

We Students And War

An Editorial

WE students have a serious stake in the war that seems so imminent in Europe and in the sotto voce frenzy of American war preparations. For we students are destined to play a significant role in this war: we will be the officers, the technicians, and above all the ideologues, the justifiers of the war.

Here are several fundamental considerations which must be seriously examined by everyone of us.

1. The "M" day plans of the war department indicate that a Fascist military dictatorship is to be installed in the United States upon the declaration of war. The first day of war is to be the first day of fascism in America. Nor can we hope that this will be a mere war time expedient; for the severe decline in production which will follow the war and the possibility of popular discontent growing out of the deprivations of war-time economy will necessitate continuation of rigid governmental control over the national economy. This means fascism.

And let's not forget the place of minorities in such a situation. Jewish students will find that being a scape-goat under American fascism will be no compensation for the sacrifices demanded of them on the battlefield.

2. Currently popular opposition to German fascism is being crystallized by the Roosevelt administration in a "Stop Hitler" movement which directs itself chiefly to support of the rearmament program and for giving power to the President to initiate action against Germany and Italy. This movement is now at the stage of pressing for a war by a coalition of powers to "Stop Hitler." Let us assume that such a war will be fought and that the Anti-Hitler allies will be victorious. What would be the consequences? We cannot hope that such a war would mean an end to Hitler anti-semitism. Even if Hitler should be defeated, Hitlerism—the system of anti-semitism and cruel suppression would not be destroyed; for England, France and the United States would themselves be fascist states and would oppose the overthrow of fascism in Germany and Italy just as these powers collaborated to prevent the defeat of fascism in Spain.

We cannot trust any of these governments to wage the fight against fascism for us, for they are all to ready to install fascist dictatorships in their own countries.

Witness, too, that the current world alignment against aggression includes fascist Greece, and Roumania, and Poland, long notorious for vicious anti-semitism. The governments of these countries cannot wage a fight against fascism for the reason that they themselves would have to abdicate their power. The fascist systems of Germany and Italy must be overthrown by the people there. Our first

(Continued on page 2)

Thomas Proposal Gives President Extensive Powers

By GEORGE SCHECHTER

The Thomas amendment to the present Neutrality Act would empower the President, with the consent of Congress, to impose an embargo on any nation he decides guilty of aggression. The power to initiate action is the power of the President. He also may suspend or revoke part of an original embargo list.

This act would make it possible for the President to manipulate foreign policy in the name of neutrality. Past experience does not encourage such extension of arbitrary discretion. In the case of Loyalist Spain, President Roosevelt imposed and refused to lift an embargo which was an important factor in the final victory of fascism. Even such ardent advocates of collective action as Henry L. Stimson insisted that he had this power.

There is further reason to doubt the ability of the Thomas amendment "to preserve peace." Its advocates themselves lack faith in it! Parallel to the Thomas amendment, they call for increased military preparations; they insist that the R.O.T.C. has an important place on the campus; and should their discrimination between "aggressor" and "victim" involve us in a war situation, they refuse to permit the people to have a say through a referendum vote.

Moreover, who is the "aggressor"? Can we expect the President to name England an aggressor?

(Continued on page 4, col 1)

An Anti-War Program

1. Let the people vote on war.
2. Stop the Roosevelt super-arms program. All war funds for socially useful purposes.
3. Abolish the ROTC—Stop militarization of NYA.
4. Against Mobilization Day plans—the blueprints of American fascism.
5. We oppose any amendments to the Neutrality Act giving the President power to name "aggressors."
6. The Oxford Pledge—"We refuse to support any war that the U. S. Government may undertake."

M-Day Plan Prepares Fascism for United States

By FRANK LITTELL

The very day the United States enters the "war to stop fascism," we shall have domestic fascism: then the industrial mobilization plans will be put into effect. The War Department, which already has these plans, has perfected the details since 1920.

The industrial mobilization plan sets up a discriminatory control over all resources of the nation for the successful prosecution of the war. The plan provides for the formation of a War-Labor board of military and civilian leaders to direct the execution of the plan and the formation of five thousand or six thousand regional boards throughout the nation to determine which men shall go to the front and which shall remain in industry and agriculture.

The powers of the board are

virtually unlimited except for the limitations of the Fifth Amendment which prohibits the seizure of private property for public use without "just compensation." The government will not be able to commandeer private property, nor will it be able to fix prices to limit war profiteering. Hiding behind the skirts of the Constitution, Big Business has little to fear from government regulation during the war.

Labor has no representation on the vital control boards. The only representatives of labor in the governing apparatus will be placed in a council of employers and employees which would function in a purely advisory capacity. None of its suggestions would have to be acted upon. The War-Labor

(Continued on page 3, col. 3)

Student Strike

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345

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Rankin, Max Schachtman Heller, to Speak at Strike In Great Hall Thursday

200 Colleges Hold Strike Against War

By ALVAINE HOLLISTER

The National Strike Against War this Thursday, April 20, may be characterized by its use of the Oxford Pledge which refuses to support any imperialist war conducted by the government. Two hundred colleges and universities in the United States have oriented their strike calls about this pledge. Those schools recognize that the "Stop Hitler" slogans are coralling the youth into another imperialist war. That war, they feel, will not end Fascism in Germany or Italy.

The Youth Committee Against War program for the strike, which has been adopted by those colleges, supports the war referendum, strengthened compulsory neutrality legislation, the Oxford Pledge, and the international unity of labor against war and fascism. The strike call opposes the super-arms program and advocates an organized day-by-day fight against war.

Senator Gerald P. Nye, who uncovered much valuable information in his Munitions Investigations, will speak at the University of Chicago strike on April 19. Senator Nye is sharing the platform with Tucker P. Smith, the Educational Director of the United Automobile Workers of America (CIO). Northwestern University of Evanston, Illinois, is featuring Senator Nye as its main speaker on April 20. Central YMCA College at Chicago will also have Senator Nye at its strike.

Senator Lundeen, former-La- (Continued on page 4, col. 1)

JEANETTE RANKIN



As Representative in Congress, Miss Rankin was one of the few who voted against entrance into the World War.

Roosevelt No Defender of Democracy

By SAUL BLACKMAN

To many students, President Roosevelt stands out as the symbol of the fight for democracy and against fascism. However, the question may properly be asked, "Can we trust Roosevelt? Do his actions in the past stamp him as a fighter for democracy?" The facts of his foreign policy speak for themselves.

The "Good Neighbor Policy" in South America has been presented to us in terms of "protecting the Western Hemisphere from fascist aggression," halting totalitarian inroads on South America. As a matter of fact, this

there is hardly any German be defended there from German and Italian assaults. Out of 23 Latin and South American countries, 16 are fascist dictatorships. This is the status quo Roosevelt is so eager to "defend from aggression." To be sure, there is a real conflict between this country and Germany and Italy in South America, but this is a trade war, not a battle for extension of ideologies. If Roosevelt were waging a fight for political democracy in South America, we would expect strenuous efforts to unseat fascist dictatorships. Realities are quite to the contrary. The United States Government extends large credits and even military aid to South American dictators. This is quite consistent with the interests of American export firms but hardly in line with a supposed campaign against fascism and for the protection of democracy.

When the Anglo-French alliance organized "non-intervention" of Spain in order to assure Franco's

(Continued on page 4, col. 5)

Oxford Oath To Keynote Meeting

The Strike Against War, called by Anti-War Club of City College, will take place on Thursday at 11 A. M. in the Great Hall.

Classes for the 11 o'clock hour have been called off by Acting-President Nelson P. Mead.

The demonstration will be addressed by Jeanette Rankin, first woman in Congress and one of the few to vote against our entrance into the war, Mr. Max Schachtman, editor of the New International and American editor of Leon Trotsky's works, Al Hamilton, expelled from the University of California for refusing to take compulsory military science, national Chairman of the Young People's Socialist League (Socialist Party), and Phil Heller, educational director, Local 155, International Ladies Garment Workers Union, according to George Schechter '40, secretary of the Anti-War Club.

The Oxford Pledge, refusal to support any war the U.S. Government may undertake, will be administered as keynote of the six point program. Included are 1) support of a war referendum; 2) diversion of war funds to socially useful purposes; 3) abolition of the R.O.T.C.; 4) opposition to militarization of N.Y.A.; 5) independent labor action against war.

The strike was called by the Anti-War Club as part of the nation-wide series of strikes in the

Ferdinand Smith is a fi... the N... ships were tied up... San Francisco during... time strike of 1934, a Luckenbach freighter left port with a crew of strikebreakers including Ferdinand Smith. Smith is a main speaker at the Stadium meeting.

drive to keep this country out of war. It is supported by a number of clubs including Avukah, the Philosophy and Politics Societies.

The Anti-War Club through its president, Milton Haselkorn '39, stated, "We feel that the 'Action for Peace' demonstration by the Student Council for the A.S.U. is in the form of mobilization of Youth for the next imperialist war. As such, we feel that the college student body, upholding its traditional militant anti-war stand, should boycott the meeting at the Stadium and voice its feelings at the Anti-War Strike, Thursday at the Great Hall."