

Win Jewish Masses for Anti-War Fight, Browder Urges

On April 21 the National Committee of the Communist Party called a conference of leading and active members of the Party from six eastern states to discuss the problems of working among the Jewish people. Following is the main report delivered by Earl Browder:

Chairman: Comrades:

The main purpose of this conference is to bring forward our forces in the field of work among the Jewish population in particular, bringing out your experiences and your judgment of the situation as you find it in your particular work. It is the object of this conference to cement all of these forces and clarify the situation as we see it collectively for a big united forward movement not only of our Party but of our Party as leader of the broader mass movement among the Jewish section of the population of America in order to keep pace with and consolidate this movement with the general working class progressive movement in the country as a whole.

We of the National Committee of the Party feel that the time is more than ripe for this. And in developing a new approach to the strengthening of our work in each of the particular, national groups that comprise such a large part of the American people as a whole, we chose to give first attention to the work in the Jewish field for several reasons.

Among these is first of all the fact that all of the issues of the day in the world and national political life present themselves in a sharp and aggravated form among the Jewish population. In this field we have the most extreme forms of political reaction and, as in the country generally, we have a new concentration of the reactionary forces in the struggle against the labor movement, in the struggle against living standards and civil liberties in preparation for taking America more deeply and as a belligerent into the war. Especially since the outbreak of the war we have seen an unprecedented concentration of forces against the Communists and against all of those who, because they refuse to bow before this campaign, are labeled as Communists. For to the reactionaries everyone is a Communist, a Stalinist if he does not accept direction from the camp of reaction.

We cannot say that we have fully met and overcome this; we cannot even say that we have fully utilized all the opportunities and advantages at our disposal. That is one of the particular reasons for this conference—to try to mobilize all our collective wisdom and ability to overcome all the weaknesses and lags that we can detect and identify and to make sure that we collectively move forward as surely and as speedily as the relation of forces makes possible.



EARL BROWDER

attitude of the ruling classes in this respect to the extremes of the fascist regimes. So that today there is very little to choose from among the European capitalist countries, between the so-called democracies and the so-called dictatorship states. They are so rapidly approximating one another in practice and in ideology that the former distinctions which were necessary and correct are out-dated and if persisted in become a source of complete political disorientation. You cannot find your way in world politics any more, you cannot find a solution to the simplest question by the old distinctions and this applies in general to all political and social questions and it applies specifically to the problems of the Jewish people.

I do not think it is necessary for me to go into a detailed examination of the specific facts that exemplify this general relation and trend. However, I want to emphasize that fact in order to contrast it with developments

presented by the Soviet Union in its inner life and its role in international affairs.

The Soviet Union presents a contrast to the capitalist world in every respect. I do not want to take the time here this morning to enumerate all these features but let us confine ourselves for the purpose of this discussion to the situation of the Jewish people.

American newspapers have exerted themselves to the utmost to create the opinion that the Soviet Union was guilty of an imperialist aggression equally and in partnership with Hitler fascism in relation to the former Polish state. They did their utmost, and one must say they did a heroic job, and yet they failed. They failed to establish their point and their failure was not conditioned upon the education of our press. I am sorry to have to admit that our press is a relatively small factor in this situation—an important factor, but

necessarily circumscribed by the volume of its circulation. Why did the bourgeois press fail? Why did they fall so miserably that even confirmed readers and followers of the "Forward" in every case in which these individuals have relatives and friends in the former Poland, went to their synagogues to pray that their home-town would fall within the lines of the Red Army? Is anybody any longer questioning that they prayed that God would deliver their people to the Soviet Union?

Now that West Ukraine and White Russia have been organizationally embodied into the Soviet Union and have their own freely elected government and are solving their own problems in collaboration and with the help of the whole Soviet Union, we are beginning to have a flood of indications from their relatives and friends in this country, giving us a body of evidence of what the Soviet Union means to the people of that area, of the role of the Soviet Union as a liberator and no less to the Jewish people in that territory.

What organization ever had such an instrument in its hands for the education and leadership of the Jewish masses in the United States as we have? And we have it because nobody else wants it, no other organization. Nobody wants to take this issue away from us. We would be glad if they did. The time is coming when they will and we will welcome that time but right now this is our particular instrument. Are we making full use of it? I can remember a few years ago, everywhere I went, Jewish Communists and Communist sympathizers came to me and said: "Tell me confidentially why can't we get just a thousand Jewish refugees openly and demonstratively admitted into the Soviet Union?" They said: "What a tremendous agitational and educational instrument that would be in our hands." I had to answer, "Comrades, don't be impatient. The time is coming and even today," I said, "don't forget that the Soviet Union without any dramatics, very quietly already has more refugees than any other country in the world." You remember the big issue that the Day made of this statement of mine. They challenged me, declaring there was not a single Jewish refugee in the Soviet Union. They made a tremendous issue of it. Now if that was a big and important issue in those days why is it not a hundred times more important today?

Today the Soviet Union has incorporated into itself a large part of the Jewish population of Eastern Europe. It has not only given them refuge but it has given them the country. It has not merely given them a refuge as persecuted immigrants but has made them part of the owner-



NEWS ITEM: General Hailer, notorious Polish anti-Semite, calls on Jewish people to help fight for a Poland without Jews.

ship and rulership of the whole country and this refers not only to the inhabitants of the areas taken over but to the greatest body of refugees ever present in one country—the refugees from the German occupied areas. I do not know just how many it was, but the capitalist press informs us that from one-half to one million refugees from the Nazi dictatorship went over to the Soviet side in West Ukraine and White Russia. They were not placed in concentration camps but were immediately resettled and absorbed into the social life of the country. This is true not only of the former Polish territories but in the Soviet Union generally.

Do we make the most of this issue? Are we pressing our advantage on this? Are we going out and winning the Jewish masses on the basis of specific

Jewish issues as it is possible to do? As is necessary to do? I do not think we are, frankly, and I think we have got to make very serious efforts to overcome this weakness on our part, this failure to understand our own strength, this failure to fully use our own strength. I think we can be very free and frank in approaching shortcomings in our own work. The National Committee practices that kind of approach to its own work and we think that the whole movement can very profitably re-evaluate its work and this task with frank criticism without in any way giving any grounds for abuse by our enemies who always try to turn our self-criticism against us. We can do it without in any way reverting to former less healthy periods in our movement when self criticism became not a means of strengthening and

consolidating our forward movement but an excuse for dividing ourselves into cliques and factions and paralyzing our forward movement.

We think our whole movement is at a stage where it knows how to use the weapon of self-criticism to advance our movement. We have already left far behind the days when the critical re-evaluation of our work and the strengthening and mobilization of our forces and the advancement of fresh new cadres into our work could in any way result in the intensification of differences among us, in resolving our political work back into sterile inner-discussions. Today we have such a movement, we have such masses, we have such a degree of political understanding among our people, we have such rapidly developing young cadres who know

and understand what it is all about and who have absorbed the Leninist-Stalinist approach to political and organizational questions, that we can feel the greatest confidence that our movement will be able to solve all of its problems in the style and with the spirit that we have learned from the Bolsheviks in the Soviet Union. We are going to be able to mobilize our forces in a new way, create a new spirit and a new forward movement in our work in the Jewish field that is going to sweep over and around and under all obstacles and dissolve them without too much fuss and without wasting too much time.

The National Committee is going to try to perform its part not by taking over the functions of leading cadres among the Jewish people but by calling upon all our active forces to begin to assume their responsibility and their initiative to work out these problems. We are going to try to help by assuring at all times an orderly and Bolshevik development of this work based upon the initiative and abilities and enthusiasm of our broadest active in this field.

We call upon you to begin to solve these problems, not as a debating society although debates are necessary, discussion is necessary, but as a body of people that already without too much debate knows how to function as a collective will and a collective driving force. You must find new ways of work to correspond to the new situation. But you must do it in such a way that we do not fall into disputing groups as to what is the correct way to work. Our strength is in our collectivity, our power is in our unity, and our unity is in encouragement and stimulus to the initiative and enthusiasm of each individual with no barrier to hold him back.

We have suffered losses in the latest period in our leadership in the Jewish field that we have to make up for, and more than make up for by drawing forward all possible forces in this field, systematically using them and advancing them. In this respect the National Committee has taken note of the fact that a special problem is created by the circumstance that the general movement draws upon the Jewish field for cadres for general work and work in other fields. This has always been one of the problems of all national groups no less than the Jewish; they have to produce not only their own cadres but cadres for general work.

We consider the necessity of a big push forward in the Jewish field of such immediate importance that we make it a general Party problem today and we insist that the general leadership of the Party nationally and in every district has to take part in this, help it and assume responsibility for it, and if it is necessary to transfer people from general work to specific work in the Jewish field that that step shall be taken.

The National Committee made a very difficult step but a very necessary one. We fought for it and we ruthlessly made it in spite of all objections when we decided to take Comrade Max Steinberg away from the New York State apparatus and transfer him to the Jewish Bureau. We knew how difficult it was for the District Committee at the present time. The District has lots of good forces but to make a change of such important people in the District apparatus created enormous problems for the District. Although we understood the problems of the District, the National Committee felt that if we weakened one little bit on this question everybody else would weaken a little, bit all down the line and we would be unable to make this turn to the Jewish people. The National Committee said we are not going to weaken even a half of one per cent, that we would push through this necessary measure at all costs in order to set an example for the rest of you.

The situation everywhere is very difficult for us. These difficulties arise from a great historical turning point. The future of the world is being determined and that is not an easy job. If you are going to take on responsibilities for that kind of a job you have got to be ready to face difficulties and you have to be prepared, when you face crucial questions, to be stubborn and push through the correct point of view against all difficulties.

We hope that our active in this field among the Jewish masses are going to develop this approach given them by the National Committee and make it a living part of our movement. We hope that you will carry this through with the understanding that great masses can be changed, can be won in this period. With correct work, with determination and with understanding you can help the masses of Jewish people play an important part in this great historic situation and if you do you will make a tremendous contribution to the solution of America's role in world affairs and determine the direction of the world's development. You can do it and we are sure that as you appreciate more and more the fundamental importance of this task and the great opportunities for accomplishing it, you will do it.

Dies Plots Against Mexico, Ford States; Negro Congress Ends

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velt Administration and "economic royalists" toward American involvement. They declared that the only way the American Negro was interested in fighting would be against the discrimination and oppression forced upon them at home.

So strong was the desire for peace that every time the speakers said "We want peace" the entire session was halted with prolonged applause. In addition to Ford, the speakers were Earl Dickerson, Negro city elderman from Chicago; Max Yergan, first vice-president of the Congress and director of the International Committee on African Affairs; Henry (Hank) Johnson, prominent Negro CIO leader and assistant national director of the Packing House Workers Organizing Committee; Mrs. Fay Allen, president of the Los Angeles Council and member of the School Board of the City of Los Angeles; Bishop Reverdy C. Ransom, of the African Methodist Episcopal Church; Mrs. Velma G. Williams, member of the Board of Education of the District of Columbia; Richard Moore, Negro International Labor Defense leader; and Attorney John S. Bourne, president of the Boston Council of the National Negro Congress, who presided.

DIES BOOED
Every time the Dies Committee was mentioned a chorus of boos, cat-calls and hisses shot up from the audience. Johnson, a powerful speaker, brought the house to its feet when he declared: "I speak for labor and for my people when I say that I shall fight no wars to save American imperialism. The European war is an imperialist war. "The Dies Committee is a 'Red Sandman' and an un-American bugaboo, but it will never frighten the Negro people or Labor out of their rights. Our answer to its campaign against the Bill of Rights is to organize more Negro workers into the trade unions on a basis of full equality with all other workers and in order to give them an opportunity to participate in the full life of the union as in the CIO. "Both the CIO and the National Negro Congress were born in 1936, and both have been powerful organizations in the last

four years toward the achievement of the full rights of the Negro people," Johnson stated amidst stormy applause. **URGES NEGRO UNITY**
Dickerson declared that the Negro Congress was on the way to "becoming that organization for establishing that unity of the Negro people which is necessary to obtain the citizenship of the Negro people in 1940." "Upper class Negroes must join with the great majority of lower class Negroes if we are to have the solidarity which will defeat the forces of war and reaction rising in America." "We want peace not war," Dickerson asserted, "the frontier of Democracy is here at home. Our boys do not need to die in European trenches. The people of France and England and Germany will make Democracy safe in their countries. Every right won by the Negro people is endangered by the present drive toward war. The fight for Negro rights at home is the fight for international peace abroad." **YERGAN HITS IMPERIALISTS**
He urged support for the Wagner Act, against the amendments of the open shoppers, and he called for support to the Geyer anti-poll tax bill, and for the application of "strict neutrality" upon the Roosevelt administration. Because of the lateness of the hour Yergan offered to waive his address, the last on the program, but when the chairman placed the question to the audience they demanded that Yergan speak. Yergan said: "We are against this country taking sides in this imperialist war on behalf of the fascist imperialists of Germany. But we demand equally that not one step be taken to aid in any fashion the imperialism of England and France." Yergan spoke of the oppression of the millions of Negro colonials in African empires of the Allied imperialists, oppression which he experienced and witnessed as a Y.M.C.A. secretary for 15 years in Africa. Roy Wright, one of the four freed Scottsboro boys, received an ovation

End Negro Congress Meet In Washington

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abolition of the entire system of Jim-crow discrimination.

"The Roosevelt Administration has reversed its policy from one of concern for the welfare of the people to mobilization of America's resources for war, extension of trade advantages to the British and French, meanwhile slashing appropriations for WPA, neglecting to establish Federal health services, abandoning the housing program, which in policy is detrimental to the interests of the American people and brings us step by step closer to involvement in this imperialist war."

In accepting the invitation of John L. Lewis to reach a working agreement with Labors Non-Partisan League, the Negro Congress pointed out "our united Negro people's movement is linked with and collaborates with the movement and organizations of its friends and its allies, the trade unions, the youth movement, the farmers and other progressive and liberal organizations of the American people making for democracy and peace." Turning to the Dies Committee, the Congress went on record sharply condemning its activities as "a great threat to our fundamental rights" and demanding the immediate dissolution of the Dies Committee.

The Negro Congress said that "instead of investigating real 'un-American' activities such as peonage in the South and the Ku Klux Klan, Mr. Dies has viciously attacked and slandered all liberal and progressive groups."

When he appeared to ask the audience to "continue the fight for the freedom of my brother Andy, and the other four boys who are now in the Alabama jails." Greetings were read from Harry Bridges, leader of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union, who wired the Congress that John L. Lewis expressed the views of his union in urging the passage of the anti-lynching bill and full rights for the Negro people.

Pay-Hour Law Faces Congress Attack Today

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the HOLC bill and the Wheeler-Lea Railroad Bill conference report.

The fight on the Wagner Act starts early next week.

The Senate was expected to take up this week the House-approved Walter-Logan bill designed to provide court review of rulings by more than 100 quasi-judicial administrative agencies.

Whether the bill can be taken up this week depends upon the status of the Democratic leadership's legislative program. The Interior Department's supply bill are among several measures that must be acted upon.

The first order of business for the Senate this week is consideration of a bill to "freeze" Norwegian and Danish credits in this country.

Jewish Peoples Committee Head On Speaking Trip

Rabbi Moses Miller, national president of the Jewish Peoples Committee, will speak at various conferences and mass meetings to be held in a number of cities within the next month, according to a statement released yesterday by Bernard J. Harkavy, national secretary of the Jewish Peoples Committee.

The conference are to be on the topic of "Problems Facing American Jewry Today" and all Jewish organizations in the various cities will be invited to send delegates.

Following these conferences, mass meetings on the subject of "Anti-Semitism, The Jews and The War" will be held.

According to the statement, the statement, the schedule is as follows: Philadelphia, May 12; Rochester, May 19; Pittsburgh, May 26; Cleveland, May 27; Detroit, May 28; and Chicago, June 2nd.

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MexicoPRM Declares People of U.S. Oppose Wall St. Imperialists

By Alfred Miller

(Special to the Daily Worker)

MEXICO CITY, April 28.—The Party of the Mexican Revolution (PRM) last week hailed the presence of 50 American citizens at the head of the recent huge anti-imperialist parade protesting U. S. interference in Mexican affairs.

General Heriberto Jara, President of the government party, declared in an official statement released to the press:

"The Party of the Mexican Revolution which unites all the social forces of the basic groups of the Mexican people, has been profoundly moved by the show of solidarity you U. S. citizens have given when, carrying the flag of our country and carrying the eloquent poster affirming the solidarity of the American and Mexican peoples, you took part in the great demonstration organized by the PRM to support the regime of General Lazaro Cardenas and to defend the sovereignty of our country threatened at these very moment by the demand to submit to international arbitration resolutions which are the result of our laws.

"The participation of a strong nucleus of U. S. citizens in Mexico's admonition and protest against the attack of the imperialist forces which have been able to obtain the intervention of the American government, is of the highest and surest significance not only for our country but the Latin-American nations as well. The American people continue to maintain their ancient ideals of democracy and justice. The American people, expressing solidarity with the people of Mexico who are defending their dearest and legitimate interests, their liberty, economic autonomy and their right to exist as people; demonstrating their historic responsibility in the unusual problems put before us, and conscious of their own rights and the rights and fates of the rest of the peoples of the continent, have taken their position, without reservation, at the side of their brothers in exploitation and have proclaimed the validity of the weaker peoples' aspirations for life, liberty and culture.

"The people of the United States have shown to the world that theirs is not and cannot be the ignoble and cruel cause of imperialism but the cause of world democracy. The people of the United States have expressed that they must not, can not, and do not want to support the illicit economic interests of imperialism from whose dire consequences all the countries in which it exerts dominion are suffering. "You U. S. citizens have demonstrated clearly and vigorously that you fully understand your human duty and your historic responsibility at this troubled moment when with your understanding and your aid and with the understanding and aid of all free peoples, Mexico can maintain her sovereignty and liberty impeccable. This is the hour when the union of our people in spirit and in truth, for the culmination of our common destinies, marks the beginning of a true fraternity based upon mutual respect and legitimate rights. "Americans and Mexicans represent an historic unity because our redeeming ideal, our great destiny, our responsibility and our struggle for a tomorrow without exploitation and insanity are the same. This is the important lesson you have given the world, you citizens of the free, great, strong and cultured United States by proclaiming that you are not and cannot be responsible for the attitude which, while troubling the history of your powerful nation, is designed to damage the sovereignty of our nation which is judged weak by those who try to ignore that there is no human force able to conquer justice and history!

"Thanks be to you U. S. citizens who gallantly took part in the parade of Mexican dignity and unity adding to it a high note of liberation conscience and your true and firm conviction of Americanism. Thanks in the name of the people of Mexico and the universal cause of justice!