

CPA Board Answers 'N. Y. Times' Editorial

The National Board of the Communist Political Association yesterday in a letter to the New York Times protested against that paper's editorial of the same day entitled "The Communist Party Spiral." The letter follows:

To the Editor of the New York Times.
Sir:

In the New York Times of today appeared under the title "The Communist Party Spiral" purporting to present the position of the Communist Political Association as preparing to "let down" our country by branding the war against Japan as imperialist.

Two days before your editorial appeared, the National Board of our Association made public in the press the programmatic resolution, submitted as a draft for the consideration of our membership and National Committee, entitled "The Present Situation and the Next Tasks." In this resolution the slogans of action are led off by demands which include the following:

"Hasten the defeat of fascist-militarist Japan! Rest and defeat

the advocates of a compromise peace with the Japanese imperialists and war lords. Continue uninterrupted war production and uphold labor's no-strike pledge for the duration."

The interests of truth and consistency with your avowed motto of "All the News That's Fit to Print" should have afforded a place to this declaration in the columns of your paper. When, however, you not only leave unpublished what we state but publish what we do not state, we deem it our duty to the American people to characterize your baseless allegation as a disservice to our country and to our men who have helped defeat Hitler Germany and are now waging the war to break the power of the last Axis partner, Japan.

Our established and unimpeachable commitment to an all-out war to the finish against Japanese fascist-militarism, as well as Nazi Germany, clearly removes any basis for your "concern" over our position on this score. The concern that you feel is in regard to another matter—to certain questions of policy and ob-

jectives in prosecuting the war against Japan. Evidently you are not in agreement with two additional vital slogans of action which we advanced in order to speed and complete victory over Japanese imperialism—namely:

"Guarantee a free democratic Asia with the right of national independence for all colonial and dependent peoples. Curb those who seek American imperialist control in the Far East.

"Press for a united and free China based upon the unity of the Communists and all other democratic and anti-Japanese forces so as to speed victory. Full military aid to the Chinese guerrillas led by the heroic Eighth and Fourth armies."

Your conclusion as regards our position on the further conduct of the war is premised on misrepresentation—this time, of the differences between Earl Browder and the National Board of our Association, which according to your editorial, is over the question whether or not to cooperate with capital-

ists in a national unity to defeat the fascist aggressor.

This is obviously not the occasion to enter into a discussion of what we consider your erroneous conception of the issue. Our discussion of this question is embodied in our stated resolution. Suffice it here but to cite from that document:

"It is imperative that the American people resolutely support every effort of the Truman Administration to carry forward Roosevelt's program for victory, peace, democracy and 60 million jobs. It is equally necessary that the people sharply criticize all hesitations to apply this policy, and vigorously oppose any concessions to the reactionaries . . .

"It is essential to weld together and consolidate the broadest national coalition of all anti-fascist and democratic forces, including all supporters of Roosevelt's anti-Axis policies."

Obviously this would include cooperation with those capitalists who have a place in this category. But

this does not mean relying on them to take or maintain a consistent position.

Finally, your more than inferred demand for curbing the political freedom of the Communist organization proves itself in reality the motivation of which the baseless allegations referred to are but a threadbare rationalization. We can only say that such a proposal will become a public newspaper that graces itself with the avowal of the Four Freedoms. It is, to say the least, a threatened violation of the inalienable democratic rights of all American citizens, regardless of political affiliation.

NATIONAL BOARD,
COMMUNIST POLITICAL ASSN.

- Earl Browder
- Benjamin J. Davis, Jr.
- Eugene Dennis
- Elizabeth Gurley Flynn
- James W. Ford
- Wm. Z. Foster
- Gilbert Green
- Roy Hudson
- Robert Minor
- Robert Thompson
- John Williamson.