

Gates Finds 'Left' Confident in Rome

By John Gates

Editor, Daily Worker

(Reprinted from yesterday's late edition)

ROME, April 14.—I arrived in Rome this morning, and was immediately plunged into the most fateful and intensive election campaign I ever witnessed. Riding the bus

from the airport on this beautiful Spring day, to the center of the city, we passed through the outskirts of Rome, the "red belt" of the city.

Everywhere street meetings were going on. Every wall of every building was plastered with posters. Only a few days are left until Sunday, Election Day. The main work has been done. The last event of the campaign will be a speech Friday night in Rome by Palmiro Togliatti, secretary of the Italian Communist Party.

In an editorial appearing in L'Unita tomorrow, Togliatti addresses three questions to De Gasperi:

1. Will De Gasperi pledge to respect the results of the elections, or is he preparing some trick to rob the people of their victory?
2. Does De Gasperi pledge to keep Italy out of the five Western powers' military alliance?
3. Does he promise to refuse to turn over Sicily to the American warmakers as a war base?

Will De Gasperi pledge to respect a policy after April 18 of enforcing the right to work, the improvement of workers conditions, farm and industrial reforms, promised the Italian people by the constitution?

CONFIDENT

Leaders of the Democratic Peoples Front, Socialist and Communist Parties, express great confidence as to election results. Arturo Colombi, provincial secretary of the Communist Party of Emilia, which includes Bologna, Communist stronghold, predicts that the Front will get more than 70 percent of the vote in Emilia, as compared with 60 percent in 1946, despite the

defection of Saragat, rightwing Socialist.

Bardini, Communist leader in Tuscany, predicts that the Front there will surpass 60 percent. It is expected that the Front will appreciably increase its vote among the peasants of southern Italy.

FASCISTS ATTACK JEWS

Though the campaign is virtually over, the progressive forces are apprehensive over possible provocations.

Tonight a shocking event occurred. One hundred fascists, coming from a meeting, passed through the Jewish quarter of Rome, singing fascist songs and insulting Jews. Two Jewish children were beaten up.

Fascists used blackjacks similar to those used by Italian police. Many Jews suffered cuts and bruises, and four were sent to the hospital. Fascists defaced a plaque on a synagogue wall containing the names of Italian Jews who died in combat in World War I. The ghetto population is highly aroused. They have organized defense squads and posted guards around the synagogue against possible future attacks.



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