

# A United Front in Europe

THE leader of the official Communist Party, Jose Balbontin, has just resigned from the Party because it refused to enter into a United Front with the Socialist Party, the Anarcho-Syndicalist front and the Communist Opposition. In a letter to the Central Committee of the CPS he states that he considers it "inimical to the solidarity of the working class to continue fighting Socialism as if it were a wing of Fascism."

"I do not believe," his letter continues, "that Fascism in Spain has been defeated, as Comrade Stalin said in his last speech. It seems to me that Fascism in Spain is marching apace and already has one foot in the government. It will soon succeed in monopolizing the government completely if we do not hurry to stop it by a sincere United Front Against Fascism."

"It seems evident to me that Spanish Socialism and Anarchism want sincerely to fight against the Fascist danger, and that in this critical moment the Spanish Communists must join loyally with the Socialists and Anarchists in a united front FROM BELOW and FROM ABOVE, suspending all internal factional struggles in answer to the demands of the masses."

"We must suppress effectively the advances of Fascism; and only then shall we be able without fear,

to dedicate ourselves to the tasks of organizing a Workers' and Peasant Government based on Soviets.

"At this moment in Spain, it seems to me too premature to insist on imposing upon the great revolutionary mass the leadership of a Communist Party which has hardly begun to sprout. If you insist on an immediate displacement of Socialist and Anarchist leadership, in place of treating with them provisionally, you are preventing a proletarian block and you are facilitating the complete triumph of Fascism, just as was done in Germany."

Comrade Balbontin did not know at that time how truly he had spoken: Latvia and Bulgaria proved once more that a disunited proletariat can and will be run over by Fascism and will be in no position to attempt resistance. There is no the least doubt, well informed people assure us, that Balbontin will find strong support by many workers within the Communist Party of Spain.

## United Front in France

S. S. DENIS, the well-known labor suburb of Paris, reelected its Communist mayor, Comrade Doriot on May 13. Doriot, deputy to the Chamber, leader of the CPF in this red municipality and former leader of the Communist youth

of France, had been expelled by the CPF for entering into a united Front with the Social Democracy and for his criticism of the ultra-Leftist course of his party. The workers of Denis paid no attention to his expulsion, however, and swept him back into office.

When the fascist movement first began to show strength in France, there was a spontaneous organization of united front committees in more than 3000 localities in all parts of the nation in which Communists, Socialists, the League for Human Rights and other organizations, including Liberal and bourgeois Left groups of all shades of opinion, were represented. In some places even the branches of the Radical Socialist (Herriot) party joined this anti-fascist movement, which rapidly developed into a mighty force in answer to the fascist provocation of February 6. The demonstrations of this united front everywhere were characterized by a remarkable unanimity of purpose. There was no sign of friction or disunion anywhere among the workers in its ranks.

The French Socialist Party, although by far the largest of these groups, showed an extraordinary appreciation of the situation. There was no debate as to the necessity or advisability of uniting with the other weaker parties. It concentrated its machine exclusively on the work of making this united front movement an out-

## Noted Speakers

Not only will classes and lectures be conducted every day in the week, with such outstanding men as Sydney Hook, V. F. Calverton, James Rorty, A. J. Muste, and Walter Peck. A special feature will be the week-end Institutes, where such problems as "How Can A Revolutionary Movement Be Built," "Immediate Economic and Political Perspectives," "The Rise of Fascist Forces in America," "The Press, the Radio, and Propaganda," "Educating for a New Social Order," "Labor

standing success. The Radical Socialist Party, on the other hand, felt the influence of the new movement keenly. A party of its membership, led by Bergery, came out unreservedly in support of the United Front, but the majority took an oppositional stand. Within the Communist Party there were also violent altercations. The Party leaders counseled "self-restraint." *L'Humanite*, the party organ, warned of "undue excitement," called the anti-fascist demonstrations "noisy parades of reactionary and chauvinist groups of the French bourgeoisie, organized by the Chautemps-Chiappe government." A repetition of the attitude of the Communist Party of Germany before Hitler came to power. . . . But the United Front movement is greater than these small partisan spirits. In France it is on the march!

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