

Browder in the 'New Republic'

By Milton Howard

EARL BROWDER, in his first article on the Soviet Union in this week's **New Republic**, continues to propagandize the anti-Marxist illusions which resulted in his expulsion from the Communist Party.

These illusions are all the more pernicious in that they are offered to that large body of public opinion which is eager for American-Soviet friendship.

The fight for American-Soviet friendship is crucial to all politics in America today. For it is essentially the fight for peace.

But the fight for American-Soviet friendship, and for a peace based on such collaboration, requires an accurate analysis of the direction taken by the Truman government under the pressure of the Taft-Vandenberg-Hoover forces.

In affirming his desire for American-Soviet friendship, Browder offers theoretical and practical advice which collides with the interests of the peace movement in America, because it collides with political reality. That reality is that the Truman government while not completely identified on every issue with the extreme Right is acting as the bearer of American imperialism's worldwide aggression.

In his first piece, Browder offered this proposition:

"Neither could I detect in Moscow any tendency to place responsibility for this change in America's attitude upon President Truman. On the contrary, there seemed to be an appreciation of the fact that every time Harry Truman has personally intervened in Soviet-American relations the result has been to smooth the road toward agreement and cooperation. The nearest thing to a negative attitude I could find expressed toward Truman was a questioning one, asking whether his mounting domestic difficulties might not make it impossible for him to take command of international relations in the Roosevelt tradition."

This flies in the face of those

political developments which have been known to public opinion since Truman took office.

It says that Truman's politics is geared toward strengthening American-Soviet friendship. If that were true there would be an entirely different political situation in the world today, both internationally and within the United States. The headlines in the press would be different.

If that were true there would be no bipartisan agreement—as there is—between the GOP forces and Secretary Byrnes. There does appear evidence from time to time of internal frictions, disagreements in emphasis, tactics, etc. within this general agreement. Marxist and progressive forces should of course exact the maximum advantage for a democratic peace from such developments. But that is a different thing from saying that President Harry Truman is the man to whom the American working class and the peace forces generally must look for leadership.

For it is known to the nation that Truman sponsored that Goebbels-like warcry by which Winston Churchill celebrated the birth of the Anglo-Saxon bloc. It is known also that Truman sponsors the huge armaments program and the rapid expansion of American military might throughout Latin America, Asia and even in Europe.

Not only does Browder ignore

these political realities, but he advances an alibi for Truman, the more damaging in that he declares that this alibi has Soviet sympathy. And this alibi is nothing less than the theory that Truman is hampered in his desire to establish a Roosevelt policy toward the Soviet Union by "his mounting domestic difficulties."

These difficulties are undoubtedly the increasing class antagonisms as manifested in the recent strike wave. The difficulties no doubt include the problem of how to foist inflation upon the United States with a minimum eruption of working class and popular resistance.

If Truman's "mounting difficulties" in working for American-Soviet friendship were embodied in the acts of reactionary monopolies, then one would expect to see public evidence of this in Truman's struggle against the monopolies. One would indulge in the absurdity that Truman is too busy fighting the trusts to have time to combat the anti-Soviet policy of his own government.

But since that particular absurdity is mocked by Truman's subservience to the trusts Browder implies there is only one remaining alternative. That it is working class resistance to the trusts which hampers the government's desire to improve American-Soviet relations.

The informed reader will have

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Worth Repeating

The "true democracy" of Franco is attested to by the following passages from a new Catechism now being taught in fascist Spain's schools: "Should the State be a lay State? By no means, the State has to represent the Catholic Church, which is the only true Church. The State has to be subservient to the Church, as the body must be subservient to the soul or all temporal matters to the eternal bliss.

"Are there any other dangerous freedoms? Yes, freedom of the press, freedom of propaganda and freedom of assembly." Quoted in an article in the June-July issue of the Protestant.

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no difficulty in recognizing in this line of reasoning Browder's tenaciously held view that the American working class in this epoch can best defend its interests and world peace by following the leadership of the capitalist class.

Within the Roosevelt - labor coalition this revision of all Marxist thinking was able to operate with a superficial plausibility which did its heavy damage. Browder continues to urge this tactic upon working class and liberal opinion in America even after the Roosevelt-labor coalition has been abolished by the new course set by the Truman Administration.

It is, in effect; a blank check to the imperialist circles of the nation, or rather, to the Truman Administration which is the instrument of these circles though they are not always in agreement on tactics.

Practically, therefore, Browder would have the working class overlook every single action of the Truman government which has carried the nation into the imperialist Anglo-American alignment. He would forgive this on the ground Truman has been impeded in exerting his beneficial intervention in the nation's foreign policy. Under no circumstances must the working class, the trade unions or the progressive forces break with the Truman government. They must instead help Truman to intervent against the policy of Byrnes, Baruch, Vandenberg, Connally; they must compel Truman to lead them, to effectuate policies which are in contradiction to those he is carrying out.

And this advice, so valuable to the Truman forces and the imperialist circles of America, is justified by an attack upon the theoretical position of the Communist Party which links the Party's position with the extreme Right. This we shall analyze in another article.