

# World Socialism

## Progress of the United Front

By HERBERT ZAM

The movement for united action between Socialists and Communists is being rapidly accelerated by the sharp blows of reaction and fascism. The united front in France has been

of great value in showing the positive achievements which can result if the Communists give up their splitting and isolationist tactics on one hand, and if Socialists cease shivering at the ghost of Communism.

The Social Democratic Party of the German districts of Czechoslovakia, at its last Congress at Brno, held soon after the disastrous election, *unanimously decided to work toward a rapprochement with the Communists.* This is not a left wing party. On the contrary, it is thoroughly right wing and participates in the coalition government of Czechoslovakia. For many years it would have nothing to do with Communists. A good many of its members (and also leaders) had an anti-Communist phobia which made united action with them out of consideration. But life itself has compelled a changed attitude.

### Communists as Socialists

Dr. Czech, chairman of the party and minister in the government, in introducing the subject, made some very significant remarks. Referring to the votes cast for the Social-democrats, National Socialists (Benes Party, not fascists) and Communists, he characterized them as *"Socialist" votes in the wider sense.* In other words Dr. Czech considers Communism as a variety of Socialism, and not as "left fascists" or as an entirely foreign movement.

Dr. Czech pointed out that the Czech Social Democrats hold 38 seats in parliament, the German 11 and the Communists 30. He then continued referring to these three groups.

*"If Socialism were united, these 79 seats would make the Socialist Party the strongest party, with all the consequences arising from this situation. If Socialism were in a different position, the situation of the working class at this moment would be correspondingly different."*

From these premises Dr. Czech drew the conclusion that it was the task of the Social Democrats *"to work for the unification of the whole class conscious working class."*

The Congress agreed with the analysis and conclusion made by Dr. Czech, and unanimously decided that *"an understanding with the Communists was an object to be striven for. It was clearly realized, however, that in view of the present Communist policy, the time for such an understanding was not yet ripe."*

The development must be taken as an indication of the progress of working class unity, in spite of the terrific obstacles still in the road.

### In Holland

In response to the fascist threat shown at the Provincial elections in April, the municipal elections in Holland which took place in June, showed a distinct trend to the left. The fascists did not participate, claiming they wish no representation in the communities, but a near-fascist party (National Renovation) secured 28 places.

The Social Democratic Party made big gains everywhere, particularly the big cities. Only in Amsterdam was a loss registered. There the party received 119,905

votes (33% of the total) against 124,284 (36.1% of the total) in 1931. In Rotterdam, Hague, Utrecht, Haarlem and Groswigen, (all cities of over 100,000 population), the party increased its vote by 38,666. In these six cities there are 94 members of the council over 80 previously.

The Communists also made relatively big gains in these cities. In Amsterdam their vote increased from 26,535 (7.7%) to 48,938 (13.6%). In Rotterdam they jumped from 1.9% of the total to 4.3%. In the small industrial communes in the North, West, they also made heavy gains, securing a majority in one.

Altogether the Social Democrats increased their representation from 1300 to 1454, the Communists from 51 to 89 and the Revolutionary Socialist Labor Party from 11 to 24. The government parties lost some 400 seats.

### France

According to the report of Leon Jouheaux, General Secretary of the C. G. T. to the Bureau of the Trade Union International, trade union unity in France is almost accomplished. Jouheaux reported that the C. G. T. (Socialist-led unions) had made the conditions for unity with the C. G. T. U. (Communist-led unions.)

1. Recognition of the statutes and disciplined carrying out of all decisions of central bodies.

2. Complete independence of the trade union movement of all political parties.

3. The adoption of specific decisions prohibiting the formation of factions in the unions. All those breaking this rule are to be expelled.

The Paris correspondent of the London *Daily Herald* reports that the Communists are prepared to accept these conditions, including the last one, which appears rather unreasonable on the face.

### Poland

A few weeks ago, the left wing of the Polish Socialist Party (PPS) began the publication of a paper devoted to the spread of the ideas of revolutionary socialism—*Misl Sozialistichner* (Socialist Thought). An immediate attempt was made to suppress it. The semi-government agency which controls the distribution of papers as well as the kiosks and other selling points has notified the administration of the "M. S." that it will not accept it for distribution, nor permit its sale at stands and kiosks.

The answer of the comrades publishing "M. S." has been an energetic campaign for subscriptions, for sales by comrades and support by labor organizations. Comrades in the U. S. who read Polish may secure the paper by writing to Lesgno 3, Warsaw, Poland.

### Iowa Fair "Unfair"

DES MOINES, Ia.—Because of the Iowa State Fairs' refusal to pay union wages to workmen on the grounds, the Iowa Federation of Labor has placed the fairs on the unfair list. However, it will be addressed strictly to the ears of the management, not union members.