

# Roosevelt Still Leads America

By EARL BROWDER

Our country is bowed in the grief of an immeasurable loss. Our great Commander-in-Chief has been taken away. America's greatest and most beloved son, the man who restored our shattered national unity, who led the nation back to the path of historical progress, who finally united us with our Allies in the Great Coalition and thus spelled the doom of the Axis, who revealed to the nation the glorious possibilities of a world of long-time peace and prosperity—this man no more moves amongst us, no more speaks to us. The void created by his absence is too great for our immediate understanding. It will require time to readjust ourselves to such a world. We could not spare this man.

In these first hours of the nation's loss, shared by the peoples of all lands, it is hard to find those words we need to help us take the blow and rise stronger from under it. But that is our task. We must fulfill it. The nation's grief must be transformed into the nation's strength.

Our departed Commander-in-Chief left us a legacy. If we know how to use it, if we do not break it up or fritter it away, this legacy will be a constant source of healing and of strength. It is the legacy of his policies, and of his wisdom demonstrated in the formulation of those policies. In these we have the living presence, the flaming spirit, which won the nation's faith and love—we have this legacy, that is, so long as we preserve it and use it, and do not allow it to be broken and scattered.

This great legacy is, first of all, the Coalition with our Allies cemented at Teheran and Crimea, and in the blood of the Armies now finishing the first phase of the Coalition program. So long as we preserve and strengthen the Great Coalition, the spirit of our departed Commander-in-Chief continues to walk amongst us and lead us, and we are strong. It is, secondly, the great decision to organize a peaceful and prosperous world, towards which the plans of Bretton Woods and Dumbarton Oaks are the preliminary in-

dispensable steps. So long as we fight for the full realization of these plans, and do not permit them to be dismembered or scattered, so long the spirit of our Commander-in-Chief is amongst us. It is, thirdly, the determination that henceforth America's economy shall be kept in full operation, providing jobs for all Americans at a constantly rising standard of life, and sustenance and healing and reconstruction to the rest of the world. So long as we press forward unflinching to this goal, our old Commander-in-Chief still marches at our head. It is, fourthly, the unity of all men of good will and understanding, the unity of the nation, without which we cannot march forward together. So long as we guard and strengthen ever more this national unity, we have transformed death into the immortality that inheres in the people.

If we choose to make it so, the American people will keep forever living the spirit that has led them during the past 12 years out of the wilderness to where we can already glimpse the promised land.

President Truman has taken up the heavy responsibilities that were borne by the man whose passing we grieve. It would be a burden too heavy for any man were he not supported and maintained by the great legacy of his predecessor. It would be a responsibility too great for any man were he not firmly grounded in the active support of the people. President Truman will honorably and successfully bear his unprecedented burden because he will walk the path already blazed, because he will guard and utilize the great legacy, because he will thereby have the firm support of the great majority of the people who are the nation.

Out of America's grievous loss, the nation must learn how to rise stronger than ever before. And America will grow stronger, in the knowledge and faith that through each and every one of us, if we do our duty, the leader of our country remains the great Roosevelt.

*The text of Earl Browder's tribute to the late President Roosevelt delivered Saturday night at the Freiheit anniversary rally in Carnegie Hall.*