

NEW YORK STATE COMMITTEE

# COMMUNIST PARTY • U.S.A.

AFFILIATED TO THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL

OFFICIAL ORGAN—NEW YORK "DAILY WORKER"

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35 EAST 12TH STREET

February 10, 1940

I. AMTER  
State Chairman

CHAS. KRUMBEIN  
State Secretary

Dear Friend:--

Numerous complex problems arising out of international crises and war confront our country.

The understanding achieved and decisions made will determine the destiny of the nation and the course of world events. It is necessary to consider carefully the realities of the situation and to choose wisely the alternatives before us. Minority points of view with which we may or may not agree should not in these critical days be summarily dismissed without evaluation and without an attempt at understanding the point of view presented.

I am therefore taking the liberty of enclosing a pamphlet containing two speeches by Earl Browder, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the U.S.A. The first speech is the statement of those issues of the case which Mr. Browder was prevented from discussing in court by the technicalities of court procedure. The second speech is a transcript of Mr. Browder's summation as it was submitted by him to the blue ribbon jury which convicted him.

The severity of the sentence imposed has aroused much questioning even among those who consider that a technical irregularity may have been committed. Some facts must be faced. Mr. Browder was sentenced to four years' imprisonment and a four thousand dollar fine. But Judge Manton, for betraying the office of one of the highest judicial benches in the country, received two years and ten thousand dollars' fine; Mr. Paine, of Paine and Webber, a Wall Street bond house, for financial fraud and embezzlement involving more than a million dollars, received one year and a day; and Judge Lauer's wife, for smuggling heaps of jewels and luxury articles, received six months.

If there is injustice in the Browder sentence, if there is persecution of Browder for his political beliefs and actions, the question arises:-- Why? An answer is offered in Mr. Browder's speech at Madison Square Garden. We must note that in California, William Schneiderman, Communist official, is having his ten-year-old citizenship challenged. In Chicago, the F.B.I. is raiding the homes of Communists, militant unionists, and other progressives. In Detroit, on February 6, the F.B.I., at four-thirty A.M. raided ten homes, arrested twelve persons, and the court is now holding them in unconstitutionally excessive bail of \$155,000.

A war tide is, as in 1916-19, flooding the colleges. A resolution has been introduced into the State Assembly supporting the demand of reaction-

aries that the American Student Union be driven from the colleges. President Butler of Columbia seeks all occasions to present Lord Lothian (a foreign agent) and his propaganda message. President Gideonse of Brooklyn College proclaims his opposition to neutrality. President Dixon Ryan Fox of Union College urges that we prepare the colleges for war.

Those of us who are alarmed by the implications of these events and their bearing upon American peace and security should act now and in a practical manner. Loans and contributions to the Committee for the Defense of Civil Rights of Communists is one way to give real expression to our desire for peace and freedom. Miss Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Secretary, at 799 Broadway, will be glad to answer your request for information as to the aim and work of the committee.

Sincerely yours,

*Isidore Regun*  
ISIDORE REGUN,

Legislative Representative,

New York State Committee,  
Communist Party, U.S.A.

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