

Room 1525
1133 Broadway
New York City

Dear Colleague:

Our country is engaged today in a desperate struggle to preserve its democratic way of life. We, as educators, know especially that the preservation of our cultural heritage depends upon a victorious outcome of America's struggle for economic and social justice. It is in a spirit of unity of effort to win this struggle that we are writing to you to ask you to examine the case of Earl Browder, imprisoned Communist leader, and to support an appeal for his immediate release.

We write to you not only because we believe Mr. Browder's imprisonment to be unjust, but because the crisis in our country requires the speedy dissolution of all barriers to the most effective anti-Fascist unity. Our country cannot gather all its resources for its tremendous task while it permits injustice and violations of civil liberties to weaken democratic morale.

We are not concerned here with the merits of Mr. Browder's political philosophy. The facts in the case, however, have led many distinguished Americans to the view that Mr. Browder was a victim of political persecution. Mr. Wendell Willkie has said, for example, "...if you truly believe in protection of civil liberties, you will wonder whether Browder was sentenced to four years in jail and a \$2000 fine because he made a false statement on a passport application, or because he was a member of the Communist Party". Mr. Browder was not, contrary to general belief, charged with or convicted of the use of a false passport. The government has admitted that no issue of moral turpitude was involved. Yet his sentence exceeds in severity nearly all sentences for passport violation on record since World War days.

Each of the signatories to this letter has already signed a petition asking President Roosevelt for executive clemency for Mr. Browder. Because we are convinced of the importance of this issue, we are asking you, our fellow-teachers in New York City, to read carefully the enclosed summary of the case and the enclosed brochure which indicates something of the breadth of support which Mr. Browder's case has already received. Will you not then wire or write President Roosevelt, asking him in the name of national unity and American justice to release Earl Browder?

Franz Boas
Franz Boas

A. A. Brill
A. A. Brill

Henry Pratt Fairchild
Henry Pratt Fairchild

Walter Rautenstrauch
Walter Rautenstrauch

Margaret Schlauch
Margaret Schlauch