

Reds Trieked French Catholics, Spent Huge Sums in Rise to Power

(This is the first of two articles by M. Marziani, veteran Paris correspondent of the N.Y.W.C. News Service and a born political observer, dealing with the steps by which the Communist Party ascended to the position of the first party of France.)

By MARTIAL MARZIANI

(Paris Correspondent, N. Y. W. C. News Service)

Paris—On the eve of World War II, and those were the days when only men voted in France, the Communist Party was able to muster hardly more than 1,000,000 votes. With the liberation, the franchise was extended to the women and today the Communist Party polling better than 5,000,000 votes holds the rank of the first party of France.

It is interesting to review how the extreme leftists made such rapid advances in the comparative few years.

The first thing to emphasize is that communism in France has done a complete about face. The character cloaking the party is altogether different from the one it presented in the days before 1939.

Up until the time of the war, the communists acted as aloof revolutionists. They stayed behind the rest of the parties. They declined to take part in what they then called parliamentary force. In Parliament they remained obstinate, seated when the funeral eulogy of some truly great political figure or soldier such as Foch, was pronounced.

Anti-Militaristic Decidedly anti-militaristic, their cry was "down with the Army." They had newspapers and leaflets distributed at barracks, which disparaged officers and all military grades, condemned military discipline and belittled the homage paid to the nation's flag.

But the post war era has brought a complete transformation. Its elected members may be seen in the front row at all patriotic and military ceremonies. They are in first place in what they once called the parliamentary farce. They accept honors paid to them by troops and they review the infantry companies, charged with keeping order.

They send courtesy telegrams to French and international authorities on all occasions. They never are seen in official gatherings without their three-colored sash and their medals. They go about in high-powered automobiles bearing ministerial emblems and they step out of their cars to embrace children. In short, they accept without reserve their role in "the bourgeois farce."

Occupation Brought Change It was the war and above all the enemy occupation which brought about the change be-

tween France's pre-war and post war communists. Up until the time of the war, the communists, as is known, had taken a stand favorable to Germany. They defended the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact and they contended that the war of France against Germany had not been their war.

But swiftly when they saw the rage which filled the people against the invader, at the time when the people realized what it meant to lose such a precious possession as independence, the communists took over the role of inspirers and fomenters of universal malcontent. Persecutions and violence of the Gestapo made martyrs of them. Their leaders went underground and formed resistance units. Their propaganda fed the resistance movement. And out of that underground army combatting the Germans, after the Allied landings many workers, fugitives from factories in the metropolitan area of Paris emerged as commanders and colonels.

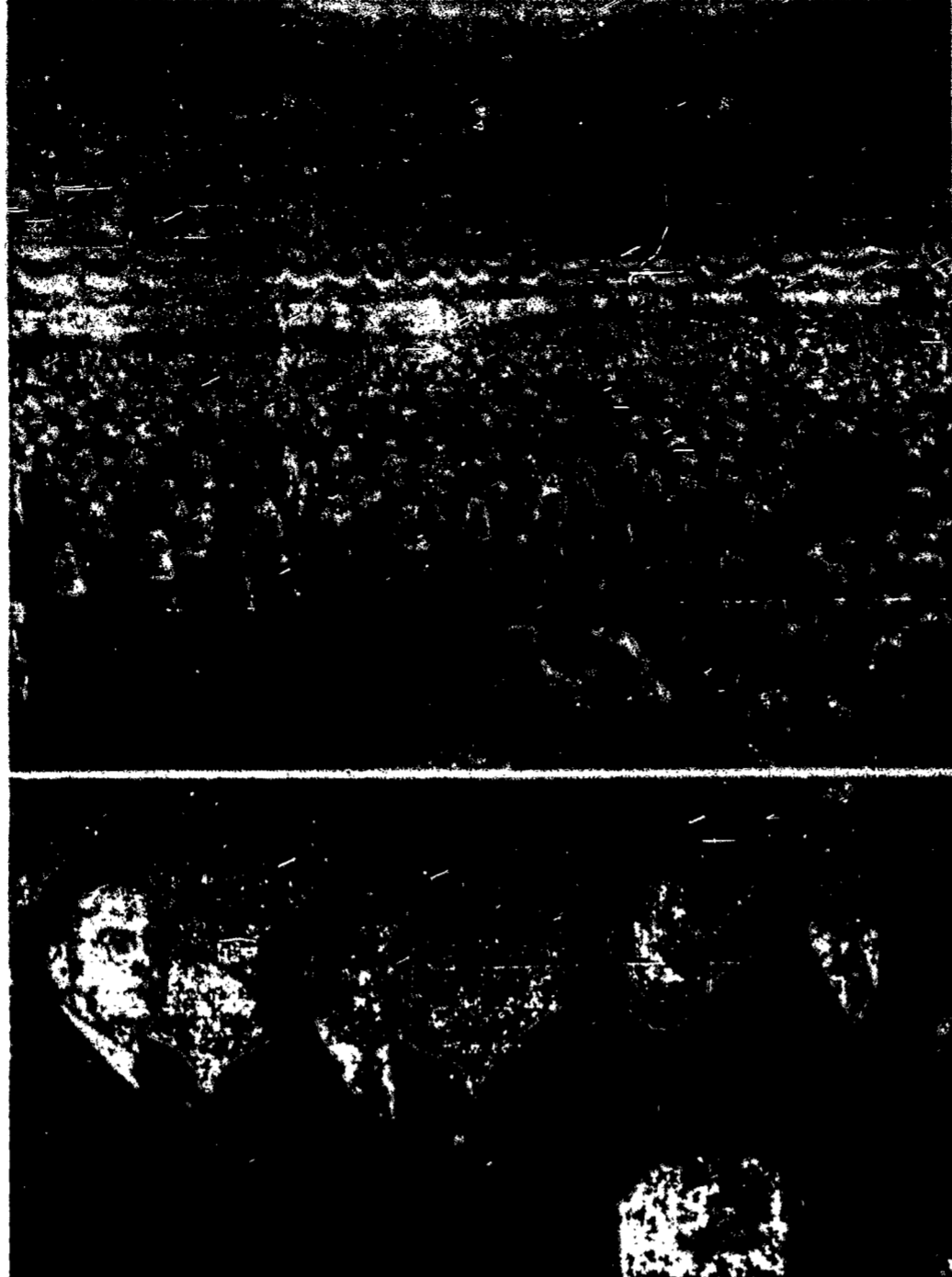
It is true that there had been martyrs and heroes among the Christian Youth, the Christian Farmers Youth, the Catholic Students and none of these were in the ranks of the communists. There had been other heroes, too, among all classes from aristocrats to the most humble peasants. But at the liberation the communists assumed the leadership of French politics under the guise that they were the "party of those shot."

Tactics Declared Clever Communist tactics were extremely clever. Jockeying themselves into the center of things, they preached "national unity" everywhere. When France's first post war municipal elections rolled around, the communists were adamant that the resistance units, under no circumstances, should be broken. In each commune they introduced a single list of candidates.

With seemingly eager graciousness, they proposed that first places be offered here to an heroic curate, there to a president of Catholic activities—and all the time they knew that the French Bishops prudently had

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Protest Abp. Stepinac Imprisonment



This huge assembly in Philadelphia's Convention Hall (upper photo), brought together some 60,000 persons, one of many such protest meetings planned throughout the country, demanding the release of Archbishop Alojz Stepinac and the cessation of persecutions of Catholics in Yugoslavia. Sponsored by the Catholic War Veterans this meeting was presided over by His Eminence Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia. He is pictured (lower photo) with, left to right, Judge Clare Gerald Fenerty, principal speaker; Mayor Bernard Samuel of Philadelphia and Judge Vincent A. Carroll, general chairman of the rally. (NC Photos)

Reports on Abp. Stepinac Unconfirmed at Vatican

Vatican City (Radio, NC)—No confirmation is available here of widely circulated rumors and reports concerning the person and the future of Archbishop Alojz Stepinac of Zagreb, who was sentenced last October to 16 years imprisonment at hard labor by a Croatian "People's Court."

The only apparently reliable information regarding Archbishop Stepinac has reached this country from Switzerland, where a Swiss Catholic agency reported that the Archbishop is being held prisoner in the penitentiary of Lepoglava, 22 miles north of Zagreb.

Concerning the Archbishop's health and his treatment, reports are conflicting. While the Swiss report declares that he is allowed in the courtyard of the prison only once a day for a short walk, press agency reports purporting to emanate from "an authoritative Catholic source" in Belgrade assert that prison conditions are "as comfortable as they can be under the circumstances."

Health a Question While some reports say that Archbishop Stepinac is believed to be suffering from tuberculosis, that his condition is causing

concern and that he may be transferred to a hospital for treatment, the cited press agency report from Belgrade says that Archbishop Stepinac is growing "paler and thinner" but his health is described as "basically sound."

Other speculations and completely unconfirmed rumors assert that the offer to release Archbishop Stepinac to a convent, provided he resign as Archbishop of Zagreb, and that this "offer" was emphatically rejected by the Holy See.

Canada's Spy Ring Reveals Red Workings

(This is the first of three articles by KENNETH NEWS SERVICE, Canadian correspondent, dealing with the activities of the Communist Party in Canada and the work of the House Committee investigating un-American activities at Washington, that the Russian Secret Police are at work in the United States and Canada, in further substantiation of the same charges made before the Canadian Royal Commission which investigated Russian spy activities in Canada.)

By J. F. WILLIAMS

Ottawa—(NC)—The charge made at Windsor recently by Louis F. Budenz, former editor of the Communist Daily Worker of New York and more recently reported by him before the House Committee investigating un-American activities at Washington, that the Russian Secret Police are at work in the United States and Canada, in further substantiation of the same charges made before the Canadian Royal Commission which investigated Russian spy activities in Canada.

Igor Gouzenko, 27 year old cipher clerk at the Russian Embassy in Ottawa was the star witness in the Canadian spy probe. He testified that the NKVD, the secret police of the Soviet Union, have a powerful organization in Canada.

Like Mr. Budenz at Washington, he also declared that the Communist International, or Comintern, had not been abandoned. Gouzenko told the Royal Commission Inquiry: "The announcement of the dissolution of the Comintern was probably the greatest farce of the Communists in recent years. Only the name was liquidated, with the object of reassuring public opinion in the democratic countries. Actually the Comintern exists and continues to exist."

Government Instrument Gouzenko declared that "the Communist Party in democratic countries has changed long ago from a political party into an agency not of the Soviet Government into a Fifth Column in these countries to meet a war into an instrument in the hands of the Soviet Government for creating artificial unrest, provocation etc."

Gouzenko declared before the Royal Commission: "Holding forth at international conferences with various statements about peace and security, the Soviet Government is simultaneously preparing secretly for the third world war. To meet this war the Soviet Government is creating in democratic countries, including Canada, a Fifth Column."

The Royal Commission, which had the cooperation of Canada's famous Royal Canadian Mounted Police and other agencies, has been investigating the activities of the Communist Party in Canada since its formation in 1943. It has heard evidence from many witnesses, including Gouzenko, who was arrested in Ottawa in July, 1945, and deported to the Soviet Union. He was later released and returned to Canada in 1946.

Two Nuns—70 Kiddies

Windsor—(NC)—Two nuns and 70 children were taken to a hospital in Windsor, Ontario, today, after being found unconscious in a rooming house in the city.

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