

# Fascism Is Real Peril in America, Foster Tells the World Congress

(By Cable to the Daily Worker)

MOSCOW, Aug. 6.—Loudly cheering William Z. Foster, beloved leader of the American labor movement and member of the Presidium of the World Congress of the Communist International, the delegates yesterday heard his incisive speech on the problems faced today by the masses of the United States. Foster appeared before the delegates, but due to his illness his report was read.

Declaring that Fascism in the United States was not simply an American question but one for the whole working class, Foster stressed that the victory of Fascism in the United States would be a historical turning point, weakening the international proletarian forces and bringing hunger, misery and a sharpening of the war danger.

The immediate cause of the development of American fascism,

said Foster, is the continuation of the economic crisis in the form of a special type of depression which sharpens the whole series of basic contradictions and leads to wide radicalization and a sharpening of the struggle. The bourgeoisie is alarmed. Never before was there such an elaborate legal and extra-legal repressive apparatus. It is accompanied by more or less definitely fascist and semi-fascist tendencies and groupings, such as the Liberty League, Hearst, Coughlin, Long, Woll, etc.; also reactionary demagogues such as Johnson, Macfadden, Moley and Fish, and definitely fascist organizations such as the Crusaders, the Friends of New Germany, the Ku Klux Klan, and the shirt groups. There are the pseudo-liberal capitalist demagogues such as Sinclair, Reno and Townsend, whose "activities and

broad muddled mass movements also help to create favorable conditions for fascist agitators," with their special appeal to the youth and women's organizations. The majority of the outstanding fascists and semi-fascist demagogues are either large capitalists personally or openly linked to the great capitalist interests.

## Wall Street Center of Fascism

"Wall Street is the home address of American Fascism," declared Foster. "The present status of American Fascism is one of confused ideas and loose organizations; a group of tendencies rather than a well-defined movement."

"Nevertheless," Foster said, "the following propositions, conforming to the interests of finance capital, may be taken as the immediate program of American Fascism: The support of trustification, company

unionism, strike-breaking, and wage-cutting; economic and political nationalism, including war preparations, high tariffs on foreign markets, and hostility to the League of Nations; violent attacks on the Communist Party and attempts to legalize it or wreck it by violence; an anti-Soviet slander campaign; demagogic panaceas to solve the crisis, increased violence with the use of troops, police, vigilantes and lynchers; acute prejudice against Negroes, Jews and the foreign-born and general cultural reaction and censorship."

## Party Struggles Reviewed

Foster here reviewed all the recent Party struggles and achievements and hailed especially the youth work as the best of the anti-fascist work. The Communist Party of the United States has taken the initiative with the slogan for a

broad united front Labor Party. He cited the weaknesses in the Communist Party's anti-fascist struggle, such as the tendency of agitation to separate the question of fascism from the general employers' offensive, the insufficient analysis of the specific American type of fascism, with the tendency to lump the Sinclair, Townsend and similar bourgeois movements with definite fascist movements.

Foster then discussed the following four major aspects of American Fascism:

## Tempo of Fascist Growth

First, its tempo: There is a relatively early growth of incipient fascism, utilized mostly to intensify the development of the capitalist drive to reduce the workers' living standards, to isolate and wreck the Communist Party and weaken or break up the unions. This is

explained by the fact that fascist violence dovetails readily with the traditional ruthlessness of the American capitalists against the workers, that there is no strongly organized American social-reformist party with the decisive section of the bourgeoisie opposing the building up of the American Federation of Labor, and that the American bourgeoisie is not waiting for a revolutionary crisis but instead is seeking to prostrate the working class and smother the revolutionary movement. The rapid tempo of the Fascist movement gives it the mask of immaturity, thus making its approach more insidious. The main danger is not the ready-made organizations but the native growths like Coughlin, Long and certain government policies.

The second aspect of Fascism in

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the United States is characterized by the slogan "Against Communism and Fascism and for democracy." This slogan, revealing the political immaturity of the American working class, permits an alliance with liberalism and encourages attacks against the Communist Party and the Soviet Union.

The third phase is the concentration upon the fascization of the existing state, which is peculiarly suitable for their purpose. Moreover this is not incompatible with extra-legal violence or a fascist coup d'etat if it is deemed advisable.

The fourth aspect of American Fascism is that it composes no separate party but is affiliated to the old parties because the majority of the masses follow the old parties, which due to their decentralization into sections, are easily capturable. However, with the radicalization of the masses, the probability of the fascists and semi-fascists forming into a separate party becomes more imminent.

### A Mass Labor Party

Turning to the question of a Labor Party, Foster declared that "it is the American form of the broad political anti-fascist united front." For the first time, due to the crisis, the tolling millions have in mind a number of urgent political demands, providing a sufficient basis for a mass party, which, however, cannot spring up spontaneously. The Communist Party must lead the fight for this new mass anti-fascist party which must be a people's party against hunger, fascism and war and must include the unions, the Communist Party, Socialist Party, farmers, veterans, working women, etc., the mass organizations, with attention paid to winning the youth, the Negro masses and the foreign-born organizations. The program of this new party must be based on urgent demands and its groups must proceed to more general political demands.

### Political Strike in Budapest

(By Cable to the Daily Worker)

MOSCOW, Aug. 6.—In the name of the delegation from the Hungarian Communist Party the Communist leader Bela Kun yesterday welcomed Dimitroff's report and the subsequent draft resolution.

"More than 20,000 Communists, Social-Democrats, revolutionary and reformist-minded Budapest building workers are on general strike at this moment as a result of our united front policy," announced Comrade Bela Kun. "The strike is not confined to economic demands but is directed directly against fascism. This strike was preceded in the last few months by other big mass strikes, partly achieved on the basis of the united front tactic.

### "Reformism Upside Down"

"Underestimation of daily demands and partial struggles even in the time of a revolutionary crisis is an impediment to the development of revolutionary struggles, it is reformism upside down. The chief blame of the German Social-Democracy for the victory of fascism arose directly from the fact that it kept the workers back from daily struggle."

Bela Kun welcomed the draft thesis for the unification of the red and reformist unions. The struggle for the defense of bourgeois democracy is the fight to disarm the fascist bands while mobilizing not only the proletariat but all the strata threatened by fascism.

It would be a vulgar error, emphasized Kun, to maintain that the Social-Democratic leaders of Germany and Austria deliberately desired to bring about the victory of fascism, but they prepared the way to fascism because they hindered the mass struggle against fascism for fear of the proletarian revolution.

**United Front Government**  
Against this so-called "realistic policy" the Communist Party of

France's bold revolutionary tactics demonstrated an actual realistic policy of combating the fascist danger.

With the immediate danger of the fascist seizure of power the proletarian united front government is not only possible but necessary. Such a government will have the support not only of parliamentary fractions but primarily of the mass movement of workers' committees and people's committees.

"In the anti-fascist struggle we will not stop half-way but with the support of the decisive popular masses we will fight for the destruction of the causes of fascism: capitalism and its rule. The united front or people's front governments may become a reality in connection with the overthrow of an existing fascist dictatorship, or in the event of a monarchist restoration attempt, and as the beginning of the struggle for Soviet power." (Prolonged applause.)

### Piatnitsky on Unemployment

(By Cable to the Daily Worker)

MOSCOW, Aug. 6.—Amid stormy applause and shouts of welcome Comrade O. Piatnitsky, head of the Secretariat of the Communist International, declared at last night's session of the World Congress that since the leadership of the Communist International is in complete accord on the resolutions presented to the Congress as never before, he would therefore confine his speech to one point: Unemployment.

After pointing out that the jobless are especially victims of fascist demagoguery, Piatnitsky showed that the official capitalist figures of unemployment are inadequate, as for instance the exclusion of forty million unemployed in India. In recent years there has been a limitation in the numbers receiving relief and a reduction in the amounts of relief. In most capitalist countries there is no relief for the youth, who are driven into labor camps where they are militarized and their minds filled with chauvinist poison.

### Shortcomings of Unemployed Work

The Communists initiated the first unemployed organization, and drew in large masses but were unable to retain them organizationally. Most committees failed to function among the unemployed who were not on relief, they confined their activities to demonstrations, took no care of the masses' daily needs, did not provide legal aid, paid little attention to children, and established no soup-kitchens, although the bourgeoisie and the fascist organizations did so with demagogic effect.

There have been some fairly good results from the Communist Party of the United States in its struggle for unemployment insurance, Piatnitsky said, but in France the fight for insurance could have had greater dimensions.

The speaker stressed the fact that fascism creates a new set of pre-conditions for work among the unemployed. The content and methods of this work must be changed. The Parties can force the reformist unions to occupy themselves with unemployed questions. They can force the trade unions to fight for government insurance, to form unemployed sections within the unions, to back up the unemployed members, both organized and unorganized, and force the government to feed them.

This requires the joint struggle of all the unemployed organizations and the unions. It is necessary to struggle against forced labor, but also within the labor camps to fight on the basis of the united front for elementary demands: Payment for all work, for an eight hour day, and the abolition of hiring by agreement between the employers and the fas-

cists. In the municipalities we must fight on a united front basis for free or almost free feeding of the unemployed, for municipal services free, exemption from rent and feeding children in the schools.

### Unity Main German Issue

(By Cable to the Daily Worker)

MOSCOW, Aug. 6.—"We want to knock the weapons out of the hands of Hitler fascism before they strike Europe's heart," declared Comrade Florin of the Communist Party of Germany at last night's session of the World Congress of the Communist International.

The bulk of the German working class is anti-fascist, stated Florin, but it is still split. The basic issue in the overthrow of fascism is the formation of a new relationship with the Social-Democratic masses corresponding to the new situation. Today the Social-Democracy is shoved out of the state apparatus and into illegality. This destroys the illusions and prejudices of the Social-Democratic masses and causes great changes in their manner of thought.

### Changes Within Social Democracy

"We also underestimate the process of differentiation among the leaders of the Social Democracy," pointed out Florin. "The voices in the Social-Democratic press and of the left Socialist leaders for the united front are multiplying. We welcome these courageous voices at a time when the Prague Party Executive Committee rejects the united front.

"We, with our greater conspirative experience, must assume full responsibility for the greatest possible safety of the united front organs against persecution."

[Florin postponed the remainder of his speech to this morning and the chairman gave the floor to a member of the Presidium to read telegrams welcoming the Congress, including one from German, English, Norwegian and Danish sailors at the International Seamen's Home at Archangel and also one collectively from the Austrian Schutzbunders at Khar-kov.]

Continuing his speech at the following session Florin said:

"As often as fascism encounters difficulties it conducts bestial pogroms against the Jews. We meet with the broadest solidarity in struggling against such barbarism. The petty-bourgeoisie in its disappointment seeks a new orientation; we must give them this orientation. Here there are great shortcomings in our work. We launch the slogan of an anti-fascist People's Front but it is not yet developed.

### Conditions of People's Front

"The French Communist Party serves as a good example here. Without a proper approach to the church fight and the Catholic opposition it is impossible to form a People's Front. By utilizing the land aid meetings of the peasants with the workers in the labor camps, in the army, etc., we must try to establish in the countryside trusted persons as points of support and set up loosely knit groups until the rural organizations are re-established.

"Even in the most difficult illegal conditions we must show the intellectuals, the scientists and artists that as fighter for the revolutionary liberation of the proletariat we are also the best fighters for culture and progress.

"We declare: We are ready to march together with all who strive to overthrow the Nazi government. When a broad anti-fascist People's Front is developed, we favor the slogan: Give us a government of the anti-fascist People's Front."

### Seattle Street Pavers Union Wins Short Strike

SEATTLE, Wash., Aug. 6.—The Street Pavers' Union, A. F. of L., has won a short strike on the Fifteenth Avenue N. W. paving job for the union wage scale of \$1.12 1/2 cents an hour.

As soon as the strike was called, the city tried to break the union by replacing the union workers with civil service employes.