

954
1

Warren 1/24/40

Within the Gates

DESPITE the example of their masters, the disciples of Hitler and Stalin in the United States have embarked upon a "peace" campaign as vigorous as a *Blitzkrieg* and as false as a Hitler promise. This campaign is being conducted by more than 200 organizations, with a membership thus far more noisy than numerous. The cue for the Stalinist groups is provided by Earl Browder, who not so long ago was plumping hard for collective action against the "international bandits," and who back in 1936 dubbed peace groups "no better than the conscious agents of Hitler and Mussolini." The leadership on the right is less unified but no less inconsistent in its unblushing advocacy of pacifism in the United States and militarism in Germany and Italy.

The first unalloyed Communist peace front made its appearance on the West Coast shortly after the Russo-German pact caused a mass exodus of liberals from the American League for Peace and Democracy. Led by several officials of the National Maritime Union, most of whom were party members, the Keep America out of War Committee took up where the League for Peace and Democracy left off. Its first publication was a pamphlet, "The Yanks Are Not Coming," written by Mike Quin, columnist for the Communist *People's World*. The title was a happy choice. It became the party's most widely repeated slogan, and within a few weeks the Keep America out of War Committee became the Yanks Are Not Coming Committee. Local units were formed all over the country.

After some unfavorable publicity the Yanks Are Not Coming Committee languished like an outworn commissar, and its members and affiliates formed a new holding company called the Committee to Defend America by Keeping Out of War. The most ambitious project of this group was to sponsor the Emergency Peace Mobilization Conference which met in Chicago on the Labor Day week-end. The conference was well planned. More than 20,000 advance reservations were made by persons from thirty-five states. Senators Nye of North Dakota and Clark of Idaho were announced as principal speakers. But when it became generally known that a majority of the individual sponsors were far to the left of liberalism, the Senators hastily sent their regrets, and no fewer than 2,000 delegates appeared for the first session.

For reasons not announced, the Chicago conference established another permanent organization, the American Peace Mobilization, which is to absorb the parent committee and its predecessors and their affiliates. The new front plans a nation-wide series of community meetings as a prelude to mass demonstrations on November 11, which is to be known as American Peace Mobilization Day.

Hitler's legions were barely across the Polish border when the first rightist peace front—the Citizens' National Keep America out of War Committee—made its appearance in New York. Its director is L. M. Bailey, formerly an officer of the Paul Revere Sentinels, Inc., and at present the director of the National Defenders. The Paul Revere Sentinels poses as a super-patriotic, peace-loving organization, but some of its most active members are enrolled in the German-American Bund, the Christian Mobilizers, and other notorious fascist

groups. Its leaders have been closely associated with Alle Zoll, anti-Semitic leader of the American Patriots, Inc., who is now under indictment for attempted extortion from radio station WMCA. Affiliated with the Citizens' National Keep America out of War Committee—in fact, appearing on the same letterhead—is the National Committee to Keep America out of Foreign Wars, whose chairman is the Honorable Hamilton Fish. Another peace front cooperating closely with Mr. Bailey's organizations is known as Mothers of America. Under the leadership of Kathryn L. Butler this group meet at the headquarters of the Paul Revere Sentinels, in the Murray Hill Hotel.

The "mother" angle has been widely adopted by the rightists. Mothers of the United States of America, under the leadership of Mary A. Decker, operates from headquarters in Detroit. Mothers of American Sons, originally a Springfield, Massachusetts, organization, now has units in thirty-three cities in several states. Mothers Mobilizing Against War, with headquarters in Milwaukee, recently obtained 100,000 signatures on petitions demanding strict neutrality on the part of the United States. It was the Mothers of the United States, assisted by the Congress of American Mothers, which recently hanged Senator Pepper in effigy and conducted what they called a death watch on the conscription bill in Washington. The activities of these groups have been announced regularly in the pages of Father Coughlin's *Social Justice*. Kathleen Norris's National Legion of the Mothers of America, however, did not welcome the Detroit priest's support and requested that he withdraw his published indorsement.

Nearly every community has a local peace organization of rightist inspiration. Newark, for example, has the New Jersey Committee for Peace and Preparedness, one of whose leaders is the Reverend Edward Lodge Curran, long known as a follower of Father Coughlin and a spokesman for the Christian Front. Typical of many is the Keep the United States Neutral Committee, which makes an appeal to anti-Semitism with the slogan "Jews started the war. Jews profit from the war. Let them do the fighting."

The exploitation of peace by extremist groups has proved harmful to those sincere organizations which believe either that the United States is in no danger of attack or that no war is worth the fighting. For the sake of the record, one should say that among these are the National Council for Peace and Freedom, the Keep America out of War Congress, the World Peaceways, Inc., the Youth Committee Against War, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the War Resisters' League, the Committee to Defend America by Waging Peace, the Student Peace Service, and the Writers' Anti-War Bureau.