While employers sabotaged the new labor legislation, victimized trade unionists and enrolled fascist strikebreakers in the factories, the Popular Front governments of Blum and Chautemps declared stay-in strikes illegal, made arbitration compulsory, postponed the revision of collective agreements and even used the army and police in order to defeat the workers in their struggle to keep wages

metal-workers strike—which had been shamelessly sabotaged by the Stalinist trade-union officials—was definitely liquidated. Rearmament and the organization of the nation for war entered a phase of intense activity. The Spanish frontier was closed and a military alliance was concluded between France and Great Britain.

The recent moves of the Daladier

(*Continued on Page* 5)

# Don't Judge by New York

## War Talk Is Very Unpopular Thruout Country

By BERTRAM D. WOLFE

NEW York—or certain sections of it—may give one an entirely wrong impression of the attitude toward war on the part of the great majority of the American people today. Here are a number of pro-fascist Italians and Germans cheering and hoping for war. Here, the Communist Party, with its "collective-security" and "union-of-the-great-democracies" in a new war to make the world "safe for democracy," is most vociferous. Here are the Nicholas Murray Butler and Clark Eichelberger "pacifists" (Carnegie Foundation and League of Nations Association), the "liberals" of the Nation, and the editorial advocacy of such big-business organs as the New York Times. There is little indeed to distinguish the Times war editorials these days from those in the Daily Worker.

### Unexpected War Talk

But the most ardent war talk bobs up unexpectedly today among a certain sector of the Jewish population. It includes gentle folk who would not hurt a fly, but who have been so maddened by the daily budget of atrocious deeds in Naziland that they have been fervently praying that Hitler would attempt to invade Czechoslovakia by force instead of getting the Sudeten land thru the "peaceful" complicity of England and France, believing that thus a general European war might be the sooner precipitated, and "maybe Hitler will get his" as a result. Among these wishers for war are some who put their faith in the British ruling class as defender of the Jew until it sacrificed the Balfour Declaration to the exigencies of its general imperialist policy in the Mohammedan Near East; who put their faith in Mussolini ("He stopped strikes and labor troubles!") until he adopted racism; and who are now ready to put fresh faith in Chamberlain and the British ruling class on the basis of each day's bluff of a threat to Hitler, at the very moment that England itself is guaranteeing the delivery of Czechoslovakia, bound hand and foot and gagged and hamstrung, to the tender mercies of Germany, Poland and Hungary.

Some people never learn, it seems. But what is much more alarming is that a section of the Jewish working class in New York is infected by these views. They can and must be made to realize that from a war between capitalist powers, as such, there is no hope for an end to Hitler. Rather would such a war result in immediate military dictatorships in the so-called "democratic" capitalist lands, the ruthless suppression of the revolutionary and independent labor movements, the outlawing of the labor press, the invasion of workers halls, the jailing, torturing or executing of all the revolutionary opponents of imperialist war and of the system which breeds war. The British and French ruling classes, as has been abundantly made clear, are actually in fear lest the fall of Hitler or Mussolini be followed by working-class rule in those lands, in fear of the colonial struggle for independence, in fear of social revolution; and they show a very great eagerness, indeed, to patch up a four-power pact of two "great democracies" and two great fascist powers, against the Soviet Union.

### The Only Way

The downfall of Hitler can only come if we help the underground revolutionary movement in Germany itself to regain its strength and renew its offensive. The safety of a proletarian revolution in Germany can only be assured if, in the "great democracies" themselves, a powerful revolutionary movement is developed against the ruling classes of these countries and their plots to dismember countries like Czechoslovakia and to suppress the struggle for socialism wherever it arises. No, once general war breaks out, a German revolution and the Soviet Union itself would be safe only in proportion as the working class of every capitalist country is strong enough to oppose and defeat its own ruling class.

The rebuilding of the revolutionary socialist movement is the only way! It may seem hard, but does it seem any harder than the task that Lenin and Liebknecht and Luxemburg and a handful more set themselves after the great betrayal of August 1914?

But I started to say that New York might give some people a wrong impression. The propaganda for America's entrance into a second war to "make the world safe for democracy" is increasingly unpopular in the metropolis. But, in the rest of the country, feeble indeed is the voice raised for war. Arthur Krock, political commentator of the Times and spiritual follower and mouthpiece of the Administration, phrases it this way (N. Y. Times, Sept. 28, 1938):

"That caution and that guardedness (of Roosevelt) have a political history. Some of it can be found in the so-called Neutrality Acts and the narrow squeak by which the House defeated the Ludlow resolution, calling for a popular referendum before Congress would be authorized to declare war. It includes the angry and suspicious protest in the United States that followed the President's 1937 Chicago speech about 'quarantining aggressor states,' and his backdown and that of the State Department from this position, the alarmed and disapproving letters and telegrams which overwhelm Congress and the White House whenever this government seems to risk involvement abroad . . . Few political observers doubt that this sentiment is deeply rooted among the American people . . . "