

# Is America Menaced By Foreign Propaganda?

By EARL BROWDER

Following is the full text of the radio address delivered by Earl Browder, general secretary of the Communist Party, U.S.A., over the "America's Town Meeting of the Air" program at 9:30 o'clock last night on a coast-to-coast National Broadcasting Co. hookup. Browder participated in a forum on the subject "Is America Menaced by Foreign Propaganda?"

Yes, America is menaced by foreign propaganda. The propaganda is a menace because it is a weapon of fascist aggression with tremendous military power behind it, which has set out to conquer the world and, above all, the richest part of the world, America. It is a menace because it has powerful allies within the United States. The foreign propaganda that menaces the United States, and all the Americas, comes from Rome, Berlin and Tokio, from the powers that call themselves the "Anti-Communist Alliance."

That warmaking alliance proclaims that it is fighting to save the world from Communism. It is peculiar that every blow it strikes, presumably against Communism, injures American national interests and destroys still more all hope of orderly international relations. It seized Manchuria from China—closing the door of that great area to the United States. It conquered Ethiopia with gas, airplanes and machine-guns—and destroyed the last remnants of the League of Nations' authority. It wiped out independent

Austria and with it the sanctity of international agreements, spitting in the face of America. It made war against all of China, killing millions of men, women and children, and destroying the big cities and

ports—announcing the final ending of the traditional "open door," emphasizing this by sinking the United States Gunboat Panay. It dismembered Czechoslovakia—reducing democratic France to a third-rate power, causing all governments, including the United States, to multiply their armaments. It invades Republican Spain and lays waste the country, bombing open cities for two and a half years—hoping to gain naval bases on the Atlantic and possession of the key to Latin-America. It shocks the world with pogroms against the Jews, and with forcible repression of Catholic and Protestant religious freedom—all this under the propaganda slogan of "fighting Communism."

Propaganda in support or toleration of these war moves appears in the United States. It tells us that America is also menaced by Communism, as were Manchuria, Ethiopia, Austria, China, Czechoslovakia, Spain. And what is this Communist menace? It is in the United States nothing less than President Roosevelt and the New Deal. So they seriously inform us, and expect us to get excited about it. But this fantastic nonsense, which finds foreign "isms" and propaganda in the middle-of-the-road progressivism of President Roosevelt, is itself the open and clear propaganda of the Rome-Berlin-Tokio axis. It is the opening gun of a fascist war of conquest against the Americas. Simultaneously all the reactionaries and their dupes, speak up against American defense. Herbert Hoover, Hamilton Fish, Father Coughlin and Norman Thomas—to mention a few typical names—repeat the ideas of the Berlin press, of the Rome and Tokio newspapers, that there is no fascist menace to America, that it is all invented by President Roosevelt (and, of course, the Communists), who are the real warmakers, they say, and threaten the peace of the world by their criticisms of the fascist powers. This is the foreign propaganda that menaces America, menacing because it has military aggression behind it and is spread by some of the most powerful forces within the country, by most of its newspapers and by the leading spokesmen of the anti-New Deal party.

I know, of course, that I will be given the answer, "Yes, there is a fascist menace, but there is a Communist menace also, even if Mr. Dies has exaggerated it so much, and spread his net too widely." Is it true, however, frankly considered, that there is a "Communist menace?"

Quite sincerely, I can declare there is no Communist menace to America, first, because there are not enough Communists to constitute a serious menace even if they wanted to, and secondly, because the Com-

(In addition to Browder, others who participated in the program included Morris L. Ernst, Channing Pollock and J. B. Matthews, with George V. Denno, Jr., president of Town Hall, as moderator. Each speaker was given eight minutes with the rest of the time allotted to questions from the audience.)

munists don't want to menace America, and wouldn't if they could.

We have only a little more than a hundred thousand members, including the Youth League, and these have all been recruited upon the pledge to defend American democracy against all enemies, within and without, by arms if necessary. If the Communists wanted to be a menace, that would be awfully poor preparation, wouldn't it? Let me read to you the opening paragraph of the Constitution of the Communist Party:

"The Communist Party of the United States is a working class political party carrying forward today the traditions of Jefferson, Paine, Jackson and Lincoln, and of the Declaration of Independence: it upholds the achievements of democracy, the right of 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,' and defends the United States Constitution against its reactionary enemies who would destroy democracy and all popular liberties; it is devoted to defense of the immediate interests of workers, farmers and all toilers against capitalist exploitation and to preparation of the working class for its historic mission to unite and lead the American people to expand these democratic principles to their necessary conclusions."

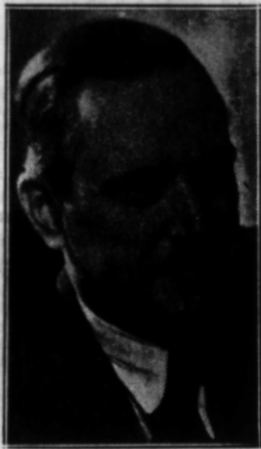
The preamble then goes on to define the full Communist program, to which we hope at some future time to gain the support of the majority of the people: namely, to make our national economy the possession of the whole nation, by its ownership and operation through a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Now, most people in America do not agree with this full Communist program. But neither can they, except when incited to hysteria by red-baiters, see anything seditious or treasonable about it. Most Americans presumably still want their national economy to be owned and operated for private profit by our "best families," organized in a few great trusts and banks, while one-third of the nation subsists on precarious relief funds, subject to drastic cuts and even cutting off altogether, at the mood and whim of Congress. And so long as the majority wants this system to continue, we Communists join in the condemnation of any efforts to change it forcibly by minority action.

Neither is there any menace, behind the Communists' propaganda, of any hostile foreign power. It is true, the Communists are in power in one great land, the Soviet Union, where they are building a new socialist society. But it is absolutely untrue that the Communists in the United States receive either instructions or gold from Moscow, despite all wild and irresponsible stories to the contrary. Our international affiliations only place upon us additional burdens to help the Communists of other lands who do not have our advantages of the relative freedom of a great democracy. And the Soviet Union, far from being any menace in international relations, is the most consistently peaceful and orderly nation on earth. Its relations with the United States of America are those which naturally obtain between the two most powerful nations of the earth, both interested in peace, both hating war and all warmakers, both threatened by the fascist war alliance, and therefore both interested in paving the way to the fullest possible understanding and cooperation.

The Communists within the United States and the Communists who lead the Soviet Union are fully agreed in wishing to give the fullest cooperation for peace and international order to all those working to that end. The Communists in the United States give full support to all measures looking to orderly progress within our country. Therefore, all talk of the Communists representing the menace of foreign propaganda constitutes in itself but the echo of Hitler, Mussolini and the Mikado. When foreign fascist powers cease to menace their neighbors with aggression, when our native fascists cease to undermine all democratic faith and pledge themselves to democracy, then we can say of fascist propaganda that it is no more a menace.

But until that happens the American public will recognize the typical fascist foreign propaganda that really menaces America by one sign: it is always excited about a mythical menace of Communism and denies those dangers which are forcing our country, for the first time with such unanimous popular support that even includes the Communists, to unprecedented armaments for defense.



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