

NEW MASSES

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Editors

BARBARA GILES, A. B. MAGIL, RUTH MCKENNEY,
BRUCE MINTON, JOSEPH NORTH, JOSEPH STAROBIN,
JOHN STUART

Business Manager

CARL BRISTEL

★

Premier Stalin

SPECULATIONS as to the motives behind the designation of Joseph Stalin as chairman of the Council of People's Commissars are singularly fruitless, and most of those we have read cancel each other out. Dorothy Thompson has delivered herself of a column in which with her usual abandon she predicts the details of a forthcoming "deal" between Stalin and Hitler. But since Miss Thompson likewise tells us that an earlier column she wrote on the Soviet-Japanese pact was all cockeyed, she gives us the right, if not the duty, to be generous with the salt. The official explanation for the change in the Soviet government, that the job of being both premier and foreign commissar of a nation of 200,000,000 people in these critical times was too difficult for even so good a man as Molotov, seems infinitely more plausible to us than the "theories" and conjectures of the commercial press.

There is, of course, something more that might be said. Stalin is the outstanding leader of the Soviet peoples, recognized as such in his own country and throughout the world. Since the outbreak of the war, though not formally the head of the government, he has found it necessary to participate personally, together with Molotov, in many of the important conferences with foreign diplomats. By naming Stalin chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, the presidium of the Supreme Soviet ends the dichotomy between his official and actual position and makes legal acknowledgment of the fact that he is the most authoritative spokesman of the Soviet government. To foreign governments this may be a hint that the Soviet Union, pursuing its policy of peace and neutrality, is prepared for all eventualities. To the advanced workers and their allies throughout the world this change is a symbol of the fact that the Soviet government, whatever diplomatic forms its foreign policy may assume, is based on the principles of Communism and is inseparable from the party of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Stalin.

Soviet Diplomatic Relations

THE Soviet government has sent notes to the ministers of Yugoslavia, Belgium, and Norway, informing them that their ministerial status has been terminated. This is being interpreted in certain quarters as evidence of a

new (yet again!) pro-German orientation. Those who conceive of Soviet policy as shuttling back and forth between pro-German and anti-German moves are unable or unwilling to recognize the simple truth that today and ever since Nov. 7, 1917, the Soviet Union serves the interest not of this or that imperialist power, but solely of the Soviet people and of socialism everywhere. We do not profess to know the reasons for the step taken in regard to these ministers, but it is evident that the governments they were originally appointed to represent have in fact ceased to exist. Since those governments no longer hold any of the territory of their respective countries, they now have a purely symbolic significance, while in actuality they function as auxiliaries of British imperialism. The Soviet government did everything in its power to prevent the attack on Yugoslavia. It lent its moral and diplomatic support to the struggle of the Yugoslav people. In the night of horror and oppression that has descended on that brave people, the USSR remains their friend. But in carrying out its policy of non-involvement on either side of the war, it is compelled to deal with political realities, however unpleasant, and not with juridical fictions. In the not-so-long-run the cause of the genuine liberation of peoples will be the gainer.

The establishment of diplomatic relations with Iraq is in consonance with traditional Soviet policy of maintaining friendly contacts with all countries. The USSR, moreover, has regarded with special sympathy semi-colonial nations such as Iraq. Negotiations were begun at the end of last year when a pro-British government was in power at Bagdad. This government refused to establish diplomatic relations unless the USSR simultaneously issued a declaration recognizing the independence of the Arabian countries. It is a well known fact that the Soviet Union sympathizes with the efforts of all subject peoples, including those in the Arabian countries, to achieve independence. But in the context of present world relations the demand of the Iraqi government was provocative, to say the least. For the Soviet government to have issued such a statement would have meant considering Palestine and Syria, both Arabian countries, independent, respectively, from Britain and France. Furthermore, the Soviet government has never made the establishment of diplomatic ties contingent on action it may take with respect to other countries. With the withdrawal of this demand by the new government of Rashid Ali Beg Gailani, it became possible to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Chamberlain Tried It Too

THE differential treatment accorded the Soviet Union and Japan by the Roosevelt administration is evidence of what NEW MASSES has repeatedly emphasized: that dominating all imperialist calculations and rivalries is hatred of socialism, of that giant force from which the democratic peoples' movements in all countries draw strength. In no other way can this aspect of American for-

eign policy be explained. The administration has now crowned months of studied rebuffs and elaborate stalling with an order definitely barring all further shipment of machine tools to the USSR, including tools already paid for. The pretext given for this action is that they are needed for our own "defense" program, but it is an open secret that the real reason is political.

The ban on machine tools came on the heels of an Associated Press dispatch from the Netherlands Indies announcing that British-American oil companies have renewed their sales contracts with Japan, continuing an agreement made last November. That agreement increased the oil shipments to Japan three and a half times. This is in addition to the oil which Japan imports directly from the United States, the value of which for the first two months of the year was \$8,106,000, compared with \$7,928,000 for the first two months of 1940. Japan buys many other valuable war materials from the United States and may still be getting machine tools (during the first ten months of 1940 machine tool shipments to Japan were valued at \$15,908,000). Thus the United States government is helping Japan kill Chinese today and perhaps Americans tomorrow. The reason for this tenderness toward the Far Eastern aggressor is likewise political: the oil, scrap iron, etc., are designed to bribe Japan into accepting a partnership in plunder with the United States at the expense of China and the USSR.

This game is by now a bit cliché. It was played in Europe by a gentleman named Chamberlain with no brilliant results. By arming and appeasing its most formidable imperialist rival in the Far East and alienating the country which has given the greatest assistance to China and had the least conflict of interest with the United States, our government is inviting the same kind of disaster which has overtaken Britain.

Iraq and Syria

THE whole focus of the war now centers on the Near East. An intense diplomatic activity is going on among the Axis powers, France, and Turkey, while the British have made the first military moves by their large-scale operations in Iraq. Last week, the Nazis offered to reduce the price which Vichy is paying for quartering German troops on French soil, and it is not difficult to surmise that in return they expect permission to land their forces in the strategic French colony of Syria, which lies just north of Palestine, just south of Turkey, and just west of Iraq. The German occupation of the Greek islands surrounding Turkey assumes the character of preparatory moves to gain stepping stones to Syria.

It is highly significant that Sumner Welles, the Under-secretary of State, announced last week that Vichy would continue to get regular monthly shipments of wheat-flour only on the condition that the armistice terms with Germany and Italy remain unchanged. This action in Washington thoroughly exposes the

political motivation of our "humanitarian" food shipments to France, but it is also an indication of how close to settlement French and German relations are, how desperately Sumner Welles and his chief are trying to prevent a complete fiasco of their policy toward Marshal Petain. Simultaneously, diplomatic activities are proceeding over the question of Turkey's future. It is quite possible that the Nazis will be compelled to avoid Turkey altogether; if so, that would represent a considerable achievement for the Soviet Union as well as Turkey.

The American press has utterly failed to discuss the political and military meaning of the British operations in Iraq. The issue is too dangerous and too delicate for them. It was one of the most illuminating shafts on the whole nature of this war that in the same week in which the Nazi air force smashed the British Museum and the House of Commons, the Royal Air Force was energetically destroying the airdromes and the outskirts of the city of Bagdad—that ancient metropolis with a population of 400,000 people. When one surveys the picture as a whole, it is obvious that the British have more or less anticipated the next phase of the struggle. For they chose to violate their own treaties with the Iraq government in order to bring up thousands of troops to the borders of Turkey and Syria, evidently intending to influence diplomatic crisis there, and perhaps even undertake an invasion of Syria before the Axis arrives. Such things have been talked about freely in the British press.

But the prolonged and stubborn resistance of the Iraq armed forces is only one indication of the political dynamite in the British empire. We are getting stories of how prominent Moslems vow fealty to the British, but underneath it all, there must be a profound stirring in the Arab world. One of the reasons for the German and Italian hesitation toward Syria is the nationalist-revolutionary movement there, which, as our editorials have noted, is taking on more and more active forms. You get a glimpse of what must be happening in the form of a brief despatch that the American University in Beirut was closed down because 600 students had been expelled for demonstrating their sympathy with Iraq. Keep an eye on the Near East.

Hallucinations About Hess

AT LEAST three reasons suggest themselves to explain the fantastic flight of Rudolph Hess, the No. 3 Nazi, from Germany to Scotland. The Nazis themselves say that the deputy fuhrer and chief boss of the Nazi party organization suffered from strange maladies—hallucinations and heart trouble. They make it appear that he went up in his plane against orders, and in their first reports the Nazis write him off as a death by suicide. The press speculates on a second reason, namely that Herr Hess anticipated a big purge within the Nazi apparatus of the sort which "eliminated" several hundred of his pals back in June 1934. Hess' flight is attributed to the intense Wagnerian atmosphere which sur-

rounds Nazi affairs. Here and there a note of admiration creeps in, the kind of admiration and hospitality which accompanied the flight of August Thyssen, the big Nazi steel magnate, earlier in the war. Perhaps, *Life* magazine will have its photographer there, and Hess will soon be telling us how lovely things would be in a Hitlerized Germany, minus Hitler.

The third possibility flows from the second. It is suggested that Rudolph Hess, one of der Fuehrer's oldest cronies, is really a Nazi envoy. He is not out of his mind, he simply has something on his mind. He did not send a calling card, but he managed to land on the Duke of Hamilton's estate, which is just where he wanted to go, and he brought his hairbrush and comb, his vitamin pills and all, along with him. It is possible that the Nazis are trying to get some kind of deal with Britain; a spectacular one-man invasion if it succeeds, or just the babbling of a frustrated lunatic if it fails. Who knows? Perhaps tomorrow Anthony Eden will be found in a baby carriage rocking his way toward Hitler's retreat at the Berghof.

We don't pretend to know the answer. But obviously some big things are in the offing. For all its vaunted power, powerful differences of opinion seem to be wracking the Third Reich from within. As in Italy earlier in the year, there are rifts and schisms and scissions and terrific stresses and strains, reflecting enormous profound dilemmas for the ruling elite. Maybe the curtain is rising on the last scenes of *Gotterdammerung*.

Taxing the Jalopy

IN AMERICA automobiles cannot be regarded as a luxury. Even to thousands of very poor people, especially in rural areas, they are indispensable to daily life. To raise the price of automobiles, both new and used, by a sales tax of twenty percent, would mean cutting the very lifeline of many families. Yet that is just what Leon Henderson, the OPM's Price Control Administrator, proposed to the House Ways and Means Committee. Mr. Henderson has curious ideas of the meaning of his title. His proposed automobile tax, for example, is six times the present tax. And he also suggests price raises through further taxation of various items, such as electric refrigerators, in which the raw materials are needed for war. This, says Mr. Henderson with a candor that is not at all engaging, would curtail production—by cutting consumption. Which is exactly what all the administration tax proposals thus far are designed to do. The only variety among them is a slightly different idea as to just where the consumers can be pinched hardest to pay for "defense" expenditures—which, Mr. Henderson testified, will soon be running at the rate of a billion dollars a month.

Perhaps Mr. Henderson was inspired by the arrival in this country of an old friend, John Maynard Keynes. Mr. Keynes is adviser to the Bank of England and author of the notorious Keynes plan to pay for war through forced savings from workers' income. He

brought the cheery word that in Britain the workers are bearing their extraordinary taxes "wonderfully" and "It's amazing what regulation people will take in wartime." We suspect that the British people might have something else to say about this, through their own spokesmen. Aside from that, it isn't complete "wartime" for the people of America—not yet. And not even in wartime do they want their jalopies taxed while manufacturing profits kite upward—the highest since 1929, according to a recent survey, with 1,019 concerns showing a combined net in 1940 of no less than \$2,164,153,819.

Despite Hillman

FOR some weeks, Sidney Hillman was in the dog house. Hired to do a job, he didn't deliver. Poor Sidney Hillman, who had finally worked himself to the very top—or right near it, right up next to Knudsen and Stettinius—saw his title of co-director in the OPM endangered just because the workers wouldn't play the game his way.

Then the break came. He "put over" a fine deal, an agreement for the shipbuilding industry that contained an A-1 Social-Democratic no-strike clause. His AFL friends, William Green and John Frey, and all the other "respectable" if not too numerous leaders, called the contract epochal.

How shortlived was the triumph. The shipbuilding workers on the West Coast refused to accept the contract, saying they had not been represented when the agreement was drawn up and had not been consulted about its contents. They demanded double pay for overtime as their former contract provided, and not time-and-a-half as Mr. Hillman had agreed. They insisted upon \$1.15 an hour, not \$1.12 as Mr. Hillman had arranged. They struck—AFL and CIO united—defying the "labor spokesmen" handpicked by the administration, resisting pressure exerted through government strikebreaking machinery. The rank and file repudiated Hillman, Green, and Frey as the longshoremen in 1934 repudiated Joseph P. Ryan. To the West Coast shipyard workers, the words of John L. Lewis told their story: Hillman and his AFL friends "do not represent labor in government. . . . Their business is to chloroform labor so that it will be voiceless and supine and go along with any policy in the interests of those who would make a financial killing."

The action in the West must pain and surely frighten Walter Reuther, Hillman's man in the automobile union. For Reuther finagled a postponement of a strike against General Motors for better wages and working conditions. The union had negotiated for months; the corporation had stalled. And just as the unionists lost patience, Reuther stepped in to have the dispute certified and handed over to the National Mediation Board. While in Washington the runaround continued, General Motors gratefully used the delay to prepare means of breaking the threatened strike. This week, automobile workers, weakened by Reuther's policy, will walk out of

TO MAKE OR BREAK . . .

The hard facts are these: \$25,000 stands between us and solvency! To date, only \$16,450 has come in. We have five more weeks before the deadline the creditors have set for us. And we still must raise \$8,550.

Considering the annual financial turnover of the magazine, it is a small sum. Yet that small sum can make or break us.

We do not believe that \$8,550 is an impossible goal. You saw to it that the immediate crisis in which \$5,000 was needed by May 15, was overcome. We are sure you will help us raise the final \$8,550 which will make this drive successful.

To date, only 3,254 of our thousands of readers have participated in the drive. This appeal is directed primarily to those who have not yet given the magazine a hand.

Will you ensure the continuance of NEW MASSES for the coming year? Parties for NEW MASSES will do it. Subscriptions for your friends will do it. A day's pay, or even a few hours of your day's pay, will do it. Is that too much to ask for peace, for democracy, for all that your magazine stands for?

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the shops, unless the corporation suddenly changes its tune. Their victory will be that much harder to win.

Each move by Hillman and his cronies reveals more clearly to the working class for whom and for what the "leaders" are straining. The Social Democrats put the employer-administration wishes above the needs of the membership they supposedly serve. Theirs is no easy task, for every agreement they approve exposes their motives all too clearly. But then, they do meet the best people.

Reversing an Injustice

THE frameup fell through. Oscar Wheeler is a free man, freed by the unanimous decision of the West Virginia Supreme Court, overturning the verdict of a lower court. Oscar Wheeler had been sentenced to jail for fifteen years, under charge of securing signatures to the Communist ballot petition last fall through "false representation." It was a familiar charge at that time and highly useful to both Democratic and Republican leaders who preferred a ballot which wouldn't register any anti-war protest. Many citizens were arrested under it—in Pittsburgh twenty-eight were sentenced at one time and are still in jail. Wheeler's trial also followed a familiar pattern: state witnesses terrorized by vigilantes and police, an arrogantly prejudiced judge, extremely shaky evidence. The Supreme Court declared in its decision that the very indictment against Wheeler was insufficient to charge a crime. It further declared that the trial judge was in error when he failed to grant a defense motion for a directed verdict of acquittal.

No doubt the freeing of Wheeler, while

strictly in accordance with the tenets of judicial impartiality, also reflects the growing revolt in this country against pushing civil liberties around. The Philadelphia "bomb scare," by which Moe Annenberg's *Inquirer* framed Adolph Heller and Bernard Rush of the Workers School, has also collapsed. The judge, who had shown his own bias against the defendants, felt compelled to set aside the jury's conviction, so slight was the evidence. Such victories for justice are particularly encouraging to the progressive forces which are waging a sturdy battle in behalf of the imprisoned Pittsburghers and other victims of Roosevelt's war. These, let us not forget, include three Oklahomans already sentenced and nine awaiting trial for the "crime" of possessing progressive literature. The cases of the three sentenced—Bob Wood, Alan Shaw, and Eli Jaffe—will soon be given a hearing in the state Criminal Court of Appeals. These cases contain even more reversible errors than Oscar Wheeler's did.

Pie in the Sky

AS IN the spring of 1917, the Negro people are being wooed with promises of a golden future in return for sacrifice on the battlefield. To 12,000,000 Negroes, Jim Crowed in the army, segregated in decaying tenements, denied job opportunities and civil rights, the sudden talk of "democracy" has a particularly hollow sound. In no area of American life is there such a gap between the facts and the pretenses of this war. The function of the sixty merchants of alibis who signed a statement last week in behalf of Negroes in defense industries is to bridge this gap with glittering words.

The release of this statement, and its wide publicity in the press, indicates the terrific pressure from both the Negro and white masses which the war leaders must somehow deflect. Yet how clumsy is the technique, how blatant the hypocrisy. For example, Marshall Field, one of the signers, is himself the scion of a family which refuses to employ Negroes in its large Chicago store. Mr. Field's newspaper, *PM*, forgets to note this fact in its uncontrollable hysteria. Similarly, the *New York Times* and *Herald Tribune*, which hailed the statement as evidence of an era of good feeling, omitted the news that not a single member of their own editorial and reporting staffs is a Negro. Chancellor Harry Woodburn Chase of New York University, another signatory, will have difficulty explaining how he reconciles his fine phrases with the discrimination against Negro athletes in his university and the recent suspension of seven students for protesting such discrimination. Among the other signers were two publishers of Southern Jim Crow newspapers, the president of a university which bars admission to Negro students, and the champion of intolerance in the AFL, Matthew Woll.

Few will be deceived by phrases this time. There is a deepening appreciation of the fact that Jim Crowism is imbedded in the very fabric of capitalist relations. While every effort should be made to bring about equality of job opportunities in the defense industries, and in other trades and professions, it should never for a moment be forgotten that the powers thrusting us deeper into the war are the very ones which created and seek to perpetuate the oppression of Negroes and national minorities.

Readers Forum

In England Now

TO NEW MASSES: During the past weeks I have received several letters from friends and relatives in England. I am sending some excerpts from them to you, thinking perhaps that your readers will be interested in the descriptions of day-by-day life in London and elsewhere, the things average men and women are thinking about during this terrible war.

B. W.

Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear—: The die-hard shelterers remain faithful to the tubes, raids or no raids. My own impression is that they are the people whose homes are in any case less comfortable . . . either because of poverty or because of air-raid damage. After ten o'clock it still has the old dreadful morgue-like impression, with rows and rows of pale sleeping corpses in dirty blankets. It is terrible to see the children, how pale and excitable they all are. Most of them even now cannot sleep until the trains have ceased running, and they scamper about, the older ones, adventurously playing on the escalators or snatching thrilling rides between stations, all giggles and excitement, summoned to their tired mothers' sides from time to time to eat a sandwich or drink a cup of tea either from a thermos flask which the family has brought, or from the women who now serve tea and buns and pies down there every night, dressed in green overalls and red handkerchiefs round their heads. The babies wail and are taken for a tottering walk the length of the platform, or bounced and hushed and bounced and hushed. Round every group is a little pile of possessions—the mugs, the pillow, the straps or the rope with which to tie their blankets to cart them home again each morning; the books, the bag of knitting, the babies' napkins. The smell, of humanity and disinfectant, stays there throughout the day. At first it made me so sick that I used to ride on buses, but now I am getting used to it as one forgets to notice the smell of the tube itself. When I first came to London the smell of the tube used to hit me in the face every time I passed the door of a tube station, but now I no longer notice it. Numbers of derelict old men sleep on the stairs, feeling, I think, too useless to demand platform space or bunks. I get so sorry for their poor old backs . . . have you ever tried sleeping on a stone staircase? . . . and so angry for the life of the children and the babies and so awe-struck at the patience of the mothers that I always walk out and find my fists are clenched again until the fingers are hurting. Every night.

S. M.

North West London.

Dear—: You will by now have received my letter telling you that my home was bombed. At last after weeks of living in other people's houses I have found a room. It is furnished and very nice and quite cheap. Before the blitz began it used to be two guineas a week, but there have been so many bombs all round that people will no longer pay so much and they have reduced it by half.

The other day I got six eggs! I saw a crowd

in a street outside a shop and went to see what it was and it was two crates of new laid eggs. I got home with four because I met a friend and she was having a birthday the next day and I gave her two for a present. I haven't dared eat them yet. Eggs! Oranges, onions, lemons, and now cheese are practically off the market. Odd and surprising things have odd and surprising shortages; there have been no size ten stockings in the shops for weeks and I am thankful for my foresight in buying three good wool pairs earlier.

Workers like me, who have no one to shop for them, have to rely very much on luck and Saturday afternoon to get enough to live on. About twice a week I go without a proper lunch to scour round the local shops for things I can't get on Saturdays. Yesterday by this sacrifice I got a pound of sultanas. I have a very nice supper dish consisting of: one pound of rolled oats, half a pound of sultanas, or preferably raisins (but we can't get those), and a cupful of olive oil (I should just say oil, because real olive oil is unobtainable). Just mix them up and let them stand a day; the oil soaks up the oats and brings the sweetness out of the fruit, and it lasts you a week or more . . . a little bowl every night; no sugar required. Very nourishing. The sultanas were one shilling and eightpence a pound. Do you remember when they were only eightpence?

V. B.

Central London.

Dear—: We cannot get the things we should like, especially at the cooperative stores, because the government is serving them disgracefully. They will not allow them to have the goods, while capitalist shops get their places filled. Saturday morning there wasn't an ounce of meat in our shop, not even a bone, and of course we cannot go to another shop if we are not registered there. They will not serve you.

Wonder if you know about the suppression of the *Daily Worker*? There's freedom for you! They are not allowed to print it now, and would not be permitted to sell it if they could. I think it is abominable. Everybody has a right to his opinions, whether they differ from the government or not. Another proof we are fast losing our freedom and that I value more than anything.

There was a magnificent meeting at Holborn Hall. It was so large they had to get two more halls to accommodate the audience, and they were all delegates from trade unions, co-op societies, guilds, the CP, and political circles, etc. They could have filled the Albert Hall easily. This was an effort to establish the movement launched at the People's Convention, and a marvelous idea, but the daily papers said very little about it. They and the well-off labor people opposed it. We are having a lively time discussing it. But I don't think they will try to suppress it—if they do there will be "hell let loose."

The teachers have been commandeered to serve as fire extinguishers of incendiary bombs during the night. They will only have to serve one night a week but that means R will have to leave home at 7:15 a.m. and stay there watching all night, then start teaching next morning and go on all day. They will be expected to put out the fires if they come. No extra pay, of course. Madness I call it, while there are still hundreds of men out of work who should be employed and paid to do jobs like that.

We cannot go out in the evenings yet because of the blackout. It is still very dangerous at night in the streets. The accidents are appalling and getting worse.

I wish I could know what your opinion is of the political situation in your country. I could tell you what mine is about our government and leaders—I could say some very hard things, but better not. You understand.

Excuse the paper. It is so dear and short now.

G. H.

Central England.

Charitable Johnny, Jr.

TO NEW MASSES: We find it so hard these days to keep up with the great minds. Just recently, the Senate Committee held an investigation. Before it appeared Mr. E. B. Lyman, publicity director of Standard Oil. He told the committee that his company was even now delivering oil to Tenerife Island for the use of the Germans and the Italians. He was asked how the Standard Oil could continue to aid the nations singled out by the administration as enemies. Mr. Lyman answered: "First of all you must understand that we are an international company and we must keep an international viewpoint. . . . As a general rule we sell to anyone who wants to buy and can pay for it."

Another member of Standard Oil's family—the most important member—also expressed himself on world affairs a few days later. His name is John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Mr. Rockefeller is a philanthropist on money inherited from his father who was a go-getter and who in his time was the most hated man in America. Mr. Rockefeller is a charitable man; some years ago, he condoned the Ludlow Massacre of miners on strike against the Standard Oil.

Mr. Rockefeller wrote to Mr. Sulzberger, publisher of the *New York Times*. He had been doing some thinking, and he had reached "certain definite conclusions." After prefacing what he had to say with many fine sentiments expected of a great philanthropist (condemning war and force and intolerance), he went on to remark that nevertheless and notwithstanding his hate of violence (he didn't mention Ludlow), "I would rather die fighting the brutal, barbarous, inhuman force represented by Hitlerism than live in a world which is dominated by that force." He felt that it was most important, since he was willing to make the above-mentioned sacrifice of his life, for labor to stop striking. He asked that Communists be persecuted—because to fight Hitlerism, it seems, we must follow Hitler's lead. He demanded that Americans "act today." He is all for war.

We want to assure Mr. Rockefeller that his wish to die for the country is very generous—but it is highly doubtful that he will be asked to do so in the front lines. The offer is nevertheless noble. We also want to let NEW MASSES readers know that they should not worry, because even though Mr. Rockefeller is opposed to Hitler and Mussolini, his Standard Oil Co. is still making handsome profits from the sale of oil to Germany and Italy—and we might add, Japan. Mr. Rockefeller can continue to be a philanthropist by donating a part of these profits which accrue from arming what he calls the "brutal, barbarous, inhuman" forces. Mr. Rockefeller is an internationalist. He will sell oil to the US Army so that America can fight a war and our youth can be butchered—and to keep things sporting, he will sell it to the other side, so that fascism can be strong and their youth can be butchered. In any event he will increase his fortune and thereby be able to continue his charities.

HARRY OBERG.

Pittsburgh, Pa.