

Earl Browder

Organizer of the U. S. Fight Against Fascism, Reaction

By M. J. OLGIN

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

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.

The most effective measure against fascism and reaction is unity of all the exploited and oppressed, unity of the broadest masses of the people in struggle for a better life. This unity we call the united People's Front.

THE EUROPEAN EXAMPLE

Browder, a shrewd observer of developments abroad, brings us examples from Germany, France and Spain. In France, he says, in February, 1934, when the fascists threatened an onslaught for the purpose of seizing power, there was organized a broad united front of Socialists, Communists, trade unionists and middle-class Republican democratic organizations. This united People's Front repelled the attacks of fascism. In the spring of this year it elected a majority to Parliament and made possible a government supported by the People's Front which, on the one hand, is doing a great deal for the improvement of the lives of the workers and farmers (a real and not fictitious new deal), on the other hand, is combatting the organizations and smothering the activities of the fascists.

Had a People's Front of this kind been organized in Germany a year or two before the advent of Hitler, democracy and progress would have been saved there. Had the People's Front in Spain been organized quicker and stronger, the fascists would never have been able to launch their counter-revolutionary attack this year, and the struggle of the masses of Spain to save their democratic liberties would have been easier.

PREPARE NOW

All this goes to show, says Browder, that you have got to prepare the forces against fascism while there is still time. In the United

States we can still mobilize ourselves to ward off reaction and fascism. We can do this by uniting all the forces that are opposed to reaction. In the election field we can do this by independent political action of the broadest masses of the toilers by hand and brain. This means the formation of a Farmer-Labor Party on a national and local scale.

"As the candidate of the Communist Party [says Browder] I will carry its program to the country—the fight for a united People's Front in the Farmer-Labor Party, the fight for organizing the basic industries into industrial unions in a united and powerful American Federation of Labor, the fight for unity of all progressive forces in America to defeat the threat of reaction, fascism and war."

THE MOST VITAL ISSUE

Browder, as the candidate of the Communist Party, has put his finger on the most vital issue of our time. He also shows the solution. As a real American in the best sense of the word, as a man endowed with a sense of the real, with a feeling for the sentiments of the people, he also points to the only remedy that will be effective to remove the evil.

Browder believes in the people. Browder knows that the people are not afraid of the name "revolutionary." He says:

"Our country was born in revolution, and preserved by revolutionary war. . . . Americans have always been among the most revolutionary peoples of the world. Americans will not shrink from a new revolution, when they understand that only by this road can they once and for all break the corrupting power of Wall Street over our land."

But it is not to immediate revolution that the Communist Party calls in the election campaign of this year. It calls to the people to realize their own interests, to take steps to become strong, to become an irresistible power capable of securing now a better life and to guarantee their basic liberties.

(To be Concluded)