

Strange Bedfellows

The history of politics, national and international, is replete with broken promises, strange alliances and the betrayal of peoples. As the spirit of Napoleon contemplates the present scene, the alliance of France and England must be confusing, and the Berlin-Rome axis a complete enigma. To Lord Byron the prospect of Greek and Turkish soldiers fighting in the same cause would have been unthinkable, and the recent slaughter of Spanish Christians by "infidels" led by a Christian general, and assisted in their work by German Protestants and Italian Catholics, must have amused Allah.

The "scrap of paper" attitude toward solemn covenants is not indigenous to Germany. The cavalier treatment by Japan of the "Nine Power Treaty" is matched by Britain's violation of the Balfour Declaration. The Franco-British betrayal of Czechoslovakia is consistent with the political method. Nor can we Americans hold our heads high when we reflect on our repeated tearing up of treaties with the Indians, when it served the interests of our ravaging monopolistic system to do so.

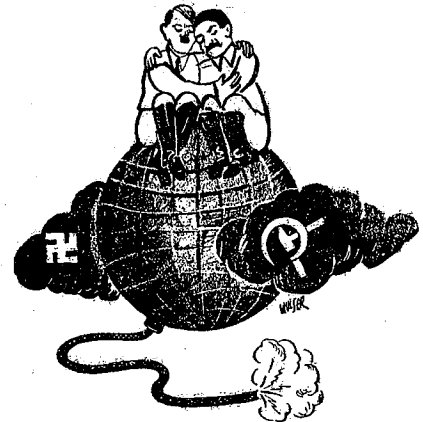
In our domestic arena the mating of political opponents to gain a common end is taken as a matter of course. Communist support of the Roosevelt administration is consistent with "party line" tactics. When the racketeer and the public servant find a common denominator for their interests there is nothing strange in their union; that is of the system of gaining ends by political means. And when a priest descends from his spiritual plane to the realm of politics, it is not strange that he should compromise the ideals of his church, that he should betray Christ for Mammon.

The spirit of the political method was succinctly defined by Lord Palmerston when he said that England has no eternal allies, only eternal interests. Whatever happens to be expedient for the moment is always the right thing to do politically, and ideological or ethical restrictions are conveniently rationalized away. People who accept the political method of gaining ends must not be pro-

voked when their leaders break promises, reverse policies or betray confidences; for in accepting that method they accept the inherent principle of expediency.

Therefore, the recent Hitler-Stalin pact is a shock only to those who retain a naive faith in politics as a means for the common good. Ideologies serve, they do not guide, politicians. Political principles prevail only as long as they happen to be synonymous with interests.

'COLLECTIVE SECURITY'



Now, Communism is avowedly a political mechanism. The economic tenets that Communists indulge in dialectically have been so revised since Karl Marx enunciated them as "scientific" truths that the revisions amount to complete reversals. Only in phraseology is there any resemblance between present communistic economic ideas and their original prototypes. The realists in the movement unashamedly reject any reliance on logic, or on the "scientific" approach to Socialism that Marx so laboriously postulated. To them, and they are in the ascendancy, the only principle in Communism is the end to be achieved—a social goal which seems to be as chameleon as the economic ideas—and politics is the means.

Hence the pact between Communism and Fascism is surprising only to those who believe that there is anything dependable in political ideologies. The Hitler-Stalin arrangement is as reasonable as a Chamberlain-Hitler or as a Stalin-Mussolini deal would be, when expediency should prompt such deals.