

Browder Tells House Body Of Communist Position

By ADAM LAPIN

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19.—Earl Browder, president of the Communist Political Association, today explained to the House Campaign Expenditures Committee the role of the Communists in working for national unity to win the war and achieve a postwar world with jobs and security.

Browder, testifying for four hours, completely exploded GOP propaganda about a close link between the Communists and the CIO Political Action Committee, and Republican members of the committee speedily abandoned this line of questioning.

The Communist leader pointed out that his organization has "no working connection" with PAC or any other group.

Rep. Clarence Brown of Ohio, GOP leader, then attempted to press Browder on the activities of individual Communists within PAC.

"Communists are active in PAC, in AFL nonpartisan committees, in the Republican Party, Democratic Party, Elks, Kiwanis and ministerial associations and I hope some day a Communist will be active in Congress," Browder replied while reporters and spectators chuckled.

Asked by Brown to say whether individual leaders of the PAC are Communists, Browder flatly refused because "every American must stand on his own feet politically."

"You wouldn't care to give the names of your members in the Republican and Democratic National Committee?" Brown asked.

"I would decline to give such confidential information," Browder replied with a broad grin.

COVERS WIDE FIELD

Browder's views on scores of national and international questions were entirely solicited by members of the committee who listened for the most part with interest and respect to his brilliant and frequently witty comments.

Even Rep. Brown complimented Browder on his "intelligent and thought-provoking testimony," and Rep. Clinton P. Anderson, New Mexico Democrat, thanked the Communist leader for his "patience" in dealing with the lengthy and hostile questioning of GOP Congressmen.

The Communist leader appeared before the committee without a prepared statement, and simply pointed out in brief introductory remarks that his organization with 80,000 members and an annual income of \$160,000 in dues has no campaign funds and therefore had nothing to report.

But committee members were soon pressing Browder for his opinions on all kinds of questions.

Browder explained that the Communists have been the most effective exponent of the no-strike pledge for labor because no one could suspect the Communists had any other motive but national interest.

"When the mines of the country were shut down in a series of strikes against the interests of the country and the miners themselves," Browder added, "we did not hesitate to denounce these strikes and place blame where it belonged—on John L. Lewis."

Rep. Brown said he couldn't understand how Browder could support President Roosevelt "on a nonpartisan basis."

MEN AND ISSUES

"At least one third of America votes on that basis," Browder replied, "on the basis of men and issues."

When Rep. August Andresen, Minn., Republican, tried to raise the bogey of a revolutionary threat from the Communists Browder retorted:

"If we wanted a revolution the quickest way would be to support those reactionary candidates who would bring us back to apple selling and would lead to revolution."

Browder explained to Andresen that to call the Soviet-German non-aggression pact of 1939 an al-



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liance was a "dangerous distortion."

"We have to believe what we read in the newspapers," Andresen said.

"That's also dangerous," Browder said.

Browder told the committee that the United States stood in the same position as the Soviet Union with the neutrality law "which was a unilateral declaration of non-aggression."

Earlier Browder gave Rep. Brown a brief definition of Communism and fascism.

Browder said that these questions must be understood in terms of practical events. He declared that all over Europe Communists are being liberated from prisons as the Allies take over and are frequently being put in the government "as a necessary force to establish stable and anti-fascist governments."

PACIFIC WAR

"In the Pacific phase of the war," he added, "the whole kernel of the problem is a correct evaluation of the trend of Communist thought in the Far East and particularly in China."

Browder said there would be "a downward trend" in the Pacific war until the suppression of the Communists and all democratic forces was stopped in China. He declared that American military leaders fully understand this.

For an understanding of fascism in this country, Browder said, it's necessary to see what ideas are greeted most enthusiastically by Hitler and the Nazis. He gave William C. Bullitt's recent Life article as a perfect example of fascist thinking which was hailed by the Nazis.

Rep. E. C. Gathings, reactionary Arkansas Democrat, asked:

"Do the Communists believe in free love?"

"No, sir," Browder replied.

In his capacity of editor-in-chief of the Daily Worker, Browder later offered to sell Gathings a subscription to the Communist newspapers. Gathings said he just wanted a few sample copies, and Browder said he would supply a free subscription to the committee.

GOPER HITS LOW

The low of the all-day hearing was hit by Rep. Ralph Church, Illinois Republican, who insisted on having Browder go into details on his passport case conviction and demanded he should furnish the pseudonyms which he had used in trips abroad for his protection 11 to 25 years ago.

Browder was upheld by Chairman Anderson and the committee in refusing to answer such questions as irrelevant and since the

answers are a matter of public record anyway.

Church then proceeded to read from prepared, typewritten sheets questions which were based on long quotations from Browder's writings in 1940 before the United States was involved in war.

Browder let Church go on for a while without answering.

"You've gone so far afield, Mr. Congressman, that I find myself a spectator and not a witness," Browder said.

Finally Browder insisted that Church read an accurate statement of his views in those days instead of a series of quotations torn out of context.

Church started to read the passage picked by Browder, but with much stumbling. So Browder took over the reading himself.

A sober note was struck at the close of the hearing by Rep. John W. Murphy, Pennsylvania Democrat, who opposed efforts to call President Roosevelt and other leaders Communists because they have some "common objectives" with the Communists.

Browder agreed emphatically.

Backs Lublin Claim on Reich

MOSCOW, Sept. 19.—Silesia, East Prussia and Pomerania must become a part of Poland in order to "weaken Prussia which has always been the bandit leader organizing robberies perpetrated by the whole of Germany," according to the current War and the Working Class, Soviet trade union organ.

The editorial declares that opposition of the London government-in-exile's contention that it would have difficulty in holding the territory is pro-German.

"Actually Russia merely regained the territories of which she had been robbed by the Pilsudski gang," War and the Working Class states, "and no one in Russia thinks that Russia should make some payment for this territory."

"The truthful representatives of the aspirations of the Polish people—the Polish Committee of National Liberation—think it both good and indispensable that Silesia, Pomerania and East Prussia be returned; but the emigrant gang is afraid of this no less than are the Hitlerites themselves."

N. Y. Awaits Hist Garden Rally for

Vice President Henry A. Wallace's appearance in New York City tomorrow night (Thursday) at Madison Square Garden is creating widespread interest in political circles. The occasion promises to be one of the most brilliant demonstrations seen in the metropolis in years, and marks New York's first major rally for Roosevelt.

Wallace makes his initial campaign address under the auspices of the Independent Voters Committee of the Arts and Sciences for Roosevelt. Interest in the campaign to elect Roosevelt is demonstrated in the large numbers of artists attached to the committee.

Present at the meeting will be Bette Davis, Dorothy Maynor, Serge Koussevitzky and other noted artists.

At a special press interview at committee headquarters at Hotel Astor yesterday, Orson Welles,