

# 'No's' Defy Hitlerites' Terrorism

## Opposition Increases As 5 Million Risk Death To Oppose Nazis

By LUDWIG LORE

The plebescite of August 19 brought no surprises. In obedience to higher orders the German press reported the "overwhelming victory of Hitler and his regime" while the world outside was more than ever convinced that five million votes cast against the system under such almost insurmountable difficulties meant a disastrous defeat for Nazi terror and the government it represents. It had been the slogan of the Hitlerites in this campaign that the majority for Hitler in August 1934 must be greater than that of November 1933 when the German electorate was called upon to ratify Germany's withdrawal from the League of Nations. Instead two million voted "No" against the Fuehrer who had voted with him half a year before plus a million votes cast for the Communist leader Ernest Thaelman, imprisoned since March 1933 which appear in the election returns as void ballots.

### How Many "No's"?

True, more than 38 million voted "Yes", an overwhelming majority compared with the five or six million "No's". But aside from the fact that no one will ever know how many "No's" were changed into "Yes" votes by the Nazi election commissions, the result would undoubtedly have been a different one had not millions of "Yes-men" under duress cast their ballots for Hitler and his new "Leader-Chancellor" post.

How many votes were stolen cannot be estimated. All "authoritative" statements made in this connection are pure guess work and therefore totally without value. That votes were stolen, that the final figures are far from telling the actual truth may be accepted as axiomatic for the testimony of Nazis who have since left the movement has given the world a picture of the November election and the methods employed in getting and counting votes.

At that time, the Nazi District leader Kramer of Frankfort addressed the assembled party and election officials in a speech which called emphatic attention to the importance of securing a unanimous vote for the National Socialist cause. "We must leave nothing untried," he declared, "to make this a unanimous declaration of the nation's faith in our leader. We must hesitate at nothing, please understand me, at nothing, to make the result a favorable one. If there should be among the party comrades an idiot who tells me that there is nothing one can do if people choose to vote 'No', I tell him that this is war and we will not hesitate to make corrections, on a large scale, if need be."

On the same day—four days before election—the Hessian SA general Beckerle assembled his SA leaders to a great rally and orated on the necessity of leaving no

(Continued on Page 7)

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(Continued from Page 1)

stone unturned to secure a favorable result. "If the result should not come up to our expectations, we will have to make it favorable nevertheless. For the SA there is no such thing as failure."

## Facts Behind The Votes

The outcome of such "instructions" was a vote of forty million "Yea's" and three million "No" and void ballots. But the undoubted good will of the election authorities at the 1934 Referendum vote could not conceal the fact that opposition against Hitler had grown so great that hundreds were arrested on the day after the election and hundreds more have been charged with high-treason.

In the district of Hamburg, for instance, according to a statement made by the National Socialist "Boersen-Zeitung" there are 11,000 enrolled members of the Communist Party. An indictment just issued against 54 Berlin workers states that 1900 illegal newspapers are regularly distributed alone in the one proletarian district "Kreuzberg" of Berlin by a single man, that this same man regularly collects 100 marks per month in Communist membership dues.

The Socialist Workers' Party—even the Communist Party unwillingly, admits its recent rapid growth—regularly issues and distributes four illegal newspapers the editions of which are never large enough to satisfy the hunger for such literature. Their organizations are growing; they are working and working effectively, building up an apparatus which, when the time comes, will be the foundation for the revolutionary

## German S. D. P. Leaders Join Hitler Move For Non-Political Unions

Hitler has opened negotiations with the leaders of the Social Democratic Party. The Fascist scheme for a "Labour Front" has broken down, and Hitler is trying to get Trade Union officials to co-operate in establishing "non-political" Unions. They would be a part of the Fascist "corporate" State structure, modelled on the Italian example.

Hitler's representatives first consulted two well-known Trade Union leaders. Both of them had the spirit to reject the overtures.

Hitler's emissaries then approached a leader of the Social Democratic Party, who was in a concentration camp. He was asked whether he would help in organizing Unions on the new basis. He replied he would have to discuss the matter with the Social Democratic Executive.

He was then released from the concentration camp so that he might open negotiations with the Social Democratic leaders in Prague (Czechoslovakia), where they are refugees.

A second prominent Social Democrat has acted as an intermediary at Prague and has made the proposal to Otto Wels (the Chairman) and others.

The Executive was divided, but Wels declared himself in favour of further negotiations.

Even if the Social Democratic leaders accept the proposal, it will certainly meet with strong opposition within Germany.

(British New Leader)

The Presidium of the German Social Democratic Party has issued a denial of this story. The Manchester Guardian, however, which published a detailed report of the negotiations on which the above story in the New Leader was based, claims to have the names of the negotiators.