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SOME NOTES ON THE FASCIST F. E. T. (FALANGE ESPANOLA TRADICIONALISTA)

"Domestic politics [in Spain] were further complicated by the problem of reconciling the divergent groups supporting the Franco government: the fascist F. E. T. (Falange Espanola Tradicionalista) and the conservative, "traditionalist" element represented by the army, church, monarchists and great landholders. Throughout 1940 the Falange remained politically dominant, with its national council (membership 100) constituting the legislative body and its 19-man political junta serving practically as the government cabinet. At the beginning of 1940 the Falange was presumably working in complete accord with the army, which had been granted affiliated membership in the F. E. T. Their uncertain relationship was indicated, however, by the dismissal, in March, of General Munoz Grande from the secretary-generalship of the Falange and his ex officio cabinet post, and by analogous cabinet changes later in the year. In August the F. E. T. militia was reorganized to enable collaboration with the army in the compulsory military service program and, in December, the Falange took full charge of the political and premilitary training of Spanish youth.

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"The most urgent social problem was the shortage of food. Bread and other essential foods were being rationed late in the year, and, despite government anti-profiteering measures, prices ranged from 50 per cent to 200 per cent greater than in 1936. Immediate relief needs were met by the Auxilio Social, Falange women's organization, whose activities tended to relax traditional Spanish restrictions upon women.

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"Nationalist Spain's politico-economic structure is patterned after that of Portugal and Italy, with rigid government control of industry along lines conducive to national self-sufficiency. In accordance with the Syndical Unity law of January, vertical industrial syndicates embracing both executives and workers were gradually affiliated with one major syndical organization under the F. E. T. Strikes and lock-outs were prohibited and labour assured a minimum wage and an eight-hour day. A noteworthy feature of economic reorganization was the shifting of light industries from Catalonia and the Basque country to agricultural central Spain; this was in conformity with the government's campaign against Catalanian and Basque autonomist tendencies."

Source: 1941 Britannica Book of the Year. Walter Yust, Editor.
Chicago, Encyclopaedia Britannica, inc., 1941. p. 628-9.

[Anne F. Farley, April 29, 1942.
Inquiry Section.]