

# Browder Shows Way For U.S. To Stay Out Of Imperialist Wars

By Harry Gannes

Earl Browder, General Secretary of the Communist Party, replying to questions raised by newspapermen at the packed Madison Square Garden Anniversary meeting, yesterday contributed some highly important clarifications of significant portions of his now famous address.

In an interview with Comrade Browder, I put to him two questions which were the center of a good deal of discussion at the press table at the Garden, where 20,000 persons gathered and enthusiastically acclaimed the Soviet-German non-aggression pact.

## TWO QUESTIONS

The first question raised at the press table during and immediately after the Garden rally, which I placed before Comrade Browder, was:

*"What consequences do you draw from the statement that you made last night, namely, 'Britain is playing the same game with Poland in 1939 which she played with Belgium in 1914?'"*

To this Browder replied:

"That statement means that the character of the war now developing is that of a struggle between two rival imperialist groups for the domination of the world.

"Poland has been made the excuse for the outbreak of this war as Belgium became the pretext for the development of the last world war.

"An even more shameful game is being played with Poland because not only is there not the slightest effort to prevent a wholesale destruction of the life of the Polish people, but the British and French governments, with the connivance of the Polish government itself, refused the plan which would have provided the guarantee, not alone of Polish independence, but in all probability of the maintenance of peace, at least for the time being.

## PEACE FRONT CHANCE

"There was the possibility of a true peace front which would have been ready to wage a war of liberation of the world from fascism. That possibility was destroyed when the collaboration of the Soviet Union was refused, and when the Soviet Union's proposals for the protection of Poland were rebuffed.

"These were proposals which offered the only possible guarantees of Polish independence, and the probable avoidance of war at this time.

"The reason for the refusal of these proposals are clear: In the first place, with such a peace front combination, they could not carry on a predatory war in the interest of British imperialism. And that is the reason why they rejected the Soviet Union's cooperation.

"If we want to understand why the Polish government played the role that it did in the game of Mr. Chamberlain and M. Daladier, to the destruction of its own country, we have to refer to the fascist character of the government of Poland itself. This was a government which only a few months ago participated with Hitler in the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia.

"This government in the past oppressed, and still continues up to the present to oppress nationalities within its own frontiers. It has now climaxed this by unconditionally following the instructions of Chamberlain, to the destruction of Polish independence.

## NOW CLEAR

"These things have finally made clear beyond all possibility of doubt that what we have to deal with is an imperialist war in which the rulers of both sides are equally guilty; it is not a war waged for the destruction of fascism, but is carried on to extend and perpetuate imperialist control over the world.

"The character of this war in no principle respect can be said to differ from that of the late World War.

"This war has nothing to offer the masses of any participating country except death and destruction, further miseries and burdens."

The second question which I transmitted to Comrade Browder was:

*"What did you mean when you said, 'We wish to place on record our firm accord with the stand of the President of our country against American involvement in the war, or in the rivalries and antagonisms which have led much of Europe into chaos?' Does this mean that we do not accept Senator Borah's declaration that*

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*President Roosevelt is trying to get America into the war by gradual stages?"*

In response Browder declared:

"The answer to that is we do not see valid grounds for suspecting that behind the President's declaration of neutrality is a hidden desire to engage the United States in this imperialist war.

"It is true, and we have recognized it, that among those who support the revision of the Neutrality Act there are circles and influences which do so with the hope that this will open the door for the gradual involvement of America on the side of the British Empire.

"But such a consequence is not inherent in the revision or repeal of the Neutrality Act. It can, on the contrary, serve to strengthen the position of the United States as a force making for the limitation of this war, strengthening, moreover, America's ability to defeat all propaganda for involvement. Finally, it can serve greatly to crystallize the sentiment of the American masses not only for peace in general, but for America's firm and unconditional detachment from both sides of this imperialist conflict.

"What makes America's policy unclear is that there is at work not only the desires and demands of the masses of people, imperfectly expressed in the government, but also powerful American imperialist forces which see in neutrality only a period of great profits from the wars of others as a preliminary to American intervention in the war itself.

"The task of all true progressives is to carefully distinguish between the forces at work, no matter how much the imperialists may hide themselves behind temporary slogans of 'neutrality.'"