

Telling FACTS

CONCERNING COMMUNISM

Vol. 1

DECEMBER, 1938

No. 2

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With the Editors

If we had any doubts as to there being a field for a magazine such as **TELLING FACTS**, they have been dispelled by the reception accorded the first issue.

More than 100,000 copies have been distributed to date, and orders for the November number are still coming in every day. Many subscribers have taken advantage of our offer of five subscriptions for two dollars and included four friends in their subscription order.

We greatly appreciate the many letters of commendation received, and the suggestions offered for the magazine's future program. The latter are especially helpful; we want more of them.

To those of our friends who ask, "When are you going to tackle Fascism and Naziism?" we can only say that, so far, neither of these "isms" is an immediate threat to our American institutions. Communism is.

The Fascists and the Nazis make the news headlines every day. The subtly masked activities of the Communists, in America, in Russia, and elsewhere, do not.

So, for the present at least, we shall attempt each month to crowd into our 32 pages as much of that story as we can, and limit ourselves to that.

Possibly you are one of our new readers who is receiving **TELLING FACTS** through the courtesy of a friend. Can't you think of five of your friends who would welcome a similar gift from you?

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Published once a month at 128 East Tenth St., Saint Paul, Minnesota, by **FACTS PUBLISHING COMPANY**.

Subscription price, 50 cents per year.

Entered as second-class matter October 24, 1938, at the post office at St. Paul, Minn., under the act of March 3, 1879.

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From the Inside

Beginning an exclusive story, told in his own words, by a man who, up until a few months ago, was one of the leading members of the Communist Party in the United States.

For obvious reasons the author's name is not given. However, an editor of this magazine has met him, has seen his credentials and is thoroughly satisfied that his story is authentic.

If you are a real American, if you love your home, your family, and your freedom, you'll want to read this story. It will open your eyes to the dangers which face American representative government today.

For more than four years I was a card-carrying, dues-paying, enthusiastic member of the Communist Party of the United States. A few months ago, despite the protests of our district organizer and the threats of many members, I announced that I was quitting the Party because I was fully convinced that it is not a rank-and-file organization and has not the slightest vestige of representative government in its proceedings; it is subject to orders from the International in Moscow and is alien in every respect to our American way of thinking and living.

Like a good many other members, I signed an application card to become a member of the Communist Party at a time when I was out of work—blue, depressed and melancholy; not knowing where the next meal was coming from, and not know-

ing at what minute myself, my wife and three children would be evicted for non-payment of rent.

The day our plant shut down because of seasonal inactivity I was a fit subject for the Communist organizer who evidently recognized the symptoms. The shutdown came unexpectedly and caught me unprepared and practically broke.

That memorable day in 1934 when our plant was going on its seasonal period of curtailment that usually lasted about eight weeks, I had my first actual contact with the Communist Party. On several occasions I had found Communist leaflets and bills in my locker at the plant. Sometimes I stuck one of the papers in my pocket and glanced over it later at home.

We had a conveyor system at the plant and it happened so often that we never were surprised when Communist leaflets came floating along. Some of the boys would take them and some wouldn't.

Well, anyway, when the annual period of curtailment rolled around in 1934 and Isador Moskovitz, who I later learned was organizer for the Communist Party, met us at the factory gates with a bundle of the *Daily Worker*, most of us bought one. I don't know why. Maybe it was because, on the front page was a picture of our plant, beneath which was a picture of the superintendent's home, and then a picture of the poorest one of the employees' homes, with him, his wife and kids grouped in front.

This human interest story, backed up with photos, was, of course, interesting to us employees. Some of the boys looked at it and laughed, and some didn't laugh.

The story was well written and was about the "speed-up system" of production. In big type it said that the profits of the industry produced by us workers was supporting a large group of economic royalists who lived on vast estates, owned yachts, polo ponies, airplanes, private swimming pools and were rolling in wealth.

The evening of that same day I was visited by two of my fellow workers who invited me to go with them to a meeting.

They said that Jack Johnstone of Chicago, a labor leader of the steel industry, was to speak.

These fellow workers also casually asked me if I had read the literature I had received and what I thought of the article in the *Daily Worker* regarding our plant. I told them it was interesting and that I would like to subscribe but could not afford it, now that I was out of work and with many bills facing me.

Then one of these fellows asked me if I believed in production for use or production for profit. I didn't understand exactly what they meant by that and told them so. One of them said, "I can see that you are economically confused. We will explain all of that to you later."

I told them that I didn't believe I would go to the meeting. One of them asked me if I had anything against the Communist Party. I told him frankly that I belonged to the American Legion and from what I had been told the Communist Party was an un-American organization.

He said that I had been listening to the bosses too much. He asked me what I personally had against the Party and I told him I understood it was controlled by the Russians, that it was against all religion and opposed the private ownership of property.

He laughed. "Why!" he exclaimed, "Earl Browder, a Kansas farm boy, is our national secretary. I was born in America. Does that sound like the Russians are running us? That is simply talk put out by the bosses who keep on drawing their big pay while we are out of work."

Then he said, "As far as religion is concerned, we Communists consider that a man's own business. We *real* Communists don't belong to any church. Instead of giving our money to some damn preacher we spend it on our families. Preachers are all grafters and robbers. Not one of them ever does an honest day's labor and they all make big money. You never see any of them on the end of a pick handle or wearing patched clothes. But if you want to give your money to them instead

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of to your kids that is your business. You can still belong to a church and be a Communist.

"And as far as doing away with the private ownership of property is concerned, that ought not to worry you any. You don't own any property. Communism would abolish the property rights of millionaires who are rolling in luxury while us workers are starving to death."

Then he told me that you never hear a workingman cussing the Communist Party, that it is always the capitalists and large property owners who fight it.

As I remember, I didn't do much talking and he wound up his plea for me to attend the meeting by saying, "We Communists are a workingman's party, we stand for the right of labor to organize, to earn a decent wage, for opportunities for our kids and for peace and democracy in the world. You have been a Communist all your life and didn't know it. Anyway, in order to be fair to yourself you should attend a meeting and learn the other side of the story, *your side*."

The upshot of it was I went to the meeting which was held in the basement of a church.

On the left side of the speaker's stand was an American flag and on the right was a red flag with a gold hammer and sickle. About thirty people were present. I recognized several union officials from other locals, who had spoken at our union meetings, about a dozen fellow employees from our own plant, three lady social workers, several Negro auto workers, and the pastor of the church we were meeting in.

Those seated at the speakers' table were the Communist organizer, an agent for the *Daily Worker*, Jack Johnstone (the guest speaker), a young Jewish girl who, I learned later, was state organizer for the Young Communist League, a colored youth from the Ford assembly plant, and the minister.

Moskovitz, acting as chairman, opened the meeting by saying something about as follows: "We are highly pleased and honored by being favored by a visit from our national committeeman, Comrade Johnstone. We also have with us tonight a very select group of invited, honest, conscientious, true union

men, who are not members of our political party, but who, we hope, will at the close of this meeting join our party and fight shoulder to shoulder with us in our struggle to abolish the present capitalist system and establish a government based on the policy of production for use and equal rights for everybody.

"These men and women, who are guests this evening have been recommended by at least two comrades. We have had their past records checked. We can vouch for their honesty. We know that they will not leave here and tell that a Communist meeting was held in the basement of this church. In tomorrow's capitalist *Daily* will be a short article telling of a meeting held here tonight by the Inter-City Civic Improvement Association, which will satisfy reactionary members of the congregation who might otherwise question the pastor upon seeing us enter and leave the church.

"The church board charges \$3 rental for this basement for each meeting. We will take up a collection to meet that expense."

The collection was taken up. I gave 25 cents and I noticed that the collection undoubtedly amounted to far more than the rental price. I did not question what would be done with the balance, presuming it would be kept to pay for the hall on future occasions. Later I learned that it went to the Party. I also learned *never* to inquire about money that was collected.

My fellow employees, who evidently had been Communists for some time, made reports on events of interest in our plant and our shop paper which was a mimeographed double sheet called, "*The Sentinel*." I found out later it was controlled by the Communists, one of whom was a sub-foreman.

The young Jewish girl, who I found out later had spent all winter in Russia with a class of 50 girls from Broadwood, Commonwealth and other Communist schools, made her report. She was organizing the youth at the state university. She told of signing up the secretary of the local Y. M. C. A., and that she had a promising group of recruits coming in. She was organizing a Marxian study club, from which she had signed up favorable students into the Young Communist

League. She wore slacks, which made her very conspicuous. I later learned she was known on the campus as the Little Rebel.



Acme Photo
A University "Peace" Demonstration by the Young Communist League.

Jack Johnstone, the principal speaker, was a queer-looking specimen of humanity. He was a member of the national committee of the Communist Party and also a member of the national political bureau. (This I learned later.) He wore horn-rimmed spectacles and had large blue eyes, absolutely devoid of any expression. His hair was coal black, which contrasted strangely with his gray eyebrows. His age would be hard to guess but I figured he probably was 55 years old.

In his talk he told of the coming struggle in steel, how the "scabs" were ready, waiting for the big push to obtain jobs as strike-breakers, how steel firms were financing several soup kitchens that were holding the "rats" at one place until the call came for the strike-breakers. "However," Johnstone said, "it will be probably a year before the strike will be called. Much preparation is necessary to successfully win this struggle. We have our friends in the administration but laws must be passed, the workers must go through a period of education. They must be made class conscious. It is our task to educate and lead the masses. We must work with the New Deal, however crazy some of the experiments may seem, because it

is the road to Socialism. The plans to curtail production of agricultural commodities, which will soon become a law, will make the farmers class conscious. The farmers, generally, have the same ideas as our economic royalists. They are rugged individualists, who are millionaires from their ears up and ragged aristocrats from their ears down."

Johnstone launched into a tirade against the capitalist system. Despite his frowsy appearance, as he warmed to his subject he became as a new man. His eyes shone with a fanatical brightness, a large "V" appeared in his forehead, his face flushed, he appeared to almost choke—but words flowed from his mouth apparently without effort. His voice changed from a nasal whine to the bellow of an enraged bull. He began to perspire, sweat stood out in great beads on his forehead and dropped from his nose and chin. Never will I forget him. I sat there fascinated with the revolutionary fervor of his speech. His evident faith in everything he said was contagious.

I thought of my sick, overworked wife. I thought of my three underweight children, who would have even less to eat now that I was to be out of work for a month or more.

I thought of the superintendent, the white collar boys in the office, the big city stockholders that my labor and the labor of the other employees was supporting in luxury, as Johnstone said.

After Johnstone had talked for more than an hour and had fully convinced me and the other workers present that we were being badly exploited, despite the fact that I made on an average of \$6.00 per day more than 200 days out of the year, he then took up our factory seasonal shutdown situation.

"Why," he asked, "should the workers be laid off without a single cent of pay during these change-over periods, while the stockholders, half a hundred vice-presidents and all the white-collar stooges continue to draw their big pay?"

"It is not the fault of the workers that the plant is forced to close while the change-over is being made. If the money was spent to enlarge the factory and buy the new machinery in advance, it would not be necessary to lay off thousands of

workers while changes are being made. Are you workers going to be fools all of your lives?"

He was answered by a thunderous, "No." I found my own voice added to the others.

"This has been going on for years," he continued, "and the time to stop it is not next week, not next month, not next year, but now.

"It is the decision of the Party that a committee of shop-workers meet tomorrow and make plans to demand that the company contribute to the support of the workers during this shutdown, or that the crews be staggered in making changes. The industrial committee has selected the following to act on this special committee."

As he read the names of the special committee I heard my own name read and for some reason or other I did not protest. If I could have looked ahead a few days, if I had known of the sorrow and suffering the events of the next 48 hours were to bring and what an effect it was to have on my life, I would have refused to serve on that committee.

Johnstone finished his speech in a burst of oratory that left him breathless, weak and shaking and drenched with sweat as he unsteadily took his seat.

The chairman made a few remarks concerning Johnstone's speech and told of the strenuous work, the hundreds of speeches Comrade Johnstone made yearly and that it was his third speech that day. Earlier he had addressed a group of packing-house workers and had spoken at a steel union executive board meeting.

Before I left that church I took the oath of allegiance to the Communist Party, signed the application blank, paid in my first month's dues and initiation fee, shook hands with all the comrades and became a full-fledged Communist.

I walked home that night feeling like a true Bolshevik, a free man, an honest man who had been robbed by the greedy, grasping, soul-destroying, labor-exploiting hand of industry. As I passed the plant the hiss and roar of the blast furnaces, the rattle and clank of winches, the rumble of the electric trains

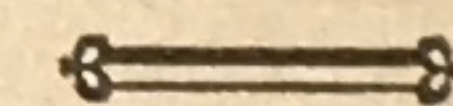
under the hopper moving vast quantities of ore came to my ears.

I looked up into the heavens. The reflection from the furnaces shone on low-hanging clouds, making the sky a dull red. Suddenly I was afraid the power of the bosses was colossal. What if they found out I was a Communist! I would be fired. No fear of that, however, because the comrades who had been members for a long time and had worked side by side with me for years had not been exposed.

One of the Party rules is that it is all right to admit you are a Communist if you want to, but it is not all right to tell anyone that anybody else is a Communist. Later I was to learn that only educated comrades who understand Party policies act as fronts. These comrades have been trained mostly at Commonwealth College, Mena, Ark., or at Broadwood Labor College, Katonah, N. Y.

Before entering my home I looked back at the plant and gave the Communist salute. I thought to myself: "We'll whip you. We'll stop the furnaces. We have power. We will organize. Some day we will operate that plant for the benefit of all the people, not just for a few stockholders."

Continuing next month, this inside story of Communism will tell of activities of the Young Communist League; their education by the Workers' Educational Committee; how the Communists control labor unions, how they lead strikes, how they instigate violence.



Totalitarian revolutionists operating within a democratic regime can lose any number of elections and yet they can always try again. **BUT IF THE DEMOCRACY LOSES ONE ELECTION, IT CAN NEVER TRY AGAIN.** That being the case, democrats throughout the world have come to realize that an active and positive defense of democratic institutions is an absolute necessity. * * * Unless democracy is to commit suicide by consenting to its own destruction, it will have to find some formidable answer to those who come to it saying, "I demand from you in the name of your principles the rights which I shall deny to you later in the name of my principles."

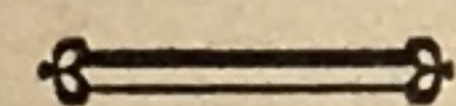
—Walter Lippmann in New York *Herald-Tribune*.

Here and There in the News

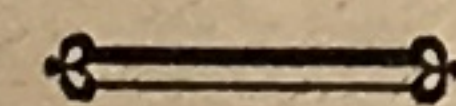
When the new Russian Soviet constitution went into effect in December, 1936, we heard much about its guaranty of religious freedom. But since its adoption, there has been a marked increase in anti-religious activity on the part of several agencies of the Soviet government. Within the past few weeks Soviet schoolteachers have been instructed in a campaign directed against all religions—Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Protestant, Jewish and Mohammedan. Adult propaganda, also, is incessant.

While outwardly observing the requirements of the new constitution, "liquidation" of many church functionaries on political charges continues, and legal excuses have been formulated for the destruction of many churches—notably the Dorogomilovsky cathedral.

To the Communist mind, religion is squarely opposed to the Marxist-materialistic theory of society, and Stalin and his aides are bending every effort toward its extinction. And why not? Any organization or society not wholly dependent on the Soviet state, or whose disciples are not wholly subservient to the state, is inimical to the Soviet program. The church is not an organ of the state, and therefore must be expunged.



The Russian Soviet seaman's journal, *Krasniji Flot*, announces that 17 members of the Russian Navy have received their diplomas as "Godless propagandists in the Navy." The League of the Militant Godless has established courses in atheism for seamen at the Naval Club of Sebastopol with a view to placing at least one propagandist on each ship of the Russian Navy.



"When an idea seizes hold of the masses it becomes power," wrote Marx. In the hands of trained sellers, literature can supply that idea.—*Daily Worker*, London, Eng.

It Has Happened Here!

By TAD ECKAM

Condensed from *America**

Ybor City, Florida, is hardly large enough to be called a city; but it is large enough to contain a nest of Communist agitators. The population, largely Latin in origin, Mexican and Spanish, has sprawled itself out to the east of Tampa. Some of it has overflowed into West Tampa and towards the Gulf of Mexico. Ybor City is the home of the cigar maker and the sponge diver, of the nominal Catholic and the energetic Communist, of the most pious and the most impious members of a partially Americanized "foreign" element, who dominate the community.

The story of the Communistic invasion and of the local repulsion is told in the *Tampa Evening News*. On September 10, the news broke with this caption on the front page: REDS MENACE YBOR CHURCH. On Wednesday, September 14, the opener was: RED TERROR GRIPS YBOR. A week later, September 21, there appeared the fact that YBOR MERCHANTS STILL PAY REDS. These and similar stories give an inkling of what was actually taking place in Ybor City.

The prime cause of the present disturbance was a letter sent to the pastors of the St. Augustine diocese by its Bishop, Patrick Barry. This episcopal communication was read from the pulpit of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church by the Reverend John J. Hosey, C.S.S.R., at all of the Masses on Sunday, August 7. In it was contained the Bishop's command that a special collection be made on the following Sunday "to aid widows and orphans suffering from the effect of war-torn Spain and refugees from Nazi Germany." The plea was made purely from a standpoint of Christian charity.

News of the plea for funds spread rapidly among the workers, and by Tuesday the so-called Popular Front Committee

*329 W. 108th St., New York City. Oct. 29, 1938.

had devised a well-laid plan for preventing the collection. Father Hosey was threatened with bodily harm, told that his church property would be attacked.

The good pastor would not be intimidated and the collection was duly taken up. It was then that Communist turmoil reached a new high in Florida. Several Spanish newspapers printed insulting remarks about Father Hosey and the Catholic Church, with the result that Ybor City went wild. The church and school were picketed. Then, in West Tampa, another Latin center of cigar-rollers, the same picket line appeared at the Catholic church and school.

The opening of school in September was the occasion for a prolonged and dangerous demonstration in both Ybor City and West Tampa. The Communists prevailed upon a theatre in West Tampa, with a large Latin patronage, to permit a speaker to mount its stage between pictures and demand of the audience that any who were Catholics renounce their Faith and remove their children from Catholic schools. The result of this demand produced immediate effect. The boycott on St. Joseph's School prevented two-thirds of the children from returning to classes.

A situation, indeed, when forces in the U. S. prevent parents from sending children to the schools they choose. Catholics, all of them, these people of the Latin element had been patronizing their own school and church for as many years as they have been in this country. Their lot is not an easy one, it is true, and it has not been made lighter in the recent dull years of depressed living and cut wages. But it is extremely doubtful that any of them would have abandoned the external obedience to the Church's commands had they not been warned and exploited by a small and active group of Communists. It is safe to say that intimidation played the greatest part in this large-scale defection.

The school and church boycott by the Florida Communists is indicative of the turn which the "popular" or "united" front movement would take wherever it gains the ascendancy. The police of the two places were unable to do anything with the

crowds. The Federal Bureau of Investigation was informed of the situation by the officials, and a representative of the Dies Committee has been on hand to track down the instigators.

I have no intention of crying Wolf! in this article, but I think that we must decry the boredom and apathy of those who are "sick of hearing" the constant warning against Communism. In their opinion, the Fascist angle as well as the Communist angle of the Spanish civil war has been talked to death. "Let them handle their own problems, and let us forget about it." But the simple truth is that the Communist party members in this country will not allow us to take that attitude. Our boredom increases their energy. Our apathy increases their daring.

Take a further happening in the Ybor City mix-up. The Popular Front group has actually *demande*d contributions for the Spanish Loyalist *army* and has enforced retributive sanctions when they were not forthcoming. Grocers, printers and doctors have been boycotted and practically forced out of business because they refused to contribute or did not contribute what these blackmailers considered sufficient.

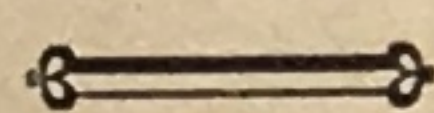
The case of one printer reaches a new level of ironic behavior in a group that pretends to be the backbone of the union-workers' cause. This printer's shop was the only member of the Typographers Union in the city. He had objected strenuously to being forced to make contributions to the Loyalist army on the grounds that he upheld the principles of neither side in the conflict. He has been blacklisted, all patronage has been given to a non-union shop and the "vanguard of the union-workers' army" is, at least in this case, shaking off one of its principles for a higher one.

There can never be any doubt that the cause of Communism always comes first in the heart of this lately Americanized party. Browder may spout all he wishes in defense of his revamped Communism, claiming that it is the most democratic group in the country, that it is more constitutional than any other, that it is the only friend of the workingman. Bald facts have constantly and forcefully given the lie to his statements. The Party comes first; the worker fits in as a help to the Party.

If the Party in Spain or Mexico or Russia needs assistance, the needs of the member-workers are neglected for the benefit of the Communistic advance. The demands of the Party are above all other considerations.

In the larger cities of America tactics of this kind are known as gangster terrorism, and much publicity has been given them. That it is considered a legitimate and practical plan of approach by Communists is indicative of the immorality behind the movement. That citizens of any American city, no matter how obscure or how populous, must be submitted to the indignity of blackmail, is a commentary on our utter disinterestedness. It reveals in a striking way how unwary we are of the danger that threatens us.

Perhaps this tale of events in a small southern city seems like an attempt at alarm. But the knowledge that such affairs can happen here should tend to soften the blow when it does fall. The element of surprise will not be so great as it would be if the complete Communistic program went into effect overnight. Even an underground method of working must make an occasional foray into the open and this occurrence in Ybor City is only one of the appearances that is to be expected. The resistance in Ybor is local, but the whole country is fair territory for the "Popular Front."



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OUR READERS TELL US:

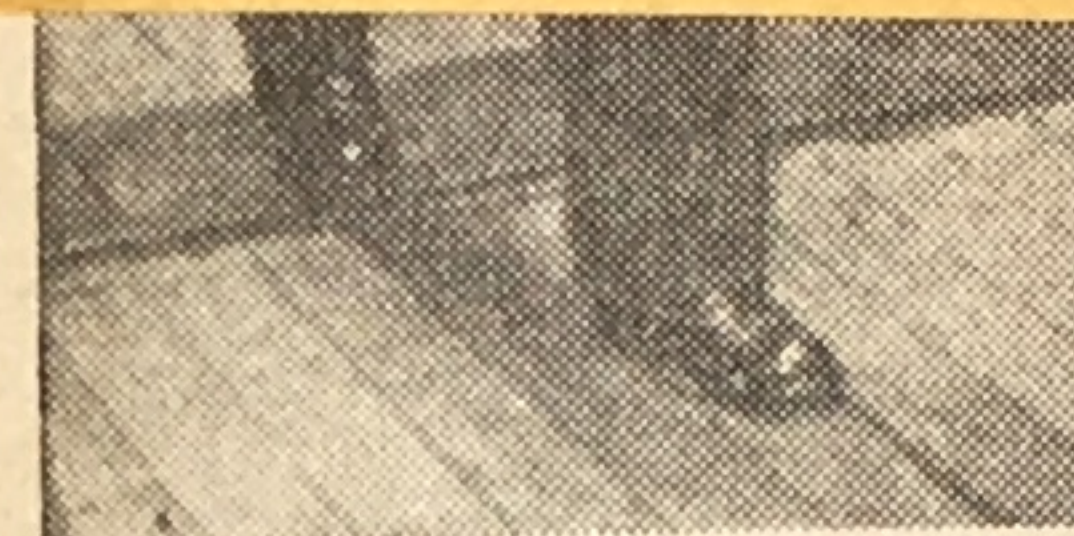
"Just finished reading my first copy . . . like it very much."

"If this little magazine does not wake up the American people, Communism will."

"Have just read the magazine through . . . please enter subscriptions for the thirty names which follow . . . send bill to me."

"Have just received the first two issues . . . you should be congratulated."

"Your magazine has made a fine start . . . every success to it!"



Acme Photo

Litvinov arriving in New York, November 7, 1933.

than a thousand people thronged the lavishly furnished rooms at a reception marking the twenty-first anniversary of the Communist revolution.

And in Moscow, Maxim Litvinov, Commissar of Foreign Affairs, entertained the diplomatic corps at a similar reception. It marked the end of a day of celebration and display of the Communist nation's prowess, with loud-speakers on the Kremlin wall blaring forth, "Long live the world revolution."

After several years of treading and speaking softly on this subject of world revolution, Russia's Communist leaders now begin to emphasize it anew, and Georgi Dimitrov, Secretary General of the Communist International in his November 7th proclamation boldly calls for a "united working class front" to unite and rid the bourgeois countries of their "reactionary" governments.

Which takes us back to the beginnings of our diplomatic relations with the Soviet government:

On October 10, 1933, the President of the United States corresponded with the President of the All-Union Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in Moscow, proposing discussions which might lead to official

"A most timely, excellent antidote."

"The best so far printed on the subject . . . clear and to the point."

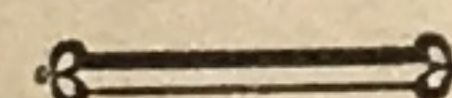
"Have recommended it very strongly . . . wishing you all the success this big little magazine deserves."

"Should serve to awaken some folks from the apathy surrounding the question."

Few people realize how far-reaching Communist activity in this country has become. It must be fought, vigorously, every moment.

To order this little magazine for yourself and four friends is an act quite in the spirit of this new year.

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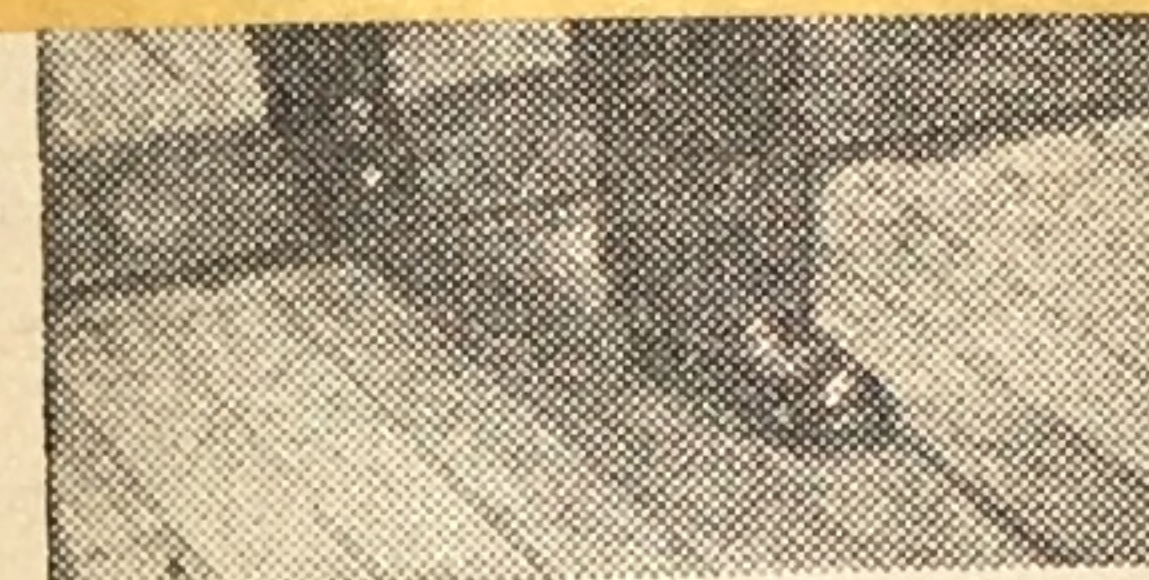
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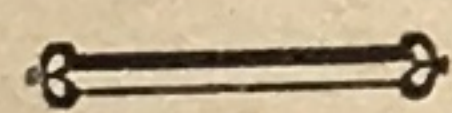
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The Soviet Serenade

The pledges made by Litvinov to secure American recognition.

How were they kept?

By BREWSTER LANSING

On Sixteenth Street in Washington stands the imposing mansion that until 1917 was the Imperial Russian embassy. Closed and shuttered until 1934, it then became the embassy of the Soviet Union. Last month more than a thousand people thronged the lavishly furnished rooms at a reception marking the twenty-first anniversary of the Communist revolution.

And in Moscow, Maxim Litvinov, Commissar of Foreign Affairs, entertained the diplomatic corps at a similar reception. It marked the end of a day of celebration and display of the Communist nation's prowess, with loud-speakers on the Kremlin wall blaring forth, "Long live the world revolution."

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On October 10, 1933, the President of the United States corresponded with the President of the All-Union Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in Moscow, proposing discussions which might lead to official

recognition. Mikail Kalinin, President of the Committee, accepted the President's proposal and advised that his government was sending to this country Maxim Litvinov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, to discuss questions of interest to both nations. Upon Litvinov's arrival in Washington, a series of conferences took place between him and the President. These conferences resulted in the following proposal, set forth in a letter to the President on November 16, 1933:

"My dear Mr. President:

"I have the honor to inform you that coincident with the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two Governments it will be the fixed policy of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

"1. To respect scrupulously the indisputable right of the United States to order its own life within its own jurisdiction in its own way and to refrain from interfering in any manner in the internal affairs of the United States, its territories or possessions.

"2. To refrain, and to restrain all persons in government service and all organizations of the Government or under its direct or indirect control, including organizations in receipt of any financial assistance from it, from any act overt or covert liable in any way whatsoever to injure the tranquility, prosperity, order, or security of the whole or any part of the United States, its territories or possessions, and, in particular, from any act tending to incite or encourage armed intervention, or any agitation or propaganda having as an aim, the violation of the territorial integrity of the United States, its territories or possessions, or the bringing about by force of a change in the political or social order of the whole or any part of the United States, its territories or possessions.

"3. Not to permit the formation or residence on its territory of any organization or group—and to prevent the activity on its territory of any organization or group, or of representatives or officials of any organization or group—

which makes claim to be the Government of, or makes attempt upon the territorial integrity of, the United States, its territories or possessions; not to form, subsidize, support or permit on its territory military organizations or groups having the aim of armed struggle against the United States, its territories or possessions, and to prevent any recruiting on behalf of such organizations and groups.

"4. Not to permit the formation or residence on its territory of any organization or group—and to prevent the activity on its territory of any organization or group, or of representatives or officials of any organization or group—which has as an aim the overthrow or the preparation for the overthrow of, or the bringing about by force of a change in, the political or social order of the whole or any part of the United States, its territories or possessions.

"I am, my dear Mr. President,

"Very sincerely yours,

"Maxim Litvinov,

"People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs,
"Union of Soviet Socialist Republics."

All of which the President, in a letter dated November 16, 1933, received and accepted for the United States.

When a complete review is made of the activities of the Communist Party in America since 1933, there can be no doubt but that the pledge of the U. S. S. R. to the U. S. A. has been broken, deliberately and repeatedly.

Evidence of the repudiation of these pledges was first laid before the State Department by Matthew Woll, vice president of the American Federation of Labor, in a letter dated February 7, 1934, supplemented by a written memorandum and supporting documents. Further evidence of the repudiation of the Litvinov pledges was submitted to the House committee investigating un-American activities at its hearing in New York on July 12, 1934, and at its hearing in Washington on December 17, 1934. The committee received documents which showed

beyond reasonable doubt an organized movement seeking to prepare itself to seize and to destroy the American Government by the use of force and to substitute for it the Soviet form of government known as the "dictatorship of the proletariat"; that the movement was directed and controlled by the Communist International, located in Moscow and controlled by the Soviet Union.

In the report of the committee to the House of Representatives on February 15, 1935, there appears the following:

"In December, 1934, it (the committee) held a series of public hearings at Washington, D. C., at which representatives from various organizations and agencies that have recently been investigating Communism presented statements of their findings accompanied by one or more recommendations.

"The nature and extent of organized Communist activity in the United States have been established by testimony and the objectives of such activities clearly defined. Both from documentary evidence submitted to the committee and from the frank admission of Communist leaders (cf. Browder and Ford, New York hearing, July 12, 1934) these objectives include:

"1. The overthrow by force and violence of the republican form of government guaranteed by article IV, section 4, of the Federal Constitution.

"2. The substitution of a soviet form of government, based on class domination to be achieved by abolition of elected representatives, both to the legislative and executive branches, as provided by article I, by the several sections of article II of the same Constitution, and by the fourteenth amendment.

"3. The confiscation of private property by governmental decree, without the due process of law and compensation guaranteed by the fifth amendment.

"4. Restriction of the rights of religious freedom, of speech, and of the press as guaranteed by the first amendment.

"These specific purposes, by Communist admission, are to be achieved not by peaceful exercise of the ballot under constitutional right, but by revolutionary upheavals, by fomenting class hatred, by incitement to class warfare, and by other illegal, as well as by legal, methods. The tactics and specific stages to be followed for the accomplishment of this end are set forth in circumstantial detail in the official program of the American Communist Party adopted at the convention held at Cleveland on April 2 to 8, 1934."

To quote Congressman George H. Tinkham, of Massachusetts:

"The American Communist Party is affiliated with the Third International, which was created by officials of the Soviet Government and is housed in Moscow with governmental approval and co-operation. This affiliation is not one of general sympathy or broad uniformity of purpose and program; it is of a definitely organic character involving specific jurisdiction on the part of the governing body over the Communist Party of the United States.

"The executive secretary of the Communist Party of the United States testified to this committee that his party was 'a section of the Communist International'; that it participates in all the gatherings which decide the policies of the Communist International and sends delegates to the various conferences in Moscow. This admission is confirmed by the records available.

"The Communist International, acting upon Russian territory and controlled by the Soviet Union, has, since the giving of the Litvinov pledges, directed the Communist Party of the United States and the Young Communist League of America to use every available means to prepare for the forceful overthrow of our Government, by propaganda and the organization of revolutionary trade unions, leagues, committees, and groups, and for the substitution in its place of a Soviet form of government to be affiliated with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. This action on the part of the Communist International is a complete repudiation of the Litvinov pledges.

"The publication in the English language in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for use in the United States of books and pamphlets attacking our form of government and their shipment to this country also constitutes a complete repudiation of the Litvinov pledges.*

"The evidence discloses that there has been an organized Nation-wide, systematic and rapidly developing attempt to undermine the institutions of the United States and to overthrow its Government. An official committee of the House of Representatives has certified to the truth of this statement.

"This evidence discloses also that since the recognition by the United States of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics there have been great increases in Communistic activities and an enhancement of the prestige of those in control of them.

"This undisputed evidence from Russian and American sources shows that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics promotes these activities to undermine the institutions of the United States and to overthrow its Government in complete repudiation of the pledges which it gave to obtain United States recognition."

Much of the above is taken from the American Legion's review of Communist activities. Note that the complete repudiation of the Litvinov pledges took place within a year after they were made.

Since 1934, Russia has joined the League of Nations, in whose councils the shrewd Litvinov has been most active and voluble—seeking friendship with capitalist countries, while the Communist International, at the same time, was stirring up dissension within their borders.

But the trend of recent European events has dropped the mask, and now the world revolution as an ultimate necessity is again being preached openly. And in our nation's capital a thousand people celebrate its twenty-first birthday!

*Before recognition (according to a Communist report), the average annual distribution of Communist pamphlets in the U. S. was 263,744. In the first year after recognition it was 1,192,815, the following year 2,336,380.



With the International Brigade

A REVIEW

By EDWARD A. HARRIGAN

Why have some of the most vocal of the spokesmen for the various leagues "for Peace and Democracy" and "against war" been so active in recruiting "volunteers" for the Loyalist army in Spain? The logic of this may be apparent to them, but to the average man it doesn't make sense.

There is more than ordinary interest, therefore, in the following account of an anonymous young Englishman's experience as one of these Loyalist volunteers, which recently appeared in a London pamphlet.*

In July, 1936, when war broke out in Spain, it seemed to him to be a clear-cut civil war between the political parties of the Right and the Left. "Like a great many others," he says, "I allowed myself to be carried away by the propaganda of the Left. I consider myself lucky to be alive to tell my experience, which I should like to describe as warning to other men who might be as easily taken in as I was."

*Burns Oates & Washbourne, Ltd., 43 Newgate St., London, E. C. 1, England. 1938. 56 pp. Sixpence.

His narrative then describes his enlistment in England in January, 1937; his departure from Liverpool; the journey through France to Perpignan, thence by coach to Figueras on the Spanish side of the Pyrenees, and from there to Barcelona.

"At the Barcelona station there was a brass band to welcome us and crowds of people, with the usual red flags, and many of whom gave the clenched fist salute. We were marched for some two kilometers to the Karl Marx barracks, where there was a good hot dinner for us, and plenty to drink, after which we were marched back to the station. The train was decorated with red flags, and fruit of all kinds was placed in the carriages; once more to the strains of the *Internationale* we left Barcelona for Albacete.

"The following morning I saw a doctor, who said I was ill and must go to a hospital. The hospital to which I went was called the *Socorro Rojo*—the Red Aid, which organization caters to every member of the International Brigade; its headquarters are in Moscow and it is connected with all departments in life in Government Spain today.

"Two days later I was visited by the Political Commissar, who was a leading member of the British Communist Party; he gave me some papers and periodicals—all Communist and dealing with deep political subjects. In Spain the Political Commissars have the rank of officers; they receive about 40 pesetas a day, and their expenses are paid at home; they have, however, no military functions, their job being mainly political, though it would not be an exaggeration to say that they hold in their hands the power of life and death. On the following day the doctor said I might leave the hospital, but might also have five days' leave so as to get fit. . . .

"On the fifth day I went out with a couple of Yanks; they were good chaps and stood me a grand meal, for though I had received my pay at Madrigueras, I had no money left. On the following morning I lined up with the rest for pay, as it was due me again; the paymaster told us we were each to receive 60 pesetas, but as the bank had issued him only one-hundred-peseta notes, those who had no change would have to wait until the

banks opened the following morning. I was one of the unlucky ones!

"I don't know how it happened . . . I suppose . . . the fever; but a few days later I became dizzy and that night I suddenly fainted. When I came 'round I was in the guardhouse with about seven more prisoners. A guard appeared with two others. I asked the meaning of my imprisonment and pulled the doctor's note from my pocket. The guard snatched the paper and, after reading it, tore it up. I protested and asked for the British Political Commissar. The guard said, 'Anglais?' and I said, 'Yes.' He and his men then started to laugh; called me names and struck me on the side of the face, after which they locked the door."

A subsequent escape and recapture were followed by imprisonment in a cell with eight others—a cell about 24 feet square, without windows and only a transom for ventilation—verminous, without washing accommodations and no opportunity for exercise.

"On my fourth day there I saw the doctor and protested against the unhealthy state of the place. He merely asked me whether one would find better under Capitalism!

"On the seventh day I made up my mind to try and see the British Consul. . . . I made my application, but was told that if I valued my life I would have nothing to do with such people. . . . It looked as if I was to be a prisoner for the rest of the war. One evening I was given a copy of the *Daily Worker* and was able to read what a section of the British public were being told about conditions in Government Spain; it said that the British volunteers, being volunteers, could do as they pleased, and were able to go home at any time they liked!"

Transfer under armed guard to a detention camp is then described, followed by a four weeks' stay in the camp; then a chance to volunteer for front line duty, and on April 19th he was sent to the Jarama front. Uneventful trench duty followed, until, "I think it was about May 21st when we set out for Segovia. The 14th Brigade had made an offensive on this sector, the object of which was to relieve the pressure on

Bilbao; it had its effect, for the rebels had to send about 1,500 of their best men to hold the Government forces. After three or four days of stubborn resistance they retreated, leaving many dead.

"This was, as far as I know, the first time the new Russian automatic rifles were used in action on a large scale, and they played havoc with the Italians; one might call it mass slaughter, for almost every third man met a bullet. These rifles weigh only 42 pounds, and can fire 200 rounds a minute; they can be taken down and put up very swiftly, and are so simple that even a child could handle them. They are certainly the most effective weapons I came across, and it was owing to them that the 14th Brigade was able to make its 36 kilometer advance on the Segovia front. This battle started as a sham attack and ended in a wholesale rout of the rebels.

"They were reinforced, however, at a place called Granja, at which point our battalion was brought in to check them. The rebels were on a large hill outside the village of Granja, and our job was to dislodge them; we attacked at four o'clock the following morning. We were halfway up the hill when to our surprise we received the order to retreat, and were brought down once more to the reserve line. . . .

"For the next half-hour I saw the thrill of a lifetime, a battle in the air. All firing in the line ceased and all eyes were turned skywards; there were 24 rebel and 15 Government planes. I think that the rebel planes were Italian and German, and the Government ones Russian; the rebel planes, though superior in numbers, were no match for their opponents.

"They fought directly over our heads and the battle of machine-gun fire, coupled with the roar of the engines, was deafening. On our left a rebel bomber burst into flames, and the noise of the bombs exploding was terrific. The pilot jumped out with a parachute, but was machine-gunned before he reached the ground. Five minutes later another rebel plane was brought down quite near me and its pilot was soon captured. The rest of the rebels flew away to their own lines amid the cheers of the soldiers in the line."