
EARL BROWDER ON PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S MESSAGE TO THE SPECIAL SESSION OF CONGRESS

*(Excerpts from a speech delivered
at the Public Auditorium, Cleveland,
Ohio, September 21, 1939.)*

“WE JOIN wholeheartedly with the vast majority of the American people whose hearts and minds were well expressed today in President Roosevelt's unequivocal declarations that the best interests of world peace and of America demand that we keep out of this war and out of the rivalries from which it arose. We emphatically support him in finding that the only correct foundation of America's foreign policy lies in considerations for keeping out of this war, and not at all in considerations of incidental advantages to one or another of the belligerents. . . .

“We consider especially important the President's firm declaration against American credits to belligerents, which should put an end to existing schemes for throwing American financial resources in support of the British empire, the most serious menace for involving our country in the war.

“We welcome his recognition of the immediate rise of the menace of profiteering, which also means the rise of pressure to break American neutrality when that promises greater

profits. The fight to curb profiteers and Wall Street monopolists and to divest them of their booty must be well planned and have the force of the people behind it. It is therefore best handled as the President proposes, at the regular session.

“The President's declaration that no new laws are needed to handle the emergency should help halt the Tory drive against civil liberties and labor rights, while his unequivocal demand for freedom of expression was a rebuke to the rising repressions against the Bill of Rights as typified by several examples of the breaking up of Communist meetings in the Middle West, and the cancellation of the hall for my meeting in Cincinnati by decision of a federal judge. The action of the radio station in that city today in refusing to sell time to me unless I agreed to talk only on local politics, without discussion of the President's message, is similar violation of civil liberties.

“While agreeing with the President's rejection of a wholesale blanket embargo policy as being not effective to keep America out of this war, we cannot follow him entirely in his judgment of its role in Jefferson's time, nor in the implied rejection of an embargo against the Jap-

anese imperialists, an act which we believe valuable and necessary for peace in the Far East, to protect American interests and to aid the Chinese people who are fighting a purely defensive and national liberation war.

“Regarding the issues of the Neutrality Act, we repeat the position expressed by the Communist Party declaration of September 18, that the uniting of all the peace forces on both sides of this issue is much more important than the particular decision whether to retain, repeal, or revise the Neutrality Act, none of which will

guarantee America against involvement.

“The best guarantee against war is an aroused, vigilant, united people determined to suppress profiteering and the monopolists in both domestic and foreign fields, determined to tolerate no taking of sides in this imperialist conflict, determined to maintain their living standards and democratic rights, to improve and extend them, determined to organize the people, workers, farmers and middle classes, in a more effective democratic intervention in the life of our country and the whole world.”