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*Letter*

*from*

*Earl Browder*

# *Communist Party of U. S. A.*

35 East 12th Street

New York City

April, 1940

DEAR COMRADES:

I wish to express our appreciation to every member on behalf of the National Committee as to how the Party, in addition to all other tasks, has met the additional financial burdens placed upon us by the events of the recent period. If Wall Street and its government believed that through their attacks they could deal us a crushing blow by robbing us of the financial means to carry on our mass work, they have been sadly disappointed. The Party membership and leadership and its growing army of sympathizers have united around the Party and its program as never before. And the Communist Party, now more than ever before, plays a leading role as the vanguard of the working class in its struggle against the imperialist war, reaction and capitalism.

All honor to you, comrades! Meeting the increased financial burdens under conditions of extreme difficulty was a real Bolshevik job, an achievement that cost much in personal effort and sacrifice. What might have seemed impossible was accomplished because we have a Party that does not flinch at difficulties, and because we can draw upon the working class and progressive people for support.

The job was done with credit. But all of us know that even greater problems will have to be solved in the coming months. We must expect that the enemy will attack us again and again, will try to disrupt our work. This, the more so as they see the masses rapidly turning away from the parties of capitalism, from the parties of hunger, war, and reaction; as they see the Communist Party not only able to repel their attacks, but gaining new strength among the masses as a result of its policies and leadership. This will require that we perform greater tasks, not the least of which, those needed to finance our mass work, especially our anti-war activities, our election campaign, our defense fund, and our press.

Therefore, I would like to discuss with you some of these questions and how we can best solve them.

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The Republican and Democratic parties have just announced that they have overcome all their deficits, and already have big financial reserves for the 1940 election campaign. They were able to do this, of course, because they have received big donations from the monopolists, from the imperialist war-makers they represent and in whose interests they work.

Our Party will continue to get its mass support, including its donations, also from those whose interests it serves: from the workers, the poor farmers and other toilers. And our donations will be in pennies, dimes and dollars. *Our success depends therefore on the extent to which we can gain the active support of ever larger numbers of workers and toilers, of all those who are ready to fight against imperialist war; for jobs, security and civil liberties.*

In addition to the regular financial obligations of every Party member—payment of dues, literature, support of the activities of their local organizations, the yearly campaign in support of the *Daily Worker* and other Party publications—the Party now has the additional obligation to carry through quickly the Party assessments for the National Convention and for the Defense Fund, as well as prepare for the *financial drive to carry through the most effective election campaign in behalf of our Communist Presidential Candidates as well as the State and Local Candidates.*

To fulfill these heavy obligations without placing too great a strain on the Party membership, two things must be done: First, it is necessary to ensure that *every* Party member fulfills his or her obligation to the best of his or her ability; and secondly, all the financial campaigns of the Party should be viewed as important *political campaigns* and taken to the widest masses. Only in this way can we guarantee the success of *all* political campaigns without placing too heavy a burden on that section of the Party membership which is most active and always responds first to the call of the Party. Such an approach, of course, presupposes that the raising of finances shall be *organized*; that the Party organizations and especially the branches shall work out plans, set up the necessary machinery to reach both the entire Party membership and the great mass of Communist sympathizers and supporters.

We know from experience that a considerable section of the Party membership for one reason or another do not always directly

participate in the work of the branch, and attend only some of the branch meetings. Among these are quite a number of comrades who are active and influential in their trade unions and other mass organizations. *The branch should keep in touch with these comrades at all times, not only to guide them in carrying out the political line of the Party, but also to see that their dues are collected, they receive their minimum share of literature, and that they fulfill to the best of their ability their financial responsibilities.* If this is done, then the financial burden for all Party members will be lessened. This in turn will serve to activize some of the inactive comrades.

Furthermore, while the Party by the very nature of its program and organization must be and is interested in all problems of the working people, the workers generally are interested especially in one issue or another. *And it is on that single issue that the sympathizer or prospective sympathizer can frequently be best approached in support of the Defense Fund, or the Press Campaign, or the Election Campaign, and so on.* If the branch and every member takes our financial campaigns to the masses on this basis, then we will be able to fulfill our tasks even though we may be compelled, as we often are, by the situation to carry on more than one financial campaign at the same time.

This letter is addressed to you personally, as it is to the other tens of thousands of our comrades. It is you who will determine largely the extent to which we will be successful in our financial policy, just as in all other phases of our mass work.

The National Committee welcomes proposals and suggestions from any Party comrades and branches, giving their experiences and opinions as to how the Party in the coming period will be able most effectively to meet its growing financial needs with the least burden to the Party organization and membership.

Comradely yours,



General Secretary, C.P., U.S.A.