

# Both War Camps Foe of Jews, Browder Declares

Garden Rally Gives Freiheit Editor Novick Ovation; He Warns Jews to Beware of War as Road to Catastrophe

By Lawrence Emery

Crowded to capacity, Madison Square Garden Saturday night echoed with a tremendous six-minute standing ovation to Earl Browder when he stepped on the platform to deliver the main address at the celebration of the Eighteenth Anniversary of the Morning Freiheit, America's only Jewish newspaper representing the interests of the people.

The great meeting was a fighting demonstration of the determination of the Jewish people to stay out of the imperialist war, and was a dramatic repudiation of the efforts of Jewish Social-Democrats to plunge the Jewish people into the war at the cost of their own existence as a people.

Although the huge hall rang and shook with shouts and applause as Browder made his appearance, it settled into a profound and solemn silence as he began his speech by declaring that "Yesterday the imperialist war was again extended to drag into its bloody shambles the people of Holland and Belgium."

"If the peoples do not quickly find a way to stop the war, over the heads of their governments, it will tomorrow drag other lands into the slaughter.

"And with every new extension of the war," he warned, "the danger grows that the rulers of the United States, our economic royalists and their political agents, will drive our own country into this senseless mass murder, to help decide which gang of imperialist bandits shall be the boss.

"Already," Browder pointed out, "President Roosevelt has reduced American neutrality to the level of Mussolini's 'non-belligerency,' and tied America to the Allies by political and economic chains which become heavier each day. Last night the country was warned to prepare for more active involvement in this imperialist war."

The Garden was gaily decorated with flags and banners, and green streamers around the balconies proclaimed fighting slogans: "Long Live the Fraternal Alliance of the Workers of the Entire World" and "Peace to the Peoples—Bread, Rights and Freedom to the Working People."

But there was sadness in the Garden too because, as pointed out by Max Steinberg, head of the Council of Jewish Communists and chairman of the meeting, it was the first Jubilee Celebration of the Freiheit at which Moissaye J. Olgin, beloved editor and leader, was not present.

A huge, black-bordered portrait of him stood upon the platform, and the meeting itself opened with

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## Nazis Hit Landing Of Allied Troops In West Indies

BERLIN, May 9 (UP).—Landing of Allied forces at Aruba and Curaçao in the Dutch West Indies was described by the official news agency tonight as "an act of violence." At the same time the agency said that Germany herself had no territorial interest in that part of the Western Hemisphere.

# Both War Camps Are Enemies of Jewish People, Browder Declares

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the audience standing in his honor while the Yiddish Philharmonic Choral Society sang "Mir Zogen Zu," a song written and dedicated to his memory by M. A. Suhl and Max Helfman.

Steinberg, in his opening remarks, declared that "we are facing the present critical days realizing fully the responsibility that rests with us Jewish workers. We shall join the march of the rest of the people in the fight against war and for full liberation—for Socialism. It is in this spirit and understanding that we most cheerfully start the celebration of our Morning Freiheit, the only Jewish daily in America that represents the desires, dreams, aspirations and true interests of our people."

Paul Novick, the editor of the Freiheit, was introduced to thunderous applause. Although his main address was delivered in Yiddish, he prefaced it with a brief statement in English in which he said of Abe Cahan, editor of the Jewish Daily Forward:

"Last Sunday a declining editor of a declining Jewish reactionary newspaper which has lost over one half of its circulation since the birth of the Morning Freiheit, delivered a speech here calling for war. It was the speech of a war-monger aiming to draw the United States into the imperialist war."

The hall thundered with applause when Novick declared: "This gentleman did not speak for the Jewish people."

"The Jewish people," he said, "are against this imperialist war. They are heart and soul with the 96 per cent of the American people who wish to have nothing to do with this war. This magnificent gathering of twenty thousand people is further proof of the sentiments of the Jewish people."

"The Jewish people are for the defeat of both Nazi and Franco-British imperialism, for the defeat of the Hitlers, the Churchills, the Reynauds, the Daladiers and the so-called Polish government of the Hallers and other anti-Semites."

"Above all, the Jewish people want the United States to be kept out of this war."

## WIENER GREETED

William Wiener, national treasurer of the Communist Party, and who was the first treasurer of the Freiheit when it was founded 18 years ago, spoke in Yiddish and was vociferously applauded both when he was introduced and when he finished his address.

Dora Rich, leader of the women's section of the Council of Jewish Communists, also spoke in Yiddish.

Ben Gol, president of the Furriers Union, brought wave after wave of laughter with his sharp wit as he launched into a collection speech which netted nearly \$5,000.

Browder was introduced shortly after 11 P. M.

Describing the aims of the warring powers, he said:

"The British, French and Ameri-

can governments are appealing to the American people for support to the war against Germany, on the grounds of 'defense of democracy,' 'Sanctity of agreements,' 'independence of small nations,' and so on.

"But these governments destroyed their own moral case by irrevocable involvement in the whole dirty imperialist game before the outbreak of the war, and have deepened their involvement since up to the present moment. They themselves built up the Nazi power, betrayed democracy in Spain, violated their own most sacred agreements, sold out the independence of weaker peoples—Ethiopia, China, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Albania — and openly boasted of their vile deeds, as purchasing 'peace in our time.'

"All this they did, because they thought they were buying a Nazi war against the Soviet Union.

"But when Hitler, shrinking back before the mighty Soviet Union, decided it was less difficult to challenge those who had built him up and who had entangled themselves so deeply in his crimes and condoned them all, when Hitler double-crossed the double-crossers, only then did London, Paris, and Washington suddenly put on again the garments of virtue, proclaim a war for those very things they had sold out, but only after the only concrete aims of war remaining were their own imperialist bases of power, and their accumulated loot."

## U. S. WAR GUILT

The United States today, he said, "shares in the full guilt for this war into which our people are asked to plunge more fully." He listed as successive steps of involvement the Roosevelt betrayal of Republican Spain, the recognition of Franco, the repeal of the arms embargo after war broke out, the intervention in Finnish Soviet relations on the side of Britain, and the present "protection" of Dutch overseas possessions now being proclaimed.

"The fight against American involvement in the war," he warned, "must begin to find new channels of expression, more effectively than previously, or soon, very soon, there will no more be a question of how to keep out, but, finding ourselves in, it will be a problem of how to withdraw."

Dealing specifically with the effect of the war upon the Jewish people, Browder declared that it "is a great calamity for the Jewish people. The very lives of the Jewish masses in Europe, are at stake; the Jewish communities there are threatened with destruction."

"Only in the Soviet Union, inhabited by five million Jews, one-third of the Jewish people of the world, are the Jewish masses able to pursue a peaceful existence, permanently freed from the fear of persecution and oppression, while building a happy and prosperous life in the new Socialist society."

"In war-torn Europe and in the rest of the capitalist world, the Jewish masses are faced with the

greatest tragedy in their all-too-tragic history.

"Yet there are forces in Jewish life, and outside it, that are brutally and callously trading on the tragedy of a people, taking cynical advantage of the Jewish people's profound hatred of Nazi barbarism in order to bring them into the war on the side of Allied imperialism which is equally destructive."

"Today," he declared, "with the exception of the Freiheit, practically the whole Jewish press is clamoring for support to the Allies up to the point of American entry into the war at the side of the Allies. . . . Last Sunday Abe Cahan categorically declared that it is impermissible to talk of peace until Hitler and the Soviet Union are crushed."

## ROAD TO CATASTROPHE

"Such a position can only lead the Jewish people to catastrophe. It can only feed the forces of anti-Semitism on a gigantic scale. It can only mean lending support to the promoters of fascism and the backers of anti-Semitism, to those who condoned and made possible savage pogroms against innocent Jewish people, who helped to build up Hitler and were ready to excuse his brutal persecution of the Jews."

"This war," Browder said, "is an imperialist war, and the Jewish people, like the tolling masses as a whole, having nothing to gain from taking sides. It is not their war. There is no lesser evil in this war for the Jewish people. It is all evil. The alternative is not a victory for one or the other side, but a victory for the people over all the imperialists, a victory for laboring humanity."

"For, only those that toil and suffer and are themselves exploited and oppressed are capable of bringing freedom to the suffering and oppressed Jewish masses."

"The Jewish people in the U. S. are a great and vital part of the American people. They have it in their power to play an outstanding part in the struggle to keep America out of war. The Jewish masses want no part of this war. Their place is in the ranks of a mighty peace front of the American people that will put a stop to all plans to drag America into the war."

Although it was nearly midnight when Browder finished his address, the great audience remained in its seats for two presentations by Benjamin Zemach and his dance ensemble. The ballet "Yiddish Weddings" drew heavily on Jewish folk material and was performed to music composed of Ben Yomen, whose Folk Quintet accompanied it.

The other presentation was from the ballet "New Fields," with dances by Zemach. It was accompanied by the Yiddish Philharmonic Choral Society which had given a concert of songs earlier on the program under the direction of Max Helfman. The audience responded to the dance presentations with tremendous enthusiasm.