

# COUNTERATTACK

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

## FACTS TO COMBAT COMMUNISM

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Letter No. 75  
October 29, 1948

Dear Subscriber:

**COMMUNISTS JAILED IN LOS ANGELES UNDER DENVER PLAN.** The same procedure that has been used in Denver for getting the facts about Communist Party has also been used in Los Angeles this week. A Federal grand jury was investigating Communist connections of Federal employees. It subpoenaed 10 persons and asked them the names of the officers of the CP in Los Angeles, and the table of organization of the party. They refused to answer, saying they feared self-incrimination. U S District Judge Pierson M Hall sent them to jail without bail, for contempt.

On same day U S Supreme Court Justice Wiley Rutledge granted bail to some of the Denver defendants. Thus all such cases are headed toward Supreme Court for final decision. But meanwhile you should propose use of Denver Plan in your community by Federal and local grand juries.

**COMMUNIST PARTY URGES UNIONS TO PREVENT SHIPMENT OF COAL TO FRANCE.** Stalin's Fifth Column in this country has promptly responded to appeal of its brother party in French Republic. The revolutionary coal strike has prevented the mining of 3,000,000 tons of coal that's badly needed in France and other European countries to make Marshall Plan succeed. Two-thirds of French coke ovens have been allowed to die out and it may be months before they can be rebuilt. A few mines are flooded.

And strikes in other industries are coming. Railroads may be next.

French Govt has ordered 1,000,000 tons of coal abroad. But Communist Party in this country reports gleefully that at some French ports "the longshoremen have refused to unload American coal from Canadian ships."

Communist-controlled General Confederation of Labor has appealed to longshoremen in U S & Britain to refuse to load coal bound for France.

And CP here endorses this plea. It urges "that no strike-breaking coal be shipped from here." And it calls on American unions to adopt resolutions of support, and to send money to French miners' union.

You can be sure that party-line unions here will come through with the resolutions and a little money. But whether they can do anything now to stop coal shipments is doubtful. Docks at Eastern & Gulf ports are organized by AFL longshoremen's union, strongly anti-Communist (still it has a vigorous Communist minority, which may tie up a dock or two if it gets a chance). West Coast docks are organized by Communist Harry Bridges' longshoremen's union, CIO, which has tied up practically all Western ports in a strike. But coal wouldn't be shipped from West Coast to France in any case. As for the seamen's unions, nearly all are anti-Communist now.

But here's the big point. Communist Party in this country comes out OPENLY to stop shipment of U S coal to France for defense in cold war.

Similarly, Latin American Communist-led unions have held an Inter-American Oil Congress in Tampico, Mexico, and adopted a resolution to prevent shipment of Latin American oil to U S in case of a shooting war.

Austrian CP sends a cheerful cablegram to the CP here. And what do you suppose it is? A prediction of American defeat in a war with Stalin!

The Austrian party denounces the indictment of 12 leaders of CP here for conspiring against Govt. It says "the American imperialism" (which is Communist double talk for American Govt) "is increasingly imitating Hitler's Fascist methods of suppression." And it predicts that "no better end than that which befell Hitler Germany awaits American imperialism." That is to say, American Govt is going to be crushed in war.

And the Communist Party here coolly publishes that cablegram. This fact is a measure of its gall. It is also a measure of its contempt for the American Govt & the American people, too sluggish to crush the Fifth Column.

French Army is largely infiltrated by Communists. And there seems an equal amount of infiltration by DeGaullists. As has been true in some other countries, the extremes are winning out, and the middle is being squeezed out. The French Institute of Public Opinion (Gallup poll) reports the Communists have a bigger popular following than any other party. Their percentage is 30.5%. DeGaullists are close behind them, with 29.5%. All other parties together have only 40%. The trend is obvious. And since both Stalin & DeGaulle have such large followings in the Army, the showdown may mean a civil war of a troublesome size...which would please Stalin.

U S has just suffered big blow in Korea. The Communist rebellion there was a shock to our Govt...very much like the one in Colombia last April, remember? And it was expertly led, and proved unexpectedly strong... again as in Colombia. And there was same barbarous slaughter as in Colombia, with hundreds of civilians massacred. It's same Stalin-Hitler technique... to intimidate all enemies, and win support of hoodlums & sadists.

And the new south Korean Army proved unreliable...it's untrained and a lot of the soldiers went over to the Communists. Yet U S had been planning to pull out of Korea, leaving Syngman Rhee's new Govt there to defend itself against Communist Fifth Column in south Korea and against the well-armed Communist Korean Govt established in north Korea by the Russians.

China has gone from one military disaster to another.

In Japan the Communists are strong in unions and getting stronger.

In Canada, as Counterattack told you last week, most AFL unions are pro-Communist, while CIO unions are generally anti-Communist. Now Canadian Trades & Labor Congress, which is central body of AFL unions, hotly assails Marshall Plan and warns AFL (in U S) not to carry anti-Communism into Canada.

Here in the U S, how awake are we? At this late hour you would think that practically 100% of the American people would say Yes if asked whether the Communists are any danger at all. But Elmo Roper has taken a poll and says answer is 72%. Even now 28% think Communists are harmless. And that explains a lot about our half measures in dealing with Stalin.

Our country is in greater danger than in March, 1933, when a new President was faced with an unparalleled emergency. Then the danger was economic...now it's primarily military. The problems confronting the President of the United States on next Inauguration Day, Jan 20, will call for great decisions. The President will need to act coolly, systematically. But this should NOT mean long delays. Speed is essential. He must act fast to end half measures, to strengthen Europe & Asia, and thus prevent a Third World War. We've got to urge him to do this and we've got to back him up.

## COMMUNIST BATTLE IS NEAR A CLIMAX IN WORST-INFESTED AFL UNION.

Do you know which union is main center of Communist strength in AFL? It's Hotel & Restaurant union. There the Communists have a strong grip on some big locals...and as recently as last year they hoped to get control of whole international union. But they were beaten in the convention...which in fact adopted a resolution to bar Communists from holding office.

Then Pres Hugo Ernst started a fight against the chief Communist stronghold, NYCity. But the Communists tied him up in a long court wrangle, with the usual help of sleepy judges who don't seem to care whether Fifth Columnists control a union. And finally some sort of a temporary compromise emerged, and Ernst has refrained from an active fight.

But now the anti-Communists are boiling mad. And in one place after another they're filing charges and demanding that Ernst do something.

They've forced action in Washington, DC. There the Joint Executive Bd (consisting of representatives of Washington locals) attacked Wm S Johnson, Communist business agent of Local 209. As a result Ernst stepped in, removed Johnson from office, put the local under trusteeship.

And they've forced action in New Jersey too. The NJ State Council of the union adopted a resolution demanding that Ernst clean up Locals 399, of Newark, and 741, of Trenton. Ernst did so, removing the leaders and appointing trustees.

But they haven't forced action yet in NYCity, where Communists control about 60,000 hotel & restaurant workers. Situation is one of worst in whole labor movement. Rank-and-filers are appealing to top union body, General Executive Bd, to kick out the Red Fascists. They cite these leaders:

Michael J Obermeier. Two years ago proof was provided that Obermeier was a secret member of Communist Party. Then the General Exec Board forbade him to run for reelection as president of big Local 6. What happened? Communists ran someone else...but right after the election Obermeier was put in as general manager, with same real powers as before. Recently Obermeier was indicted for an absent-minded piece of perjury in naturalization proceedings, when he denied membership in CP.

Jay Rubin. Known as the "Red Commissar" of Communist-controlled Hotel Trades Council, this CP member has publicly threatened to pull the party-line locals out of AFL if Hugo Ernst ever cracks down on them.

Charlotte Stern. This Communist is educational director of big Local 6. And she's soon to go to jail as one of the 11 directors of leading Communist front & racket, Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, who've been convicted of contempt of Congress. She's wife of a Columbia University faculty member, Dr Bernhard J Stern, who has written pamphlets for Communist Party under his party name, Bennett Stevens. (Attention, Gen Eisenhower!)

Sam Kramberg, an OPEN member of CP, and Labor Chief of Local 6.  
Gertrude Lane, Sec-Treas of Local 6. Counterattack has provided Congress with information about this Communist (Counterattack July 9, p 2).

Chas Collins, V-P of the local. He doesn't admit he's a CP member, but Counterattack has proof of this and said so July 30. Incidentally, Collins is member of Natl Committee of "Progressive" (or Commugressive) Party.

Anti-Communists are fed up with the Russia Firsters and are demanding action. Pres Hugo Ernst and the Exec Board had better act fast, because they'll be red-faced if Congress starts investigating the set-up.



COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER HUGH BRYSON, president of Marine Cooks & Stewards Union, CIO, and head of CP's Independent Progressive Party of Calif, was up before Kersten subcommittee of House Labor Committee the other day. When he was asked whether he was a member of the Communist Party, he said, "I don't know what you mean." Bryson's union has joined Communist Harry Bridges' longshoremen in the present West Coast strike. A subpoena was out for Bridges, but he ducked the hearing. Bryson will be cited for contempt. Congress and Dept of Justice should act to get quicker trials on such charges, instead of letting Communists stall for months or a year.

STATE DEP'T BREAKS LAW BY ADMITTING "RED DEAN". It turns out that our State Dept has merely acted as publicity agent for Communist Party and Dr Hewlett Johnson, dean of Canterbury Cathedral. At first it refused him a visa. It explained cordially that it had no objection to Johnson himself, but unfortunately he was to lecture under auspices of a big CP front, Natl Council of American-Soviet Friendship. So what did this front do?

It simply set up a dummy "committee of welcome", headed by Prof Ralph Barton Perry of Harvard, long a supporter of this front (Counterattack Oct 15, p 4). And the dummy committee invited the dear dean...who accepted. And the State Dept has granted him a visa. Thus it has really ballyhooed his tour...and it's breaking the law. Our immigration laws say: Communists keep out! Hewlett Johnson is a member of Communist Party of Britain.

COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER APPEARS AS LAWYER IN SUPREME COURT. Last week the Commugressive Party urged U S Supreme Court to knock out Illinois law that regulates method of getting on ballot (the court refused). Lawyer who argued for Commugressives was John Abt. He used to be Assistant Atty General of U S. Before that he was a lawyer for Henry Wallace's Agricultural Adjustment Administration. He was then a secret member of CP...the head of a Communist cell. And later he was head of an apparatus...a whole group of cells...as Whittaker Chambers has testified. Abt is general counsel of Commugressive Party. His wife, Jessica Smith, is editor of CP magazine, Soviet Russia Today. His sister, Marion Bachrach, is publicity director of Communist Party, with office in CP national hq, "the American Kremlin".

THINGS TO DO TO BEAT THE COMMUNISTS. Do the big things where possible...and don't neglect the little, routine things, even if they're dull. Here are suggestions for yourself and your unions or business & civic groups:

1. Write letters to newspapers, pointing out how Communist Party here is helping the French Communists' rebellion. See pp 1 & 2.
2. Tell State Dept it should cancel visa of "Red Dean".
3. Make sure that opinion-molders in your community (union leaders, educators, clergymen, women's club leaders, and so on) get sound, authoritative information on Communist schemes. Put them on mailing lists. (Some unions and companies have subscribed to Counterattack in quantities for this purpose.) See to it that the people in your community who mold opinion are well informed on Communism and that they keep up to date.
4. Use the Denver Plan. See p 1. Also see our Oct 15 letter, p 2.

Yours faithfully,

October 29, 1948

*Counterattack*