

The American Fascist Way

DPW

WE CANNOT too often expose the demagogy of the reactionaries. It cannot be stressed too often that fascism never can gain power by proclaiming its true purpose, that fascism in order to seize power, must always make promises which never can be fulfilled.

Since the fascism which Americans detest in Germany and Italy is an open dictatorship of monopoly capital, established when capitalist profits were threatened, the words of the representatives of American monopoly, the National Association of Manufacturers, are significant.

Seizing upon popular revulsion against the Nazi regime, keynote speakers of the NAM convention have attempted to smear the New Deal by comparing it viciously with the government of Nazi Germany. At the same time the NAM, following the charted pre-fascism course, attempts to promise all things to all men in order to gather popular support.

There is no doubt that the New Deal has the overwhelming support of popular American democracy. In attacking it on false grounds, and in attempting to appear to out-New Deal the Roosevelt administration, the reactionaries have admitted its popularity. Trying to knife the New Deal from the left, the NAM has tipped its fascist hand.

Despite certain national cultural and historical differences between Germany and America, the program and tactics of Hitler's party before 1933 and the program and tactics of the NAM at present are terrifyingly similar. It is ironic that American fascism is attempting to gain power by using anti-Nazi sentiments to smear the New Deal.

Hitler promised security for all groups with no intention or program of carrying it out. Remember the reactionary politicians who jumped aboard the Townsend band-wagon?

Hitler split organized labor by soothing conservative union leaders, and set the farmers against all organized labor. Remember the campaign of Fascist Phil Bancroft and other stooges for monopoly?

Hitler separated the small shopkeepers and professionals from their natural ally, labor, by raising the "red proletariat" scare nonsense. Read the NAM propaganda and signboards.

Perhaps the most ominous indication that the American reactionaries are following the path of their German capitalist brothers is the establishment and growth of such innocent sounding organizations as the NAM, itself, the Associated Farmers, and the recently established Employers Council of San Francisco. It must be pointed out repeatedly that these employers amalgamations are essential pegs upon which fascist authority would be hung if American democracy were destroyed.

It is time for American farmers to consider whether they would prosper under the dictation of the Associated Farmers; for shopkeepers to consider how they would fare under NAM domination; for professionals to weigh the merits of a regime where they would be puppets, and for white collar workers to study carefully the lives of horror led by their class in Germany and Italy.

The NAM launches its most bitter attacks against labor and the New Deal. That's the American fascist way. But fascism can be stopped cold in this country as long as the people see through the false-fronts, and go on backing President Roosevelt's program and the militant labor movement.

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