog filled with glistening pictures of modern conveniences, stylish clothes, deluxe radios, canned dainties—all the goods which jam the warehouses of the bankers and overlords of industry.

The depression has wound the speed-up to an unendurable tension, slashed wages, lengthened hours, regimented the industrial worker into an industrial slave. Chained to a belt-line, he strains every nerve and muscle to keep going with the speed-up. Labor spies report every careless word; every time the boss passes by with a mouth as sour and profit-conscious as the company cash register it may mean the last pay check. Outside in the streets, those who worked last year gaze with hungry and desperate eyes. . . . If the boss finally goads the workers into taking action, then it is strike-breakers, thugs, tear gas, maybe a bullet.

The depression has struck the security of old age like a consuming sword. How many look forward to old age with assurance in the United States? No job. No pension. Relatives too poor to sponge on. Try to get on relief! Every day the newspapers report what want in the midst of plenty means to the old people—a rope, gas, a leap from a building . . .

Should only those born into the wealth of the Sixty Families enjoy the right to live like human beings?

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEPRESSION?

A small handful of people—the Sixty Families—plug the horn of plenty which could pour out untold wealth for America's working people.

Despite the fact that markets are glutted even now, the big basic industries owned by the Sixty Families have reconditioned their plants for super-production. During the past five or six years they have streamlined their mills and plants with the latest word in machinery. One man does the work it took scores to do even a few short years ago.

But this does not make a market where goods can be sold at a profit. The interest on the investments of Big Business is rapidly reaching zero.

It is a life and death matter for Big Business to slash wages, lengthen hours, and to do so in the near future.

The democratic form of capitalist government as represented by Roosevelt has confessed its bankruptcy. Of all its boasted attempts to help the Forgotten Man, nothing remains but a drive to convert him into the Unknown Soldier.

Shachtman, Paine Run on Anti-War Program

In Manhattan

Program Stands Out For Truth Amid Welter of War Lies

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ent crisis—proletarian resistance to the war propaganda machine.

The press has unloosed a regular Niagara of lying propaganda to cover the secret war diplomacy of Hitler, Chamberlain, Roosevelt, Stalin and Co. All the so-called workers' parties are either silent or have joined in the deception. In the lead is Stalin's Communist Party, closely followed by the despicable Social-Democratic Federation, the leaders of the American Labor Party and the rest of the war-mongering brotherhood. The Socialist Workers Party says: An end to this deception!

Let the people know the truth about this robber war!

END THE SECRET DIPLOMACY!

LET THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISH THE SECRET WAR DOCUMENTS!

Against their will, the peoples of all countries are being herded into the armies by the capitalist-racketeers of the world. These bandits are strengthening war dictatorships and fixing them upon the prostrate bodies of the working class. The Communist Party—bound by its pact with Hitler—carries on a conspiracy of silence about Roosevelt's drive toward a dictatorship. The leaders of the American Labor Party and the rest of the renegade clique who are bound to the Roosevelt War Deal either defend this dictatorship or hide it from the workers. The Socialist Workers Party says: NO FAITH IN THE BOSS POLITICIANS OR

THEIR STOOGES WITHIN THE LABOR MOVEMENT. FIGHT AGAINST HERDING THE PEOPLE INTO THE WAR!

TAKE THE WAR-MAKING POWERS AWAY FROM CONGRESS — LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE.

The platform brings home the terrible danger of the rising tide of Fascism, of which Coughlin is at present the prime mover. Nothing is more fatal than the illusion that the war will stem this tide. On the contrary, blackest reaction will be strengthened once the bosses set their war machine in motion.

The greatest war danger for us lies not abroad but at home—in Washington.

The greatest fascist mongers are in Wall Street, in the Sixty Families who control American industry and finance.



GEORGE LYMAN PAINE

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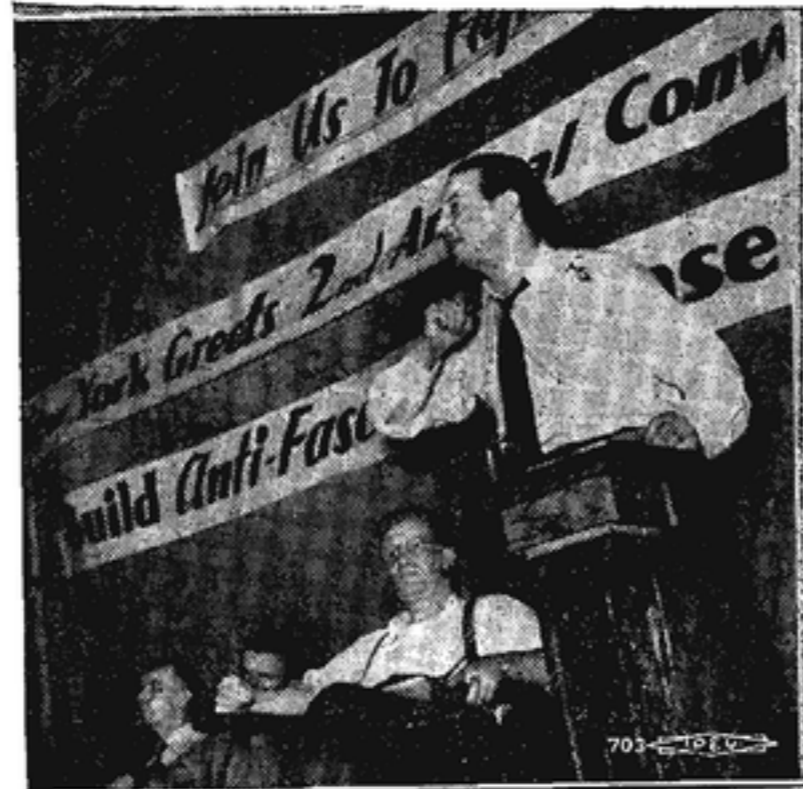
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In the Bronx

MAX SHACHTMAN



Chicago Police Harass, Arrest Appeal Salesmen

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

CHICAGO, August 31—Grim harbinger of war dictatorship, police have been systematically harassing and arresting Socialist Appeal salesmen and Socialist Workers Party leaflet distributors all this week.

Scores of salesmen and distributors have been picked up by the police, taken to police stations, browbeaten and threatened with further punishment if they continue Appeal sales.

Despite police persecution, however, the anti-war issues of the Socialist Appeal have met with a great deal of sympathy. Communist Party members have been purchasing Appeals which include material exposing what's behind the Hitler-Stalin pact.

Stalinist Hoodlumism

In a desperate attempt to break up the growing friendship between the rank and file of the Communist Party and

the Socialist Workers Party, the Stalinist leaders here have organized hoodlum attacks against Appeal salesmen the last three nights.

An attack last night of about 75 hoodlums against an Appeal sales squad of 10 was beaten off, but with a number of Appeal salesmen injured. Some of the hoodlums got theirs.

Arrest Salesman

Police arrested Seymour Kahn, Appeal salesman, and are holding him on an open charge.

Tonight's mass meeting on the Hitler-Stalin pact, with Max Shachtman, editor of the Socialist Appeal, as the main speaker, has been advertised by distributions of leaflets in every corner of the city.

Let the People Vote on War!

The "NEW DEAL" that Roosevelt promised the Forgotten Man turned out to be a RAW DEAL. Now Roosevelt's brain trust is trying one last trick with the alphabet. They have taken the word, "RAW," and spelled it backwards. That makes it Roosevelt's WAR DEAL.

But what will democratic capitalism do after the war has ended? Does it plan another League of Nations? Another World Court at the Hague? Another Versailles Treaty?

In Italy King Victor called Mussolini to Rome.

In Germany President Hindenburg called Hitler to Berlin.

In America?

Perhaps it will happen before the war breaks.

(Continued in Next Issue)

TEXT OF LOCAL NEW YORK COUNCILMANIC PROGRAM

(Continued from Page 1)

Together with Congress, Roosevelt is so anxious for war that he refuses to permit a referendum vote of the people on the question.

If the people are fit to face bayonets and bullets and to pay the colossal cost of war, they are fit to decide whether they shall die on foreign battlefields!

ALL WAR FUNDS TO THE UNEMPLOYED!
TAKE THE WAR-MAKING POWER AWAY FROM CONGRESS—LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE!

2. Stop Fascism!

In recent months a rabid race-hatred campaign, similar to those conducted in Germany and Italy, has been whipped up in New York, by men who advocate a fascist dictator for this country.

On February 20, Fritz Kuhn's German-American Nazi Bund staged a fascist rally at Madison Square Garden. 50,000 anti-fascists picketed that meeting in response to a call issued by the Socialist Workers Party.

LaGuardia protected the Nazi Brown Shirts with the largest mobilization of police in the history of New York.

On July 30, Coughlin sent out his notorious "Call to Action" over a nation-wide hook-up. He summoned his shock troops, the Christian Front and Christian Mobilizers, to meet his opponents "cheek to jaw and shoulder to shoulder." He declared that he would fight in Fascist General "Franco's war" in America!

Coughlin's followers in New York brought this campaign to a peak with the announcement that they would march on Union Square together with Fritz Kuhn's Bundists on August 19 in support of "Social Justice".

They rioted in the Bronx; they stabbed and beat anti-fascists; they tried to arm themselves.

Hundreds of thousands of New York's anti-fascists held themselves ready to answer the call of the Socialist Workers Party to hold a giant counter-demonstration.

LaGuardia again assembled huge contingents of police to protect the Coughlinites and the Bundists but FUEHRER COUGHLIN HIMSELF WAS FORCED TO CALL OFF THE PARADE RATHER THAN FACE THE ANGER OF THE MASSES.

The candidates of the Socialist Workers Party are pledged to continue the fight against fascism from the vantage point of the City Council and to spread far and wide the only way to stop fascism: militant action against fascist threats and the building of WORKERS DEFENSE GUARDS.

These DEFENSE GUARDS are an extension of the idea of picket squads to defend labor's rights. They are organized on a permanent basis to defend the labor movement from any force which attacks with terror and violence. The whole labor movement must mobilize to protect itself against the mortal danger of fascism by building WORKERS DEFENSE GUARDS in every union local.

(The full Councilmanic program of Local New York, of which the above is only the first part, will be published in a special 8-page circular.)

By Dwight Macdonald

SPARKS IN THE NEWS

(Editorial note: Hereafter Dwight Macdonald will contribute to the Socialist Appeal a twice-weekly column dealing exclusively with the economic, political and propagandistic war preparations on this side of the Atlantic.)

A Short History of Liberalism, Vol. II. The Liberals Dismount

I must admit I was a bit surprised at the abruptness with which the liberal weeklies hopped off the Stalinist band wagon after the horrible news about the Soviet-Nazi pact was out. I had expected a decent interval of squirming, rationalizations, and covering-up. Instead, in the very first issues published after the news broke, both the Nation and the New Republic began to swing their editorial axes in no uncertain fashion at the foundations of the impressive ideological structure they themselves for years now have been building up. The demolition job was done so fast, indeed, as to suggest the use not of axes but of straight dynamite. Thus ends a long and beautiful friendship.

There is a lesson here, it seems to me. We have tended to over-rate the fidelity to Stalinism of the vast army of liberal-bourgeois fellow-travellers of the American C.P. So long as the Stalin regime seemed useable as a cat-paw for America's war aims, so long did the liberals remain among the faithful. But once this role of Stalinism was cast in doubt—to say the least—the liberals dropped the C.P. like a hot potato. The question of who was using whom has been resolved most dramatically: it is now crystal-clear that the liberals were using the Stalinists, and not vice versa. Thus the pact has acted as one of those major, cataclysmic political shocks, which as Trotsky once put it, suddenly and unmistakably lay bare the real, underlying class relationships of the intelligentsia. It takes such cataclysms to expose their roots, since in this sphere such connections are normally vague, hidden, and complicated.

The Ghost Goes West

The most pathetic casualty of the crisis was the newborn Committee of 400 which the Stalinists recently concocted to counter the damaging effects of the Committee for Cultural Freedom and the League for Cultural Freedom & Socialism. Such creations are shadowy, spectral affairs at best, but this particular ghost went west in record time. It burst into the press on August 14 with a stirring appeal to all men of good will to forget their petty sectarian quarrels and unite behind the Kremlin in the good fight against fascism. "The Fascists and their allies are well aware that democracy will win if its supporters are united. Accordingly, they are intent on destroying such unity at all costs. . . . They have tried to prevent a united anti-aggression front by sowing suspicion between the Soviet Union and other nations interested in maintaining peace." Just one week to the day after this noble, moving appeal, the pact was announced. What this news has done to the psyches of Dr. Max Lerner, Prof. Robert Morss Lovett, Cor-

liss Lamont, Vincent Sheean, Dashiell Hammett, Donald Ogden Stewart, and their 394 comrades in arms—this is matter for Freudian speculation.

Johnson vs. Johnson

A central pillar of the War Deal is Louis Johnson, Assistant Secretary of War and the real power in the War Department. Johnson is a tough Legionnaire-politico, so tough, in fact, as to appal even General Hugh Johnson (no relation). The newly created War Resources Board, chaired by Stettinius of U.S. Steel and manned by DuPont-Morgan executives, was Louis Johnson's brain-child. In one of his recent Scripps-Howard columns, General Johnson makes some sharp criticism of this board.

Old Iron Pants isn't shocked by the idea in itself. Quite the contrary: "The need for such a board is absolute. . . . American industry in war must be under a one-man dictatorship as ruthless as Hitler's." It is the composition of the board that bothers the General. "To lead a country into war," he writes with cynical frankness, "you have to do everything possible to carry full popular support. . . . Imagine the American enthusiasm for what would instantly be called a Morgan-duPont war personally conducted by General Motors and the U.S. Steel Corp." The General goes on to accuse his namesake of a bit of Trotskyist sabotage: "Somebody in government was very dumb in . . . inventing delay and discord as our first step in war preparation. Could it have been Assistant Secretary of War Johnson?" Comrade Vyshinsky, reach me that dossier marked "J".

The Basutos Are Saved

Whether there is war or not, and whether the Axis or the Democracies are the victors, one thing can be predicted right now: no force except their own revolutionary action is going to strike off the shackles from the colonial peoples. The veneer of "democracy" is at its thinnest in the colonies. There the real nature of the struggle between the democratic and the totalitarian states appear nakedly, unmistakably as a thieves' quarrel over the privilege of picking the pockets of the masses.

Thus in a recent issue of the *Pariser Tageszeitung*, a German emigre daily of the Thomas Mann school of anti-fascism, there was an indignant news item headed: GOEBBELS ALSO KNOWS BASUTO, to the effect that Nazi propaganda, in the Basuto language, was being circulated in a newspaper among the Basuto tribes of the Transvaal. And how did the British meet this threat? The *N.Y. Times* report is specific: "The authorities of the Union of South Africa, realizing the danger of such propaganda among the easily influenced natives, especially when many of them are in economic difficulties, promptly confiscated the paper." The Basutos are in "economic difficulties," it seems. But they are not without powerful friends. Herr Hitler solves their troubles with propaganda. And Mr. Chamberlain solves them by "promptly" confiscating Herr Hitler's propaganda. Which leaves the Basutos just where they were before.



BRANCHES INCREASE BUNDLE ORDERS

A review of activities of Party branches in respect to the circulation of the Socialist Appeal during the recent period, and particularly following the signing of the Stalin-Hitler pact, shows that several cities have increased their bundle orders and have ordered extra quantities of specific issues.

The following cities have increased their regular quotas: Reading, Pa., 10-15; New Haven, 10-15; St. Paul, 50-75; Newark, 100-135; Cleveland, 50-70; Akron, 50-60; and Philadelphia, 25-30.

Special orders have been placed by several cities for specific issues, as for instance: St. Louis, 50 extra; Los Angeles, 100; New York, 1,000 of the issue just out; Minneapolis, several hundred extra of various occasions; Chicago, 350; San Francisco, 300; Philadelphia, 100; Toronto, 50; Washington, D.C., 50. As this is written letters indicate that additional extra orders will come in for the tri-weekly.

SPECIAL ATTENTION TO C.P. DISTRIBUTION

Special attention is being devoted to the distribution and sale among the Communist Party and Young Communist League members. In New York, the City Literature Committee is trying to cover all meetings and gatherings of the Communist Party with the So-

cialist Appeal. Also the Committee has instituted a campaign to spread the Socialist Appeal to many more newsstands and neighborhoods. The following offer has been made to all comrades:

Any comrade who can canvass one house regularly and place the Socialist Appeal on one newsstand will receive as many Socialist Appeals as he needs free of charge. If this offer of the New York Literature Committee is to have any real meaning, it should be taken advantage of now. This is an important way to build up Socialist Appeal sales in the neighborhood.

Again it is necessary to point out that several hundred expired subscriptions to the Socialist Appeal and The New Internationalist are outstanding. The most important way now to stabilize our press is for the Party membership to make a systematic effort to secure these renewals immediately.

PARTY KEYS ITSELF TO WAR FOOTING

(Continued from Page 1)

Party and YCL have been printed and are available for national distribution.

100,000 Anti-War Leaflets

The four-page folder on the war crisis will be off the press by Tuesday in an issue of 100,000. In attractive make-up, it deals in popular terms with the meaning of the war crisis, the Stalin-Hitler pact, the fight against war in the United States and the War Referendum, plus a section on the Socialist Workers Party and the Socialist Appeal.

The pamphlet by Max Shachtman on the Stalin-Hitler pact is on the press.

24-Hour Duty

In New York, next week will see a special membership meeting and large public meetings organized in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx and Queens.

Branches have already ordered their members to be ready for duty on a twenty-four hour basis.

What to Do

As the situation in Europe leeters back and forth between a general world war and a temporary peace, the minds of the American masses turn more and more toward the thought: WHAT CAN WE DO HERE IN AMERICA?

Ours is the only voice that can answer that. Ours is the historic task of pointing the way for the fight against the warmakers in this country who want us to get into the world slaughter on the ground floor.

Our immediate weapon is the campaign for the People's Vote on War. Every branch which has thrown itself into the work has found the ready response of the workers, and on the basis of it has been able to direct them against the war government in Washington. Even the most backward workers, who are still hypnotized by the lie of national patriotism, do not want to see the country hurled into war behind their backs.

Close to Masses

Here is one report which we choose from the latest mail. It is from Local Philadelphia, which has not hitherto reported but which has been at work:

"The campaign has tremendous organizational and propaganda possibilities. As a direct approach to the masses, nothing has a greater appeal, especially in the light of today's events. On no other Party activity can a speaker feel himself so close to his listeners. He holds them and they are glad of it. The instinctive desire for a 'way out' comes to the surface as it does in no other type of meeting.

"The Party comrades are inundated with this sympathetic vibration. Comrades who are notorious for their shying away from the stranger in the street have been conversing easily and earnestly for hours after the meeting. It has helped activate comrades. We hold three street corner meetings a week, Monday, Friday and Saturday. On several occasions we have spoken to several hundred. At one Negro neighborhood meeting we had at least 150 people present.

"I can very easily say that where perhaps a few hundred people knew or had heard of the Socialist Workers Party, today several thousand people remember us. Our concrete organizational gains will come, I am sure of it."