

Text of Statement By Earl Browder

Following is the text of a statement by Earl Browder, General Secretary of the Communist Party, in reply to a Hyde Park release:

It is not clear if the "close friend" of the President, who is reported as expressing his feeling that in my Boston speech last Sunday I "flirted with a charge of conspiring against the Federal Government," was referring to what I actually said, or to the forgery in the New York Times and Herald Tribune, which constructed a new speech for me which I did not deliver.

The President's "close friend" expresses his perturbation about my use of the phrase "quick transition," thus following the line of thought of the Herald Tribune editorial of today. That is precisely the phrase reported entirely out of its context by the New York Times and others, although they had the exact text in their hands. What I actually said was as follows:

"How can we explain the reactionary hysteria that is gripping the American bourgeoisie in face of

the imperialist war? They know quite well that the conscious and clear-headed movement for socialism in this country is still quite small in relation to the whole population. Why then do they display such fear of the Communist Party which heads this movement? The answer is: Because they know quite well the extremely precarious situation of European capitalism, they know that this war is placing the socialist revolution on the order of the day there as a practical question.

"They are preparing to come to the rescue of their class brothers in Europe against the rise of the revolutionary working class. They know that America itself, despite the political backwardness as yet of our working class, is technically, objectively, the country which is the most ripe, the most prepared, for a quick transition to socialism, for which it lacks only the understanding and the will of the masses to that goal."

The statement of the President's "close friend" is a striking example of the war hysteria of which I spoke. My words about the United States in relation to a future socialist system were quite sober and measured words, essentially the same as I have been uttering for years. Only hysteria could construe them as of such "dangerous" character as to require that I be given "my day in court" on their account. Truly, the world situation is quite dangerous today, but the greatest danger for the American people is the threat to muzzle them, which is contained in the statement of the "close friend" of the President. Perhaps it would be better if the President were advised by some friends who do not believe that the capitalist system will collapse under the weight of a few speeches such as I made Sunday in Boston.



EARL BROWDER