

# The International Fascist Movement

By JOHN PEPPER

The Fascist danger is becoming ever greater and more international in scope. It is therefore clear that the only real international organization of the working class, the Communist International, had to declare war against Fascism.

The Fascists possess the government in Italy, with Mussolini at the head. The Fascists in Hungary possess the government with Horthy at its head. The Fascist movement in Bavaria does not as yet possess the government, but is at present the real ruling power. In Poland the Fascist forces are beginning to organize. In America the might of the Ku Klux Klan is growing continually. The Italian Fascists are even seeking to organize groups in the United States. In Czechoslovakia the Fascists possess regular military organizations.

Fascism already has its International.

What are the Fascists?

They may be called Fascists in Italy, or Awakening Magyars in Hungary, or National Socialists in Germany, Sokols in Czechoslovakia, or Ku Klux Klan in the United States. However, the Fascists are everywhere organizations composed of the same social stratum and have the same social aims.

Briefly stated, the Fascists are everywhere organizations of intellectuals, students, officers, former officers, and lower middle class elements of the cities. In Europe, the world war has dislocated hundreds of thousands out of their modes of existence, and set them adrift. Students who can no longer continue their studies. Officers and reserve officers who became penniless thru the disbanding of armies. Officials who lost their positions thru the reduction of the bureaucratic apparatus of war. Small business men and manufacturers who had to give up their business because they were recruited as soldiers, and who could not resume their business after the war.

All of these dislocated elements went along with the revolutionary wave so long as the workers were on the offensive against capitalist society.

We have witnessed the so-called "national bolshevism" which existed in Germany and Hungary. We have witnessed how great were the sympathies and the enthusiasm existing in Italy and in America among these wavering elements towards the Russian revolution.

But the shameless betrayal by the Socialists has prevented the victory of the proletariat in the most important centers of the working class movement. The Italian Socialists betrayed the revolutionary movement, when the Italian workers had already taken the factories by storm. The Hungarian Social Democrats openly betrayed the Hungarian Soviet Republic. Hoffmann, the Social Democratic president of Bavaria, led armed officers' troops against the Soviet republic in Munich. For years the only activity of the German Social Democracy has been simply the sabotage of the revolution. In Poland, the Socialist Party, under the leadership of Daseinszki, is the mainstay of the military dictatorship of the Pilsudski gang. In Czechoslovakia, the Social Democrats are supporting exception laws against the Communists. In America the Socialist Party supports Gompers who has made an alliance with the American Legion.

The betrayal practised by the Social Democrats on an international scale has caused the following: a part of the working class has lost its faith in the revolution, and another part has become really militant, and has come over to the Communists. The intellectuals and middle sections of the petty bourgeois who for a time sought their deliverance from the proletarian revolution are to-day hoping for their deliverance from the bourgeois counter-revolution.

For these ex-students, former officers, dislocated small businessmen, the social situation of to-day is even more unbearable than for the workers themselves. They had hoped to find a way out of their misery thru the dictatorship of the proletariat which would give them a means of existence and opportunity for work. But because of the betrayal by the Social Democrats, the uprising of the working class could not secure a victory at the first onslaught. This caused the sentiments of these people to veer over to the opposite direction, and to-day they are setting all their hopes upon the victory of the capitalist dictatorship. They had hoped that the working class would bring about "order" in the world, but because the Social Democrats were able to prevent that temporarily, they therefore now hope that the capitalists will succeed in doing this.

The masses composing the Fascist forces are often the very ones who are in desperate rebellion against the present conditions of existence, and they pull along with

them certain sections of the working class (as for instance the Italian Fascists among whom there are many Syndicalists, the Awakening Magyars with their Christian Socialist workers, and the German National Socialists who include many sections of the Bavarian workers).

The Social composition of the Fascist masses is therefore not directly bourgeois, and yet they are nothing but a tool in the hands of the capitalist class, for the violent suppression of the workers. The Fascists are today, on an international scale, the bloody oppressors, not only of the Communists, but also of the workers in general. And the leaders of the Fascist movement,—Mussolini in Italy, Horthy in Hungary, Hitler in Germany, are the paid agents, the kept prostitutes of the bourgeoisie.

Today, the Fascist movement is making big progress, yet, nevertheless, it is doomed to die. It can temporarily rule in Italy, and Hungary. It may even be able to come into power temporarily in Germany. But it cannot retain power, for it cannot change the present society. Chaos and disorder, unemployment and misery are on the increase everywhere. The old order which reigned before the war can be restored only thru complete disorganization of the working class. The Fascists who are not directly interested in the economic process of capitalist society, have the following program: disruption of the working class, destruction of the big cities, restoration of the old simple, clear relationships. But the capitalist class knows well that if it wishes to exist as a class it must also reckon with the existence of the workers.

Only in two ways can order be established: either thru the complete victory of the capitalist class or the complete victory of the workers. The complete victory of the capitalist class is impossible because the elimination of the working class is impossible. The complete victory of the working class is possible because the elimination of the capitalists is possible.

Fascism is therefore a short and bloody episode in the history of the gigantic class struggle between the capitalist class and the working class. The only future which is possible for Fascism is that the masses of Fascismo will again come over to the ideas of the militant proletariat. The Mussolinis, the Horthys and the Hitlers will be hanged by the victorious working class on the very same gallows which they had set up for the working class.

## Failure in Chicago Election Shows Great Need for Labor Party

(By Federated Press)

CHICAGO.—Failure of the three labor parties in Chicago to agree on a common candidate showed its effect in the municipal election here when William A. Cunnea, Socialist candidate for mayor, polled less than 6% of the total vote of 713,015. Cunnea received 40,841, about one-third the votes credited to him when he made his surprising race for state's attorney some years ago. William E. Dever, Democrat, was elected mayor, receiving 387,961 votes to 284,213 for Arthur C. Lueder, Republican.

The Socialist nominating meeting took place the day that a conference was called by the Chicago Federation of Labor to consider united political action in Cook county. With the Socialists already in the field neither the Farmer-Labor party nor the Workers party took further action for the mayoralty campaign just passed.

Aldermanic candidates of all three labor parties were eliminated in the primaries.

The political situation was scrambled even more for labor by a huge turnout of trade union officials for Dever, the Democrat.

The Socialists polled a little under 6% of the total vote in the second district special congressional election, where Morton D. Hull, millionaire Republican, was elected. Seymour Sledman, Socialist, received 3955 votes out of a total of 104,780.