

# PM's Wechsler on a Browder Jag

By MILTON HOWARD

ONE can only read with amused contempt the effort of the soothsayers of capitalist journalism to use the trip of Earl Browder abroad as a means of perpetuating the falsehood that the opinions and decisions of the American Communist Party are "made in Moscow."

Launched by the New York Times the other day, the attempt to manufacture the doings of a renegade into an "international incident" affecting American Communist opinions has been taken up in an even more hopped-up manner by the liberal P.M.

PM's front page yesterday was loud with the announcement that "U. S. Watches Browder Trip Abroad for Clue to Soviet Shift." Inside, that busy little red-baiter and ex-member of the Communist movement, James Wechsler, gave himself a real send-off with musings on the course of American Communist views, attempting to "link" these views with some "shift in Soviet policy."

Girding himself in his prophet's toga, PM's expert on world affairs delivers himself of this pearl:

"Unless Soviet leaders are pondering a program that requires another shift in U. S. Communist line, it is felt that Browder would not be the recipient of open-door treatment. . . . It would not be the first time that the shape of Soviet foreign policy was mirrored in a 'turn' in the Communist Party line."

Well, there are various ways of making a living, no doubt. Not everyone likes to do honest work. Dishing up theo-

risings of this nature is a lucrative profession in our country.

For sharp-witted young careerists to make headway it is only necessary that they agree to mock truth, perfect the art of anti-Communist insinuation, and trade on an assumed "inside" knowledge acquired during a transient membership within the movement they now slander.

The PM quotation given above is filled with false implications and contradictions:

That the Soviet Union's policy is not yet known.

That at present that policy is hostile to the idea of collaboration with our country.

That because the world is leery of American foreign policy as carried out by Truman, Byrnes and Vandenberg the American Communists are preaching the "inevitability of war."

That a belief in the benevolent intentions of Byrnes and Vandenberg on the part of the Soviet Union would cause a belief on the part of American Communists that "war is not inevitable."

## BASED ON LIES

Every single one of these ideas on which the PM furor is based is a falsehood.

The truth is—

That the American Communist Party is an independent political party having no connections with any other party or power.

That it alone decides what it is going to think and do regarding policy and personnel.

That its rejection of Browder had no

connection whatsoever with any views or doings of the Soviet Union, but was based solely on the membership's estimate of what Browder had said, written and done right here in the United States. The debate on this action, and the reasons for it, are a matter of public record.

That the policy of the Soviet Union is known and repeatedly expressed in its official documents and the speeches of its leaders, and that this is a policy based on striving to continue the collaboration worked out between Stalin and President Roosevelt at Yalta.

## ECHOES TORY CRY

The Wechsler imputation of a "shift" merely echoes the current war-mongering propaganda of the reactionaries that it is the Soviet Union's actions and not the violations of the Yalta agreements by the Bevin-Churchill-Byrnes-Vandenberg line-up which have caused the recent tensions.

To whip up the Wechsler froth, it is necessary to falsify the political views of the Communist Party which is pictured as "believing" or not "believing" in the pacific intentions of Wall Street imperialism as the relations between our country and the Soviet Union vary.

The Communist Party views on this matter are determined by an estimation of the easily obtained facts on the way the imperialists in the U. S. have come to dominate the nation's foreign policy.

Americans don't need Moscow to inform them that we are not crushing Nazism in Germany (see PM's recent expose of this scandal); that we are

not supporting democratic forces in Europe as agreed upon by the Big Three; that we are not accepting the Soviet Union as a power among equals but as an outlaw to be branded and isolated for attack (see PM editor Ingersoll's Sunday expose).

Americans who oppose the trusts, and their exploitation of the nation, don't require "outside dictation" to oppose capitalist monopoly.

It is not the Communists who get their "line" in disregard of obvious developments; it is the professional red-baiter like James Wechsler who must seek to make his readers forget what is ACTUALLY HAPPENING in the world—our connivance in the Iran hoax, our support of British colonial slavery in the name of the "life line," our scandalous coverup for Franco.

For it is the Wechslers and the red-baiters of this world who have their "line" remorselessly handed down to them. It is a simple "line." It is the "party line" of all errand boys for the Big Boys—that is, smear the Communists, my boy, smear the Communists, as "taking orders from Moscow."

The Communists of the United States can expect only that their political views shall be judged, appraised and tested by the people in the light of their own experiences. It is the phonies who cannot answer our arguments, or whose loyalty is to the financial rulers of the country rather than to truth, who must fall back on the sophistry of avoiding our opinions by branding them as "imported."