

Daily Worker

New York, Tuesday, April 20, 1948

Popular Front Leads In Italian Election

By John Gates Editor, Daily Worker

ROME, April 19 (By Telephone).—The reports now reaching the American public on the alleged setback of the Popular Front in yesterday's election are badly distorted. News reports of a Communist-Socialist setback are absolutely false. As I am talking to you (7 p.m. EST) approximately one million votes have been counted for the Senate. The results announced are as follow:

Popular Front 497,000
Christian Democrats 440,000
National Bloc 43,000
Saragat Socialist 56,000

The government has been hand-picking for the first returns those areas where it usually gets ma-

'Unita' Says U. S. Press Distorts Vote

The Czechoslovak radio broadcast Monday night a report by the Rome Communist newspaper "Unita" that the Democratic People's Front had taken a commanding lead in the election and that American press associations were "feverishly" trying to give the opposite impression.

Majorities. In this way, it is trying to help the press convey a distorted impression.

In Calabria, southern peasant region, the Popular Front is getting 50 percent of the votes. In the region of Emilia, in the north, the returns are at the rate of 74 percent for the Popular Front.

By Cable

ROME, April 19.—Voting in the Italian elections ended today at 2 p.m. in the same orderly manner as yesterday's balloting. It is estimated that, 84 percent of the electorate voted, which means more than 24 million.

Twenty priests and nuns were arrested for attempting to vote twice. Some ballots were discovered to be premarked for the Christian Democratic Party.

Scattered results are trickling in, but they are meaningless.

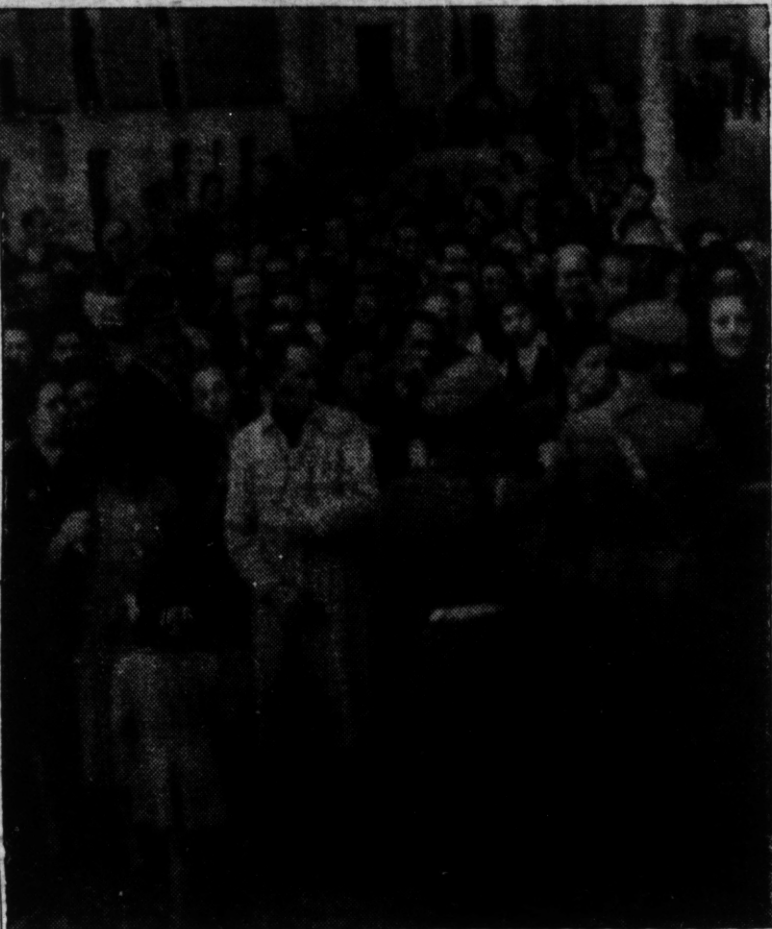
The government seems to be publishing first figures favorable to them. Therefore, do not trust results until all are in.

What may have been a government-inspired story appeared today in the *Giornale dell Sera*, a pro-monarchist sheet, concerning an alleged Communist plan to reverse the election results. National Democratic People's Front leaders immediately denounced the story as absolutely false and demanded that the newspaper print the denial with the same prominence as original story in accordance with Italian law. They also sent a delegation to protest on the story to the Ministry of Interior.

The composition of the new Senate is expected to be known before that of the lower chamber because of peculiar election laws and is expected to be, more Left. Present deputies who served five years or more in Fascist prisons are automatically elected to the Senate. This will give the Left an advantage.

An interesting footnote to the end of the election is the sight of hundreds of kids tearing down election posters to sell as used paper. The amount of paper is really unbelievable.

ROME, Tuesday, April 20 (UP).—Returns from 3,431 precincts showed that Premier Alcide De Gasperi's Christian Democratic Party alone was leading the Democratic Popular Front by three to



Romans Vote: Early crowds in Rome awaited opening of the polls in the Italian elections.

O'D Aide Quits, Raps Fare Hike

(Continued from Page 1)

ment "frequently yielding to your judgment on matters upon which we differed sharply," Ross revealed that he opposed vehemently the rent boosts granted to hotel owners.

"As chairman of the rent commission," he wrote, "I have tried to . . . save the people of the city from the chaos and misery of evictions and unwarranted rent increases—conditions you sought to avoid in passing the city's rent laws. As you know I dissented from the large rent increases which the commission granted against hotel tenants (and which the courts have since condemned), but remained at my work because I felt it was necessary to carry the program forward until the validity of the law was established."

Ross added that the fare issue "leaves me no alternative other than to tender my resignation to you."

Reminding the Mayor that a year ago O'Dwyer had admitted that a fare increase would be a burden "equal to a 10 to 15 percent raise in the rents of low income families," Ross stated:

"By increasing the fare you will forfeit your leadership in the fight against inflation."

O'Dwyer had no comment on Ross's resignation. A reporter, seizing upon the resignation as a means of obtaining a redbaiting comment, asked the Mayor whether it was true that "left-wing unionists, the ALP and the Communist Party warned you after you came back from California that if you raised the fare, they would go all out against you."

"That did not happen," the

two in early results for the Senate. (John Gates, Daily Worker editor, warned in Rome not to accept the early returns).

Figures were:

Christian Democrats 1,092,117
Popular Front 642,910
Independent Socialists 224,163
National Bloc 50,910

Mayor said.

Michael J. Quill, international president of the CIO Transport Workers Union, in a broadcast last night over WNBC, called on the people to "ask our Mayor to raise the fare."

Continuing the threadbare hose of conflict with O'Dwyer, Quill urged his listeners to rush wire and phone calls to City Hall to influence the Mayor's certain decision to raise the fare.

He attacked Saul Mills, calling him secretary of "of the so-called Greater New York CIO Council" and lined up with the right-wing AFL and CIO leaders.

The Mayor announced that he would make his higher fare speech tonight at 6:45 from his office in City Hall.

State headquarters of the American Labor Party yesterday filed formal protest with the Federal Communications Commission because of the refusal of Station WNBC to grant ALP state chairman, Rep. Vito Marcantonio an opportunity to reply to Councilman Michael J. Quill. Quill spoke on the radio last night over that station for a higher fare. Marcantonio sought the chance to speak immediately afterward, but the station refused.