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CIVIL WAR FEAR IN ITALY GROWS

Political Pot Boiling; Parties Alert to Communism.

By LEIGH WHITE
Times Foreign Correspondent
ROME, Sept. 25.—Will there be a civil war in Italy?

Increasingly large numbers of Italians seem to think so. They seem to think so precisely because the "revolution," which the left has done so much to publicize has not yet happened.

Businessmen, landowners, clerics and aristocrats, who make up the right, are convinced that the Communists, with Russian help, will implant a Marxist dictatorship in Italy soon after the American and British armies leave.

Many industrialists are, therefore, selling out—preferably to such British and American investors as they can find, who think that Italy's future is worth a gamble. They do not.

R. A. A. M. Enters
Other rightists, however, are trying to shore up Italy's social and economic structure as best they can, and to barricade themselves within. These are the backers of an organization known as R. A. A. M. (Reparti Anti-Totalitari, Anti-Marxisti Monarchici)—a well-armed secret militia, led by monarchist army officers, who are ready to fight to prevent anything resembling a Marxist dictatorship in Italy.

Stefano Jacini, Christian Democratic minister of war, after denying that R. A. A. M. existed, later ordered an official inquiry, the results of which have not been published as yet.

According to Randolph Paccardi, the leader of the Republican party and commander of R. A. A. M. is a "noted member of the Roman aristocracy"—which may possibly mean Crown Prince Umberto himself.

Secret Militia
Even the conservative Christian Democratic party, which participates in the Parri government and, consequently, co-operates with the left to a limited degree, has not hesitated to protect itself with a secret militia.

The Communists, having won over the Socialists, are playing their usual double game. Palmiro Togliatti and other Communists in the Parri government have been advocating a moderate party line—in print. In speeches, however, delivered at secret meetings, their aims seem far less moderate.

It is a well-known fact that less than half the arms with which the British and American armies supplied the partisans have been surrendered. According to the allied commission, the great majority of such arms—and they include cannons and armored cars—are now in the hands of the Communist party.

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Veterans' Pension Adjustment Claims Seen as Setting a New, High Record for U. S.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25 (U. P.).—The people who pass on pensions for disabled veterans are already swamped but they may shortly be buried under a flood of a million claims for readjustments.

If so, Gen. Omar N. Bradley's plans to speed up veterans' work through a reorganization of the Veterans' Administration may be thwarted.

This was indicated today as VA officials took under advisement an urgent request by a veterans' service group that congressional action be sought to remedy a quirk in a new rating schedule that will go into effect on Oct. 1.

Here is the trouble: VA has drawn up new regulations under which most of the disabilities for which Uncle Sam pays compensation are re-rated. Most of the changes mean money in the pocket to the disabled veteran.

The hitch is that the new schedule applies, automatically, only to claims acted upon after Oct. 1. To the men whose claims have already been acted on its benefits apply only if and when they ask for a readjustment.

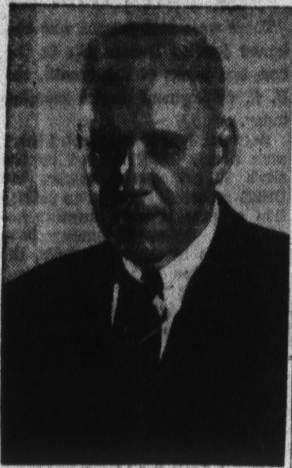
And furthermore, if the readjustment is finally approved, the new payments—if any—are retroactive to the date on which the application is filed.

Veterans' groups, naturally, are urging eligible members to get their claims in early. The flood has already begun. In a letter to Bradley, the Disabled American Veterans warned that this may "bog down" the rating and adjudication sections of the Veterans Administration.

O. A. V. urged Bradley to ask Congress for remedial action to provide for automatic retroactivity to Oct. 1 on all claims that may be readjusted. If this were done, D. A. V. said, there would be no need for disabled veterans to rush to file their claims.

Recent records show that more than 600,000 pension claims have been allowed in this war. More than 300,000 pensions are being paid to veterans of world war I. All the first group and part of the second come under the new rating schedule.

D. A. V. experts estimated the total of veterans potentially affected at approximately 1,000,000. Their claims, if filed, would pile on top of more than 100,000 new claims awaiting adjudication, and would hit VA at a time when World War II business is just hitting its stride.



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