

Count Carlo Sforza Writes of Crisis Facing Italian People—King Emmanuel's Abdication, or Creation of Second Vichy

Back in his country after long exile in the U. S., Count Carlo Sforza, Italian anti-Fascist leader, is writing in reconstruction and is believed likely to become the next Italian premier. In the following special article he tells why abdication of the king is the only solution for democratic unity in Italy.

By COUNT CARLO SFORZA
Written for The Indianapolis Times

Fascism has been like a cancer. It has been eliminated from the healthy body of Italy, but hidden, hypocritical disease is taking its place in the invisible attempts of accomplices of fascism who are trying to persuade Italians that the long and fatal tyranny of Mussolini

and the criminal war against democratic nations have been normal historical episodes for which no body is guilty and on which silence should be kept.

This attempt was made by way of the present king and the generals who ordered Italians not to fight the Germans last September. They want to create a new Vichy, an Italian edition of the Petain regime.

How would it be possible to create an enthusiastic atmosphere for war against Germany in Italy when an attempt is made to give even greater authority than in the past

to a king who accepted so gladly to make war on Great Britain and the United States?

There is not a single responsible Italian who thinks that this is the moment to discuss the question of monarchy versus the republic. There is only one duty of all Italians today: War on Germany. But just as it is impossible to think of the French revolting against the Germans in the name of Petain, it is equally impossible to think that Italians may rally around the king who signed so many proclamations in favor of Germany.

When an immense majority of

Italians ask for abdication by the present king, and when so many among them are in favor of a regency in the hands of Badoglio, the most reactionary monarchist (in Italy and abroad) should not forget that the formula of abdication, far from being revolutionary, is one of the most orthodox instruments of monarchical tradition. It is the best way available when a monarchy—for the time being, at least—while getting rid of a monarch who, through crimes or perjuries or even only through disasters, is no longer possible as the head of a country.

Why then does King Victor Emmanuel so strongly object to an abdication of which his great grandfather, King Charles Albert, gave an example in 1841 after the Austrian Empire defeated him at Novara?

There is one and only one reason: The king—as I have said above—has become a symbol of certain generals who betrayed their duty last September when they disarmed Italian troops which were ready to fight the Germans. An incident of conspiracy of Fascist and ex-Fascist officials and of guilty generals—all of whom hate Badoglio—tried to

create an artificial atmosphere persuading the Italian nation that 30 years of Fascist tyrannical corruption and three years of wars may be forgotten without any sanction. Abroad, a few misinformed groups seem to believe that acquittal of the present king might mean elimination of political discussions, with the result that all Italians would unite in what is our supreme duty—war against the Germans. But this is not so because Italians have suffered too much from the war which was imposed on them by Mussolini and which the sovereign ratified although so many Italians warned him against it.

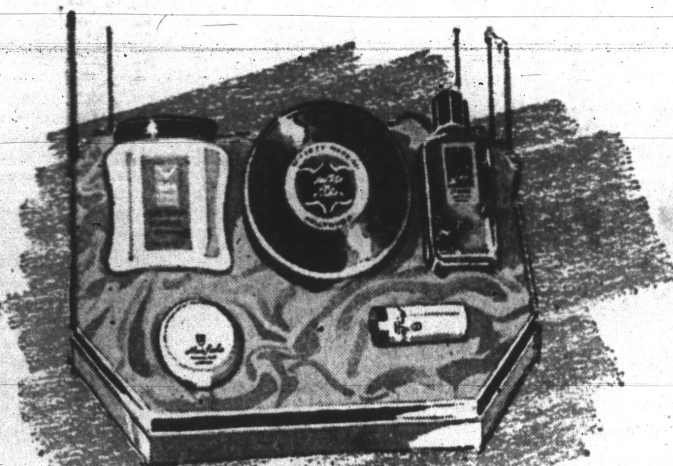
Warned by two Italian generals that war had been decided upon, I wrote a letter to the king on May 30, 1940, telling him all the reasons why Great Britain would resist heroically, and that in the long run the United States would join in the struggle against totalitarian regimes. Unfortunately, for him, but even more unfortunately for Italy, the king did not give attention to the warnings of Italians who wanted to save him from the most tragic of his errors. Successively he signed, without hesitation, declarations of war against France, which already

had been defeated; against Great Britain; against the United States, where five million good American citizens are of Italian origin; against Jugoslavia and Greece. What is most strange is that some badly-informed conservatives abroad think that abdication by the present king might mean the loss of a bulwark of social conservatism. On the contrary, the status quo may only create new adepts to the cause of communism. It has happened frequently in the history of Europe that certain blind and ungenerous conservatives are the best promoters of revolution.

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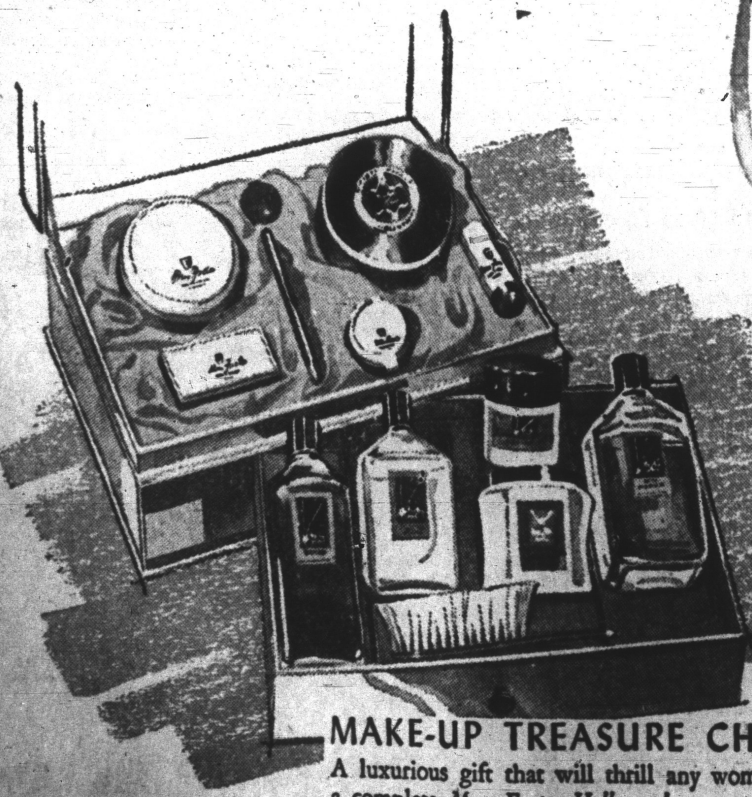
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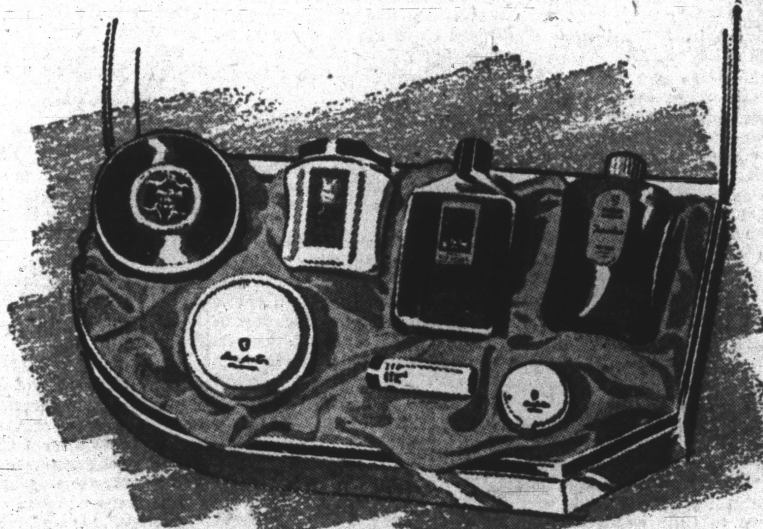
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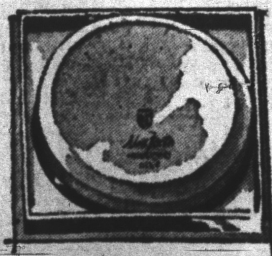


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