

STUDENT RALLIES ATTACK FASCISM

8,000 From the Colleges and
High Schools of City Join
in Demonstration

THRONGS IN MADISON SQ.

March 25, 1938
Spanish Embargo and China
Invasion by Japanese Among
Chief Targets of Protests

Protests against the bombing of Barcelona, the threat of fascism and Japanese aggression in China were staged by nearly 8,000 college and high school students in behalf of "peace and democracy" yesterday on various campuses of the city.

The American Student Union arranged the emergency peace demonstration with a view primarily to lifting the Spanish embargo and to urging the United States to join with other democratic nations to "stop fascism." Students from Columbia University, New York University, Hunter College, Brooklyn College and City College took part.

From 11 A. M. to 1:30 P. M. the students left classes and gathered near their institutions to hear members of Congress, veterans of the Spanish Loyalist forces, faculty members and fellow-students.

After the close of the city schools nearly 600 high school students formed picket lines before the Japanese, German and Italian consulates, shouting and demanding an end to "fascist aggression." The police kept the lines moving and no untoward incidents occurred.

Opposition Groups Hiss

Yesterday's demonstration was a prelude to the nation-wide anti-war meetings to be held on April 27.

Only at City College and at Brooklyn College did numerically small opposition groups appear. At Columbia University a bloc of hecklers ridiculed speakers with catcalls and ironic comments. At City College close to 2,000 students marched to the Lewisohn Stadium. Another group of forty or fifty boys, identified by the main body as "Trotskyites," carried posters such as "Down with collective security." They were barred from the field.

A similar opposition wing formed at Brooklyn College. Reputed to represent the Young Workers League, fifty students picketed the mass meeting of 2,500.

One of the most enthusiastic meetings took place in Madison Square

19
near Twenty-third Street, where more than 1,000 students from City and Hunter Colleges arrived at 11 A. M. at a speakers' platform. The chairman, Sam Sadin, conducted the meeting. Speeches were frequently interrupted with college yells, and sing-song slogans were reiterated.

Thirty uniformed patrolmen under Captain James Nolan of the East Twenty-second Street station had little to do except keep the crowd from overflowing into adjoining streets. Robert Thompson, commander of the Canadian forces in Spain, brought greetings from the Loyalists and urged the end of the Spanish embargo.

Hunter Students Take Part

An estimated group of 500 girls, many wearing nurses' uniforms and white caps, marching from Hunter College, arrived about noon, filling the west side of Madison Avenue between Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Streets. The arrival of this contingent brought three rousing cheers of "Yea, Hunter!" from the boys. The girls responded in kind, shouting "Yea, City College!"

Then began a series of chants. Giving evidence of the influence of Spring, the slogans had a poetic tinge. For example, "Collective action beats reaction," "Peace for students and professors—quarantine the aggressors," and the favorite of the crowd, "Isolation means war, collective action means peace," rang through the air.

Especial emphasis was placed on Japan's invasion of China. The students were exhorted to shun silk stockings and to wear lisle. One of the students, Anita Letucci, implored the boys to boycott girls who wear silk.

So friendly and peaceful was the mood of the day that even the blue-coated patrolmen came in for a share of recognition. "Come on, let's give the cops three cheers," some one shouted. There followed "Yea, police," three times.

"Bah," one of the policemen said with disgust, "they have turned into a Sunday school singing club now. I can remember when things were different."

Representatives Speak

Representatives Jerry J. O'Connell of Montana and Byron N. Scott of California addressed various groups. Mr. O'Connell spoke at City College, Columbia University and the Hunter and the City College meeting at Madison Square Park. He asked that the United States take an active interest in preserving world peace.

At the New York University rally in Washington Square Park Mr. Scott urged that the arms embargo on Spain be lifted. Adolf Hitler was burned in effigy amid cheers of "Down with Hitler and Fascism" and "Make Spain the Tomb of Fascism."

The College Teachers Union endorsed the emergency peace demonstration, declaring that it considered this action "most heartening."