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**OUR GOD IS MARCHING ON!**

The United Nations Conference on World Security meets in San Francisco April 25th. It MUST NOT be a failure. Its success will be a monument to the late President Roosevelt forever.

**SPECIAL SERVICES OF PRAYER**  
— in the —  
**UNITED CHURCH**  
Sunday, April 22nd  
11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

If ever our leaders needed Divine guidance it will be at this Conference. Let all citizens, high and low, unite in supplication. Peace lovers of all creeds are cordially invited.

"Blessed are the peace-makers for they shall be called the children of God." Grant us this grace, we beseech thee O Lord.

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**Meet Your Enemy!**

It will be impossible for any conscientious Canadian, enjoying the luxury of Democracy, merely to sit back and be a spectator in the approaching Provincial and Federal elections. It will be impossible because, not to use your vote, not to take an active interest in the political picture, would be an insult of the lowest order to those men and women who are fighting for your RIGHT to vote, your hard-won RIGHT to think as you please. But nonetheless, it would be amusing to recline in Olympian detachment for the next three months or so and watch the political circus. Because one of the most intriguing aspects of the campaigns will be the frequency with which one party accuses the other two of "Fascist tendencies".

It is inevitable that the word "Fascism" should crop up again and again because, as a word, it has come to mean everything political that we despise. To us it signifies injustice, oppression, tyranny, cruelty, and the denial of all those rights of free men which we have cherished and for which our kind have struggled through many centuries.

It is ironical that, often men who use the word "Fascism", only one man knows what it means. It will soar on oratorical wings across public parks and halls and rooms in rural school-houses but sixty percent of us don't know what Fascism actually is, although we've been waging war against it for nearly six years. Thirty percent of us have a hazy idea of what it is, or, at least "a feeling", and ten percent can state bluntly, "It's State Capitalism". And, even that statement, while true enough, isn't good enough because, although Fascism ends up as State Capitalism, it appears in many other guises during its development, many of them very appealing.

It might be well at this point to express appreciation to Lorne T. Morgan Associate Professor of Political Economy at the University of Toronto, who wrote the pamphlet, Fascism, upon which this article is based. We consider the use of his pamphlet to be justifiable in view of the fact that much of the information it contains might not, ordinarily, come within the range of interest of the majority of voters who read this paper regularly, but whose votes this summer, will have a more far-reaching importance than ever before. Thinking Canadians must face the fact squarely that, as Louis Nizer says in his book WHAT TO DO WITH GERMANY, the moment that peace comes may well be the most dangerous moment in the history of the world.

What we have come to call, for want of a better name "the Second World War", may leave in its wake an even more difficult war to win, war against an idea. So—meet your enemy.

There are several basic requirements for the initial growth and development of fascism. One is economic crisis or depression with its accompanying unemployment and craving by the people for personal, financial security. Two others are failure of previously-tried economic remedies, and the resultant disillusionment with democratic processes which invariably develops. Another is that capitalism must have reached that stage of monopolistic development which has been so apparent for nearly three decades. And the final, and perhaps the most important prerequisite is the realization by the so-called "big interests" that their wealth and holdings are in serious danger of expropriation.

There you have the political and economic ground which is waiting for the seed of Fascism. The seed is formed, or has been to date, of middle-class movements comprising certain groups of labour, "white-collar" workers, technicians, independent artisans, small traders and landowners, members of the professions and others of similar economic status, including clerical trade unions and the army. These men and women, who feel that their economic security is seriously threatened, are seriously critical of the "big interests". And, in this phase of the development of fascism, their aims are socialistic. This motley group might be called "Social Democrats" because, while their aims, ultimately, are socialistic, they believe that they can be attained within the EXISTING political, economic and legal framework.

Understand that these Social Democrats are, for the most part, sincere, and of one mind in their desire to better the lot of the average man, to ensure him (and themselves, of course) security and improved social services. HOWEVER, social democracy has failed in every case in which it has been confronted by Fascism, and it IS confronted by Fascism when it gains the support, surreptitious or otherwise of—big business.

And this is where the picture changes. The aforementioned big business gives that support because it can already see itself seriously threatened by Communism which develops in tempo to the social democrats. However Communism would mean the death of big business so the routine is obvious Divide and conquer. The big business supports the Social Democrats against the Communists and wins, invariably. What happens thereafter is ironical to the highest degree and surely the price must be paid in corporate efforts to remedy the economic ills of the coun-

try, and with repeated failures, the State takes over, bit by bit, the very capital interests which financed it. Thus you have the frenzied pleas for justice of Thyssen who helped finance the Nazi party, only to have his interests expropriated. A Fascist party, in its development, inevitably bites the hand that fed it.

So the hodge-podge of Social Democrats, with their so-called reforms, who have necessarily achieved unity through blind worship of an opportunist LEADER have now become, whether they wanted to or not, and certainly without intending to be full-blown Fascists who have on their hands State Capitalism, which is merely another remedy that is doomed to failure unless war, with its temporary prosperities, intervenes.

And, the Fascist State or Party, is in the unenviable position of having to keep right on going. Its momentum cannot diminish. It cannot bow out gracefully saying it has done its best and now another party can take a shot at it. That would mean ruin, complete and unutterable; because the Party is the State, and the party is so entangled in the country's economic life that its death would mean economic chaos.

Thus you have Fascism, State Capitalism. To quote Morgan directly, its essential features are: "(1) Complete and thorough-going political absolutism. (2) State control of entire economy. (3) Diluted profit incentive. The purely political is more

important than the purely economic, in that the interests of the state supersede those of all classes, groups and individuals. However within those limits the profit incentive is still maintained. This is important, for the distinction between production for profit and production for use is the distinction between Capitalism and Socialism. (4) Large and increasing element of actual State ownership and operation of industry, motivated by the diluted profit incentive."

A study of Fascism gives convincing proof that FASCISM CAN HAPPEN HERE. Given the proper conditions for its growth it can flourish as well in Canada as in Italy or Germany. We must never make the grave mistake of letting ourselves believe that our particular mentalities are such that we are immune to the virus. So far our politics and economy have operated on a programme of mutual protection. However when the one is endangered the threat to the other is proportionately as great. When a country's economic life is threatened the political system has to conquer the enemy or perish.

Another point that study makes obvious is that Fascism is NOT Planned. It develops in spite of planning and foresight.

Fascism does not spring solely from the petty middle-class reform parties from which its earliest members are recruited, nor does it stem solely from "big business". But it DOES take root and thrive when the two combine to

defeat communism. That fact, however, should not be taken to mean that Communism is the alternative to Fascism. But, what the alternative IS depends upon a well-informed and politically vigorous Canadian populace.

Fascism is an inexorable progression from an economic condition to a political conclusion. The route it takes leads to personal and national tragedy. Fascism will appear in Canada when conditions are right for its growth, but it won't be called Fascism. If we don't study it, learn what it is, and why it exists we won't recognize it

when it comes and will be too late against it. True, we've been fighting it for nearly six years but it's possible to win a war against armies and lose the war against ideas.

April, 1945.  
R. J. K. Thompson.

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