

Soviet Pact Aided U.S., Broke War Axis, Browder Tells Dies

C. P. Leader Wins Committee Attention at Hearing Despite Heckling By Matthews; Dempsey Clashes With Red-Baiting Thomas

By Ernest Moorer

(Daily Worker Staff Correspondent)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 6.—A concise exposition of the Soviet non-aggression pact with Germany in implementing the national interest of the United States was unfolded today before the Dies Committee by Earl Browder, General Secretary of the Communist Party, U. S. A.

In reply to a question by Rep. Jerry Voorhis, of California, Browder said:

"The signing of the non-aggression pact broke the Fascist axis. The wheel in the Far East has run off the track as a result."

He cited as an example the comment of Dorothy Thompson, conservative columnist, who a few weeks ago wrote that the open door in the East was seriously menaced and that a serious threat to the Monroe Doctrine in South America existed because of Fascist penetration.

"Could any one write that now?" Browder asked.

"The pact removed the pressure on U. S. interests in the East and checked Fascist penetration in South America from Spain."

Browder was able to develop the importance of the pact only after the third attempt by Rep. Voorhis to get his question before the Committee.

On previous attempts the line of questioning was suddenly switched.

BICKERING MARKS SESSION

The hearing was marked by almost interminable petty and underhanded questioning by the former strikebreaker J. B. Matthews, who is an investigator for the committee. Most of his questions were aimed at smearing the New Deal, trade unions or progressive organizations. A number of them were of a petty, personal nature and while revealing nothing, sought to impute illegal or unethical practices by insinuation.

The hearing also brought a sharp clash between committee members and on one occasion the atmosphere fairly simmered when Rep. John J. Dempsey, New Mexico Democrat, accused Rep. J. Parnell Thomas, red-baiting New Jersey Republican,

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Browder Speaks At Garden Rally On Monday

Earl Browder, National Secretary of the Communist Party, now appearing before the Dies Committee, will be the principal speaker at a rally Monday, Sept. 11, in Madison Square Garden to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Party's founding, it was announced yesterday.

In addition to celebration of the anniversary, the meeting will protest the Nazi invasion of Poland and will proclaim a peace policy for the United States.

FDR Places Canal Under Army Control

Destroyers, Coast Guard Patrolling Waters to Aid Shipping

WASHINGTON, Sept. 6 (UP).—President Roosevelt today placed the Panama Canal under full military control, and ordered destroyers, airplanes and Coast Guard cutters into American territorial waters to safeguard this nation's neutrality from untoward acts by belligerent ships.

Earlier, the President had moved

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of making a "cheap political speech."

Rep. Martin L. Dies, on the other hand, on several occasions sustained objections by Browder or his counsel, Joseph Brodsky, against petty and personal questioning by Matthews and accorded Browder an opportunity to make fuller explanations on questions when the committee questioner sought to silence him.

The first reference to the Soviet pact came early in the hearing when Rep. Joe Starnes of Alabama asked about the presence of a Soviet "military mission" in Berlin.

"I am sure you have been misinformed," Browder said. "I do not know of any military mission."

Representative Joseph E. Casey of Massachusetts asked, "If Daladier, acting on behalf of France, had made a non-aggression pact with Germany, would you oppose it?"

"Daladier emphatically did make a non-aggression pact with Germany," Browder said, "and Czechoslovakia last September was destroyed as a result of it."

Applause came from the witnesses.

"But England and France were willing to pledge Poland help," Rep. Casey said.

"The Soviet Union went much farther than that," Browder replied. "The Soviet Union offered a defensive alliance with three powers, England, France and Poland. But Poland and the Baltic countries refused to accept its help."

"It becomes clear," Browder said, "that Chamberlain and Daladier was letting the world slip into war without any agreement."

"But," Rep. Casey persisted, "there would not have been war now if the pact had not been signed."

WAR COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED

"I think there would not have been war," Browder said, "if Chamberlain had perfected the peace front with the Soviet Union."

Rep. Dies: "Now gentlemen, let's get on with the hearing. I think this line of questioning has gone far enough."

Rep. Vocris, however, returned to the topic again near the close of the hearing.

Matthews, using mainly outdated Communist Party pamphlets and sectarian phrases and slogans, led the Committee on a fruitless chase for an admission of un-American activity.

Matthews was particularly anxious to learn what would be the



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action of the Communist secretary "in the event of a war between the United States and the Soviet Union."

"You are assuming that the United States would be an aggressor nation," Browder said. "I absolutely refuse to make that assumption."

Matthews, smirking at committee members and the audience, pressed the question.

"Then if you use the assumption," Browder said, "there's no reason why I should not. I will say unequivocally that if the United States engaged in an aggressive war against the Soviet Union I would do all in my power to oppose that war."

"I cannot say my country right or wrong. I would oppose such a war."

"How far would you go in opposing it," Rep. Starnes asked.

"I would probably go as far as I went in 1917. I would speak against it and I would probably go to jail as I did in 1917."

Browder vigorously protested against giving "yes or no" answers to questions on political theory.

In one such case he said, "If you want understanding that's one thing, but if you simply want a distortion, that's another."

Rep. Dies sustained him in insistence upon the right to give significant answers.

Matthews launched into a long series of questions about members of Browder's family. The questions appeared to be leading nowhere but

were all presented with an insinuating tone by the smirking Matthews. Finally Brodsky raised an objection and Dies sustained it, saying:

"There must be some line drawn somewhere as to the scope of this investigation."

Rep. Thomas wanted the questioning continued and Dies asked Browder if he would consent.

"I agree with the chairman," Browder said, "I think the line must be drawn somewhere." Dies nodded and the questions were abandoned.

CLASH HOLDS ATTENTION

For the spectators, the highlight of the hearing, next to Browder's development of the significance of the Soviet pact was the clash between Rep. Dempsey and Thomas, the red-baiting Republican.

Thomas read a long list of progressive organizations and asked if Browder could tell why some leading New Dealer had addressed the national conventions of each one of them.

At this Representative Dempsey exploded. "I think it is highly unethical," he said, "for a member of this committee to say that he has been waiting for an hour to ask a question and then to make a cheap political trick."

Thomas said something in reply, but it was lost in the applause which followed Dempsey's rebuke.

On occasion both Dies and Matthews, the former by statements and the latter by insinuations, tried to make Browder admit that the Communists were "abandoning Socialism" as a goal.

This Browder steadfastly refused to do. He cited the Party's consistent support for progressive measures and policies, as proof of its uncompromising struggle for a better life for all the people, looking ultimately to socialism.

On one occasion committee counsel Rhea B. Whitley dragged in one of the 1929 "Zinoviev papers" in an attempt to discredit Joseph Brodsky, Browder's lawyer.

The document was prepared by the British Government at the time it was attempting to prevent the British Labor Party from coming to power. After reading from the spurious document which sought to imply that Brodsky had helped bring "Moscow gold" into the United States, Whitley asked:

"You don't doubt the authenticity of this, do you, Mr. Brodsky?"

"I certainly do," Brodsky said, "I wouldn't put anything past the British Government."

Browder was excused as a witness at the close of the day's hearing. Members refused to reveal, and surrounded with an air of mystery, the name of the witness to appear tomorrow.