

# Rail Association Flirts with Fascism

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(From "Railroad Notes" LRA, N.Y.)

An organization known as the Transportation Association of America is among the leading anti-labor propaganda bodies in the country.

An executive vice-president of this organization, which is backed by leading banks, insurance companies and railroads, has declared that the six-hour day for rail workers was "tantamount to confiscation of the carriers' property and government ownership." More recently the Association has been leading the Tory campaign to prevent Senate confirmation of the appointment of Thomas R. Amlic, Wisconsin progressive, to the ICC.

A pamphlet, "Labor Under the Iams," issued by this organization, states in the forward that it "is opposed to the invasion of any field of private enterprises by government in competition with its citizens." Although this body claims that it is "non-political, non-partisan and non-profit," it is not only neck-deep in political activity but, if this pamphlet is any indication, it is not unsympathetic to the most reactionary type of political activity in the world—fascism.

## FASCIST LEANINGS

The pamphlet attempts to deal with the conditions of labor in various countries in Europe. It is filled with distortions of fact, broad generalizations that conceal truth and with a great many outright falsehoods. Although it discusses labor in the Soviet Union in Italy, in Germany and in Britain, and apparently opposes the system prevailing in all those countries, it shows distinct leanings toward fascism.

Discussing the Nazi regime in Germany, which has completely destroyed the trade unions, it says: "Its outstanding contribution to the labor problem is its frank recognition of the employer as the natural leader of the working force . . ."

In referring to the situation in fascist Italy, the pamphlet is equally frank. "Without implying approval (it hedges) it must be observed that it (fascism) has brought about an improvement in condition in present day Italy as compared with conditions in the period from 1917 to 1922." For in those days workers of Italy, mind you, "often entered into long strikes," and there were even "several occupations of factories by workers."

But that was all fixed up by Mussolini and his castor oil blackshirts, and today, "The primary purpose of fascist syndicalism is to hold, to organize and to discipline the laboring masses and not to provide a democratic means of collective bargaining . . ."