

Thomas Assails Roosevelt for Freeing Browder

J-145/19/4
Proves Communism

Garroted New Deal, Says Dies Member

NEW YORK, May 18 (N. Y. News).— President Roosevelt's order freeing Earl Browder, Communist leader, was assailed today by Representative J. Parnell Thomas, of New Jersey, member of the Dies Committee, as "conclusive proof that the New Deal is garroted by Communists."

"I know that these same Communists are using the present war as an avenue for further gains in America," Thomas charged in a wire to the President. "To aid them as you have in the Browder case is most deplorable."

"Further, since when have we used the advocacy of the overthrow of the American Government as an excuse to open the jails? At the next session of the Dies Committee I shall recommend that the committee make the New Deal-Communist marriage our first order of business."

Browder, whose four-year sentence for passport fraud was commuted after he had served 14 months, declined to talk today when interviewers called at a Yonkers, N. Y., home where he was reunited Sunday with his wife and children.

Church Group Indignant

CHICAGO, May 18 (C.T.P.S.). The commutation of Communist Earl Browder's prison sentence by President Roosevelt is fraught with alarming significance, a statement issued by the Church League of America declared today. Browder's release, the statement said, will result in an extension of antidemocratic and anti-Christian forces in the United States.

Frank J. Loesch is general chairman of the organization which is composed of clergy and laymen of all faiths.

Shows Communist Power

"The real cause for alarm at the release of Browder by presidential decree is that, coming as it does under the pressure of the Free Earl Browder Crusade, it shows the power of the Communist forces in the United States," the statement said.

"Browder, in his official affiliation with Moscow traveling about the world in the interest of international Communist machinations, got into his present trouble by following the traditional Communist policy of trickery and deception."

"In falsifying his passports he violated a Federal law and this eventually brought him a Federal prison sentence after his crime had first been exposed by the Dies Committee."

"It is indeed a strange statement that comes from the White House that the release of Browder will promote national unity. Why should the matter of national unity be involved any more with Browder than with any other convicted criminal unless we are to inaugurate a general policy of emptying our jails in the cause of national unity?" the statement asked.

A Foreign Agent?

"Or is this a confession that our Government recognizes Browder as a leader of a group that has official affiliation or strong ties with some other country?"

"If so, then Browder and the Communist Party should be compelled to register as agents of a foreign government in accordance with a statutory requirement. Our Government has refused to take this viewpoint and consequently Communists and Communist agencies have not been compelled to register."

"Communists in seeking Browder's release have been emphasizing that his imprisonment endangers national unity. The White House has apparently accepted this logic. If national unity is involved then it would seem that more is involved than is known to the public."