

## I. THE COURT STEPS IN

As a candidate for President of the United States, I have been denied by court order the right to accept invitations to speak to citizens who wish to forward my candidacy. This court order was made on the request of the Administration, undoubtedly with the agreement, if not upon the direct suggestion, of the President. Judge Knox, in issuing the order, said openly that his motive was political—to hamper the Communist Party in placing its position before the voters. He charged that the Communist Party was not entitled to any consideration because “it proposes to change the form of government of the United States.”

Judge Knox did not take notice of the fact that it is President Roosevelt who has successfully set aside the Constitution of the United States, and effectively changed our form of government, by committing this country to a war alliance and to belligerent steps without even the formality of submitting the question to Congress. If Congress can be set aside so completely by the new military dictatorship now apparently in power on issues involving the fate of the nation most immediately, we must not be surprised when individuals and minority parties are deprived of all rights by administrative edict. When a “close friend of the President” threatened last October to stop my speaking in public on behalf of the Communist Party, most people thought we were exaggerating when we marked that moment as opening a drive into war and military rule for America. Now the facts are clear for everyone. Not only are the Communists disfranchised, but even the Republicans, who are forced to choose between two Democrats; and not only the Repub-

licans, but the anti-war, anti-conscriptionist majority of Americans, who are forced to choose between two pro-war and pro-conscriptionist candidates. Mr. Roosevelt has studied well the Hitlerian art and bids fair to outdo the record of his teacher.

My own little problems are of interest to the American people because they embody in essence the great tragedy of a whole nation—tricked into the chains of a gang of military adventurers as surely and as disastrously as were the German people.

*Statement issued September 4, 1940, on Federal Judge Knox's order denying Earl Browder the right to leave the jurisdiction of the Court.*