

# COUNTERATTACK

## FACTS TO COMBAT COMMUNISM

55 WEST 42ND STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y. LONGACRE 4-1458

Letter No. 64  
August 13, 1948

Dear Subscriber:

FBI HAS EVIDENCE TO BACK UP TESTIMONY OF ELIZABETH BENTLEY AND WHITTAKER CHAMBERS. It has gotten proof of many of the points in their stories. QUALITY of this additional evidence is high. But the one trouble is the QUANTITY. It just isn't enough to enable the Govt to win convictions.

When 20 or more secret members of Communist Party are ready to take the stand and swear they never gave away Govt information, it's necessary to refute them conclusively with PLENTY of personal testimony and documents. There just isn't enough such evidence in this case. Miss Bentley didn't hold on to the documents she got from Communist officials in Govt...she passed them on to Russian agents. Whittaker Chambers is valuable witness on the IDENTITY of leading Communists in Govt...but he quit the Communist Party in 1937, so he can't testify to the wartime espionage.

Federal grand jury believed Elizabeth Bentley and wanted to hand down indictments. The FBI had checked her story carefully and found it logical & convincing. Her story, at bottom, was really COMMONPLACE. She had behaved as the average trained Communist Party member would behave in her situation. If the average CP member were ordered to spy on his employer, he would do so...and it wouldn't make any difference whether the employer was United Air Lines or United States Govt. If he were ordered to carry messages to or from other CP members who were spying, he would do so. Miss Bentley gave a standard Communist performance...that's all.

She departed from the standard in just one thing. Not in breaking with the party. Thousands of Communists have done that. The process is usually slow & painful. Doubts arise...but the doubter represses them and whips himself on to new fanatical fervor for the party. Yet gradually the doubts come back...and at last they overwhelm him and destroy his faith in Stalin Russia and the CP. That has happened to many thousands.

But where Elizabeth Bentley departed from standard was in finally going voluntarily to the FBI, without prompting from anybody. She made up her own mind, she told her story in a calm & methodical manner, and she has had the courage to follow through consistently since then.

Some of the Communists whom she named have concocted elaborate yarns to explain away their acquaintance with her. These stories deserve no attention at all. The Communists are out to smear her, and some non-Communist newspapers & columnists are suckers enough to join in the smearing. Fact is that Elizabeth Bentley is a valuable witness for the American people...and it's only common sense to give her the protection she needs.

That's how the grand jurors felt. They wanted to vote indictments but Govt lawyers said there weren't enough witnesses to get convictions.

COMMUNISTS CHARGE TRUMAN WITH USING A "RED HERRING". The expression, "red herring", has nothing to do with "reds" or Communists. A red

herring is simply a smoked fish that can throw a pack of hounds off the scent. But the Communists grabbed the expression long ago and perverted it to their own purposes. Whenever anybody attacks them, it's a "red herring". The other day the Daily Worker carried a headline clear across a page, "State AFL Produced Only Red Herring".

A local of the Communist-controlled Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers, CIO, lately published a big newspaper ad denouncing a company that refused to deal with this union till its officers signed non-Communist affidavits. Headline on the ad: "THE SAME OLD STINKING RED HERRING".

When a Federal grand jury indicted 12 Communist leaders recently, the CP charged Truman with producing a red herring in order to divert attention from "the yearning for peace in America".

A song, "Red Herring", in which Truman is denounced, has been written by a leading song-writer & party-liner, E Y Harburg (backer of such Communist fronts as Civil Rights Congress, Hollywood Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences & Professions, Los Angeles Emergency Comm to Aid the Strikers, Hollywood Writers' Mobilization). In this song Harburg uses the Communist tactics of linking all anti-Communists with Hitler. He asserts it was Hitler who began "selling herring, red herring, alive, alive, O!" And after Hitler's death "his red herring notion" leaped to Wall Street:

"Now Wall Street is bloomin', they sold it to Truman,  
A nice little crisis, for raisin' big dough,  
The dough that will cure up the ills of all Europe,  
With herring, red herring, alive, alive, O!  
Now tax-raising millions, are shelling out billions" --

In short, Truman has used a red herring to put the Marshall Plan over, according to Communist Party-Liner Harburg.

Now Truman charges that the Communist spy investigations by Congress are "simply a red herring to keep it from doing what it ought to do."

In making this charge, the President of the United States has helped the Communists...although of course that isn't his intention. He has helped them by giving his authority to their use of the "red herring" outcry when they're attacked. Whenever they holler that alibi now, they can quote Truman. And he has helped them by trying to bottle up the truth about Communist officials in the Govt.

Is there politics in the spy investigations? Yes...but there's also politics in the SMEARING of the spy investigations. Just as some politicians want to use the presence of Communist spies in the Govt to discredit the New Deal, so other politicians want to SUPPRESS the truth about Communist spies, in order to protect the reputation of the New Deal.

But the truth about Communist spies should come out, no matter whom it helps or hurts. And all Communists should be cleaned out of Govt jobs.

TRUMAN SHOULD GIVE FACTS ABOUT COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TO CONGRESS OR A SPECIAL COMMISSION. If he's afraid a Congressional committee would use employment records and other personnel information to smear the Administration, he should appoint a commission of able & non-political persons to investigate. And the commission shouldn't consist of Eminent Innocents who are too out of date to recognize Communist tricks. It should be an alert group and should have a strong trial lawyer to head its staff.

The public wants to know the truth. The whole business should be opened up, the guilty persons exposed, and the innocent exonerated.

MRS. ROOSEVELT CALLS ELIZABETH BENTLEY A LIAR. In her syndicated newspaper column, Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt has twice attacked Miss Bentley. Some of the persons accused by Miss Bentley had called her neurotic, and Mrs Roosevelt promptly picked this adjective up. She denounced "the fantastic story of this evidently neurotic lady." Evidently? Of course. If you don't want to believe her, you can call her "evidently neurotic". And Mrs Roosevelt evidently doesn't want to believe her.

Mrs Roosevelt denounces her bitterly and asserts that hereafter nobody should "be willing to say even 'Good Morning' and 'Good Evening' to her", because Miss Bentley might "involve them in some new and fantastic trial." Thus Miss Bentley is a liar and should be an outcast from society.

Now it isn't characteristic of Mrs Roosevelt to talk in this way. No matter what may be one's estimate of her intelligence, she is EVIDENTLY a woman of good heart, essentially. Yet now she comes out with a violent attack on...whom? On any of the high Govt officials who hid the fact that they were Communists? On any Communist spies in Govt? No...but on the one person who has had the courage to confess her full story of the spying.

Why does Mrs Roosevelt make this bitter and really cruel attack? Because of FEAR. Evidently she has been scared by the discovery of the kind of thing in the Govt that went on for many years under her nose.

How did Louis Adamic come to have dinner in the White House? Counterattack reported July 30 that "if he isn't an actual Communist Party member, there's no way to tell it from his behavior." Since then Elizabeth Bentley & Louis F Budenz have testified that he was in the party orbit. Yet he dined in the White House, on Mrs. Roosevelt's invitation.

Among the many Communists who ate & slept in the White House were the leaders of the American Youth Congress. Mrs Roosevelt refused to believe they were Communists. When Stalin signed his pact with Hitler, in August 1939, they reversed their policies. She argued with them. They looked her right in the eye and argued back, giving the new party line.

They held their next national congress in Feb 1940, in Washington... and EIGHT LEADERS OF THIS FRONT SLEPT IN THE WHITE HOUSE. Chairman John D M Hamilton of the Republican Party refused to send a representative to address the meeting. He declared that the American Youth Congress should get rid of its Communists. Mrs Roosevelt publicly reproached him, asserting it would be "unfair" to force the Communists out.

Then the front held a night meeting on the White House lawn, and Pres Roosevelt spoke to them. When he declared that "the Soviet Union...is run by a dictatorship as absolute as any other dictatorship in the world", and that it had allied itself with the Nazi dictatorship and had attacked Finland, the young Communists on the lawn booed him. Later Mrs Roosevelt's Communist guests assured her that they regretted the booing. And she still continued to befriend them.

Three months later she got Edward J Flynn to help them. This Democratic leader, who soon became chairman of the party's national committee, was and is anti-Communist. But he sent a note to some well-heeled liberals:

"At the suggestion of Mrs Franklin D Roosevelt, I am asking a small group of people to my home...for a buffet supper, on Wednesday evening, May 8th, at 7:30 o'clock. I should be delighted if you could join us.

"The purpose of the gathering is to introduce a few representatives of the American Youth Congress who are anxious to present their problem to people who are in a position to help them financially. As you know, Mrs

Roosevelt is keenly interested in assisting these young people, and she will be with us on that evening to introduce their members."

Dept of Justice now lists the defunct American Youth Congress as subversive. It was one of many subversive groups helped by Mrs Roosevelt. She also helped many individual Communists, like Hanns Eisler. Through her he got into the U S. He swore he wasn't a Communist. But in Los Angeles the Communist Party named a branch after him...Hanns Eisler Communist Branch.

Mrs Roosevelt has since said sadly that you can't believe Communists. They lie to you. She's sad about it...but she isn't bitter, she hasn't attacked them. The one person she attacks (and bitterly) is the one who stopped being a Communist and is now trying to help the American people.

#### COMMUNIST PARTY REORGANIZES ITSELF FOR SAFER UNDERGROUND WORK.

Last week the CP held its first convention since 1945. It met under new & graver conditions. All 12 members of its top body, the Communist Natl Board ("Politbureau") have been indicted. Mundt-Nixon bill was blocked at end of regular session of Congress but it's coming up in January and may pass then. If so the CP will refuse to register and will go underground.

Counterattack reported July 18, 1947, that Stalin had set up an underground "Politbureau" in U S, to duplicate the legal National Board... and that the identity of the underground board was hidden even from the legal one, except for two members who were on both. These two are Natl Chairman Wm Z Foster and General Sec'y Frank Waldron, alias Eugene Dennis.

Now the party leaders have made more preparations for underground work. In 1945 the convention elected a Natl Committee of 55 members. None of these names were officially revealed at the time but some appeared in the party press later. Most have remained secret to this day. Twelve members of the committee were also elected to the Natl Board. Their names were made public. In July of last year the Natl Board was reshuffled, with four of its members dropping out, while four other high Communists replaced them.

Now here is what the party leaders have done. They have reduced the Natl Committee from 55 members to 13. And these 13 are the 12 present members of the Natl Board...plus Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, top woman Communist. She was on the Natl Board until last summer, when she was one of those reshuffled out. Now she is back again. She's the only member not under indictment. She may win some sympathy for the party in case all the other members are convicted.

Now what's the purpose of this whole maneuver? In effect the Natl Committee hasn't just been REDUCED...it's been ELIMINATED. Natl Board now calls itself Natl Committee. But Natl Comm is gone. It was too numerous for dangerous times. It contained 55 members, including the Natl Board. That's too big a body for safety. Louis Budenz was on Natl Comm many years...and finally went to the FBI. There may be another Budenz around. So the Natl Comm is wiped out. It won't meet every few months, as it used to.

Natl Board won't tell any secrets to a larger group. And its top members, Foster and Waldron, alias Dennis, will simultaneously guide the underground "Politbureau", which is supervising the framework of the underground party and preparing to expand it whenever necessary.

Yours faithfully,

August 13, 1948

*Counterattack*