

"New Masses" has invited a number of prominent individuals to comment on the Soviet-Nazi war and on the question of aid to the USSR and Britain in order to defeat Hitlerism. In publishing them, "New Masses" does not necessarily agree with all that is said. Whatever differences there may be, however, we feel that the most important thing at this time is to unite all those who wish the defeat of Hitlerism behind a program of full assistance to the Soviet Union, Britain, and the peoples fighting Nazism.—The Editors.

Donald Henderson

President, United Cannery, Agricultural and Allied Packing Workers of America

REGARDING your letter of July seventh, our international executive board is now formulating the official policy of the union. However, my personal opinion is to give every possible kind of aid against Hitler fascism and to do everything possible to aid in the defense of the only workers' government. In order to mobilize the American labor movement more effectively, I believe a labor commission representing the AFL, the CIO, and the Railroad Brotherhoods should visit both the USSR and Great Britain to work out ways and means of most effectively uniting the efforts of the workers' movement in all three of these countries against Hitler.

Marcel Scherer

International Vice-President, Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists, and Technicians

Our organization has always taken an unalterable stand against Hitler and Nazism. We tasted our first attacks of Red-baiting because of this position. Our people trained for careers in the fields of chemistry, engineering, and architecture, have had hopes and dreams of following these pursuits for the benefit of our nation and for the progressive development of mankind. We knew Hitlerism for what it was—a negation of the fruits of science, a prostitution of science to a program of murderous warfare, race hatred, and the destruction of all democratic expression and thought.

At the present time the embattled peoples of Great Britain and the Soviet Union are meeting this challenge of Hitlerism and its program of world domination on the battlefield. The success of this democratic people's alliance is the hope of the United States and spells the defense of our nation, its democratic institutions, and its future.

It is incumbent upon all of us to give unstinted support to this struggle against Hitlerism. Now we in the United States can take courage at the valiant struggle of the peoples of Great Britain and the Soviet Union with a feeling of certainty that if our nation lends its support and gives all possible aid to this struggle, that the military defeat of Hitler is assured. That will end the greatest threat to the security and defense of our nation.

Let us particularly be on guard against those people in this land who in the past have been foremost in Red-baiting and labor-bait-

ing, and who are today continuing this service, giving encouragement to the mad program of Hitler. Red-baiting at this time is intended to deliberately confuse the issue and calculated to prevent full aid to the Soviet Union which in effect is support and comfort to Hitler.

The engineers and technicians of our nation join with all of labor and the professions to urge our government to give full support to insure the complete defeat and destruction of Hitler and all that Hitlerism stands for so that we may be enabled to continue upon our program of social betterment, the extension of democratic institutions and a progressive life for our people and all of humanity.

Hugh DeLacy

President, Washington Commonwealth Federation

The main enemy of the American people is the pro-fascist clique toward which isolationist spokesmen appear now to be gravitating. Lindbergh's declaration that he would prefer to see this country ally itself to Germany rather than to the Soviet Union and the America First characterization of the President's statements in favor of Soviet aid as "fighting to make Europe safe for Communism" are typical.

Such statements are intended to prevent the United States from giving effective aid to the peoples and governments fighting Hitler and Hitlerism, provide a cover for rigid domination of the Western Hemisphere by Wall Street imperialism, and give fresh impetus to the already alarming drive against the foundations of American democracy, particularly the rights guaranteed in the US Constitution and won by the bitter struggles of organized labor.

Since Hitler cannot win against the united force of Great Britain and the Soviet Union, backed by American aid, his only hope lies in the direction of his own appeal to the powerful anti-labor, pro-fascist interests of England and the United States. Just as his victory would strengthen such forces in relation to their own peoples throughout the world, so his destruction by a united movement of all liberty-loving peoples and their governments would open the way for a resurgence of freedom and democratic progress.

Thousands of Americans, and I among them, have not felt that the British empire and American big businessmen really would, or could, destroy Hitlerism and set the peoples of Europe and other lands free of their oppressors. Many of us feared that a British victory would mean simply an exchange of masters.

With Hitler's attack upon the Soviet Union,

however, and with his appeal to all enemies of democracy everywhere, it has become clear to me for the first time not just that Hitler could be checkmated or compelled to play someone else's tune for a time, but that he and all he stands for might be utterly destroyed.

The American people have long hated Hitler, and now in our struggle for better living standards, for labor's rights, for our democratic liberties, we find ourselves in direct conflict at home with most of the same reactionaries who champion Hitler's cause abroad and denounce or secretly sabotage the President's announced pledge of Soviet aid.

The American people's fight against fascism beginning, as it always has, in a struggle against reaction at home, inevitably carries with it full support for all other peoples fighting for freedom and abundance, full support and aid to all, who like the people and governments of Britain and the Soviet Union, are locked in desperate battle with the armed spearhead of world reaction.

Herbert Biberman

Film and Theater Director

One cold, hard fact faces us today. A war against Hitlerism is being waged. It will end with the utter defeat and destruction of Hitlerism. This can be said without fear of error. Humanity has always known the only possible way to achieve deliverance from the threat of world bondage. That only possible way was and is the unity of all nations, races, creeds, and shades of anti-fascist political opinion in a single assault upon the dung mountain of this time. That that unity is now within reach of the people of the entire world is a source of realistic hope.

The errors and crimes of past appeasement lie at our feet in mounds of dead. The errors and crimes of hatred of the Soviet Union are also mounds of dead at our feet. It is hard to forgive so many mounds of dead, so vainly dead. But we cannot indulge ourselves in the past. The present is upon us mightily. It holds within it more hope than we have seen in this decade of insanity which we have barely survived.

There has been only one possible answer to a war against Hitlerism, there is only one answer, there will be only one answer. Fight it! Win it! In action today there are only fascists and anti-fascists. Anti-fascists have a world to rescue. We will rescue it.

We will rescue our world not by becoming Hitleresque automatons driven by blustering demagoguery. We have no use for demagoguery. We

HOW I FEEL A

OUT THE WAR

have the fierce truth. This fierce truth will bring into this battle from hundreds of millions of us all over the world, the democratic initiative and the democratic rage which until now was prevented from battling the battle for freedom. Unified, and thus given practical freedom to fight for practical freedom, the people of the world will storm the fascist hell and destroy it.

Paul Strand

Motion Picture Photographer, Director

When the Nazi war machine struck without warning against the peace and freedom of the USSR, history moved faster than planes or panzer divisions. With the swiftness of lightning it drove the spearheads of its truth through one lie after another.

The Communazi myth, the most incredible of all anti-Soviet falsehoods, was the first to be shattered. All the wishful illusions about the weakness and inferiority of the Red Army stand refuted by its magnificent resistance to a powerful enemy having all the advantages of a bandit who treacherously picks his own time and place to strike. Now Mannerheim Finland stands revealed as a fascist outpost ready to welcome and aid any enemy of the Soviet Union. And here, within a few days, our own America First Committee exposes itself as a Hitler-first committee. Each day of this war sweeps away the wholesale mendacities and distortions which have been circulated about and against a country whose only desire has been to build a good life for its people in peace with all nations.

To those who were not confused or misled by this welter of misinformation and untruth which for years has been spread about the Soviet Union, the fascist assault upon it came as a terrific shock, but certainly as no surprise. Throughout history those who have struggled for human freedom, for human dignity and creativeness, have been the victims of ruthless attack. Thus did Christ bring crucifixion upon himself; thus was the North fired upon at Sumter, and the men of labor were hanged at Haymarket.

Now in our time the decaying viciousness of Hitlerism, strong only in its terroristic will to destroy life, has flung itself in desperation upon the young and healthy society of the Soviets, which is, as von Ribbentrop stated, the antithesis of German fascism. So at last the issue between the forces of destruction and those of progress, is joined in its ultimate clarity for all to see.

That issue is not only a question of the

ability of the Soviet peoples to defend their land and themselves against pillage and enslavement. The whole future of freedom everywhere is at stake. In this struggle we can also know from history that the corrupt forces of life cannot in the end win out.

They surely cannot win if men and women of honest instinct, who make up the great mass of liberty-loving humanity, stand together now with eyes opened, demanding the immediate aid to the Soviet Union promised by their elected representatives. It is necessary to see to it that this help is quick and effective, that it is not sabotaged by those men both in Europe and our own country, who secretly or openly sympathize with fascism and already have given sufficient evidence of their willingness to use Hitler tactics. No one must be allowed to confuse us with lies and thereby weaken us in our will to wipe fascism of every kind off the face of the earth.

Every blow struck by the armies and the peoples of Russia and of Britain against Hitler, every blow that the peoples now under his heel will strike against him, is struck in our defense. We too must voice our love of liberty and our sense of truth, in deeds.

Bernhard J. Stern

Professor of Sociology and Anthropology

Hitler, through his ruthless and unconscionable attack upon the Soviet Union, will find himself at grips not merely with a government and its army but with an entire people. The Soviet masses are not merely defending their lives and their country. They identify themselves with the cause of the common people everywhere. And the common people of America must see that they win. There must be no retreat or equivocation by the government in carrying out the promise of aid to the Soviet Union against the Nazi aggressor. The ignominy of its policy on Spain must not be repeated.

Marc Blitzstein

Composer, Dramatist, "No for an Answer," etc.

I believe that the war has now taken a decisive turn; that it is really a people's war and all possible aid must be given to the Soviet Union and Britain to wipe Nazism, wherever it may be found, off the face of the earth.

There is a great danger that there will be a lot of talk about such aid with no intention of acting. It is the duty of all progressively and democratically minded people to force such action out of our authorities.

Christina Stead

Novelist, author of "House of All Nations," "The Man Who Loved Children," etc.

As an Australian, coming from a country with a militant working class, and soldiers, who have already fought against German and Italian fascism, I am glad to think that the present British alliance with the Soviet Union specifically engages us to fight as allies of the first country of the proletariat and not merely as the colonial troops of an imperialism; not as pawns of a distant government, trusted with the mission of throwing their lives away recklessly in foreign lands, but as workers who are fighting for workers. I am glad to think that the forced action taken by the British government in a desperate moment has served to encourage the hopes of those oppressed by reaction and has given new vigor to the British socialist working class. It is wonderful to see how naked is the issue in the world now; that if a nation must withstand fascism, it equally must stand with socialism.

Millen Brand

Novelist, "The Outward Room," "The Heroes," etc.

During Spain, the United States, particularly the State Department, refused under English and Catholic hierarchical pressure to believe that it was advisable to help the Spanish people in its fight against open fascist aggression. Now the menace of fascism has risen to world proportions and again pressure will be exerted to keep the United States from giving support to the most stubborn and heroic fighter against fascism, the Soviet Union. So far there has been talk about help to the Soviet Union, but the people of the United States have been treated to a long history of words without content, of high statement and lagging or contradictory performance. Organize pressure now for the fullest and realest support for the one great bulwark against fascism, the people of Soviet Russia and the working people of Europe.

Budd Schulberg

Novelist, "What Makes Sammy Run"

You have asked me for a statement of my attitude toward the war in the East. I am unable to view the Russian-German war as a gutter fight between two thieves who have fallen out over the spoils. It seems to me that Litvinov was talking about the necessity of checking Nazi aggression and world domination through the collective action of the more enlightened countries when the English and French politicians (I almost called them statesmen) were playing patty-cake with Adolf and Hermann. I do not know who is going to win this war, I am not as optimistic as some of my friends; all I know is that if we Americans let the Russian and English people down as we let the Spanish people down and virtually let the Chinese people down, we are digging the grave of progress and freedom here in America and throughout the world.