

The Cards Were Stacked All the Time--for War

AN EDITORIAL

In order to force through Congress his "neutrality" legislation lifting the embargo on arms, President Roosevelt perpetrated a fraud on the American people.

A grave accusation? But here are the facts:

How did Roosevelt get a majority in Congress? By promising and appending to the embargo-lifting proposal a provision that neither arms nor anything else would go to belligerents in American ships.

Here are the exact words used by the Democratic leader, Senator Barkley:

"Whether it be wheat, or corn, or tobacco, or shoes, or typewriters, or tanks . . . or anything that can be recalled by mind of man, it cannot be shipped to a belligerent nation or through a danger zone anywhere in the world in an American ship. . . . Because I want no war I am supporting and propose to vote for a measure which involves the greatest sacrifice ever made by any nation in the history of mankind in order to avoid war."

Promise—And Performance

That solemn promise, embodied in the legislation, netted Roosevelt a majority.

Nobody hinted or dreamed of hinting that Roosevelt would not abide by his promise for at least a few weeks. But he didn't.

During the very hours that this promise was being uttered, Administration spokesmen were scheming with the shipping interests to violate it.

Their scheme was—because the promise was so concrete—threadbare in its brazen dishonesty. It merely consisted of transferring the registry of American ships to the "foreign" registry of puppet Panama.

It now comes out that, in the midst of the debate over the neutrality legislation, the Maritime Commission—Roosevelt's appointees—had quietly approved such changes of registry for seventeen tankers and two freighters and, four days before the enactment of the Neutrality Act, had received the application for transfer of registry from the United States Lines, one of the biggest North Atlantic operators.

Behind the Back of Congress

Nobody heard about this at the time. Because if the news had gotten around, Congress would never have dared to lift the embargo. The transfers of registry were "published"—no newspaperman heard about it—in the monthly bulletin of the Bureau of Navigation. The application of the United States Line remained a secret between the Maritime Commission and the shipping company.

Suppose Senator Barkley, in making that solemn promise, had added: "But of course the American ships can change their registry and thus continue to deal with belligerents." Would the government have gotten a majority for lifting the embargo then? Not if the loud outcry from Congressmen who voted it, is any indication—let alone the reaction it would have inspired in the American people.

Yet, last Monday, the Maritime Commission approved the United States Lines application. We challenge anyone to argue that these appointees of Roosevelt could have made this move—as with the previous changes of registry—without an understanding with Roosevelt.

American ships, carrying war materials to England and France, are certain to be torpedoed by German U-boats. That means a series of "incidents," such as happened in 1915 and 1916 under identical conditions, and which enabled Wilson to drag us into war. Everybody understands this. That's why the one popular item in the Neutrality Act was that which barred American shipping from the war zones. And that's why Roosevelt is conniving to violate that provision. For Roosevelt is heading for war as fast as he can drag the American people along.

Waiting for the Storm to Subside

In the face of the widespread protests against the Maritime Commission's action, Roosevelt had to order the Commission to hold up final approval until further investigation. Or, more accurately, until Roosevelt thinks the storm has subsided. For, according to the New York Times (Nov. 12) Roosevelt has already "expressed the belief that the transfer would not imperil American neutrality."

Why didn't Roosevelt tell the country about this before the Neutrality Act was voted on? Because he couldn't get the votes if he had told the truth. So he lied. He perpetrated a fraud.

Here is an instructive lesson for the American workers. When Roosevelt swears he is against American entry into the war, there is as much truth in his words as in his promise that American ships would be kept out of war zones. When Roosevelt says he is not planning a war dictatorship, his tongue is in his cheek as it was when he signed the Neutrality Act.

Don't trust a capitalist politician. That's the simple but fundamental lesson to be drawn from Roosevelt's latest maneuver.

The Only Road to Peace

The only way to keep America out of war is to take the control of this country away from the capitalists and their politicians. There's no short-cut to peace and security. There's only one road. Every strike, every struggle of labor, carried to a successful conclusion, is a step on that road—if we know where we're going.

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LET THE PEOPLE VOTE ON WAR

AUTO BARONS MOBILIZE FASCIST GANGS AGAINST CHRYSLER UNION

S. W. P. Polls Anti-War Vote

Shachtman Receives 2,259 Votes in New York Election

NEW YORK—2,259 first choice votes were cast by Bronx borough workers for Max Shachtman, city council candidate of the Socialist Workers Party.

It was the first time that the S.W.P. had participated in a New York election. Shachtman's campaign was conducted on a program of revolutionary struggle against war, calling upon the class-conscious workers to utilize the city elections to register their opposition to both the "democratic" and the Hitler-Stalin war camps.

How many workers voted for Shachtman as their second, third or fourth choices—four councilmen are to be elected from the cause the rules for counting the Bronx — will not be known, he ballots do not provide for counting beyond the first choice votes for those lower down on the list. Shachtman's ballots were distributed after the first choice votes were counted, the second choices on his ballots going practically all to Salvatore Ninio, American Labor Party candidate, who polled 40,000 first choice votes. Ninio was elected.

The Communist Party candidate in the Bronx polled 9,365 first choice votes, all of which went upon distribution to Michael Quill, Stalinist stooge running as an independent.

The final count has not yet been completed. A full story on the elections will appear in the next issue.

Over five thousand workers signed the petitions which secured Shachtman's place on the ballot. The Bronx Branch of the SWP had done its work so well that a Tammany challenge at the Board of Elections failed to dislodge Shachtman from the ballot.

George Lyman Payne, SWP candidate in Manhattan, was ruled off the ballot on a technicality, as were all the Communist Party candidates.

SEVEN TEAMSTERS' UNION LEADERS FRAMED BY F.B.I. IN SIOUX CITY

Progressive Unionists Had Borne Brunt In Organizing Over-the-Road Drivers

SIOUX CITY, Iowa—The war of the FBI against organized labor led to the conviction of seven Teamsters Union leaders here Nov. 3 by a hand-picked jury, and sentences of two years each in the penitentiary by Federal Judge Scott.

Trade unions throughout the North Central Area provided \$5,000 bonds for each of the defendants, as the labor movement prepared to appeal to the higher courts against the frameup.

That it was a frameup is obvious from the known facts. In July, 1938, a truck was damaged during a Sioux City bakery strike. The union charged the incident had been engineered by the employers to influence public opinion against the strikers. It was a minor incident and, with the successful termination of the strike, was forgotten. Hundreds of such incidents have been passed by like that.

Why the frameup? But the teamsters' movement has been making extraordinary headway in the North Central Area, organizing the unorganized. The locals in Sioux City, Des Moines and Omaha, Neb., connected with the bakery strike, have been key links in building the new unionism in this twelve state area, successfully bearing the brunt of the employers' attack. An area contract was recently signed, the single document covering 350,000 over-the-road drivers and helpers with big increases in wages and improvements in working conditions.

So the little incident of the truck was picked up by the Federal Bureau of Investigation—the G-men connected with the U.S.

Department of Justice.

Anti-Labor Police

What was the FBI doing in the case anyway? After the notorious Palmer days of the post-war persecutions of labor, the FBI was "reformed" under Attorney General Stone. He promised that the FBI would not be used against labor. The FBI appeared in no labor cases—until suddenly, during the last few months, a series of cases has revealed that "New Deal" Attorney General Murphy has gone back to the days of the Palmer raids for his model. In the Minneapolis WPA trials, in persecutions of the teamsters in Washington, D.C., in a series of cases being cooked up against building trades unions all over the country, the FBI has appeared as the persecuting agency.

Wherever they can turn a case into one for Federal jurisdiction, the FBI is moving in. The allegedly damaged truck had crossed the state line, and that was enough excuse for the FBI to take over the case.

Walter Stultz, president of General Drivers Local 554 of Omaha; Louis Miller, 554 organizer; Jack Maloney, Howard Fouts and Ralph Johnson, union officers and organizers of Drivers Local 383 of Sioux City; Francis Quinn, officer of Drivers Local 90 of Des Moines, and Earl Carpenter, former officer of Local 554, were the victims in this case.

Labor Defense Organized A statewide Labor Defense Conference of unions and friends of labor has been called for Des Moines, Dec. 3, according to the Des Moines Federationist. Organizing the protest against "the use of the Federal Department of Justice as a union-busting instrument" and repeal of the Iowa Criminal Syndicalism law will be the aims of the Conference.

One Man Doesn't Hate War — DuPont

Business is booming—for the chemical corporations, backbone of modern war preparations.

Eighty-six and a half millions of profits in the first nine months of the year!

That's 53% higher profits than last year. That's because war preparations this year were stepped up that much above last year's.

Nearly half the total profits in the industry went to the giant which dominates the field—DuPont—something over forty millions. The other powder and chemical companies had to be content with smaller pickings, but pretty good pickings at that. It's a nice thing for the fat cats, this war.

EAST INDIAN TO SPEAK AT DEFENSE MEET

All Khan, leader of the India Welfare League; Theodore Bekos, a refugee from Greece; Milton Winston, labor lawyer; and J. R. Johnson, Negro author, will be the four guest speakers at an open meeting of the American Labor Aid, to be held Friday, November 17, at 8:15 p.m. at the Cultural Center, 125 W. 33rd Street, Room 201, in Manhattan.

Mr. Khan, who was recently arrested as a result of his activities on behalf of Hindu aliens, will review his case and its implications. Mr. Bekos will give an account of refugee work in Greece similar to that done in this country by the American Labor Aid. Mr. Winston, who has acted as attorney for the A.L.A. in many of its cases, will tell of the many arrests made in connection with anti-Coughlin activities, and how the cases were fought.

Mr. Johnson, author of the recently published "Why Negroes Should Oppose the War," as well as many other books and pamphlets, will outline a program of action by which the Negro can fight for social and political equality.

The American Labor Aid is the successor to the American Fund for Political Prisoners and Refugees. Its purpose is to give aid to working-class prisoners, both in this country and abroad.

G. Smith-Coughlin Enlisted in Drive to Smash Auto Union

Strikebreaking Mohawk Valley Formula Is Coupled with State Aims to Starve Men Into Submission; Workers Plan Resistance

DETROIT, Nov. 13—The Chrysler corporation is opening all the sewers of reaction to smash the union of the 55,000 automobile workers they have locked out of the plants.

The rats are out in the open, from Gerald K. Smith, the ranting fascist spiegle down to Pat McCartney, goon and gunman of the Martin rump union and probably stool-pigeon of the corporation. They are well-heeled with company cash and company blackjacks.

After five weeks of hedging and stalling in conference rooms, the fact now sticks out like a big sore thumb that the merry-go-round ride the corporation has been giving the UAW-CIO is part of the deliberate strike-breaking Mohawk Valley formula.

HOODLUMS RAID C.P. MEETING IN DETROIT

Cops Arrive Just in Time to Be Late; Workers Slugged

DETROIT—Following closely on the heels of official announcements by the Department of Justice that "patriotic" citizens keep a steady vigilance on "subversive" groups, bands of American Legionnaires, aided by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and goons from the Homer Martin auto workers union, descended on a meeting of the Communist Party in this city last Friday night, Nov. 10, severely injuring seven workers and sending at least two persons to the hospital in a critical condition.

The Stalinist meeting had been called at Finnish Hall to hear William Z. Foster speak on the twenty-second anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Soon after the meeting began, fifty American Legion pickets appeared outside the hall carrying signs declaring, "Save America—Liquidate the Reds," "Send These Bolsheviks Back to Russia," and similar anti-labor slogans.

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Curran Approves Fink Schools for Seamen

A long step in the regimentation of merchant marine seamen and the crushing of their independent union organization was taken by Roosevelt's Maritime Commission this week. "Training bases" are to be established by the Maritime Commission and operated by the Coast Guard with the aim of supplanting the union halls and providing docile scab labor for the shipowners. Roosevelt has long been known to favor this plan and his formal approval is merely a matter of time.

These "training bases" have been in operation for two years but they have suffered from one defect—an unofficial boycott on the part of bona fide seamen. That did not prevent bases from supplying scab labor, along with the rats recruited from Commission Fink halls, to break the recent tanker strike for Standard Oil on the East Coast.

The Curran leadership of the NMU have become the open agency of the fink commission in herding unemployed and hungry seamen, beached by the so-called Neutrality Bill, into the Coast Guard camps. The camps hold out the temptation of three square meals a day and \$36 per month and Curran counts on the empty bellies of the seamen overcoming their firm support of independent unionism.

Open announcements and appeals for registration in the "training bases" are daily made over the "mike" at the NMU hall. Seamen are "urged to spend the winter in comfortable surroundings." Curran has completely forgotten the demand he made at the November 8th Joint Membership Meeting for WPA jobs for seamen. The Pilot, official organ of the NMU, has re-

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Behind the Lines

By GEORGE STERN

Adolf Hitler was recently credited with saying: "If you wish to conquer by force, you must be strong. If you seek to conquer by negotiation, you must be stronger."

Because he could not fulfill the conditions of this shrewd maxim of power politics, Stalin has failed in his attempted squeeze play on Finland.

As in the case of his diplomatic failure with Turkey, Stalin's threats have dwindled, for the time being at least, to newspaper bluster in the most approved Hitlerian style.

With the immediate backing of the three Scandinavian countries and the not inconsiderable moral support of Roosevelt, Finland was able to put up more resistance to Stalin than the Baltic states could muster.

The result was a judicious climb-down by the Kremlin. Its demand for a "mutual assistance pact" was dropped as were several of its territorial proposals. But the continued demand for a naval base on the north coast of the Gulf of Finland, presumably at Hangoe, was refused by the Finns.

The negotiations were consequently broken off and the oft-threatened bolts of Stalinist lightning ricocheted harmlessly across the pages of Pravda instead of descending upon the Finns.

In Moscow the correspondents predict a lengthy campaign of pressure, military economic and journalistic, similar in style and tempo to the press wars waged by Germany prior to the absorp-

tion of Austria and Czechoslovakia. Actually, what the Kremlin now waits for is a new turn in events which will enable it to resume its crude aping of Hitlerian diplomatic blackmail without risk of war.

For Stalin, unlike his ally in Berlin, is compelled to shy like a frightened mare from such a risk, even when it comes from so tiny a foe as Finland. His strategy is designed to weaken the other powers to his own level of insecurity in hopes then of becoming relatively strong.

So while the Finnish pot continues to simmer, Stalin may turn his attention once more to the Balkans where the inter-play of British, Italian, and German influences offer a fruitful field for inexpensive intervention.

The only bar here is now the Anglo-Franco-Turkish pact which opens the Dardanelles to the British in case Rumania is attacked. This the Russians were unable to prevent, because the Turks shrewdly withdrew their bets from the Russian board and placed them on the British fleet instead.

But what the Kremlin may try, in collusion with the Reich or without it, is a bloodless advance into the Balkans which will fall just short of forcing Allied intervention. Similarly, the negotiations with Japan are likely to proceed at a faster tempo.

But right now, sitting silent behind the Kremlin walls, Stalin knows he is nothing but a papier-mache Sphinx. He doesn't want to let anybody get near him with a match.

TROTSKY SEC'Y ESCAPES GANG

MEXICO CITY, Nov. 8—One of Leon Trotsky's secretaries, a refugee from Hitler's persecutions, narrowly escaped violence at the hands of Stalinist hoodlums at a mass meeting called in honor of the October Revolution when he was recognized by a Mrs. Alice G. Harris, ostensibly an American tourist but also an avowed partisan of Stalin and the Moscow Trials.

Mrs. Harris had succeeded in gaining an interview with Trotsky two months ago through a letter of introduction given her under misapprehension as to her true political beliefs by a person completely worthy of the confidence of the Fourth International.

During the interview Mrs. Harris declared that Trotsky was guilty of everything Prosecutor Vyshinsky had accused him in the Moscow Trials including that of being in league with Hitler. (This was before the Stalin-Hitler pact!)

At the mass meeting, which was packed with Stalinists, she attempted to incite physical action against the secretary whom she had recognized. But her Spanish was so mixed with English that the Stalinists could not understand her, giving the secretary time to make his way through an exit.

Full-page company ads have been appearing in local papers over the weekend blasting the union with all the open-shop arguments Chrysler's publicity agents could dig out of the files.

Pamphlet Attacks Union A large pamphlet reprinting all the yellow scab arguments against the Chrysler workers from the editorials appearing in the boss press nationally, has been mailed to all business and professional men, lofted with ballyhoo about alleged "slow-downs," about "sovietization" plans of the auto union to take control of production, the obvious purpose of the pamphlet is to whip up a lynch spirit of so-called "public sentiment" against the auto workers.

The corporation puts the squeeze on the Chrysler dealers who are frightened to death by hard-boiled threats and a statement appears in the press dripping with company slime against the union men. The unorganized dealers, at the mercy of the corporation, are made to appear as the indignant "public" suffering from union "terrorism."

A Mrs. Shindler is dragged out of her rat-hole to appear on the Dodge picket line calling on Chrysler workers to return to work. This Mrs. Shindler is probably on the payroll of the corporation for the specific job of organizing a "back-to-work" movement by inciting the wives of Chrysler workers against the union.

Social Security Denied While the corporation concentrates on propaganda, the state administration uses more forceful methods to starve the workers into submission. With the exception of one vote—that of the President of the Michigan Federation of Labor, John Reid—the State Social Security Board refuses to grant a dime's worth of compensation to the 55,000 Chrysler workers. On the spurious grounds that the Chrysler workers are involved in a "labor dispute" their rightful compensation is denied. Just how this squares with granting 10,000 Briggs workers unemployment insurance—locked out just as the Chrysler workers—is not made clear. But this Board needn't explain such "small" points—after all Chrysler's millions are involved, and that should be reason enough.

Hand in hand with the Security Board, the welfare authorities are joining in to make the securing of relief tough for the Chrysler workers. They are undoubtedly recommending some of Governor Dickenson's knee-action to the Good Lord as a substitute for potatoes and beans.

Howls for "Strong-Arm" Not everybody agrees with Dickenson. The strong-arm pol-

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