

# TRUE AMERICANS



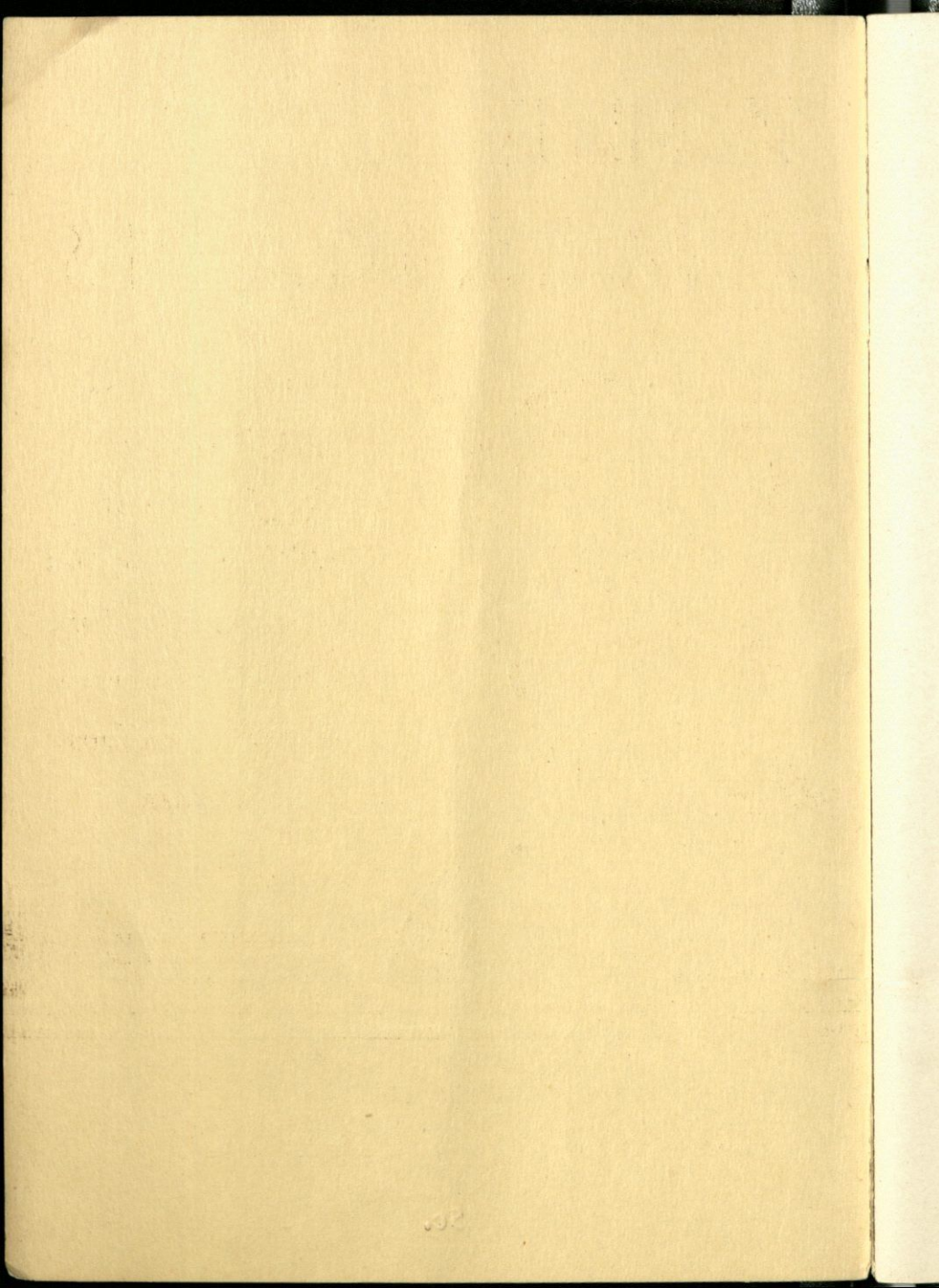
A Tribute  
to American  
Maritime Workers  
Who Fought for  
World Democracy  
in the Trenches  
of Spain

JOE BIANCO, SEAMAN  
*"The best soldier in the Brigade."  
Killed in action on the Ebro.*

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BY ROY B. HUDSON

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# TRUE AMERICANS

A TRIBUTE

*To American Maritime Workers  
Who Fought for World Democracy  
in the Trenches of Spain*

BY

ROY B. HUDSON

WATERFRONT SECTION  
COMMUNIST PARTY  
NEW YORK



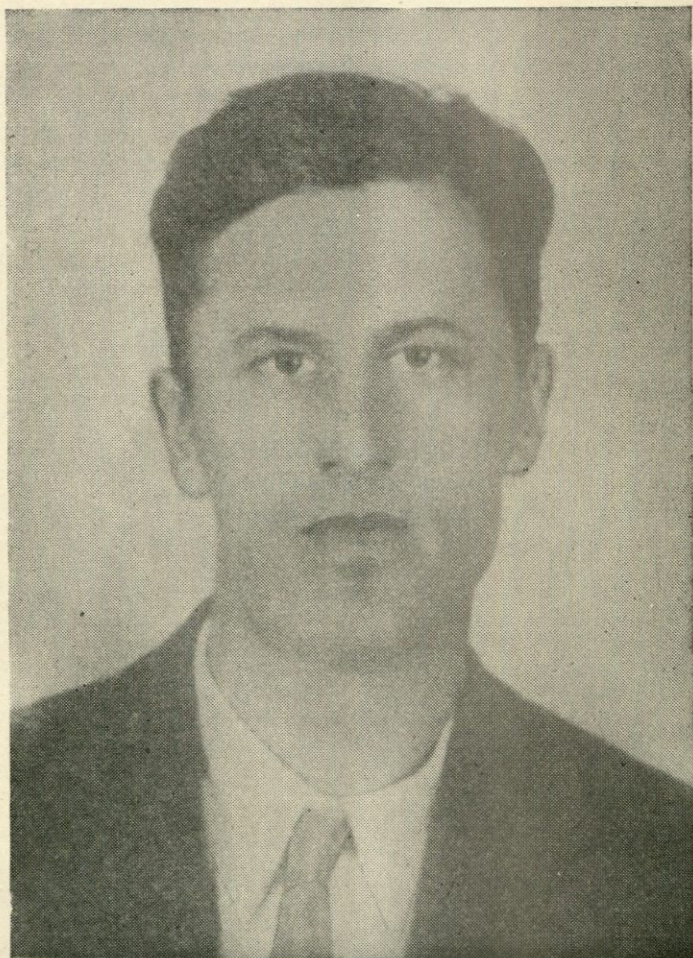
ISSUED BY  
WATERFRONT SECTION  
COMMUNIST PARTY, N.Y. COUNTY,  
230 SEVENTH AVENUE,  
NEW YORK, N. Y.  
FEBRUARY, 1939



PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

TO  
THE MANY FRIENDS  
*Who justly complain of receiving  
so few letters in Spain*





HARRY HINES

*One of the first seamen killed in Spain. Former National Secretary of the Marine Workers Industrial Union, later Editor of the I.S.U. Pilot.*

# TRUE AMERICANS

By ROY B. HUDSON

IT IS somewhat surprising to learn that the infamous Dies Committee overlooked any "dirt" that it could sling in its Red-baiting campaign. Yet, an article in the *Liberty* magazine, entitled "What the Dies Committee Overlooked," seems somewhat disappointed that the Dies Committee, which has been denounced by President Roosevelt, the C.I.O. and other progressive forces for its "un-American activities," left some stones unturned. For instance, this enterprising author, who wants to out-Dies Dies, has this to say about the Americans who fought in Spain on the side of the Loyalists:

"Communism has many tricks up it sleeves. One is to ply susceptible young men with caresses and propaganda. That is the method by which hundreds of young Americans were recruited to fight in Spain."

This is but one example of the filth that has been spewed out to confuse the people and weaken the fight to defend democracy. By such means have some of the best Americans of this or any other age been slandered and vilified. Such lies, belched forth by the Hearsts, Macfaddens and other spokesmen of Wall Street, provide the smokescreen behind which loyal trade unionists have been expelled from the Sailors Union of the Pacific, apparently on the grounds that fighting in Spain was "anti-union activity."

SPANISH CIVIL WAR  
COLLECTION 5

DAVID GORDON

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But, in spite of such slanders, and to the dismay of people guilty of them, the returned members of the Lincoln Battalion are welcomed home by most Americans as honored and respected citizens. The reasons for this are not hard to find. The Lincoln Battalion, by its great deeds, has won the sympathy and respect of American people and earned a rightful place among the great heroes of the United States. But more than that. Millions of us have come to understand that the issue at stake in Spain is the future of world democracy; that a fascist victory in Spain opens the door to fascism on the American continent; that it would lead to extending the present wars upon a world scale. As President Roosevelt told Congress and the American people:

"Today we are all sadder—and wiser. We have learned that when we deliberately try to legislate neutrality, our neutrality laws may operate unevenly and unfairly—may actually give aid to the aggressor and deny it to the victim."

Thus, the Lincoln Battalion is welcomed home because the American people, "wiser and sadder," want democracy defended; want no more Munichs; want fascism resisted, or, to quote President Roosevelt again, "at the very least want to avoid any action, or any lack of action, which will encourage, assist or build up an aggressor."

Who were the men of the Lincoln Battalion? Where did they come from? What have they done in America? To answer these questions is, perhaps, the best way to explain *why* they were ready to risk their lives on the battlefields of Spain.

Men from all walks of life, worker and farmer, student and intellectual, made up the Lincoln Battalion, and the maritime workers and teamsters were but one of many groups. If we speak about these men, it is not because they are more de-





MICHAEL CALDARELLA  
*Ship's Officer, West Coast,  
M.E.B.A., missing*



AL KAUFMAN  
*Seaman, Pal of Joe Bianco,  
M.F.O.W. & W., killed in action*

serving than the others, but because we know them more directly.

In the forward march of American labor, in the movement to unite all progressive and democratic forces, the seamen, longshoremen, licensed officers, radio operators and teamsters have made their contribution and have been in the very front ranks.

The titanic struggle of the maritime workers, supported by the teamsters in 1934 on the Pacific Coast, was a beacon to all labor. This historic struggle showed not only to the rest of the maritime workers, but to the textile, steel and other workers who at that time had suffered defeats or betrayals, that victory was possible, that the lords of the open shop in-

dustries could be defeated, strikes won, unions established, and a leadership brought forward deserving of confidence and support.

The unity of all the crafts in this great struggle signaled the need for *industrial action and forms of organization* and demonstrated the willingness of the American workers to support such policies.

No doubt, these facts and developments strengthened the convictions of the present leaders of the C.I.O. and encouraged them in their great crusade to organize the unorganized.

The Eastern and Gulf seamen, through long and bitter struggle, have marched forward in the fight for these same principles. In spite of the strike-breaking reactionary policies of Olander, Grange and Co., a powerful, democratic and progressive union has been established in the East Gulf. This powerful union, the National Maritime Union, is a living warning to the reactionaries of the A. F. of L. Executive Council that the will of the A. F. of L. membership cannot be denied forever.

And the teamsters, who time and again have demonstrated their support for progressive unionism, through their powerful organization, are championing the need for a united labor movement, are among the staunchest supporters of the progressive legislation of the New Deal.

The men from the maritime and teamster industries who went to Spain are a product of these great movements and struggles which they also helped initiate. And it is to the glory of these men that they not only participated in the great strikes and in the growth of progressive unionism. Many of them did the hard work that made these things possible. To be a union organizer on "coffee and" and a flop on the floor is not an easy job. It takes guts to keep going when union





MEMBERS OF THE TOM MOONEY COMPANY, LINCOLN BATTALION, IN SPAIN

propaganda falls on deaf ears and each new member represents weeks and months of heartbreaking work. When box cars were the sole means of transportation, it required a high sense of discipline to serve as organizers.

It took men to stand up under these conditions, men such as Joe Bianca, Harry Hines, Kaufman, Wickman, Hathaway, Robert Pick, Wilhausen and many others who died in Spain; men such as Duncan, Dion, Robbins, Hourihan and many others who returned wounded; men such as Robinson, Crooks, Peter Kelly, Matthews, Wheeler, Drummond, Bailey, Sands and others who returned, thankful that they could continue the fight here unhampered by wounds, as well as Logan, Keith and several others still held prisoners by the fascists. There were at least 500 maritime workers and teamsters who fought in Spain. Such men could not be "recruited by caresses and propaganda." They fought because they believed in the principles of 1776, and had the courage to fight for these convictions; men who were strong because they believed in the strength of the working class; men who had faith because they had faith in the cause of the workers.

For these reasons, they sought to help organize their fellow workers to make our country a better country for the common people; because of these things, they quickly understood that if the future of America were to be safeguarded then their duty was to join with the Spanish people in defending democracy; to defeat fascism, which has destroyed democracy and workers' organizations, where it has come into power, ever threatens democracy in every country and has brought the scourge of war to menace all of mankind.

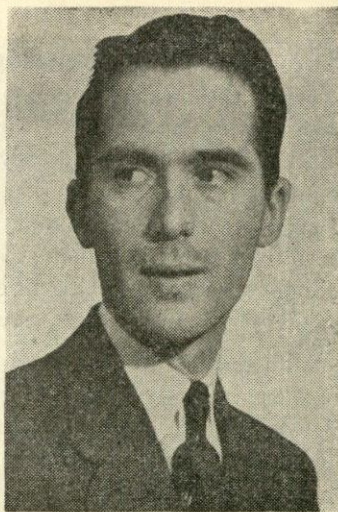
Thus, these maritime workers and teamsters in the Lincoln Battalion were but continuing their efforts to safeguard the trade unions, to secure peace, to defend democracy, to maintain the rights of the workers and common people.





MARTIN HOURIHAN

*Seaman, N.M.U., now Trade  
Union Secretary of the Friends  
of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion*



EDWARD ROBINSON

*Longshoreman, I.L.A.*

These men, by taking up arms to help the Spanish people defend democracy, to resist fascist invasion, have proved themselves worthy citizens of our country—an honor to a nation founded in 1776 by similar men, a credit to the great Lincoln for whom they named their battalion.

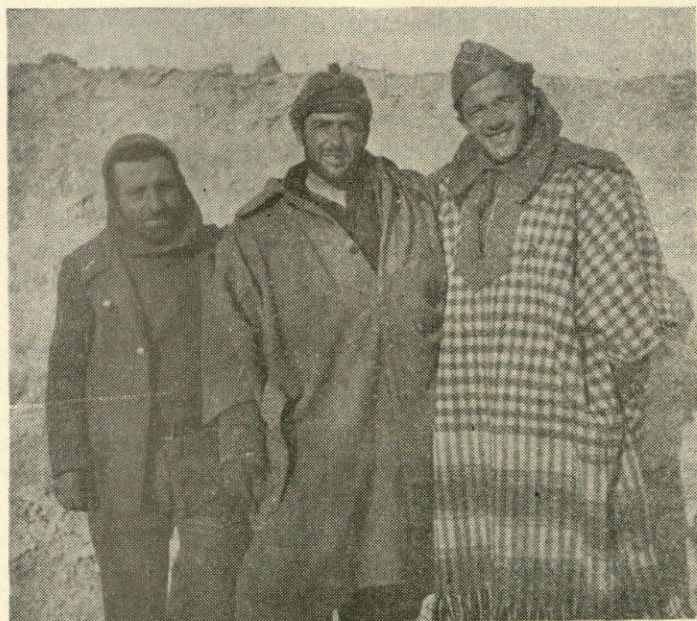
The great traditions of the maritime workers and teamsters were carried forward by the men from these industries in the Lincoln Battalion. These traditions were born not only in the fight for better wages and working conditions; in establishing union organization, in helping erect a powerful labor movement, and bring about the unity of all democratic forces to support progressive, social and labor legislation. The refusal of the longshoremen in Seattle in 1919 to aid in a war of intervention against the Soviet Union; the solidarity of the

'Frisco teamsters with the maritime workers in 1934—are but a few of the great examples of solidarity shown by the men from these industries with the struggles of the rest of the working class and progressive peoples. In all ages and countries, the maritime workers have been in the front ranks of every great progressive movement of the people. Our brothers in the Lincoln Battalion proved themselves a credit to their calling—a source of pride to every longshoreman, every seaman, every licensed officer, every teamster.

With the rest of democratic and liberty-loving Americans, the Communist Party takes pride in the achievements of the Lincoln Brigade, made up of men who were Democrats, Republicans, Socialists, Wobblies and Communists. We are proud of the fact that our Party has been able to attract such men into our ranks and that, in Spain, they have proved themselves well worthy of membership in the Communist Party. We feel that such men, more than any arguments, refute those who try to divide all progressive forces by slandering the Communist Party. We feel that more and more people will draw the same lessons that Britt Webster, writing in the *Voice of the Federation*, did when he said of Joe Bianca, a member of the Sailors Union of the Pacific (S.U.P.), who was judged the "best fighter in the Lincoln Battalion":

"Joe Bianca was a Communist. As a Communist he first fought for union organization where there was none. As a Communist he fought for unions to be controlled by the membership instead of any clique. As a Communist he advocated unity of all workers, regardless of affiliation, and as a Communist he advocated resistance to fascism and proved his sincerity by going out and giving his life for the defense of democracy and you and me. Could any better proof be given that the Red-baiters of every stripe are lying when they tell you that Com-





#### SEAMEN IN SPAIN

(left) Joe Sands, Longshoreman, I.L.A.; (center) J. Rodriguez, West Coast Fireman; (right) Hy Chesler, Marine Cooks and Stewards, West Coast

munists and Reds are some kind of animals, different than you and me?

"I salute a man!

"The seamen, the workers everywhere, have lost a fighter. But there will be thousands to take his place in the fight against the fascist hyenas and in the fight for working class unity and for the preservation of democracy all over the world. I salute a man!

"BRITT WEBSTER,

"Book 2605, I.L.W.U. 1-13."

The record and achievements of these men, regardless of their political affiliations, stand as a rebuke to those few who went to Spain but suffered from weak knees and couldn't stand the struggle; to those in our own country who wonder whether the forces of democracy can resist the might of fascism. They stand as a condemnation of those people who sought not only to inflict an injustice on them, but also to disrupt the fight against fascism. It seems impossible to justify the expulsion of such men as Joe Bianca for "anti-union activity."

But people have justified splitting the Maritime Federation of the Pacific on the grounds that it was reactionary; there is no national seamen's union, because some people charge that the majority of the Eastern and Gulf seamen are finks and their organization dominated by "reactionary communists." Unions are disrupted on the plea that Communists must be thrown out because they are no longer "radicals." These same people call upon us to join Hitler in destroying the Soviet Union because the "revolution has been betrayed by the Stalinists." They urge non-support of the Loyalist government because it is a capitalist government.

Is it strange then that they do not lack "reasons" for their shameful deeds against members of the Lincoln Battalion?

And these people who, under cover of "militant phrases," disrupt and divide the trade union movement, who expel militants for fighting in Spain, who incite against the Soviet Union—they also in the same manner seek to help open the doors to fascism in the United States by preaching that labor should not support and make alliances with the farmers, small business people and the New Deal forces represented by President Roosevelt in order to defeat reaction—on the





JOSEPH YOUNG  
*Seaman, N.M.U., Prisoner of  
Franco at Burgos*



"CAP"  
*Teamster, I.B.T.*

grounds that these people have nothing in common with the workers.

All these ideas and deeds have something in common—they all originate from one source; they come from the agents or tools of international fascism and reaction, the Trotskyites. These stool-pigeons of the enemies of trade unionism, of international fascism, carry out their dirty work under the cloak of radical phrases. What they stand for is demonstrated in the expulsion of members of the S.U.P. while they were fighting in Spain. Thus, they seek to help fascism destroy democracy!

Is this language too severe? Does the mere fact that men hold "wrong" ideas prove they are stool-pigeons? Is a man, whom you may have known for years, works on the same job, and belongs to the same union, an agent of fascism because he has become a Trotskyite, or supports their policies? Let no one be confused by such questions. A member of the I.W.W., and a member of the C.I.O. are supporters of different policies and theories, different tendencies prevailing in the labor movement. Life is proving one policy right, the other wrong—

but different opinions are honestly held. Many such tendencies exist, representing efforts of workers to solve the problem of how best to defend our interests.

But Trotskyism does not reflect the striving of workers to find a way to best protect the workers' interests; it represents the efforts of reaction and fascism to prevent us from finding a solution. One accepts the I.W.W. as a section (a small, very small section) of the labor movement and argues against their wrong policies, but one does not accept open spokesmen for company unionism, for instance, as "part" of the labor movement, but denounces them as open agents of the bosses. Well, Trotskyism is concealed company unionism, or more specifically, fascism, and has nothing in common with trade unionism, let alone Communism. The fact that one is a worker, or has been a worker, and at one time a loyal unionist, does not mean such people cannot become tools of fascism.

After all, some of the Storm Troopers of Germany are honest but misled supporters of Hitler, and gain little or nothing from fascism, but still, they are agents of fascism, used to destroy the trade unions, to persecute and enslave the German people and to invade democratic nations. One diseased person may endanger the lives of an entire ship's crew. The Trotskyite carriers of the germ of fascism must, in a like manner, be exposed and isolated if the labor movement is to retain its health.

A few militant, progressive trade unionists have been vilified and slandered. This shameful deed must be wiped out and if it is done, it will lead to strengthening the unity of the maritime workers and teamsters. The way to do this is to prevent Trotskyite poison from penetrating into the ranks of the workers by exposing and isolating those who are Trotskyites or who consciously carry out their policies.





#### MARITIME WORKERS IN SPAIN

*Standing, left to right: Fritz Krumbeck, George Jacobs, Virgil Morris, Norman Duncan. Seated, second from left, Barney Spalding, Stirling Rochester, B. Capadona, all N.M.U. men.*

The Lincoln Brigade has returned, but fascism has not been defeated. On the contrary, the return of the Lincoln Battalion only proves that the Spanish people are able to do what the Chinese people have been doing—conduct the defense within their own country, providing they have the encouragement and support of other democratic and peace-loving nations.

The war in Spain and China continues. The problem is to stop the fascists before they engulf the entire world in war.

And the fascist nations cannot be stopped by sacrificing democratic nations; Munich proves that this course only makes the fascists more hungry.

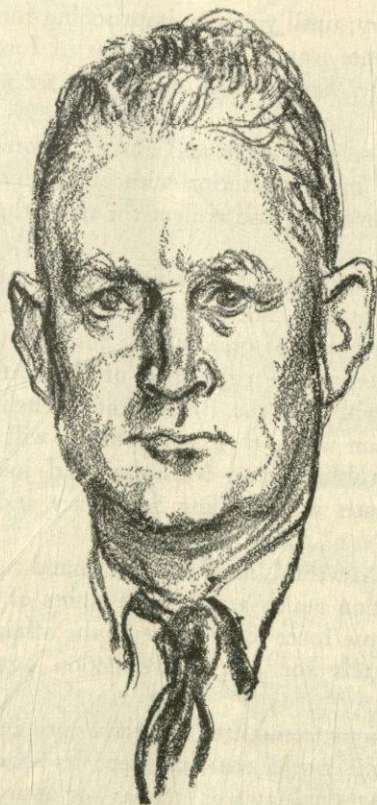
Hitler, Mussolini and the Mikado will stop their aggressions, will get out and keep out of other countries, only if they are confronted with the unity of all peace-loving nations, prepared to defend democracy and their nations, if necessary, with armed force.

For the United States, the menace of fascism, the danger of war, are not past but are greater than ever. Already, the fascists are trying to move in to Latin American countries.

Let fascism triumph in Spain, and the efforts of fascism to interfere with normal trade relations between Latin American countries and the United States will be increased. To accomplish this, fascism especially will seek to establish reactionary, anti-democratic, and fascist governments, and the first thing we know, we will find fascism knocking right at the door of the United States, threatening the very existence of our democratic nation.

To defend our nation, we need a united people that can guarantee a government that will carry out the will of the great majority of the people. Through such unity, and such a government, we can deal with our own budding fascists who sabotage the New Deal policies of Roosevelt; we can deal with their allies and our enemies abroad. Through united action on the political field, we can defend and extend the New Deal, and strike a world blow for world peace by declaring to our allies defending world democracy in Spain and China: "In the United States we have surplus food products. Take it to feed your army and people. Our doors are open to you. Buy the materials which you need to carry on defense of your country."





JOHN ROBINSON, SEAMAN, N.M.U.  
*Political Commissar in the International Brigade*

To the fascists who have invaded Spain and China, who raped Austria, Czechoslovakia and Ethiopia, and see every democratic nation as their future victim, let us say: "Until you respect the rights of other nations; until you stop the persecution of trade unionists, Catholics, Jews and others in





## FROM THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, U.S.A.

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THE COMMUNIST PARTY of the United States of America is a working class political party carrying forward today the traditions of Jefferson, Paine, Jackson, and Lincoln, and of the Declaration of Independence; it upholds the achievements of democracy, the right of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," and defends the United States Constitution against its reactionary enemies who would destroy democracy and all popular liberties; it is devoted to defense of the immediate interests of workers, farmers, and all toilers against capitalist exploitation, and to preparation of the working class for its historic mission to unite and lead the American people to extend these democratic principles to their necessary and logical conclusions:

By establishing common ownership of the national economy, through a government of the people, by the people, and for the people; the abolition of all exploitation of man by man, nation by nation, and race by race, and thereby the abolition of class divisions in society; that is, by the establishment of socialism, according to the scientific principles enunciated by the greatest teachers of mankind, Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Stalin, embodied in the Communist International; and the free cooperation of the American people with those of other lands, striving toward a world without oppression and war, a world brotherhood of man.

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