

# *Text of Statement by Earl Browder on Indictment*

*Following is the text of a statement issued yesterday by Earl Browder, General Secretary of the Communist Party, U.S.A.:*

The proceedings against me are obviously a part and product of the manufactured war-hysteria as in the time of the Palmer red-raids. It has objects far broader than the Communists. This was dramatically demonstrated by the Republican Party National Committee intervention. Unable to make any case against the Communist Party program and activities, which are known and approved by ever larger numbers of the American people, they have adopted a policy of harassment, modeled after reaction in every country where democratic rights have been limited and destroyed.

The legal absurdity of the proceedings is revealed by the fact that even the reactionary Hoover regime, which had this alleged case when it was fresh, ten years ago, decided there were no grounds for prosecution. Now it is warmed over, so that it appears my so-called crime consists of travelling under my own name. Even travelling under an assumed name, which I have not done in many years, is a custom of the highest American social circles, and one could imagine the con-

sternation in high society if it should be established as a crime. But high society does not flinch from even real and serious crimes, like conspiring against the liberties and living conditions of the people, to profit out of war, and to drag America into the war, because it sees the courts respond instantly to the demands of the Republican National Committee, which is preparing to take the national reins into its hands, as it did in this instance. The Republican reactionaries are especially angry because I revealed their attempts in 1936 to bribe the Communist Party to smear the New Deal administration.

The New Deal liberals seem to be surrendering to the reactionaries of the Martin Dies stripe as they did in Germany in 1933, as they did in 1920, before A. Mitchell Palmer, and the consequences will be more disastrous for liberalism than for the Communists. This is not a passport case; that was closed long ago by the Hoover administration. It is part of the assault on free public expression of political opinions. If they can close my mouth, can silence the Communists by such methods, then no one in America will long feel secure in his civil liberties, and those who want to take America into the imperialist war will soon have a free hand.