

COUNTERATTACK

FACTS TO COMBAT COMMUNISM

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Dear Subscriber:

AT LEAST ONE SOVIET SPY RING CONCENTRATING ON SCIENTISTS has been operating in U S. But in this connection, bear in mind what Counterattack said Aug 6: "Main aim of Communists in Govt wasn't and isn't spying." Same is true of Communist work among scientists. Main aim is power & influence. Communists try to line scientists up in Natl Council of Arts, Sciences & Professions and other fronts, in order to influence public opinion.

Separate spy rings operate on West Coast, under general Washington direction. They're tied in with Communist Party on Coast. Soviet Embassy in Washington and Communist national hq in NY are too far from West Coast to supervise it closely. Wm Schneiderman, head of party in Calif, and Harry Bridges control West Coast party operations. Military, industrial, & scientific espionage on West Coast is important, but it's only a sideline in the party. Espionage is headed by Russians. They get agents from party.

EXECUTIVE HEAD OF COMMUNIST FRONT IS ACCUSED BY WHITTAKER CHAMBERS. But Dept of Justice takes strange attitude towards this front.

Name of front is American Russian Institute. Its function is to propagandize for Stalin Russia, under the guise of disseminating facts. Its publications are largely used in colleges and libraries, and it interlocks with Institute of Pacific Relations and other fronts.

Among its directors is Maxwell S Stewart, who denies he is a Communist Party member, though he has been cited in Govt investigations as a former associate editor of Moscow Daily News and a backer of dozens of fronts.

Miles Sherover is treasurer. He's a former financial agent of Stalin Russia and has given thousands of dollars to Communists' Third Party.

Prof Harlow Shapley, the Number 1 party-liner among U S scientists, is also a director. When Shapley went to Europe recently, he hobnobbed on shipboard with the foreign editor of the Daily Worker.

Saml J Novick, Pres of Electronic Corp of America, is another director of American Russian Institute. For a year Electronic sponsored Wm S Gailmor, party-line commentator, on Blue Network (Counterattack July 30). And for some time Novick's public relations director at Electronic was Carl Bristel, former business manager of Communist Party's weekly, New Masses.

Prof Ernest J Simmons of Columbia, another board member, is one of top fellow-travelers in American universities (Counterattack July 16, p 2).

Former Govt official is chairman of the front. Ernest C Ropes retired not long ago as chief of USSR unit of Bureau of Foreign & Domestic Commerce of U S Dept of Commerce. Now he's board chairman of the institute.

Whittaker Chambers identifies Henry Collins. Testifying before House Committee on Un-American Activities, Chambers said one of leading group in underground Communist apparatus in Washington was Henry H Collins, Jr. Each member of this top group, according to Chambers, was also a leader

of another cell. Top group usually met "at the apartment of Henry Collins". And the group's "Communist Party dues were handed over to me by Collins, who was the treasurer of that group."

Henry H Collins, Jr, is now Exec Director of Amer Russian Institute.

COLLINS WON'T TELL WHETHER HE'S COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER. He came before House Comm and said he was born in 1905, joined Natl Recovery Administration in 1933, later was with Soil Conservation Service, Dept of Labor, House Comm on Interstate Migration of Destitute Citizens, Senate Small Business Comm, and Kilgore Senate Subcommittee on War Mobilization.

"My ancestors came from England to this country in 1640," he said. "Members of my family have served our country in every war since the Revolution, when one of my great-uncles was an aide to Washington."

But many Communists have colonial ancestors. In the 1930's the Communist Party organized a new front, composed of CP members, other Communists, and fellow-travelers. It was called the Descendants of the American Revolution. And one of its members was Henry H Collins, Jr.

Refusing to say whether he's member of Communist Party, Collins asserted his answer would tend to incriminate him. He refused to name other organizations he has belonged to. He denied he knew anyone named Whittaker Chambers...but when he was asked whether he knew "Carl" (Chambers' underground name), Collins refused to answer. He also refused to say whether he knew any of the other men identified by Chambers as Communists.

Collins was an American Military Govt officer in Europe during the war, leaving the service as a major. "I received a commendation for my work in the Battle of the Bulge, three ribbons and five battle stars," he said.

All right, but whose cause was he trying to serve during Battle of the Bulge? Stalin Russia was then allied with U S. Suppose the U S had gotten into the war during Stalin-Hitler Pact, what would Collins have done?

Communist Party organized a new front during the pact. It was Natl Federation for Constitutional Liberties. Purpose: to defend Communists who sabotaged national defense, as in Allis-Chalmers strike, Inglewood strike, etc. And Collins was a backer of this front. So the fact that he later served in the war, when U S & Stalin were allies, doesn't prove a thing about his loyalty to U S.

This man was hired by American Russian Institute half a year ago as its executive director. The institute knew Collins' record. And it knew the Federal grand jury was investigating him. Yet it went ahead and selected him to direct its activities.

And now that Collins has refused to tell Congress whether he's a CP member, the American Russian Institute still keeps him as its executive director. Why not? He seems an ideal man to head a Communist front.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BRANDED THIS ORGANIZATION AS SUBVERSIVE. The department was tardy in its listing, as usual. Letter Number 2 of Counter-attack, May 23, 1947, named American Russian Institute as a Communist front. Dept of Justice got around to it a year later, May 27, 1948, when Atty Gen Tom Clark wrote a letter to Loyalty Review Board of Civil Service Commission, listing the institute along with many other organizations as subversive.

1,200 guests attended the institute's annual dinner, six days later, June 2. Star guests were Gromyko and his successor at United Nations, Jacob Malik. As always at these dinners, prosperous Communists, fellow-travelers, and sympathizers were there. And a big collection was taken.

The institute announced it was protesting to Dept of Justice against calling it subversive. Prof Harlow Shapley made a speech and denounced the listing angrily...just as he always denounces the listing of all the subversive organizations he belongs to (Counterattack Oct 17 '47). Other speakers joined in the denunciation.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE YIELDS TO PRESSURE AND WITHDRAWS THE LISTING of the institute. Ropes, Shapley, and other leaders of the front put on a persistent pressure campaign. After more than two months of this, the Dept of Justice caved in. It decided to withdraw the front's name.

But it needed an alibi. Someone then produced a cute idea. Why not pretend the American Russian Institute had never been listed at all? There are a number of local organizations with same name as the national one. Why not pretend a local one had been named? The national organization has a long, formal name that's practically never used: American Russian Institute for Cultural Relations with the Soviet Union, Inc. But in its quarterly magazine and its other literature and its news releases, it calls itself American Russian Institute. Still, why not hinge the alibi on this technicality? Why not pretend a local "American Russian Institute" had been listed on May 27?

This alibi was adopted. Announcement of it was made Aug 8. The Dept of Justice leaped clear across the continent from the NY hq of American Russian Institute. It found an American Russian Institute in San Francisco, which asserts it has no connection with the national outfit. The one in San Francisco is the one that was originally meant, says the department now. It could just as easily have picked the one in Los Angeles.

Fishy nature of this explanation is proved by time element. From May 27, the date of the listing, to Aug 8 is almost two and a half months. On June 2 the directors of the front adopted a statement attacking the listing, and sent it to the Dept of Justice. How could it have taken the department nine weeks after that to discover it meant another organization at the other end of the continent?

Unhappy fact is that Dept of Justice has yielded to pressure and is now trying to whitewash a front which it originally listed correctly.

And what does Atty Gen Tom Clark say now about Henry H Collins, Jr. ex-Govt official who refuses to tell Congress whether he's a member of Communist Party? How can an organization headed by this man get a clean bill from U S Govt? How can Tom Clark say this outfit isn't a Communist front? What's he going to do now about this front? Congress should ask him.

THE SLIGHTLY EMBARRASSED WALTER LIPPMANN FINALLY SPEAKS UP ABOUT THE SPY INVESTIGATION. A number of columnists have taken a pooh-pooing attitude towards the investigation, because of varying motives. Now they have been joined by Walter Lippmann, who has a wide influence, largely because of a weighty and imperial prose style. Queer thing about this is that Lippmann has been silent till now. Why is this?

Well, the explanation can be found in an embarrassing incident, which has struck some observers as rather funny. When Elizabeth Bentley testified before Sen Ferguson's subcommittee, she said that about Feb 1941 she had met Mary Watkins Price, a member of the Communist Party. Miss Price was secretary to Walter Lippmann. And Lippmann "had quite a number of friends in the War Dept and other Govt agencies, and he had a great deal of information on our relations with Britain, and what we would do in the

future." So one week-end, while Lippmann was absent from Washington, Miss Bentley went to his office, and, she says, Miss Price ransacked his files.

"We spent the whole week-end, the two of us, typing continuously, making copies of some of these things," says Miss Bentley. "Then she was current and up-to-date, and from then on" all significant information that reached Lippmann was given piecemeal by Communist Price to Communist Bentley.

That went on for more than two years, according to Miss Bentley.

And Lippmann had no idea of it. He thought his secretary was a liberal. If she was enthusiastically pro-Russian, why, so were a lot of other people during the war. Lippmann himself had a vast faith in Stalin's cooperation with U S. Then and later he favored appeasement. He was strong for Yalta. He enthusiastically urged U S to give in to Stalin on Polish question... which meant selling the Polish people down the river. Main reason the Communists control Poland now is that our Govt adopted the policy Lippmann wanted. He was supposed to know the score on international matters. But he didn't know the score on his own secretary, according to Miss Bentley.

What did Miss Price do after leaving Lippmann in 1943? She joined editorial department of a publishing firm, where she became assistant to one of the editors. But this man, unlike Lippmann, knew the score. He made his own estimate of Miss Price's political slant. He assigned her to do legwork & research among Communist-controlled unions...and he wouldn't let her touch other unions. Everything she wrote for him he went over carefully with a brutal pencil.

Now Mary Watkins Price is Sec'y of Communists' Third Party in North Carolina. Reason she rates this high post is that her family's social status is good...and the Third Party hasn't many of that sort in the South.

Lippmann, after an embarrassed silence of weeks, finally has had his say on the spy investigation. He's against it. Without once mentioning or alluding to his ex-secretary, he knocks Miss Bentley. He says the spy ring didn't get any of the Govt's top secrets (thus implying that the ransacking of his files didn't do any harm). But as Counterattack pointed out Aug 6, this ring was only one of many. Chief value of Miss Bentley's testimony is that this one woman is able to name a lot of Communists who held important Govt offices and influenced Govt policies. But Lippmann performs remarkable feat of writing his whole column without once saying "Communist"...an embarrassing word, in view of Miss Bentley's testimony about his ex-secretary. He writes of the spy ring as if it were an ORDINARY espionage operation.

And he describes the ring as a "racket", and assails Miss Bentley as a "renegade". What was the racket? All the Communist Govt officials and Miss Bentley herself were devoted CP members who paid dues and ran risks of jail and of ruining their careers. And what's a renegade? Is a renegade a person who quits another religion to come over to your religion? Or do you call such a person a convert? We need as many converts from Communism to democracy as we can get. Louis Budenz, Whittaker Chambers & Elizabeth Bentley have immensely helped our side by their disclosures. It's common sense to encourage other key Communists to follow their example. And we don't do that if we fall for Communist Party's trick of calling them renegades.

Yours faithfully,

August 20, 1948

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