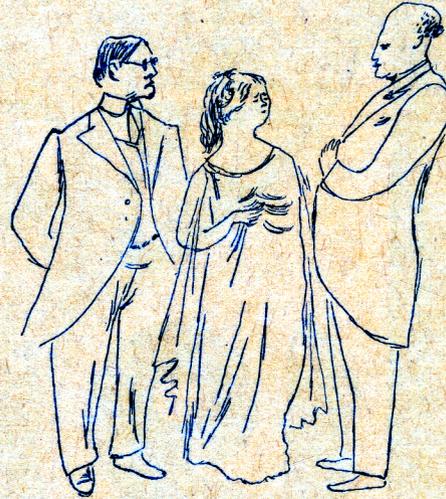


probability that these death-dealing materials will some day be used against the workingmen who have manufactured and are shipping them. Had Rengo felt any need for apologizing for Japan's arms-budget it might have said a word or two about the billion-dollar war appropriation of the Roosevelt government, or stressed the use of public works funds for improving military roads, coast artillery defenses, building battle-ships, etc. That 1914 is being prepared all over again cannot be denied by any who have eyes to see. And the problem: Can the capitalist nations resolve their mutual rivalries for a temporary period sufficient to present a united front against the Soviet Union? The workers of all the world will have a part in the answer to this riddle.

**T**O prop his tottering Recovery Program, President Roosevelt has turned his eye to the starving artists. Ignoring their sensibilities, he has instructed 2,500 artists to turn in murals, easel paintings, statues, friezes, memorial tablets, designs for linoleum, and drinking fountains by the end of six or, the latest, eight weeks at \$34 a week. The country has been divided into art districts headed by specially appointed administrators, mostly museum directors, who are to distribute commissions and choose the best works for museums and public buildings. So far, the directors, including Mrs. Juliana Force of New York, have oriented themselves on well-known names. Less famous artists have been left to starve. Altogether, this CWA plan exposes the perennial bourgeois piffle about "pure art," "self-expression," "art for art's sake," etc. The Maecenases, in order to prevent the artist from showing up the hideousness of their system, have always managed to mesmerize him into believing he was too fine and spiritual—all soul and no stomach!—to meddle with the sordid things of life. While their system worked, they were able to bribe some artists and bamboozle others into acqui-

escence. Now that it is clear to everyone, even artists, that capitalism is decaying and that NRA is a flop, our affable dictator is attempting to bribe the moulders of public opinion and channelizers of mass emotion with pitifully small handouts from the Federal Treasury.



The Art Committee SIMON BRONSTEIN

**H**ITLER'S program to sterilize 400,000 people deemed genetically unfit suggests some fearful possibilities. That sterilization of political enemies has already been perpetrated in Nazi chambers of horror there can be little doubt. The recent Daily Worker exposé of Nazi intentions to inject syphilitic germs into Torgler, Dimitroff, Tan-eff, and Popoff indicates what the Nazis are capable of. Officially, to be sure, Hitler urges this program, not as a political weapon, but as a eugenic means of purifying the German race. Nothing but the best and the purest makes adequate cannon fodder, says Hitler. Since being a Jew or a Communist is already a crime in the Reich, Hitler's next logical step is an official declaration that Jews, Communists, and other politically undesirable elements are genetically unfit and subject to sterilization. To obviate criticism, he will find plenty of Nazi pseudo-scientists to prove Marxism and Judaism hereditary diseases which can be extirpated only through wholesale sterilization. The Aryan priests of Valhala can then proceed to elevate sterilization to a central mystery of their faith, weaving a magnificently revolting Nazi ritual around it.

**T**HE Westbrook Pegler incident wherein a columnist in a liberal paper condoned Gov. Rolph's statement is of especial significance because of its connection with lynching: that most ex-

treme expression of the system of oppression of the Negro people. This native American institution displays chauvinism in its extremest form, the actual working out of the ideology of white superiority. Lynching has its root in the powerful remnants of slavery still extant in Dixie, economically based in the semi-feudal share-cropping system, socially in the all-embracing discrimination against the Negroes, in their total exclusion from the social and political benefits of bourgeois democracy. The rope and the faggot are the coat-of-arms of American bourbonism. The lynching of the kidnapers in California arose out of different circumstances and was impelled by other motives. But the statement of Rolph had, primarily, the effect of condoning lynching, not in its exceptional manifestations, but in its specific function in the oppression of the Negro.

**I**N THE present frame-work of the world crisis, in an atmosphere pervaded by Fascism and with the marked Fascist tendencies of the N.R.A., lynching takes on added meaning. The semi-feudal South is the most fertile soil for the production of the first major army of American Fascism. There is located the chief generating center of the "Nordic" and white myth. There is concentrated, in foreboding masses, the American counterpart of the Non-Aryan—the Negro. In the South, there already exists in completely worked out form far better than Hitler could hope for, the outlawry of a whole people measured down to the one-thousandth of a percent of "black blood." There is to be found not only the framework but the whole edifice of "race superiority" built without benefit of special decrees or the overthrow of bourgeois democratic institutions. In fact, outside of the brief interval of a few years after the Civil War, these institutions never reached the same level of development in the South as in the rest of the country. And this state of affairs has been granted further Federal acknowledgement and legalization in the double standards of the N.R.A. codes.

The Scottsboro case, more than any other single event, has shown the tremendous revolutionary potentialities of the struggle for Negro rights. The rapid development of a revolutionary movement among the American Negroes, no less than among the American working-class as a whole, will prove one of the most effective bulwarks against the maturing of Fascism.

**T**HE NEW MASSES invites all our readers who want to say something to the editors—particularly you of the working class and ruined middle classes, you students and professionals, to write in to a department which will be one of our most important sections in forthcoming issues. This department will be called "Letters from America."