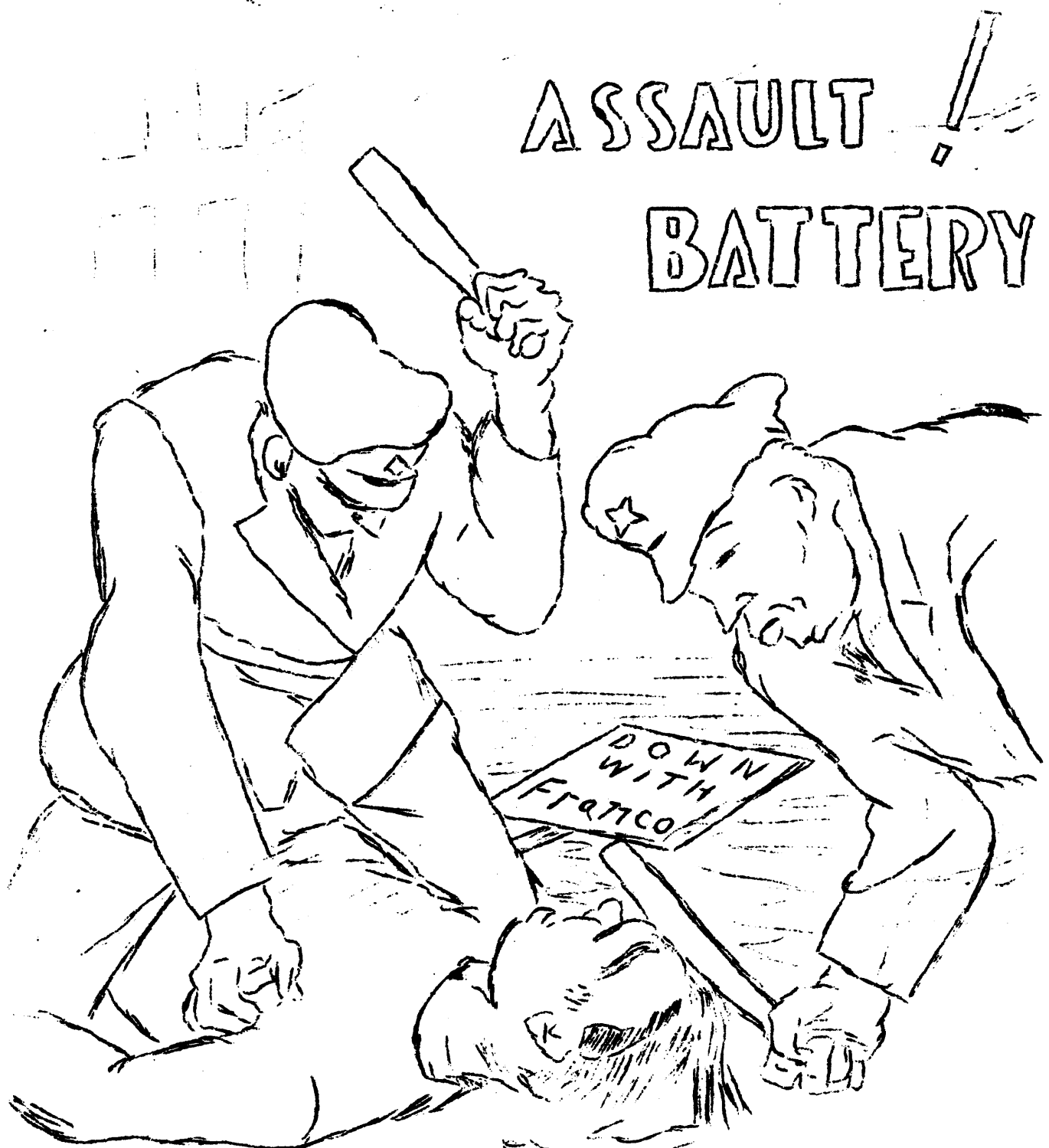


ED RADICALISM HAS PLANTED A

# SOAPBOX

IN EVERY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION-- W.R. Hearst

## ASSAULT ! BATTERY



# ASSAULT AND BATTERY??

An anti-fascist demonstration was held in Oakland last Friday, that culminated in the arrest of six persons, one of whom, Roland Bates, law student at California, is now in Cowell hospital, suffering from serious skull lacerations. Bates and Myra Tanner-Divisional Organizer of the YPSL, are both charged with resisting arrest, inciting to riot, and assault and battery.

What is the basis of these charges? Bates and Tanner, as well as many others in the crowd, shouted anti-fascist slogans and called for the maintenance of a picket-line. This is certainly not incitement to riot. On the contrary, the cops conducted a vicious attack upon the crowd in the attempt to disperse the ranks and push them into an innocuous, unoffending (to the fascists) position on the other side of the street. Their attack upon the crowd and the brutal clubbing of a student demonstrator would indicate that the cops were the guilty ones in this situation.

Newspaper photographers took pictures of the clubbing of Bates. The worst of these did not appear in the newspapers. Why not? Could it be that they would be a convincing indictment of assault and battery by the cops instead of by Bates? At the present time Bates looks more like the victim of assault and battery than the guilty one. But our hearts swell with pity for the poor defenceless cops when we hear that Myra Tanner is alleged to have assaulted and battered them. Of course she is rather small, and the cops are rather over-sized, but they say she did.

What can we learn from this bloody event? 1. The cops, as agents of the government, do and will defend the fascists against

the anti-fascists, workers and students. 2. "Our democracy" gives all the right of freedom of speech and the right to picket. But if they don't like what you say, and are physically capable of preventing you from picketing, words and fine speeches are forgotten and the clubs begin to swing. 3. Anti-fascist propaganda on the part of the government means to convince you to fight against fascist rivals of big business interests, e.g. German encroachment on U.S. markets in South America. If you attempt to fight fascism when it raises its ugly head in America, fascist mass meetings, American secret or not so secret fascist organizations, and general propaganda, you find the government forces on the opposite side.

What is the role of the "communists", our "experts" in anti-fascist phrases? The events in Oakland demonstrate more lucidly than ever that the Stalinists are more interested in convincing our "democratic" government of their friendship than in struggling against the fascists. At the request of the cops, they politely attempted to remove the picket line that was offending the sensitive feelings of the fascists. Further---while the cops diligently clubbed Roland Bates, the "communists" attempted to disperse the horrified crowd by raining the slanderous cry of "provocateur" on this well known anti-fascist. Instead of demanding that the cops desist their brutal attack on the already bleeding head of Bates, they commanded their followers to leave the scene, shouting: "He's a provocateur." (and also a fascist? an agent of Franco? Japan? Hitler?)

On top of this we learn from the papers that the "communists" have  
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# WHY THE DEFEATS IN SPAIN??

Why was Barcelona abandoned without a fight? Why was the Loyalist army fleeing, disorganized, and demoralized? The social-democrats, the stalinists, and the Anarchists answer by blaming the "great democracies" for not providing the Loyalists with food and ammunition. But this answer explains nothing. For it was foretold that the "great democracies" would not provide the Loyalists with the means of warfare. They could not be shaken from their realization that a Loyalist victory in Spain would mean a socialist revolution. And a socialist revolution would light up Europe. The "democratic" rulers were therefore determined from the first to give no decisive aid to the Loyalists.

When "comrade" Blum was Premier of France, his People's Front government obeyed that decision. Had the French working class directly threatened overthrow of capitalism, then the French capitalists might have agreed to open their frontiers. But the Stalinist and socialist leaders, when the great revolutionary strike wave of June-July, 1936 threatened to engulf the capitalists of France, diverted this militancy into subservience to the Government. The capitalists, having thereby been saved from the danger of revolution, were able to refuse to provide arms for Spain.

Soviet Russia's alibi, in the first months of the civil war, was that the sea-route from Odessa to Barcelona and Valencia was too long to make possible arms and food shipments. But in Nov., 1936 supplies were sent from Russia, especially for the defense of Madrid. Why did these shipments cease? The fact is that Stalin, seeking an alliance with France and England, sought to demonstrate his usefulness and

reliability to the "democratic" capitalists by relieving them of the fear of social revolution in Spain. In return for scanty supplies, he got the anarchists and socialists to agree to a governmental coalition with the "progressive" bourgeoisie. The French and English rulers, however, were still determined to "appease" Hitler and Mussolini by letting Franco win. Thereupon Stalin washed his hands of the whole business and no more supplies came from Russia.

But this is only a partial explanation. Real light must be sought within Spain itself. The Caballero and Legaria governments staked everything on securing the aid of Stalin, Daladier, and Roosevelt. Thus they even agreed to the infamous "non-intervention" system! But mainly they destroyed the inner forces and program which could have led to victory.. They had it in their power to disintegrate Franco's forces in Andalusia and Morocco: the peasantry and boys and Spanish peasants who constituted his army. How? By two fundamental moves:

1. NATIONALISATION OF THE LAND. The most powerful weapon the Russian Revolution had was the rousing of the peasantry by giving them the land. The peasants seized every occasion to aid the Bolsheviks, conducting guerrilla warfare, spying on the enemy, deserting and causing defections.. The same process could have taken place in Spain. Instead, the coalition leadership maintained private property, sent punitive expeditions of police to destroy the collectives which sprang up in the first months, restored their lands to landowners, and gave the peasants no hope for economic betterment. The Loyalist policy made it possible for Franco

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## U.C. STUDENT BEATEN BY POLICE

Decided to turn stool-pigeon for the cops. Ward, who follows the Stalinist line most closely at all times, demands an investigation of the Y.P.S.L. by the same administration that threw him as well as Bates and Tanner in jail. Will the "communists" serve as witnesses for the cops against their fellow-accused? In fear of disillusioning naive followers, the International Labor Defense, "communist" controlled, didn't dare leave the Y.P.S.L. prisoners in jail. But they can put them back. That is why they now demand an investigation, accusing the Y.P.S.L., not the cops, of all responsibility.

Fellow students, it is the duty of every wide-awake student to make heard his protest against the brutality of the police. To remain passive and to silently accept this attack on our right to demonstrate against fascism not only means that we leave these anti-fascist fighters to the "mercy" of the police, but we invite further infringement on democratic rights. The righteous indignation of the students must find expression. THE Y.P.S.L. CALLS UPON ALL STUDENTS TO HELP FORM A COMMITTEE FOR A UNITED PRETEST AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY!

### FRESNO

C.L.R. James, noted English lecturer and writer, will be in Fresno February 22. He will speak at 8:00 P.M., 1010 Echo Street, on the "TWILIGHT OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE". Admission will be 15¢, unemployed free.

Hear this timely lecture on the true significance of the Munich Pact.

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## WHY SPANISH DEFEATS??(Cont.)

to retain his army of peasant sons!

### 2. FREEDOM FOR MOROCCO

The Moors had no reason to look upon the Spanish workers as their brothers. For both the Socialist Azana government of 1931-33, and the bourgeois-socialist-Stalinist government of February, 1936 left the Moors under the dictatorship of the Foreign Legion. If overthrowing Franco would have meant independence for their country, the Moors would have revolted. The "democracies" wanted no revolt in Morocco as a flaming example to the French and English colonies! Abd El Krim, leader of the Moroccan Riffs, exiled by France, asked Premier Blum to let him go to Morocco to organize a revolt against Franco. Blum refused!

Azana, Barrios, Companys, the Basque capitalists, all the "left" bourgeoisie, finding themselves only by accident on the workers' side of the barricades, were permitted to "lead" the fight against Franco. The result was the open betrayals at Bilbao, Santander, Gijon, Malaga, Toledo, etc. The only salvation of Spain lay in following a policy of class struggle, but it was abandoned for the fatal perspective of currying favor with the "great Democracies".

The unutterable tragedy of the Spanish workers is that the criminal policy of their leadership prevailed to the bitter end. Imprisoned, terrorized, assassinated, crushed by every conceivable means by the Loyalist government, the revolutionary elements never were able to establish the party that could challenge the treachery of reformism.

That is the real tragedy of Spain! Let it not be repeated in France and America