ELECTION PLATFORM OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY 1940

FOR PRESIDENT
EARL BROWDER

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT
JAMES W. FORD
EARL BROWDER

Earl Browder was born on May 20, 1891, in Wichita, Kansas. His family came to America in the seventeenth century, settling in Virginia. Browder began working at the age of nine in a Wichita department store. From 1913 to 1917 he was president of the office workers union of Kansas City and was a delegate to the 1916 National Convention of the American Federation of Labor. During those years he edited The Toiler, a labor paper, was executive and general manager in a farmers' cooperative near Kansas City, and a member of the Council of the Cooperative League of America.

In 1917 he led the Kansas labor and progressive forces in opposition to America's participation in the first World War. Arrested for these activities, Earl Browder and his brother William were sentenced to one year's imprisonment for refusing to register for the draft, and later to two years more on the charge of "conspiracy" to violate the draft law. While he was in Leavenworth in 1919, serving the second sentence, the Communist Party was formed, and upon his release he was elected to its Executive Committee. At the 1930 Convention of the Communist Party of the United States Earl Browder was elected its General Secretary, the position he now occupies.

For his pro-peace activities during the present war, Browder was sentenced to four years' imprisonment on a legal technicality. His case is now before the United States Supreme Court on appeal.

He is the author of What Is Communism, The People's Front, Fighting for Peace, Communism in the United States, The Second Imperialist War as well as many pamphlets and articles. In 1936 he was the Communist Presidential nominee, as he is in 1940.

JAMES W. FORD

James W. Ford was born on December 22, 1893, in Pratt City, Alabama. He worked as a water boy on a railroad gang, a mechanic's helper, blacksmith's helper and a steam-hammer operator at a forge of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company (United States Steel).

While working, he attended the Industrial High School in Birmingham. He entered Fisk University in 1913 and received his degree in 1918. (Made the All-Southern Football Championship Team in 1915.) In 1917, he joined the army and was assigned to the signal corps of the 86th Brigade, 92nd Division, and departed for France.

From 1919 to 1927 he worked in the Chicago post office. He joined Local 1 of the Chicago Postal Clerks' Union (A. F. of L.) and was elected a delegate to the Chicago Federation of Labor. He aided the early campaign to organize the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in Chicago. He joined the Communist Party in 1926.

In 1930 he was elected secretary of the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers and edited The Negro Worker. He played a leading role in organizing the defense of the nine Scottsboro boys.

He ran in 1932 as Vice-Presidential candidate on the same ticket with William Z. Foster, and again in 1936 with Earl Browder.

James W. Ford is the author of The Negro and the Democratic Front, many pamphlets and articles in newspapers and magazines. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Negro Congress, and a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party of the United States.
ELECTION PLATFORM
of the Communist Party, 1940

The life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness of the American people are now endangered as never before since our revolutionary forefathers one hundred and sixty-four years ago proclaimed these rights to be inalienable for all mankind.

For the flower of American youth, the right to life itself is challenged by those who claim the privilege to conscript them and to throw them into reactionary wars for the benefit of the propertied classes.

For the American people as a whole, their liberty is challenged by projects of conscription of even the civilian population, of tens of millions of workers of factories and farms—ostensibly for the security of the country, but really for the purpose of setting aside the sacred guarantees of our Bill of Rights and placing the civilian population under military law, to free the hands of ruling financiers for military adventures and conquest abroad.

For our country, as for the peoples of all the world, the pursuit of happiness can be realized only with work, with security against unemployment, against poverty in old age, with guaranteed education for the youth—and with a genuine policy of peace. But with 11,000,000 Americans unemployed, the Democratic Party Administration is sacrificing all social legislation, unemployment relief, unemployment and old-age insurance, and educational guarantees for the youth, in order to pour all resources of the nation as well as the blood of our people into the scramble of monopoly capital for domination of the world.
Wall Street Wants War

The predatory war unleashed by the imperialist ruling classes of Berlin, London, Paris, Rome and Tokyo is a worldwide struggle for the division of the world among imperialist bandits—a struggle for the right of capitalist imperialist exploitation of the world by sacrificing the freedom of all peoples and the national independence of all nations.

Therefore the richest and most predatory of international bankers and trust heads of the whole world—those of Wall Street—are determined to enter into this worldwide, military contest in order to claim for themselves a share in proportion to their gigantic wealth. While their war profits pile high they deliberately seek to prolong the war and feverishly prepare to enter it. They have already transformed our country into an arsenal for one side of the predatory European conflict, and into a chief source of war materials for the Japanese adventures in Asia—thus making the United States, while still a non-belligerent, nevertheless a participant in the worldwide military conflict.

The warmongers of Wall Street are feverishly preparing to establish through military might the exclusive role of American finance capital over the two American continents at the sacrifice of the independence of twenty republics of Latin America. They are striving to strengthen their imperialist positions in China and aim toward control of the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) in struggle for mastery of the Pacific.

Aspiring for world domination, the American finance capitalists strive to drag the American people into the European war on the side of Great Britain. They work for a continuation and extension of that war and share guilt for the fate of those countries already conquered in Europe, Asia and Africa. But the same American imperialists have not closed the door to possible temporary agreements with the German and Japanese conquerors for establishment of the "new orders" in Europe and Asia, if only the terms be advantageous to the bankers of Wall Street.

Just as the American imperialists applauded and supported the betrayal of the democracy of Europe in the Pact of Munich, so are
they ready now, on the promise of a gain to themselves, to betray
the people of the United States, the peoples of the twenty Latin
American republics, and those of Asia and of all of Europe and
Africa to new imperialist agreements—if only they can secure their
monopolist domination through the suppression of American de-
mocracy under blanket conscription and M-Day laws.

The Democratic and Republican parties—twin parties of the
financiers of Wall Street—are seeking in this election to goad the
people into a war hysteria, into panic and confusion, and to induce
the people to agree to a surrender of constitutional democracy to a
virtual military dictatorship in time of peace. All war plans
are dressed in the disguise of peace plans. All plans for dangerous
military adventures are given the gentle name of "national secu-
ritv." All projects for military aggression are entitled "national
defense plans." All imperialist ventures for subjecting the Latin
American republics are entitled "protecting the Western Hemi-
sphere." Every prospective imperialist venture and "Munich"
arrangement designed to throw the American people into war and
to sacrifice the independence of Latin American peoples are brought
forward under slogans of "peace" and "democracy" as was the treaty
of Munich.

**The People Want Peace**

All domestic policies defended or proposed in this election by the
Democratic and Republican parties are domestic policies subordi-
nated to and completely dominated by the common purpose of
American finance capital, the economic royalists, to plunge this coun-
try into a worldwide military struggle for conquest. This fundamen-
tal and decisive agreement between the Sixty Families of Wall
Street that control both the Democratic and Republican parties,
on a foreign policy of aggressive and militaristic imperialism, has
brought the Democratic and the Republican parties to strangely
harmonious positions on domestic policies. Both have common class
interests and objectives. The differences between the two parties
arise from specific secondary rivalries and conflicts among great
financial interests, as to division of the spoils, as well as from the
traditional rivalry between the Ins and the Outs, and from partisan bureaucratic interests incidental to the two-party system of American capitalism.

The bogus Socialist Party and other Social-Democratic groups and leaders, like their counterparts in Europe, Blum, Citrine and Tanner, play the role of treacherous agents of the warmongers in labor's ranks. They beat the drums for war and strive to paralyze labor toward this goal, they lead the reactionary pack for a "holy crusade" against the land of socialism and peace, the Soviet Union. They perform a special task for reaction in its assault upon the democratic rights of our people.

The top leadership of the A. F. of L., the Hillman wing of the C.I.O. leadership and the leadership of the Railroad Brotherhoods have committed themselves to the "defense" program of the Roosevelt Administration and are attempting to subordinate the labor movement to Wall Street's war program.

All these parties are in opposition to the will of the majority of the American people. The overwhelming majority of our people are opposed to the entrance of our country into this predatory war. The overwhelming majority stand for the preservation and enlarging of social and progressive legislation, for unemployment insurance, old-age pensions, public works, farmer and youth aid, and for full civil liberties.

Only the Communist Party, among the political parties participating in the 1940 elections, fights on the side of and in harmony with the deepest desires of the majority of the people. The Communist Party alone of all political parties fights against the imperialist war, combats its prolongation and spread, and seeks to bring an end to the war.

Only the Communist Party opposes the imperialist policies of the economic royalists, their government and parties. The Communist Party is for a people's peace, and opposed to an imperialist peace based upon terror, annexations and oppression.

We want to keep our country out of the imperialist war. We want to ensure jobs and social security for all. We want to protect the Bill of Rights. We are opposed to imperialist ventures abroad, against M-Day plans and the militarization of our country.
The economic royalists once again have full domination over the Republican and Democratic parties.

In the name of “national unity” and “national defense” the Roosevelt Democrats have surrendered to the economic royalists. The ruling class is attempting to suppress the people’s opposition to its war program through terror, attacks upon organized labor and with vicious alien and sedition laws.

The Roosevelt Democrats make every effort to retain support of the people on grounds of progressive labor and social legislation enacted in the past seven years, but the Roosevelt Administration has thrown overboard even the meager popular gains of the New Deal and has embraced the program of the Liberty League which was roundly rejected by the people in the 1936 election. This has been done on the ground that all national resources must be poured into war preparations, and in order to put through this unpopular war they find it necessary to fight the people’s demands.

While playing for popular support with ambiguous phrases about differences, the Willkie-Hoover Republicans have joined hands with the reactionary Democratic Party leadership in championing the pro-war foreign policy and undemocratic domestic measures of the Roosevelt Administration. Republican advocacy of the interests of Wall Street may be more open and outspoken, but it is not more effective than that of the Roosevelt Democrats.

The gains which labor and the American people won by organization and struggle during the New Deal period are now under a concerted attack.

After eight years of New Deal “liberalism,” just as in 1933 after twelve years of Republican “rugged individualism,” the misery and poverty of the working people under capitalism is growing.

Eleven million Americans are denied the right to work. A huge armaments program for imperialist conquest and war has been substituted for the former meager work and relief program.

Millions of small farmers, sharecroppers and tenant farmers are impoverished, and are being driven from their land by banks and insurance companies, and by the Federal and state governments.

Big business strives to crush the labor and anti-war movements
by F.B.I. and Dies Committee persecutions, by attacks upon the National Labor Relations Act, the Wages and Hours Law and through a renewed open-shop offensive.

The youth of America, deprived of a decent education and the right to work, face conscription and being turned into cannon fodder by the merchants of death.

The Negro people, most exploited of the toilers, suffering from lynching and Jim Crowism, robbed of their constitutional rights, are being prepared to fight another war for “democracy” in order to further enslave them.

Millions of innocent and industrious foreign-born immigrants, who have given their all to the development of America, are being harassed and persecuted with fingerprinting and registration as if common criminals.

Wall Street girds for war by striving to destroy the Bill of Rights, by attacking the civil rights of Communists and other anti-war fighters, by promoting red-baiting, labor disunity and religious prejudices, by smearing as “fifth columnists” and “foreign agents” all who love peace, liberty and democracy.

This is the plight of the common people under the rule of the Sixty Families. This is the type of “democracy” represented by the Democratic and Republican parties.

A PEOPLE’S PROGRAM

In this grave hour of crisis, the Communist Party calls upon the working class and toilers to close ranks, organize and unite around a common program of action to protect and advance the peace, liberties and welfare of our people, to defend the interests of our nation, the interests of the American people.

The Communist Party calls upon all opponents of imperialist war and capitalist reaction to establish unity of action, under labor’s leadership, around a people’s program to defend our country, for peace, jobs, security and civil liberties. Towards this end the Communist Party enters the election campaign with the following program of action:
Keep America Out of the Imperialist War!
Halt the War Preparations and Imperialist Adventures of Wall Street and the Government!
Against the Militarization of the Nation!
For a People's Peace!

1 Combat the imperialist policies and acts of the President, the State Department, Congress, the Democratic and Republican parties to spread the war and involve the United States in it. No aid to the imperialist war-makers in London, Berlin, Tokyo, Rome or to their satellites. Oppose all war loans and credits to the warring imperialist powers. Stop the sale and shipment of munitions and armaments to the imperialist belligerents.

2 Defeat Wall Street's imperialist policy of economic and political domination, and military adventures in Latin America, China, and the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia). Full solidarity with the anti-imperialist struggles of the peoples of Mexico, Cuba, and all other Latin American countries. For the immediate and complete national independence of the Philippines and Puerto Rico. Maximum support for the great Chinese people in their heroic struggle for national liberation. Halt the anti-Soviet policies and incitements of the government and Wall Street. For friendship and collaboration for peace between the two great peoples of the United States and the Soviet Union.

3 No armaments or American soldiers for imperialist wars or adventures. Democratize the armed forces. Protect the freedom and independence of the trade unions. Make the rich pay the costs of the war preparations and the economic crisis for which they are responsible. Fight against war profiteering.

4 Against a peace of "appeasement." Against an imperialist peace of violence and oppression. For solidarity with and support to the peoples in the warring nations in their struggle for a democratic people's peace.
Protect and Extend Civil Liberties!
Full Rights for the Negro People!

1. For the unrestricted freedom of speech, press, radio, assembly and worship, and the full right to organize, strike and picket. Defeat the anti-labor drive under the Sherman anti-trust law. Pass the LaFollette-Thomas Oppressive Labor Practices Bill without reactionary amendments. Stop the attacks upon labor by the F.B.I. and the Department of Justice.

2. Pass the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill to give the vote to the Negro and white masses in the South. For full civil rights and the right to vote for all men in the armed services, migratory workers and seafaring men.

3. Guarantee the Negro people complete equality, equal rights to jobs, equal pay for equal work, the full right to organize, serve on juries and hold public office. Pass the Anti-Lynching Bill. Demand the death penalty for lynchers. Enforce the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution.

4. End the dictatorial powers of the Dies and other Congressional anti-labor investigating committees. Repeal the vicious anti-alien and sedition laws that are a blot on the statute books of a free people. Put an end to anti-Semitism. Guarantee the traditional American right of asylum to all victims of imperialist war and oppression, especially to the refugees from Franco Spain.

5. Guarantee the civil rights and freedom of action of labor, including the Communists, and all other anti-war, anti-imperialist organizations. Against all reactionary measures requiring the registration, incorporation or Federal control of working class political organizations, trade unions and other popular organizations. For the freedom of all working class political prisoners now languishing in Federal and state prisons. Defend the Bill of Rights against the reactionaries and war-makers.
Jobs, Security and an American Standard of Living for All Toilers!

Protect the Farmers from Wall Street!
Protect the Rights and Interests of the American Youth!
Curb the Monopolists!

1 For the organization of the unorganized. For higher wages and the thirty-hour week without reduction in pay. For equal rights for Negro workers, the foreign born, women and youth labor. Abolish the wage differential between North and South. Abolish child labor. Cancel all government orders to those employers who fail to comply with labor legislation.

2 For a Federal housing program providing for building a minimum of a million homes annually for the low-income groups. Expand W.P.A. to provide work for all unemployed with a minimum of 3,000,000 jobs to be provided immediately on socially beneficial projects, at union wage rates. Increase the present wage scale by 30 per cent and make as minimum payment for any classification $70 monthly. Extend unemployment insurance to cover domestic, agricultural and all wage earners not now covered by the law. Increase minimum benefit payments to $10 weekly. Increase maximum payments from one-half to two-thirds of wages earned. Extend the period of unemployment compensation payments from the present maximum of thirteen weeks to twenty-six weeks.

3 Establish an old-age pension system providing $60 monthly for all over sixty. Enact an adequate Federal health program and a system of maternity insurance. Guarantee free education to all youth and children, Negro and white, by extending Federal and state appropriations.

4 Guarantee to all farmers their land, equipment, and livestock free from seizure. Free the working farmers and sharecroppers from debt, tax burdens and foreclosures. Provide a high homestead tax-exemption and heavier taxes on large farms. For a Homestead Act
for Today to return all lands confiscated by the Federal, state, and local governments, by the banks and insurance companies to all small farmers, tenants and sharecroppers dispossessed from the land and who wish to engage in farming. Develop an adequate program of tenant rehabilitation, soil conservation and drought relief. Guarantee the cost of production to the family-sized farm. Provide Federal funds for direct farm relief so that no farm family shall lack the necessities of life. Establish a ten-year debt moratorium for the small-income farmers.

5 Extend the N.Y.A. and the C.C.C. under civilian control and on civilian projects at trade union standards. Adopt the American Youth Act.

6 Prosecute the trusts and monopolies for profiteering, monopoly practices, nullifying labor legislation, evading taxes and violating the laws of the land. Establish a heavy excess profits tax and a steeply graduated income tax on the higher brackets. Abolish tax-exempt securities. Confiscate all war profits. Repeal the provisions of the new tax laws hitting the low-income groups. Abolish all direct and indirect taxes on articles of mass consumption.

For a National Farmer-Labor Party

This is an anti-imperialist program of struggle for peace, real national defense, and social security. It can be realized by labor and the toiling people through organization and united struggle, by building and strengthening the trade unions and other progressive organizations of labor, and by promoting independent political action of labor and the common people, leading towards the building up of a united mass party—a national Farmer-Labor Party, an anti-imperialist third party of the people.

The struggle for such a united people’s party for peace, security and civil liberties can be actively promoted in the November elections by voting for and supporting the Communist Party. It can be effectively developed by establishing unity of action by the workers in all unions and industries in defense of their immediate economic
and political demands. It can be strengthened by supporting tested anti-war and labor candidates for Congress and state legislatures.

Capitalism has brought our people only tyranny, hunger, degradation and war. Capitalism has given us an ever-deepening crisis, with millions permanently unemployed. Capitalism is destroying the cultural achievements and constitutional guarantees of freedom provided in the Bill of Rights. Under capitalism the people face a hopeless future. Only when capitalism is abolished, when socialism is established, as today in the U.S.S.R., will there be no wars, no unemployment, no social retrogression. Under socialism there will be abundance and security for the toiling people. To make our country really free, united and prosperous—to make it possible for all the people to benefit from the tremendous resources of our country—demands a new social order in which the national economy will belong to the people—a socialist society. Only in a nation free from its monopoly and financial overlords and freed of bondage to the few who have seized its wealth and oppress its people can our people live and flourish.

The Communist Party fights for the immediate interests of the working class, as well as its socialist future. We pledge to continue our struggle for our socialist aim, the common goal of all progressive mankind, already triumphant over one-sixth of the earth.

**Vote Communist!**

*Workers! Toilers!* The Democratic Party is the party of the Roosevelt and Dies, of the Garners and Woodrums, of the du Ponts and Cromwells, of the Boss Hagues and Kelleys, of Tammany and the K.K.K. It is the party of “liberal” promises and reactionary deeds.

The Republican Party is the party of the Willkies and Hoovers, the Vandenbergs and Fords, of the Insulls, Weirs and Girdlers. It is the party of the Associated Farmers and the open shoppers.

The Morgans, Rockefellers and du Ponts are the Interlocking Directorate and Holding Company of both the Democratic and Republican parties. This is why both parties are war parties, M-Day parties, parties of imperialism, reaction and hunger.
This is why labor and the people cannot and must not vote for nor support the Democratic or the Republican parties, or their little brother, the Socialist Party.

This is why the working class and toilers should vote for and support the Communist Party.

A vote for the Communist Party is a vote against the imperialist war, against Wall Street's imperialist adventures and war preparations, for safeguarding the peace of America and defending the national interests of the American people.

A vote for the Communist Party is a vote for peace, freedom and socialism. Vote Communist! Vote for Browder and Ford!

State Planks of the Communist Party of New York

The people of New York State want jobs, adequate relief, more and better schools, low-rent public housing and other progressive legislation that would make life easier for the common people.

Why don't we get such legislation from Albany and City Hall? Because the Republican majority in the State Legislature killed every progressive bill. Because the Democratic Governor pleaded for and got "harmony" with the Republicans at the expense of the people's needs. Because the Dubinsky-Hillman-Antonini machine in the American Labor Party betrayed its membership by its pro-war position and is content to be part of the Tammany machine.

The Communist Party of New York State continues the fight for progressive legislation—to keep and extend the gains of labor, the farmers and the common people generally. With this end in view, we present the national election platform of the Communist Party supplemented by the following State planks:

1. State help to localities of 60 per cent of local relief costs. A decent statewide minimum relief standard payable in cash. No "deportations" of the unemployed. Amend the State Unemployment Insurance Law to increase the period and amount of benefits, and covering all workers. Defeat of the "merit-rating" scheme to undermine the insurance system.
2. For ratification of the Child Labor Amendment. For a State Wages and Hours Law. No State contracts to firms guilty of anti-labor practices. Abolish the anti-labor Ives Committee. All protective labor laws to include domestic workers.

3. The Federal-State milk marketing agreement to provide a minimum fixed price to the farmer corresponding to the cost of production. Mortgage and tax moratorium for the farmer occupying a family size farm. Expansion of the rural health and electrification program. Protect the genuine cooperatives and eliminate those controlled by distributors.

4. Repeal anti-democratic legislation such as the Devany and Ives laws. Outlaw propaganda against Negroes, Jews and Catholics. No restrictions on the right of seamen to vote.

5. Immediate use of the $300,000,000 fund authorized by the State Constitution for low-rent public housing. For rent control.

6. For a State-subsidized health insurance plan to include farmers and unemployed. State construction of new hospitals and increased hospital and clinical facilities in the fight against syphilis and tuberculosis. Free nurseries, maternity and infant health stations and maternity grants.

7. Upward revision of the State income tax on wealthy corporations and individuals and on estates, banks and public utilities. Repeal of sales taxes.

8. Vocational training and jobs for youth on non-military projects under civilian control with the cooperation of organized labor. Increased State aid for school expansion, smaller classes, and protection of teachers' salaries and tenure standards. Freedom of expression in our schools for both teachers and students.

9. Measures to stamp out discrimination against Negroes in public or private jobs, housing or in the enjoyment of civil or political rights. Withholding of State or city contracts from public utilities or other firms denying employment to Negro workers.

10. State board with labor, farmer and consumer representation to curb monopoly profits and promote establishment of local power, milk and housing authorities. Reduction of gas and electric rates. For a five-cent fare on municipal and private transit systems.

11. No alien baiting, discriminatory legislation, finger-printing, or denial of jobs because of race, creed, national origin or political affiliation (the Hawkins and Coughlin Bills).
VOTE COMMUNIST!

EARL BROWDER for President
JAMES W. FORD for Vice President

For United States Senator
ISRAEL AMTER

Israel Amter was born in Denver, Colorado, 59 years ago. He achieved national prominence as leader of the unemployed, heading hunger marches to City Hall, Albany and Washington. He opposed American entry into the last World War, and fights for a people's peace today. He polled 105,000 votes as candidate for Congressman-at-Large in 1938.

For Congressman-at-Large
ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN

Elizabeth Gurley Flynn was born in Concord, New Hampshire, of Irish-American stock. Her name is identified with the free speech fights of the I.W.W. in the Northwest, with the defense of such famous class-war prisoners as "Big Bill" Haywood, Sacco and Vanzetti, Joe Hill and others, and with such historic strike struggles as the Lawrence strike of 1912 and the Paterson silk strike of 1913.

For Congressman-at-Large
FRANK HERRON

The son of Polish immigrant parents, Frank Herron went to work at the age of 14. His father was a coal miner and his mother worked in match and cigar factories. Known throughout the Buffalo, Lackawanna area as a capable organizer of steel and metal workers. He was candidate for mayor of Buffalo.

READ THE DAILY AND THE SUNDAY WORKER

For further information, write Election Campaign Committee, Communist Party of New York State, 35 East 12th Street, New York, N. Y. 10—580