

Earl Browder

Communist Party's Analysis Of Major Issue of the Election

This is the sixth chapter of the life-story of Earl Browder, Communist candidate for President, by M. J. Olgin, Communist leader and editor of the Morning Freiheit.

By M. J. OLGIN

There are some people who believe that there is little or no danger of fascism in the United States. They speak about the great tradition of democracy in our country. They refer to our institutions which, in their opinion, guarantee against any attempt at introducing fascism.

The Communist Party, with penetrating vision and fearless thinking, is not deceived by appearances. It is true that our country still retains a number of democratic liberties. Browder, however, together with the Communist Party realizes that these liberties are threatened by reaction which, in this period, assumes the form of fascism.



M. OLGIN

What are the forces that are threatening American democracy? These are the owners of huge accumulations of wealth, the magnates of Wall Street headed by such exploiters as the du Ponts, Morgan, the United States Steel Trust and a number of other huge trusts—all of them organized in the so-called Liberty League whose aim belies its name. The spokesman for these reactionary forces is the Hearst outfit, an immense propaganda machine to mislead the people.

WALL STREET ROBBERY PROGRAM

Their program is to rob the people of the liberties they now possess and to make their lives still more insecure. These forces would have no labor unions capable of fighting for the interests of the workers, no freedom for those who are opposed to Wall Street, a drastic curb on the right to strike, assemble and picket, a sharp curtailment of the freedom of the press, greatest persecution and oppression of the workers, the Negro people, the foreign-born toilers, the Jews and others—all under the slogan of defending "Americanism."

They would make of America one armed camp—to secure greater profits for the exploiters. They would plunge this country into war to get bigger markets, more colonies and other advantages for Wall Street. They would squeeze the workers and farmers to death so that a few thousand families may revel in luxury.

These forces are back of the Landon candidacy for the President of the United States under the Republican banner. The Republican convention tried to disguise the reactionary character of the Liberty League program. Landon and his associates, in their election speeches, pose as friends of the people.

BROWDER ON ROOSEVELT

But the fact that they have back of them Wall Street, the reactionary Liberty League and the fascist Hearst, shows up through those disguises. Landon and the Republican Party are the main danger in this campaign, says Browder.

But isn't Roosevelt, perhaps, a bulwark against reaction? Browder answers this question in the negative. Roosevelt is no bulwark against reaction.

"Hearst, the Liberty League and the Republican Party [says Browder] have issued the war cry against Roosevelt that the New Deal is socialistic and communistic. That is only their campaign demagoguery. It is addressed to

middle class and propertied people to frighten them into accepting fascism as the alternative of a non-existent threat of socialist confiscation. It is addressed to the masses in a hope to discredit socialism by identifying it with the failures of the New Deal. There is nothing of socialism in Roosevelt's policies or in the Democratic platform."

ROOSEVELT WAVERS

Furthermore, Roosevelt is not really a defense against fascism. Roosevelt wavers. Too many times has he yielded to the demands of Wall Street. Too many times has he failed to defend the interests of the people. Roosevelt did not even have the courage to take up the fight against the Supreme Court of the United States which willfully destroyed the major features of the New Deal. Roosevelt had at his disposal all the legal means to defend the prerogatives of Congress against the encroachments of the nine Supreme Court judges who were not even united on the major questions and often decided by a majority of five to four. Roosevelt yielded weekly.

LANDON MAIN DANGER

Landon is the main danger, says Browder. A victory for Landon means a victory for the forces of fascism, means opening the road for such oppression as was visited on the German people since the advent of Hitler to power. But Roosevelt cannot be relied upon to defeat the reactionaries. "Too often we have seen that the more Roosevelt is supported from the Left the more he compromises with the Right."

The issue of the 1936 election, says Browder, is a "choice between progress and reaction, between democracy and the path towards fascism." In this respect Browder expresses the major problem of the American people today. He stands guard. He warns against an approaching danger while the way is still open to avoid that danger. He wishes to impress the people with the fact that it is possible for them to block the path of reaction, to secure their liberties and to make fascism impossible in our country.

A GREAT SERVICE

Thus, Browder and his Party are doing the American people a great service. The Republican Party is mobilizing to assure the victory of reaction. The Democratic Party is torn between its own reactionary wing and its more liberal wing which is headed by Roosevelt and which, as we have seen, is by no means the guarantee against reaction.

The Socialist Party with Norman Thomas fights against the progressive forces in the labor movement and takes the path of sectarian isolation.

Meanwhile the Communist Party, with Earl Browder as its leader and standard bearer, appeals to every worker, every farmer, every middle-class and professional man and woman in this country to unite against the danger of fascism and to undertake measures to block its advent.

(To be continued)