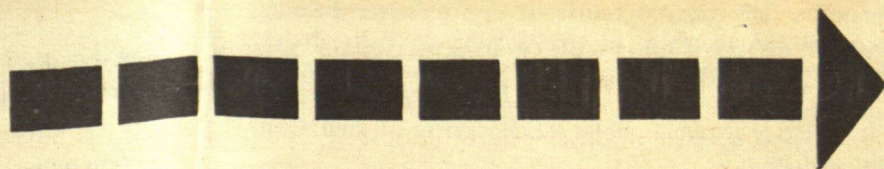


SUPPRESSED!



When Eugene Dennis, General Secretary of the Communist Party, asked to present a statement on the Communist Party at the hearings on the Communist Party, the Un-American Committee kept him from speaking. What they wanted was a lynching, not a hearing!

Because only anti-Communists were permitted at this "hearing," we present the following excerpts from the suppressed statement:

I am here to defend the inalienable right of Americans to be Communists. I am here to defend the constitutional right of the Communist Party to function as a legal political party which openly presents its views, its program and its candidates to the American people.

In so doing, I in fact defend the Constitution and the Bill of Rights—which HR 2122 and HR 1884 propose to nullify. I defend the right of the American people to promote the welfare and advance the social progress of the nation by democratic means and in the spirit of America's progressive traditions. HR 2122 and HR 1884 place this basic right in jeopardy. *They propose to usurp for a party in power the right to pass upon the political programs of other parties*—although the Constitution reserves this right to the people and to the people alone.

HR 1884 is in conflict with Secretary Marshall's declaration that "Freely constituted political parties should be insured the right to participate in a free and competitive election system in which each is accorded equal opportunity to present its views, win adherents and obtain just representations."

On one premise, and on only one premise, can HR 1884 be reconciled with the Secretary of State's enunciation of American policy. That is on the premise the German people are to be trusted to make a wise use of democratic liberties—while the American people are not. Does this Committee care to go to the American people with that thesis?

➔ "SO WIDE A NET"

Why is it that HR 1884, and all similar so-called anti-Communist legislation, spread so very wide a net? Secretary Schwelienbach, among others, argues that this is unavoidable because only by policing the mind and probing the heart of every American will it be possible to uncover the "hidden" Communists. The fact, of course, is that the overwhelming majority of the members of the Communist Party declare themselves openly and with pride. But it is also unfortunately true that some few of them, for reasons of economic security, find it necessary to avoid public announcement of their Communist affiliation.

I shall propose a joint resolution by the two Houses of Congress, which will state that it is the sense of the Congress that the Constitution and the Bill of Rights afford to members of the Communist Party the same protection afforded to all other American citizens. The joint resolution should further state that the Congress interprets Secretary Marshall's declaration that all patriotic citizens shall be permitted to live without "fear of being denied the right to work or deprived of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" to apply without discrimination for race, creed, national origin or political belief—and to make no exception of Communist Party members.

I pledge that on the day Congress adopts such a resolution, every single member of my Party will be more than happy and willing to publicly declare his Communist affiliation, of which he is so proud!

➔ 15,000 COMMUNIST VETS

I now come to the allegations that the American Communist Party is the "agent of a foreign power"; that it "advocates the overthrow of the United States Government by force and violence"; and that it is not a political party in the accepted sense, but "a conspiracy."

As to the first of these slanders—It is a lie that the American Communists are agents of foreign power. That was what Hitler said of the German Communists and Quisling of the Norwegian Communists.

Loyalty and patriotism must be judged by the test to which they are put in the most bitter and costly war of our nation's history. We American Communists pass that acid test with flying colors, and no group or individual can escape its judgment.

To charge that we are Soviet agents is to deny the fact that there were Marxists in America long before there was a Soviet Union. These early Socialists were the early forbears of the American Communist Party, stood with Lincoln against the slaveholders' rebellion. Lincoln did not doubt their loyalty. He made the Communist Joseph Wedemyer a colonel in the Union army.

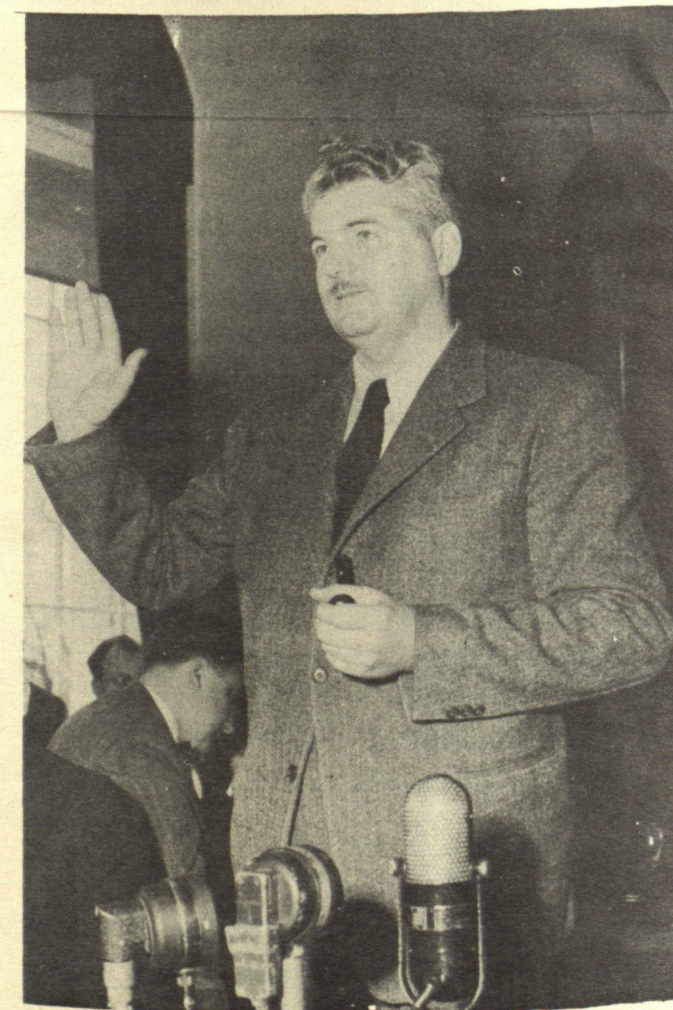
➔ COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL

It is now seven years since the American Communist Party severed its connection with the Communist International. At that time we acted on our own initiative, to meet the special conditions arising in our country out of the Voorhis Act—which we condemned. It is now four years since the Communist International voluntarily dissolved, by the vote of its affiliated parties.

During the years of our organizational affiliation to the Communist International we published in our press communications we received from that body. We made no secret of the fact that we sent delegates to its international congresses. They came home and reported publicly to as many Americans as would listen to them. They reported publicly to our Party members, without whose approval Communist International decisions had no validity for us.

We were at particular pains to publicize as widely as possible the decisions of the Seventh Congress of the Communist International in 1935.

What does Mr. J. Edgar Hoover know now about the Communist International that he didn't know when it was in existence? Why does the F. B. I. consider the American Communist Party a more dangerous "foreign agent" seven years



Eugene Dennis, General Secretary, Communist Party, as he prepared to speak before the House Un-American Committee.

after it left the Communist International than it was while it maintained that affiliation?

It was after J. Edgar Hoover had directed the arrest of thousands of real and suspected Communists in 1920, as the officer in charge of the infamous Palmer Raids, that he himself officially admitted that the Communists had not been guilty of "any violation of the federal laws." This admission was made in an inner-office memorandum to Assistant Attorney General Donovan on Oct. 16, 1924, several months after Hoover was made Acting Director of the FBI. Attorney General Harlan Stone, later a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, secured this admission from Mr. J. Edgar Hoover.

On May 15, 1924, Attorney General Stone declared: "The bureau of investigation is not concerned with political or other opinions of individuals. It is concerned only with such conduct as is forbidden by the laws of the United States. When a police system passes beyond these limits, it is dangerous to the proper administration of justice and to human liberty, which it should be our first concern to cherish."

Neither we Communists nor these millions who work for peace oppose a strong national defense or wish to weaken our country in order to strengthen some other power. We and they know that America's national security does not rest on "secret weapons" but on policies which will promote a prosperous and anti-fascist America in a democratic and peaceful world.

It is, of course, also untrue that the Communist Party has ever in the past advocated, or advocates today, the use of force and violence either as a means for achieving governmental change or as a method of struggle for immediate economic or social gains by labor and the people's forces generally.

➔ "FORCE AND VIOLENCE"

Congressman Sheppard's Bill repeats this moth-eaten charge of force and violence. But HR 2122 offers no proof, and there is no proof that can be offered. Many attempts have been made in the press and the courts of this land to establish such proof, but every one of them has failed. In the 28 years of our Party's existence, not a single American Communist has ever been proven or convicted of acting or conspiring to employ force and violence to overthrow the Government of the United States. It is therefore obvious that such a charge cannot possibly be upheld against our Party as a whole.

I shall submit now for the record the full text of the Constitution of our Party. (Exhibit D.) I read now from Article

MORE ➔

IV, Section 10: "Every member is obligated to fight with all his strength against any and every effort, whether it comes from abroad or from within our country, to destroy the rights of labor and the people, or any section thereof, or to impose upon the United States the arbitrary will of any group or party or clique or conspiracy, thereby violating the unqualified right of the majority of the people to direct the destinies of our country."

I read also from Section 2 of Article IX: "Adherence to or participation in the activities of any clique, group, circle, faction or party which conspires or acts to subvert, undermine, weaken or overthrow any or all institutions of American democracy, whereby the American people can maintain their right to determine their destiny in any degree, shall be punished by immediate expulsion."

Fascist terror is force and violence in their most brutal form. Where it reigns there can be no democratic and orderly progress.

• • •

We Communists have never made any secret of the fact that our ultimate objective is socialism. But there is nothing in this fact to substantiate the charges that we are a "conspiracy," that we are "foreign agents," or that we advocate the "overthrow of the United States government by force and violence."

As American workers we strive publicly and by democratic means to convince the American people that socialism is the only way to end the scourge of economic crisis, unemployment and violent class conflict. We strive to convince them that only socialism can once and for all put an end to reaction, fascism and war which are engendered by monopoly capitalism.

We Communists are confident that the day will come when the majority of Americans will decide by their own free choice, on the basis of their own experience and in harmony with their fundamental interests, to march forward along the road of social progress toward socialism—that is, to establish the common ownership of the national economy under a government of the people, led by the working class.

It will be an American road, opening new frontiers for the traditions of American democracy and built according to American specifications by the common people of America who develop further the democratic know-how which is ours.

➔ MARXISM AND PATRIOTISM

Our path will not necessarily follow the twists and turns by the peoples of other countries who also, because of the inexorable logic of economic and social development, move toward a similar goal.

The better and more progressive America toward which we strive can be built only by the American people, led by labor, and on the foundation of a stronger American democracy.

• • •

We American Communists are here to stay. We will endure as long as America's working people endure. Regardless of what repressive measures against our Party in violation of the Constitution and the basic democratic principles upon which our nation was founded—hundreds of thousands of American workers and progressives will learn to be American Communists. Their school is the struggle of America's common people against the American trusts and empire builders.

In the agony of his last torture, Galileo told his inquisitors, "the earth still moves." We Communists know that human society moves, and that it moves in the direction of democratic advance and social progress.

Here in our America we wish to move along democratic paths by peaceful means.

We call on all Americans who share this wish, whatever may be their differences with us Communists on other questions, to oppose and work for the defeat of HR 1884, HR 2122 and all similar legislation. We call with confidence on all patriotic Americans to check the pro-fascist conspiracy which now menaces the Bill of Rights and the United Nations.

ACT NOW!

To outlaw the Communist Party is to scrap the Bill of Rights!

PROTEST THIS EFFORT!

Telegraph or write to

1. President Harry S. Truman
White House,
Washington, D. C.
2. Representative Rankin
House Un-American Committee,
U. S. Congress, Washington, D. C.
3. YOUR OWN CONGRESSMAN

Communist Party of New York State
35 East 12th Street, New York 3, N. Y.

I am enclosing \$..... as my contribution toward the cost of this folder and others of a similar nature to arouse the American people to the danger of the un-American drive against their liberties being conducted under the guise of outlawing the Communist Party.

Name

Address

City and Zone State

Please send me additional information on the Communist Party and its program.

Make checks payable to
COMMUNIST PARTY OF NEW YORK STATE

For the truth about the Communists, read the *DAILY WORKER* and the *WORKER*

Communist Party of New York State • 35 East 12th Street, New York 3, N. Y.

