

3,500 Hear Browder, Gen. Butler and Barnes

Speakers Stress Danger of New World Holocaust at Mecca Temple Meeting—Communist Warns of Need of Unity to Prevent Slaughter

By Cyril Briggs

Three thousand five hundred persons gathered at Mecca Temple Monday night, on the seventeenth anniversary of the World War armistice, to hear speakers of widely divergent political views on the symposium—"Can We Stay Out of the Next War." A soldier, himself a leader of many past expeditions of American imperialism in all parts of the world, an historian and liberal, and the leader of the American Communist Party were the speakers.

The three speakers—the soldier, the Communist and the historian—in the symposium, which was arranged by the New Masses, were Major General Smedley Butler, formerly of the U.S. Marine, Earl Browder, general secretary of the Communist Party, U.S.A., and Dr. Harry Elmer Barnes, historian. Heywood Brown, president of the Newspaper Guild, was to have participated in the symposium, but was unable to attend. He sent a telegram to the meeting expressing his regret that he had to go out of town and declaring his solidarity with the peace aims of the gathering. Loren Miller, Negro publicist and one of the editors of New Masses, presided.

Agree on War Danger

All three speakers were in agreement that Mussolini's robber war against Ethiopia had faced the world with the sinister threat of a new world holocaust, more dreadful even than the first World War. But there the agreement ended, giving immediate point to Browder's warning of the necessity of achieving agreement on a common program by all forces opposed to war, if there is to be effective opposition to those forces that would plunge the country into war.

Butler declared he saw no hope of keeping the country out of war, once the munition manufacturers and other forces making for war had unleashed their propaganda through the press and other instruments of publicity under their control. He scathingly denounced the war machinations of these forces, but thought they had "all the brain and the power" on their side.

Barnes, likewise, expressed scant faith in the ability of the American people to influence the course of events. He presented the peculiar theory, on which he said he was ready to be quoted, that the United States would not have entered the first World War had President Wilson not married a second time. He cited Wilson's second wife as among the influences which led him to plunge the country into the World War on the side of the Allies, but did admit that the loans J. P. Morgan and other American bankers to the Allies had something to do with it.

Must Find Common Ground

Browder warned that the American people cannot avoid a war without a fight. Being against war and being sincere is not enough, he said. We have to learn how to fight, how to mobilize the largest possible forces against the war makers. We are weak only if we do not agree, only if we do not have a common program against war and Fascism. We are not alone, not disarmed, not helpless in the struggle against war, he stated in answer to the pessimism expressed by Butler, citing the existence of the Soviet

Union as a powerful force for peace, "because it is controlled by the same people who fight for peace all over the world—the workers and farmers."

Emphasizing the indivisibility of peace, Browder declared that "America can keep out of the next world war only by keeping the world out of war." He offered a clear-cut, concrete program for the struggle for peace, for the creation of an International People's Front against war and Fascism, and particularly stressed the necessity for the united front between the Socialist and Communist Parties as an inspiration and driving force in the creation of a People's Front.

Cites Fascist War Danger

The Fascist invasion of Ethiopia is slowly but surely drawing the whole world into war, he warned. If Mussolini is not stopped in Ethiopia, then Hitler and the Japanese militarists would be encouraged to launch similar adventures which would shatter the peace of the world.

Commenting on the League of Nations' sanctions against Italy, Browder declared it would be silly to depend on the League's sanctions or on Roosevelt's embargo, but it would be even more silly if we did not make use of them. He called for the organization of mass actions to stop the movement of munitions and every kind of goods destined to Italy.

Gives Six-Point Plan

Browder proposed the following six-point program, around which all forces opposed to war and Fascism could be rallied for active opposition to Fascist Italy's war against Ethiopia and for militant support for the Ethiopia people in their fight to maintain their independence.

1. Adoption of resolutions in all trade unions, churches and other organizations, condemning Fascist Italy's aggression in Ethiopia, and pledging support to Ethiopia.

2. Mass meetings, street meetings, demonstrations, parades and other actions against war.

For United Action

3. Through these actions to impress emphatically upon the President and Congress the demand for a complete embargo on all shipments to Fascist Italy.

4. The bringing together of all the peace forces of the nation for united anti-war action and for a great Congress for Peace and against War and Fascism.

5. Independent action of the workers to stop all shipments to Italy, mobilizing the masses to support the longshoremen and other workers in these actions.

6. To obtain united action between the Socialist Party and the Communist Party in the United States against the war in Ethiopia and to call on the Second International to accept the proposals of the Communist International for world-wide action against war.