

NOV 19 '35
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Socialist Call

Special

New York, November, 1935

Special

THOMAS TO DEBATE SINCLAIR and BROWDER

EPIC PLANNER SINCLAIR OPPOSES THOMAS NOV. 17

Two of America's best known personalities, Norman Thomas and Upton Sinclair, will cross swords in an epoch making debate Sunday night, November 17, at Mecca Temple.

"Production for Use—can it be established under Capitalism" will be the topic of the evening. Epic-leader Sinclair will say "Yes"; Socialist Thomas will say "No."

Roger Baldwin, well known in labor and radical circles as director of the American Civil Liberties Union, will be chairman for the evening.

This will be Sinclair's only appearance in New York, and will be the wind-up debate of a nationwide tour begun last month. The originator of the "End Poverty in California" plan polled almost 500,000 votes in his gubernatorial campaign last year.

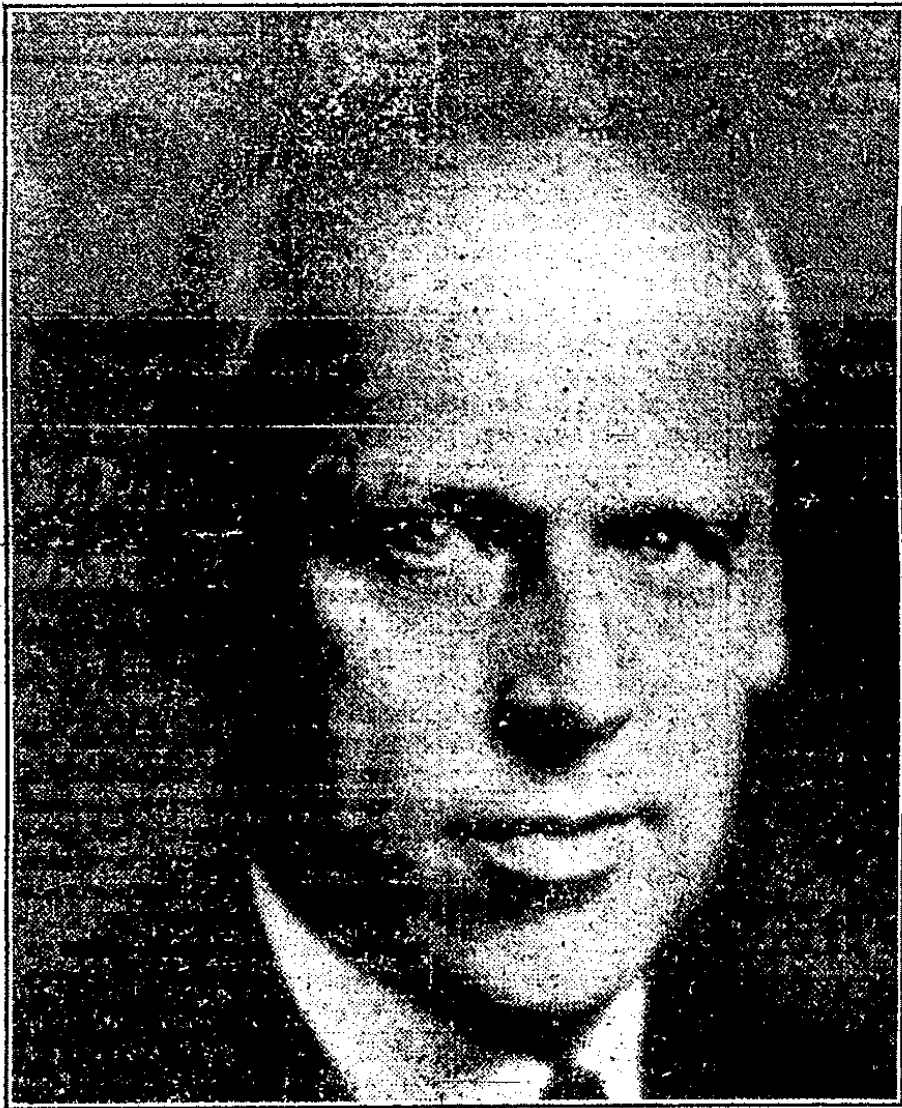
Recently Sinclair declared in St. Louis that he would never again run for public office. He expressed the belief that if he had been elected governor, he would have been killed.

"I don't think they would have let me live," he said. "I learned that one Los Angeles business man wrote his will and fixed everything so as to be free to shoot me. A San Francisco detective told me he knew of four or five persons desperately determined to assassinate me should I become governor. It would have been just another Huey Long story."

The editor of the *National Epic News* will find Thomas, hard-hitting Socialist, a tougher man to down than the red-baiter, Hamilton Fish, Jr., his opponent in the debates in Chicago and Los Angeles. Thomas, who polled close to a million votes in his 1932 Presidential campaign, has himself just completed a tour which took him into middle western and southern states.

The debate, scheduled for 8 p. m., November 17, will be held under the joint auspices of the New York Forum and the *Socialist Call*. All seats are reserved, with prices at 55c, 83c, \$1.10 and \$1.65. They can be secured from the *Call* or at bookshops throughout the city.

Socialist Spokesman



Norman Thomas, Socialist leader and spokesman, who will meet both Upton Sinclair, Epic Planner, and Earl Browder, Communist leader, in public debate in New York this month.

Thomas will debate Upton Sinclair at Mecca Temple November 17 and ten days later will cross swords with Earl Browder at Madison Square Garden.

SOCIALISM—COMMUNISM AT GARDEN NOVEMBER 27

The first public debate in this history of Madison Square Garden will be held Thanksgiving Eve between Norman Thomas and Earl Browder, general secretary of the Communist Party.

Browder's last clash with a Socialist spokesman took place two years ago when he debated Jack Altman, now business manager of the *CALL*, from the platform at the Brownsville Labor Lyceum.

The topic of the Thomas-Browder Debate of the Decade is "Which Road for American Workers—Socialist or Communist?" Only a few years ago Thomas debated William Z. Foster, then communist presidential candidate. Many radicals still recall the verbal bout between the Communist, Robert Minor, and James O'Neal, Socialist, in 1928.

The Garden has been used for rodeos, political rallies, and prize fights, but never before has an organization endeavored to stage a debate in this vast arena. When original plans for the Thomas-Browder debate were being discussed, a smaller hall was in mind, but the first response was so great that the *CALL*, sponsors of the debate, immediately went ahead with plans to hire the Garden.

Not since the communists split from the Socialist Party following the Chicago convention of 1919 has there been such interest displayed in these two rival radical parties. With the widespread suppression of civil liberties in America and the fascist invasion of Africa, workers have become more interested in public affairs than ever before. This debate, the only one in which these two rivals will meet, will serve to answer many questions as to the Socialist and Communist stand on national and international affairs.

Tickets for the debate are selling fast, and range in price from 40c 83c & \$1.10 to \$1.65 and \$3.30 for a few choice reserved seats. These prices include tax. Because of the fine amplifying system in the Garden, spectators will be able to hear clearly no matter where they are seated.

(For addresses where tickets may be bought see page two.)

Sinclair Won Fame With Meat Expose

Upton Sinclair has been in the spotlight since his first book, *The Jungle*, an expose of the horrible conditions prevailing in the Chicago meat packing industry, appeared in 1906. Born 57 years ago, he has led a colorful and exciting life. He first demonstrated his showmanship when he led daily picket lines through New York's financial district more than 20 years ago in protest against conditions in Rockefeller's Colorado mines.

Long an active member of the Socialist Party, Sinclair left the fold last year to capture the Democratic nomination for governor of California. He led a hell-raising campaign against Republican Merriam, which ended in

(Continued on page two)

Epic Planner



Upton Sinclair, former Socialist leader of Epic Plan movement

Thomas Long Active Fighter for Socialism

Norman Thomas, America's best known Socialist, has been active in the radical movement since he joined the Socialist Party during the World War. "What I like about Norman," once remarked Jim Maurer, for sixteen years president of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor, "is that he came to us when everybody else was running away."

Despite the extreme danger involved in those days of war hysteria, Thomas helped organize the People's Council, an anti-war group, and carried on continual agitation on behalf of the conscientious objectors imprisoned throughout the nation.

Thomas, who was born in Marion, Ohio, in 1884, is chair-

(Continued on page two)

Communist Leader



Earl Browder, general secretary of Communist Party of United States, who will meet Norman Thomas at Madison Square Garden November 27.

Browder Was Jailed For Anti-War Stand

Earl Browder, general secretary of the Communist Party and Thomas' opponent on Thanksgiving Eve, was born in Wichita, Kansas, in 1891. Prior to the World War he was an active worker in the farmers cooperative movement in the Middle West. During the war he was arrested twice for his anti-war stand. He served a year term in a Missouri jail, and later a two year sentence in Leavenworth.

Browder joined the Communist Party in 1921 and in the same year was a delegate to the first congress of the Red International of Labor Unions. From 1921 to 1926 he was active in the Trade Union Educational League, and in

(Continued on page two)

FACTS

Browder Debate

Chairman Closely Guarded Secret

Speculation is rife in radical and trade union circles as to who will preside as chairman at the Norman Thomas-Earl Browder debate. There have been a great many rumors floating about but one thing has been made fairly certain and that is that it will be someone prominent in the labor movement.

Repeated attempts have been made by various persons to get an inkling as to the identity of the man who will introduce the chief figures in probably the most-talked-of debate in labor and radical history. To date no one has succeeded. The CALL offices are unusually silent when this matter is boached and it is felt that Jack Altman, business manager of the Socialist Call and his aides have something up their sleeves and will spring it with a flourish a few days before the big event.

The late st attempt found Altman unavailable and his assistants denying that they had an idea on the matter at all. Names of various prominent persons were mentioned in hopes of solving the mystery but all suggestions were met with the same bland smile of "I just don't know."

Thomas

(Continued from page one)
man of the Emergency Committee for Strikers' Relief, which has aided thousands of strikers since its organization in 1925. Thomas has been arrested a number of times for insisting on free speech for workers.

Thomas, who is a member of the Socialist Party National Executive Committee, has twice been a candidate for President. He is the author of a number of pamphlets and books, the latest of which, *War, No Profit, No Glory, No Need*, was published last month.

Hitler Banned It, Workers Loved It; 'Mother' In U. S.

"Mother", a play with music, based on the classic Gorki novel, will open the third season of the Theatre Union, America's pioneer social theatre, Tuesday evening, November 19th, at the Civic Repertory Theatre. It will be the fifth offering of the producers of "Peace On Earth", "Black Pit" and other plays that have been seen by more than a million workers in the past two years.

Bert Brecht and Hans Eisler, author and composer respectively, recently arrived in the United States they are two of the most brilliant exponents of the great period of the German theatre when, with Piscator, Weill, and others, they made theatrical history. "Mother" was originally produced in Berlin in 1933, and was a distinguished success. On its sixty-first performance, however, police of the Hitler government arrested the actors and closed the play.

Mordecai Gorelik, who did the settings for "Men In White", "Success Story", and other plays is the scenic designer. The music is among the best written by Eisler, internationally known for his orchestral pieces and workers' songs, which are sung the world over. With this production the Theatre Union begins a policy of Sunday performances and lower prices. A dollar will buy the best seat in the house for week-day performances. A symposium on the play will be held two weeks after the opening.

Browder

(Continued from page one)
1927 he went to China, where he worked for two years as a secretary of the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Secretariat. Since 1930 he has functioned as general secretary of the Communist Party.

Sinclair

(Continued from page one)

Sinclair's defeat, to the immense relief of movie magnates, newspaper owners, bankers and big

business interests in industry and agriculture.

As no other author, Sinclair has in his many volumes, exposed the control of capitalists over America's schools, colleges, movies and newspapers.

FACTS ON THE THOMAS-BROWDER DEBATE

Speakers: Norman Thomas, Socialist; Earl Browder, Communist.

Topic: "Which Road for American Workers — Socialist or Communist."

Place: Madison Square Garden, 8th Avenue and 50th Street.

Date: Wednesday, November 27, 8 p. m.

Price: Unreserved seats:—40c, 83c, \$1.10 tax included. Reserved:—\$1.65, \$2.20, \$3.30 tax included. Also choice boxes seating nine, at \$1.65.

Tickets available at Socialist Call, 21 East 17th Street, GRamercy 5-8779, League for Industrial Democracy, 111 East 19th Street, Workers' Bookshops, 50 East 13th Street, Columbia's Univ. Bookshop, 2960 Broadway.

FACTS ON THE THOMAS-SINCLAIR DEBATE

Speakers: Norman Thomas, Socialist; Upton Sinclair, Epic leader.

Topic: "Production for Use—Can it be Established under Capitalism."

Place: Mecca Temple, 55th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues.

Date: Sunday, November 17, 8 p. m.

Price: All seats reserved, tax included:—55c, 83c, \$1.10 and \$1.65.

Tickets available at Socialist Call, 21 East 17th Street, Workers' Bookshop, 50 East 13th Street, Rand School 7 East 15th Street, Putnam's Bookstore, 2 West 45th Street.

The SOCIALIST CALL has

just announced THE FIRST ANNUAL CALL DANCE which will take place on December 21st at the Hotel Delano, Admission to this gala affair will be one dollar. They can be secured at the offices of the CALL, 21 East 17th Street. From all indications it would be best to make reservations as soon as possible because of the affair's popularity and the danger of having all tickets sold in the very near future.

When news of the arrangement of the Norman Thomas-Earl Browder debate reached Detroit, Cleveland and Chicago through the columns of The CALL a few weeks ago it immediately set machinery in motion to have the debate repeated in these towns. Comrades in all three cities have demanded that The CALL arrange similar debates for their localities and the matter is now before The CALL Association for consideration.

Clip This Now and Mail to CALL Press, 21 E. 17th St., New York City

I certainly cannot afford to miss these debates. Please send me—tickets at— for the Thomas-Browder debate and —tickets at— for the Thomas-Sinclair debate. Enclosed please find—

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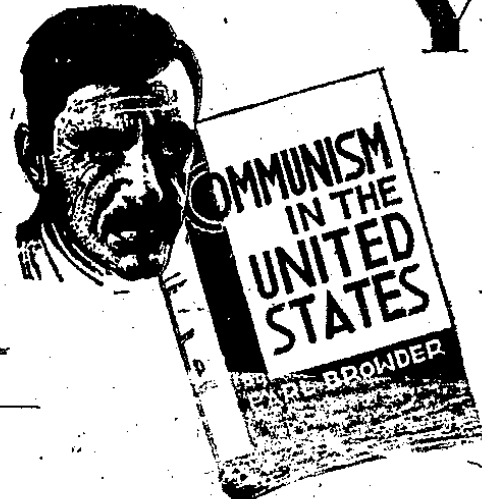
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THE CALL GROWS

Editors and directors of the Socialist can look back with pride on a short but eventual history. Starting from absolute scratch, the SOCIALIST CALL, just eight months old, has accomplished the rare feat of building a circulation of 40,000, scattered through every state of the union in that short space of time.

Even more remarkable has been the fact that the Socialist Call has been hailed from across the ocean by both the Socialist and Labor press and prominent trades union and Socialist leaders in various union countries. In the words of the Glasgow Forward, it is the most interesting Socialist paper to reach them.

And even more encouraging has been the steadily increasing sup-

port granted the SOCIALIST CALL by organized labor. May Day, 1935, found the CALL barely a toddler in swaddling clothes, yet the 16-page May Day issue carried greetings of support and good wishes from almost two score unions . . . and Labor Day, 1935, found the Call, less than six months old carrying greetings from almost sixty unions . . . the largest number carried by any eastern Socialist publication. This enthusiastic support gives proof to the fact that Labor welcomed and found necessary the SOCIALIST CALL as the messenger of its cause.

Norman Thomas, standard bearer of the Socialist Party, Maynard Krueger, Devere Allen, Powers Hapgood, and Franz Daniel are

among its regular contributors. Beyond a doubt the immediate response to the Socialist Call is in great part due to this imposing array of feature writers.

Herbert Zam, prominent Socialist commentator, contributes a weekly column on International Socialism and John Cripps of the Socialist League of England sends in weekly reports of what is going on in British Labor and Socialist circles. Among the weekly columnists are counted McAlister Coleman, whom Heywood Brown once designated as the finest newspaper columnist in America and David Paul, who, under the title "What Does It Mean?" presents a weekly interpretation of the American economic scene, as

viewed through the eyes of a Socialist.

Among the more important contributions to Socialist theory and interpretation have been the articles of Haim Kantovitch and David P. Berenberg which have appeared and will continue to appear in the columns of the Call.

The Call Association, at its last meeting, received a report that the SOCIALIST CALL was now the official organ of the Socialist Parties of Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio and West Virginia and that it has been endorsed by state conventions or state committees in Indiana, Massachusetts and Michigan, in addition to receiving the official endorsement of the National Convention of the Young People's Socialist League of America.

Readers of the Socialist Call will also be pleased to learn that plans are going forward to have

Debate To Be Published

Some consolation will be provided for those who are unable to attend the "Debate of the Decade" at Madison Square Garden, Thanksgiving Eve, November 27. Speeches and rebuttals of both Norman Thomas and Earl Browder will be printed verbatim at the request of thousands of out-of-towners from all parts of the country. The pamphlet will sell for twenty-five cents.

every branch in these states take a weekly bundle of Calls for sale and distribution to members and prospects. Over two hundred branches from Maine to California are now receiving bundles each week and by the end of the year it is expected that this number will be doubled.

CALL COVERS THE COUNTRY

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"The CALL struck me immediately as exactly the thing I have been looking for . . . every article in it is a fighting punch . . . written in terse, intelligent sane language" — D. H. Krupp, New York, N. Y.

"Your paper is about one of the best American labor weeklies we get" — C. Hamilton, Glasgow (Scotland) Forward.

"I find the CALL so interesting and of such informational value that I read every word, even the ads. Somehow the whole paper gives me a feeling of the unity and strength of the Socialist movement that one does not get elsewhere" — Gordon Haskell, Claremont, California.

"I think the CALL is about the best working-class paper that is published today" — Ed Rankin, Portsmouth, Ohio.

"As a member of the English Labour Party, I offer my wholehearted congratulations on your fine publication. We have no paper of any equivalent in this country" — John Durrant, Suffolk, England.

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10

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WHERE THOMAS-BROWDER DEBATE WILL TAKE PLACE



Madison Square Garden during the Dressmakers' Victory Celebration in 1933 when Norman Thomas was cheered by 22,000 victorious members of the I. L. G. W. U.

Out-of-Towners Deluge Call For Browder Debate Tickets

Rapidly rolling up what promises to be the largest ticket sale for any debate or public meeting in the history of the labor and radical movements, the coming encounter between Norman Thomas, Socialist Party leader and twice presidential candidate, and Earl Browder, general secretary of the Communist Party of the United States, will bring to Madison Square Garden in New York 22,000 listeners, including hundreds from points as far west as Toronto and Chicago and as far south as the Carolinas.

From every indication it appears that the Garden will be a complete sell-out for Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 27 and hundreds will be doomed to disappointment. Even at this early date, it appears that the subject under discussion, "Which Road for American Workers—Socialism or Communism?" has caught the interest of every section of the labor and radical movements and both Socialist and Communist Party branches and units, in addition to scores of unions and labor groups have ordered large batches of tickets for their members.

Sales during the past few days have been particularly heavy, and both the Socialist Call office and ticket agencies throughout the city report heavy sales on the lower priced seats, with the higher priced seats also going at a rapid pace.

Groups of out of town Socialists, Communists and trade unionists are planning to attend by the bus load. Already large blocks of seats have been reserved for visitors from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Washington, D. C., and other near-by points. Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago and Pittsburgh comrades are planning to come in by hook or crook, via ancient Fords, bicycles, on the hump and

by manifest and ordinary freight. Toronto is sending in twelve carloads and a group of Yipsels started hitch-hiking from Los Angeles two days ago.

Clerks at the Socialist Call office have been deluged under a pile of mail and telephone orders from both local and out-of-town comrades and every mail has been sending forth blocks of tickets to all sections of the city and the entire eastern seaboard. Local Socialists have been asked to accommodate out-of-towners over the week-end and it seems that every resource will be taxed to capacity.

Workers in all trades and professions have displayed a very lively interest in the debate and dozens of groups have requested that it be taken by a court stenographer and later published. Arrangements for this are already completed and will be published shortly after November 27 at 25 cents per copy. Orders are being taken now.

Beyond all doubt the debate has aroused more real interest than any other event in the recent his-

tory of the radical and labor movements in New York. Workers who for the last decade have been listening to spokesmen of both the Socialist and Communist parties, students in the fields of the political, social and economic sciences; teachers, trade unionists, liberals and radicals of all shades who for years have sought an honest and authoritative explanation of the ideologies and tactics of the two leading radical parties on the American political scene are seizing upon this debate for an answer to questions long in the back of their minds and will flock

to Madison Square Garden by the thousands for their answers. Norman Thomas and Earl Browder, national spokesmen of their respective parties, both command the respect of any audience before whom they appear and their arguments carry the weight of authority. The result is that the debate will be a complete sell-out.

Another interesting sidelight on the event is that while the audience (as is to be expected) will, in the main, be composed of working-class elements, a mounting sale of tickets to students,

teachers, business and professional-men gives evidence of the rising interest of this class in political and economic philosophies. The request for tickets from members of these groups has been steadily growing and it can be taken as authentic proof that this thinking section of the American public is rapidly becoming vitally interested in the need for social and economic change.

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